



FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

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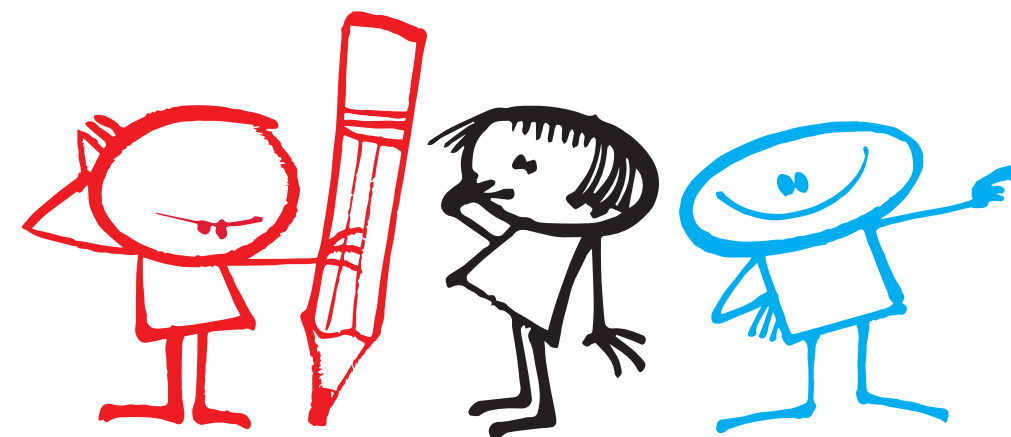
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The family group service can be contacted at:

FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

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North Lanarkshire Council
Intensive Services
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What is family group decision making?

It is a way for children and young people, their families and friends to get together to talk about any problems they may be having.

The meeting is an opportunity for children, young people and their families to come up with a plan to try to make things better for the child or young person in the future.

Why is a family meeting arranged?

A family meeting is arranged to:

- look at how to support children or young people who are having difficulties and ensure their safety
- bring the wider family together
- help families make plans for children
- try to support those looking after a child or young person
- keep the child or young person at the centre
- ensure that people important to the child or young person are actively involved in their care

Who will be there?

- family members
- close family friends, if appropriate
- the child's or young person's social worker and perhaps a teacher, health visitor or other professional
- any other relevant people or carers
- an advocate may be there to help the child or young person make sure their views are heard and understood

Before the meeting

Everyone will be asked to consider:

- all points of view
- strengths
- concerns
- points for discussion

The meeting

The meeting has three stages to it:

1. A time for family members to hear from the social worker and any other professionals who are involved. This is the time to find out what they are saying and ask any questions.
2. Private family time. This is where the co-ordinator and other professionals leave the room and let the family discuss what they think should happen and make a plan.
3. Once the family has made a plan, the co-ordinator and other professionals are invited to come back in to see if the plan can be agreed and how it can be reviewed and monitored.

The co-ordinator's job

The co-ordinator's job is to:

- visit everyone who is coming to the meeting and explain how it will work (see 'before the meeting')
- once the family has agreed where and when they want the meeting to happen, the co-ordinator will arrange the meeting at a suitable time and place
- the co-ordinator will provide practical help, such as food and drink on the day, or support if there are young children coming
- support the family to write up the plan they have made

