

# The Family Group Conference

You may have heard social workers talking about a **Family Group Conference** by now, so what is it?

We believe that families are in the best place to make decisions when they have all the information about the situation. The Family Group Conference meeting gives you and your family an opportunity to come together and make your own plan to address the concerns raised by Children's Social Care. This may include asking for additional support or services from other agencies.

Each conference meeting is run by a co-ordinator. The co-ordinator will be the person arranging the meeting and making contact with you and your family/support network.

The co-ordinators are impartial, and it is their job to make sure the focus is always on the needs of your baby. They do have knowledge about how Children's Social Care works, but they do not 'take sides'. They will help you and your family/support network come up with a plan that meets the needs of your baby.

The co-ordinator will arrange your meeting, including all the practical arrangements such as finding the venue, providing refreshments and doing any paperwork before and after the Family Group Conference.

If you would like more information about Family Group Conferencing, ask your social worker for a leaflet or to arrange for you to speak to a co-ordinator.

To help with arranging your Family Group Conference, you can provide a list of the people you would like to be there along with their contact details on the following page.



