

How long will it take to set up?

Because it's important to get as many of your family there as possible and to find a convenient time and place, it can take several weeks before the meeting happens. If you feel worried during this time, your coordinator or social worker can talk to you and help you.

What if things don't get better?

A family group conference isn't a magic wand! Everyone – you, your family and social worker – have to try their best to make the plan work. Often a second meeting in a few weeks or months' time is a good way to see how it is going. Good Luck! We hope your family group conference helps you and your family to make things better.

If you have any questions contact Daybreak head office on:

Tel: 02380 696644

Fax: 02380 696655

headoffice@daybreakfgc.org.uk

Or for more information visit our website:

www.daybreakfgc.org.uk

My family, relatives and friends who I would like to invite to my family group conference are:

Refreshments I would choose for my family group conference are:

Some thoughts on how I see my future are:

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DAYBREAK

Family Group Conferences



A Guide for Children and Young People

Family Group Conferences

"Bringing families back into decision making and planning"

What is a family group conference?

It is a meeting with you, your family and other relatives, friends and professionals who care for you and are concerned about you.

The aim is to make a plan for the future.

Do I come to the meeting?

You'll be invited along with members of your family including any brothers and sisters you have. Perhaps a friend can come too. You will have a chance to say what you think. You can choose whether you stay and listen or be in a room nearby, for part or all of the time. You will also be offered the support of an advocate or someone you know to support you during the meeting.

Who else will be there?

Your social worker and a few other people who know you well. If you have a key worker or youth worker, they may be invited along too.

Who arranges it all?

Somebody called an independent coordinator will talk to you and your family about arranging the meeting.

You and your family help decide where and when the meeting happens and what refreshments will be served, as well as who needs to be invited.



What happens at the meeting?

The coordinator welcomes everyone. Your social worker and others who know you well will explain the difficulties you are having and talk about what they or your family could do to help. Then you and your family have some time in private to talk it over and make a plan which will help. There will be food and drink if people want it. At the end, the coordinator will take away your plan, type it up and send it to everyone so that it is clear what happens next.

What if I feel shy or I think adults won't listen?

It is important that you do have your say. The coordinator makes sure your voice is heard.

Sometimes someone you know and trust or an independent advocate will help you get your point across.

What if I don't want to be there?

No one will force you to attend. The coordinator can talk to you about other ways that you wishes and feelings can be heard by those at the meeting and help arrange this.