

# So you've been invited to a Family Group Conference...



**What is it?  
What will I have to do?  
What happens next?**

# What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a meeting where families and their friends get together to make a Family Plan for a child's care, with the support of Children's Services and other professionals.



## Why have I been invited to an FGC?



If someone close to you is having difficulty looking after a child, you can help make sure that child has a safe, happy home and resolve any concerns. An FGC brings together the most important people in a child's life to form a plan and make that happen.

## How is an FGC different?

An FGC is chaired by an independent co-ordinator, but the plan for what should happen and how it will be achieved is put together by the child's family and their friends, with input from the child. The co-ordinator will arrange the meeting and help decide who should be involved.



# What happens in an FGC?

The meeting is made up of three parts:

## The information share

This will include information from the social worker, the child, select professionals, and anyone who was unable to attend. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. By the end of this section you should be clear about the purpose of the FGC and what you need to consider when making your Family Plan.



## Private family time

During this section, all professionals will leave the room so you can talk everything through and put together your Family Plan. Refreshments are provided and you can take as many breaks as you need.

## Clarifying and agreeing the plan

This is where you discuss your Family Plan with the social worker. Your plan will be accepted as long as the child is safe. This is also your opportunity to request support and resources, and decide how the plan will be monitored and reviewed.





## What happens next?

The co-ordinator will send a copy of the Family Plan to everyone who took part in the process within five working days. The Family Plan will then be put into action.



## What if I have questions?

We welcome feedback. If you have any questions or comments, contact your co-ordinator, or contact us at:

**The Family Group Conference Manager**  
**Floor 2, South Wing, Civic 1, Civic Centre,**  
**Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2XY**

✉ [FGCSERVICE@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:FGCSERVICE@harrow.gov.uk)

If you would rather talk to someone independent, contact:

**The Adults & Children's Complaints Service**

📮 **PO Box 7, Harrow Civic Centre, Harrow, HA1 2UL**

📞 **0800 136 104 (freephone)**

✉ **[complaints.adultsandchildrens@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:complaints.adultsandchildrens@harrow.gov.uk)**

📠 **Textphone: 020 8424 1503 (for people with hearing difficulties)**