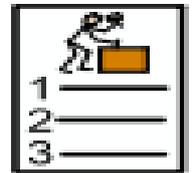


Suffolk Family Group Conferencing Easy Read Guide for Parents and Carers

What is a Family Group Conference?

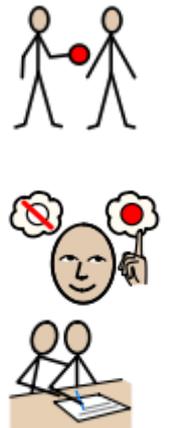


A Family Group Conference is a **meeting** where family, relatives, and friends come together to make a plan to support children and **keep them safe**.



Research shows that families who make their own plans have the most success.

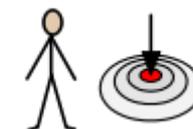
Who can come to a Family Group Conference?



You decide who comes to the meeting.

Anyone who cares about you and supports you can come – close family, other relatives, and important friends.

Professionals can also be there to share information to help make the plan.



We want children and young people to be at the heart of the meeting – they are encouraged to attend if they feel comfortable.

The **referrer** (the person who asked for the meeting) will be there to agree the plan.

Where is the meeting held?



You can help decide where the meeting takes place.



We will always try to find somewhere near your home, like a hall or community centre.

Who arranges the meeting?



You will have your own worker called a Family Group Conference **Co-ordinator**.



They are **independent** and will:

- Support you and answer questions.
- Help you decide who comes to the meeting.
- Make sure the meeting feels safe and everyone understands why they are there.

What happens at the meeting?

The meeting has three parts:

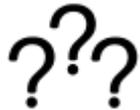


1. Information Sharing

Everyone talks about what is going on.



The referrer shares concerns and explains what needs to happen.



Everyone can have their say and ask questions.



2. Private Family Time

You and your family have private time to decide a plan.



Food and drink will be available, and you can take breaks when needed.

You can take as much time as you need.



3. Agreeing the Plan

When the plan is ready, the co-ordinator and referrer help make sure it includes everything needed to work.