

# A Guide for Families and Friends

## Co-ordinators:

The co-ordinators will be the person arranging the meeting and making contact with you and your family network. The co-ordinators are impartial but have knowledge to how social care works.

It will be the co-ordinators role to make sure the focus is always on the needs of the child.

The co-ordinator will arrange your meeting, including all the practical arrangements; finding the venues, providing refreshments and sending out all the paperwork before and after the Family Group Conference. The co-ordinator will be present for parts one and three of the meeting.

## Contact us:

Family Group Conference Service

e: [tysenquiries@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tysenquiries@somerset.gov.uk)

t: 01458 440820

Somerset Family Group  
Conference Service

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## Somerset Family Group Conference Service



### *Bringing families together*

#### What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference offers family members a chance to get together to make a family plan.

## Why have a Family Group Conference?

It is our view that when families have all the given information about a situation, to be in the best place to make decision. The Family Group Conference meeting gives the family an opportunity to come together and make their own plan to address the concerns raised by social services and this may include asking for additional support or services from other agencies.

## What is the Family Group Conference Project?

The Family Group Conference Service is run by Somerset Children and Young People Services. The Family Group Conference co-ordinators are independent from any decision-making to your child/ren and family. The co-ordinator will help facilitate and arrange a Family Group Conference.

## What makes it different?

- This is a voluntary process.
- It is your family meeting and it is you and your family who will make your family plan, to address the concerns raised by your child's social worker.
- All family members will see the questions prior to the meeting.
- All family members will be aware of social worker's concerns prior to the meeting.
- The meeting is family focused, we will work hard to make sure all family members can attend.
- Prior to the meeting the co-ordinator will meet with you and your family members to explain the process and how it works.
- The co-ordinator will explain how your family plan will be reviewed.

## How does the Family Group Conference Work?

The conference will be in three parts:

### Part One- Information Sharing

Families will meet with the social worker and all other professionals involved. The social worker and professionals will give a clear account to the current situation and what is going well and areas of concerns.

### Part Two- Private Family Time

All the professionals and advocates leave the room. The family will spend time together answering the questions set out by the social worker. The family devises their family plan.

### Part Three- Action Planning

When the family is ready, the professionals come back into the room to hear the family's plan. Provided your plan does not put the child or children at risk it will be accepted. The professionals will work with the family to put the plan in action.