

International Conference hosted
by Family Rights Group

Family-centred solutions – Changing child welfare policy and practice on the ground

17th - 18th September 2008
The Holiday Inn, Stratford-Upon-Avon, England



Welcome from Cathy Ashley



Welcome to the first international conference organised by Family Rights Group on family-centred solutions – changing child welfare policy and practice on the ground.

We wanted to host a conference that would challenge, inspire and educate all of us - policy makers, family members, managers and practitioners.

There is an excellent line up of speakers and we very much hope that as you leave the conference hall at the end of the event, you'll feel we've succeeded.

Although there is a great deal of rhetoric about family-centred practice, we wanted to run a conference that went beyond this by:

- examining the principles and values that underpin family-centred approaches;
- considering the national and international evidence on whether such approaches work in enabling more children to live safely within their families;
- hearing directly the experiences of service users and practitioners;
- exploring family-centred models, including family group conferences, mediation and advocacy; and
- looking at ways of implementing family centred organisations including how to overcome practice resistance and policy and cultural obstacles

We don't view this conference as a one off event, but an important part of a wider process in developing and promoting policies and practices that assist children to be raised safely and securely within their families.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, whose financial contribution has been critical to the event taking place, and whose interest and input have been equally important.

A big thank you is due to the many young people and family members who are taking part, in particular the co-chair, Angela Clark.

Lots of people have helped to put this event together, but a special thank you is due to the exceptional contributions of: Steve Caldwell, Yasmin Choudhury, Deanna Edwards, Bridget Lindley and Sean Haresnape from Family Rights Group, Kate Morris from the University of Birmingham, Paul Nixon at North Yorkshire County Council and Professor Brid Featherstone from the University of Bradford.

I very much hope you enjoy the event.

Cathy Ashley
Chief Executive, Family Rights Group

Conference Partners: A big thank you to all our partners.

City of York



Hampshire County Council



Hull City Council



Kent FGCS

London Borough of Barnet



London Borough of Islington

North Yorkshire County Council



Oxfordshire County Council

Thurrock Council



Warwickshire County Council

Daybreak



Family Welfare Association

Parentline Plus



Social Care Institute for Excellence

TACT



University of Birmingham

University of Bradford



AGENDA

Day 1 17th September

- 8:30-10:00 Registration and coffee/teas**
- 10:00-10:10 Welcome from children and families**
- 10:10-10:20 The context**
Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive, Family Rights Group
- 10:20-10:40 Family-centred solutions - a rights perspective**
His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton
- 10:40-11:00 An international review of family led decision making: emerging learning for policy, research and practice**
Kate Morris, University of Birmingham, England and Marie Connelly, Chief Social Worker in the New Zealand Government
- 11:00-12:25 Refreshments followed by seminars/workshops**
- 12:25-12:50 The principles underlying family-centred practice and whether it works**
Prof Frank Fruchtel, Theory of Social Work, Potsdam, Germany
- 12:50-13:50 Lunch**
- 13:50-14:15 The interface between family decisions and legal processes**
Nick Crichton, District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court
- 14:15-15:30 Seminars/workshops followed by refreshments**
- 15:45-16:10 Whole family approaches in child welfare – South Africa's experiences and ambitions**
Dr Jacqueline Gallinetti, Community Law Centre, University of Western Cape, South Africa
- 16:10-16:45 The whole family approach – improving outcomes for children at risk**
Naomi Eisenstadt, Director of Social Exclusion Unit, Cabinet Office, UK
- 16:45-17:00 Panel discussion**
- 19:30 Dinner & Entertainment** for all overnight conference guests

Day 2 18th September

- 8:00-10:00 Day visitor registration and coffee/teas**
- 8:30-9:45 Workshops**
- 10:00-10:15 Launch of the Stockport children and families FGC DVD**
- 10:15-11:00 Family-centred approaches in developing the child care workforce**
Joan Fletcher and Anna Fairtlough, academics from Goldsmiths, University of London, Ann Tucker, grandparent carer and Angela Morford, a parent and social care service user.
- 11:00-11:30 Panel of family members on their experiences of the social care system**
- 11:30-13:00 Refreshments followed by seminar/workshops**
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch**
- 14:00-14:30 Changing organisations' policies, practices and cultures**
Andy Couldrick, Paul Nixon and Mark Gurrey, Assistant Directors Oxfordshire. North Yorkshire and LB Barnet
- 14:30-15:00 The Canadian experience – what can others learn?**
Mark Sieben – Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC, Canada
- 15:00-16:00 Workshops**
- 16:00-16:15 Participants' views – interactive session**
- 16:15-16:40 Final address – Working with socially excluded families the way forward**
Professor Ravinder Barn, Royal Holloway, University of London, England
- 16:40-17:00 Panel discussion on the way forward for family-centred solutions**
- 17:00-17.10 Chairs' closing remarks**
Angela Clark, social care service user and Patricia Kearney, Director of Practice Development, Social Care Institute for Excellence UK
- 17:10 Tea and Coffee**

PRACTICAL CONFERENCE DETAILS

Costs

1 night rate includes: 2 day conference attendance, conference pack, lunch and 3 course dinner with entertainment and accommodation on 17th September and breakfast and lunch on the 18th September (plus full use of the hotels facilities).

Extra night rate: participants can opt to stay an extra night on the 16th September including a 3 course dinner and accommodation and breakfast on the 17th September.

Day rate: includes 1 day conference attendance, conference pack and lunch on either 17th or 18th september.

Continuous professional development:

Solicitors and Legal Executives: Law Society Accreditation: the legal components on the conference will contribute to CPD points.

Social Workers: This conference will contribute to social work CPD hours

Venue Address:

Holiday Inn Stratford, Bridgefoot, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 6YR
www.holidayinn.co.uk

From the M40

M40 Junction 15. Take A45 to Stratford. After approximately 1 ½ miles (at first island) take the left fork A439 to Stratford. Continue for about 3 ½ miles, passing the "Welcome to Stratford" sign and after ½ mile the road bears hard left onto bridgeway. Keep in the left hand lane and the hotel entrance is approximately 200 metres on the left.

From other routes

Follow signs for A439/M40. You will filter a ring road marked "Leisure Centre". Follow this onto Bridgeway and look for the hotel entrance on the left.



How to get there:

Road: M40 Junction 15 to A46 to A439

Rail: Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Station 1 mile

Air: Birmingham International Airport 20 miles

Local Area attractions

- Shakespeare Houses – Birthplace, Nash's House & New Place, and Hall's Croft (0.5MI/0.8KM)
- Shakespeare Houses - Anne Hathaway's Cottage (1MI/1.61KM)
- Shakespeare Houses - Mary Arden's House (3MI/4.83KM)
- Warwick Castle (10MI/16.09KM)
- Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit (Grand prix) (44MI/70.81KM)
- Blenheim Palace (35MI/56.33KM)
- Ragley Hall (10MI/16.09KM)
- Coughton Court National Trust (10 MI/16.09 KM)
- Charlecote Park National Trust (5MI/ 8.05KM)
- Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0.5MI/ 0.8KM)
- Hatton Country World (7MI/11.27KM)
- Hidcote Manor Gardens (10MI/16.09 KM)
- Stratford Butterfly Farm (0.7MI/1.13KM)

Family Rights Group

Family Rights Group is the charity in England and Wales that advises parents and other family members whose children are involved with or require social care services.

Established as a registered charity in 1974, we work to increase the voice children and families have in the services they use. We promote policies and practices that assist children to be raised safely and securely within their families and campaign to ensure that support is available to assist grandparents and other relatives who are raising children who cannot live at home.

We run a confidential telephone advice service and a professional advocacy service for families. Family Rights Group introduced family group conferences (FGC) in England and Wales and runs the FGC Network.

Family Rights Group's freephone advice line Tel: 0800 731 1696 is open: Monday to Friday 10am-12.00pm & 1.30-3.30pm. Note: new longer opening hours from September: Monday to Friday 10.00am-3.30pm

You can contact us by telephone or by email at advice@frg.org.uk

We welcome calls from textphone users via Typetalk

DETAILED AGENDA

DAY 1 - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2008

8:30-10:00 Registration and coffee/teas

9:00-9:45 Introductory seminar (optional)

A showing of the DVD Taking Care of the Children for those unfamiliar with the FGC model, plus questions and answers session with Family Rights Group's policy team

10:00-10:10 Welcome

Welcome from Warwickshire children and families including Kaz Gill and Ryan Leahy 'Streetz R watchin'.

10:10-10:20 The context

Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive, Family Rights Group

10:20-10:40 Family-centred solutions - a rights perspective

His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton

10:40-11:00 An international review of family led decision making: emerging learning for policy, research and practice

Kate Morris, University of Birmingham, England and Marie Connelly, Chief Social Worker in the New Zealand Government

11:00-11:15 Refreshments

11:15-12:20 Workshops/seminars A

A1. Accreditation Development Group

(Closed meeting)

A2. Children's position in FGC - Norwegian research to explore an FGC from a child perspective

Cecilie Omre and Liv Schjelderup, Stavanger University, Norway.

Seminar: all

This seminar will consider Norwegian research which has explored FGCs from a child perspective. The focus is on the child's position in FGC, on the child's experiences of FGC, on the child's situation and the changes in it after the FGC and on the child's ideas of the significance of the FGC.

A3. Mediation in Public Law

Helen Casey and Bridget Lindley, Family Mediators at Cambridge Family Mediation Service, England.

Seminar: advanced

Cambridge Family Mediation Service has extensive experience of supporting parents/carers to make arrangements for their children when their family circumstances are changing. Whilst much of this work has involved working with separating parents, they also have experience of mediating in disputes when the local authority is involved because of child welfare concerns and when disputes involve wider family members. This seminar will explore the potential use of mediation as a forum for family members to make plans for their children where there are child protection concerns or where there are contact difficulties when the child lives away from the parents' home with relatives or unrelated carers.

A4. Professional family advocacy in child protection - research findings

Pam Ledward, Advocacy Manager, Family Rights Group and Prof. Brid Featherstone, University of Bradford, England.

Seminar: advanced

The seminar will consider the experiences, benefits and lessons learnt from Family Rights Group's professional parental advocacy service. The reasons the service is so highly valued by families and practitioners will be considered. The obstacles to parental advocacy becoming an entitlement will be explored. Ideas of how to influence its adoption locally and nationally will be shared'

By the end of the seminar participants will have:

- an understanding of professional advocacy;
- heard the most current research findings;
- listened to the views of clients who have experienced a professional advocacy service; and
- be equipped with best practice examples, and ideas of how to influence the implementation of parental advocacy services locally.

A5. Reaching out - the Family Partnership model

Megan Ellis and Keri Cooper, England.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

The aim of the Family Partnership Model (FPM) is to offer a clear and straight forward framework to guide and support practitioners in the complex and dynamic process of helping families effectively. It transcends professional backgrounds and interventions and draws on the significant evidence that successful outcomes for parents are highly related to the relationship they have with the professional. The Family Partnership model advocates a thorough exploration of the notion of partnership and encourages reflection on the position of this and other key concepts in ones practice.

A6. Universal services and families in need

Dorit Braun, Parentline Plus, England.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

This workshop will explore how universal services can and do work with families at high levels of need, sharing information from Parentline Plus service users, and examining how families move in and out of need and can be supported to either find more specialist services and/or better manage their own difficulties. It will explore the use of telephone based services as a practical and anonymous route for support for parents and carers.

A7. Using FGCs to improve children's outcomes? - What's the evidence?

Sophika Houck and Andrew Papworth, London Borough of Camden FGC service, Dawn Walsh, Kent FGC service and Hilary Horan and Duncan Stanway, Barnardo's South West, England.

Seminar: beginner/intermediate

What can FGCs do about school exclusions, ASBOs and housing evictions or for children involved with social care services? Research findings will be presented at this seminar, which examines not only the impact upon the immediate service targets but also on the wider Every Child Matters outcomes set by the UK government.

This includes:

- An independent' evaluation of the Camden FGC Service which looks back at child welfare outcomes over several years and also gives findings about the situation of children who were subjects of FGCs – approx one year after their FGC.
- Kent FGC Service will give findings from an independent evaluation of the use of FGCs in two Kent primary schools.
- A Barnardo's project in Bristol will report on using FGCs to work with anti-social behaviour on a specific estate – with some impressive outcomes.

A8. Whole family approaches : a review of the literature - key messages for policy and practice.

Kate Morris and Harriet Clarke, University of Birmingham.

Seminar - all

This seminar will present the themes and findings arising from a review conducted on behalf of the UK Government. The review explored the literature and research, nationally and internationally, focusing on whole family approaches to families with multiple and enduring needs.

The review identified a number of key messages about:

- how 'families' are understood;
- the current approaches to families with significant needs and the implications for developing family based responses.

There will be an opportunity to comment on the findings and to discuss experiences of developing whole family approaches.

11:15-12:20 Workshop A

A9. How can we include children, young people, their parents and carers more fully in Common Assessment Framework assessments?

Philip Gilligan, University of Bradford and Hannah Farncombe, Oxfordshire County Council

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a generic assessment for children with additional needs which is being used increasingly in England by practitioners across all children's services. It aims to help early identification of need, promote coordinated service provision and reduce the number of assessments that some children and young people go through.

The workshop will compare realities revealed by an evaluation of CAF assessments in one local authority with official policies regarding inclusion. It will then go on to explore methods developed in Oxfordshire to alert practitioners to issues involved in inclusion from service user perspectives, including showing a DVD expressing the views and experiences of children and families

Drawing on the experiences and ideas of participants, discussion will focus on how the potential for inclusiveness claimed for CAF and other assessment tools can be achieved.

12:25-12:50 The principles underlying family-centred practice and whether it works

Prof Frank Fruchtel, Theory of Social Work, Potsdam, Germany.

12:50-13:50 Lunch

13:50-14:15 The Interface between family decisions and legal processes

Nick Crichton, District Judge, Inner London Family Proceedings Court.

Workshops/Seminars B

14:15-15:30pm Wednesday 17th September 2008

B1. An introduction to 'Strengthening Families', a strengths-based model for conducting child protection conferences

Damian Griffiths, Oxfordshire CC and Robert Bradshaw, West Berkshire Council, England.

Workshop: advanced

This workshop provides an introduction to the 'Strengthening Families' model for conducting child protection conferences. The model was developed by the child protection service at West Berkshire Council - and has been in use since July 2005. It is a strengths-based approach that seeks to maximise collaboration and partnership between professionals and families. The model was evaluated by West Berkshire in 2006, receiving much positive feedback from professionals and parents.

B2. Building a family friendly city with restorative practices: the experience of Hull, England

Nigel Richardson, Children and Young People's Services, Hull City Council, England and Ted Wachtel, International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), USA.

Seminar: all

This seminar will focus on the unique restorative practices project in Hull, England - the creation of the world's first restorative City.

The Restorative City Project aims to:

- establish an explicit framework that underpins the behaviours of all professionals in the City;
- provide a common language and approach young people and families;
- train 27,000 adults who work with children, young people and families across the communities

We have a partnership of trained professionals across education, social care, family support, early years, health, police officers, community workers and the voluntary sector. We challenge and support professionals to work within a restorative framework with children, young people and families ultimately encouraging family led practice and decision-making. The seminar explores the challenges and opportunities that the City, together with key partners, faces and the lessons learned from the initial pilot in the Riverside Community.

B3. Families' Voices

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

Family members, adults and children, will discuss their experiences of an FGC. They all have had direct experience of this process and will talk about the varying stages in preparation, being at an FGC and the resulting plan and changes that this led to. They will answer questions about their experiences. Family members present will have had experiences where progress has had to be made around serious issues which could include non-school attendance, children being on the brink of care, at risk of offending and/or family members suffering serious health issues. They will give examples of how FGC approaches work in enabling more children to live securely within their families and for their life chances to be improved. There will also be an opportunity to discuss how 'families voices' in informing the development of FGC services locally, nationally and internationally can be taken forward.

B4. Family-centred solutions - policy and practice developments in the 4 countries of the UK

Cathy Ashley, Family Rights Group, David Flanagan, Chair All Wales Family Group Meeting Network; Anne Hamilton, CHILDREN 1ST, Scotland; (representative from Northern Ireland invited).

Seminar: all

This seminar will explore whether and how the legislative, policy and practice framework in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland supports family-centred solutions in child welfare. It will consider recent measures introduced in the four nations, including changes in the support framework for family and friends care in Scotland and the Public Law Outline in England and Wales aimed at preventing children from unnecessarily entering into care. Speakers will discuss what the catalysts have been to legislative changes, consider the future lobbying agenda and options for learning from experiences across the 4 nations.

B5. FGC in a system of child and family support in Poland: The experience of Implementation.

Jarosław Przeperski, National Centre on FGC (project of Hope for Families Foundation), Poland.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

FGC in Poland is a new method of working with children and their families. This workshop will discuss why FGCs are being introduced in Poland and the effect of using FGCs on the Polish family and child support system. We will explore the hopes and barriers in the implementation of FGCs in Poland and its impact. The workshop aims to discuss ways forward, drawing upon lessons from countries where FGCs are more established.

B6. Gender, power & family-based decision making in child welfare

Professor Brid Featherstone, University of Bradford, England and Prof Ute Straub, University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Workshop: advanced

The workshop will begin with an overview of gender issues in relation to child welfare. In particular it will explore how men and women, mothers and fathers are dealt with within the system and highlight some of the gendered inequalities which have been identified within research.

The workshop will then look at the ways in which FGCs engage with gender issues through exploration of the limited research which exists and engaging with participants' own experiences. The latter will be a central part of the workshop and it is hoped will contribute to developing 'practice wisdom' in this area. The aim is that ideas for an international research project will emerge from the workshop.

B7. Implications of the Public Law Outline for families

Bridget Lindley, Family Rights Group and Dawn Walsh, Kent FGC Service.

Workshop: advanced

The new system for managing care proceedings in England and Wales, known as the Public Law Outline and its associated guidance to local authorities, provides an opportunity for families to take the lead in making safe plans for their children before the court process takes over. Specifically, before issuing proceedings to remove a child from their parents (in cases other than an emergency) local authorities must now support parents to address the concerns and help families to find solutions to identified problems in the family which will keep their children safe and well-cared for. This workshop will explore the position of parents and wider family members in this context, consider the policy and practice implications and draw

together recommendations to enhance the interface between family-led decision-making and the legal and court processes associated with protecting children.

B8. Learning disabilities and whole family approaches – research findings and considerations for practice

Harriet Clarke, University of Birmingham, England.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

This workshop will look at research and practice knowledge concerning the experiences of parents who have learning difficulties and have additional support requirements in relation to their parenting role.

The workshop will consider the ways in which parents with learning difficulties share system-based problems with accessing support with other disabled parents, discuss when and why parents with learning difficulties can face specific barriers to receiving support from services in relation to their parenting role and ways that this can be addressed.

B9. The importance of changing systems to promote family-centered solutions: lessons from the USA

David Crampton, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA and Lisa Merkel-Holguin, American Humane, USA.

Workshop: all

Implementing family-centred solutions in child welfare is a robust challenge, one that requires significant reforms at both the systems and practice level. There are a wide variety of family meeting approaches in the United States that follow different practice and policy strategies, but share common values regarding family and community involvement. This workshop will review lessons from the USA, including research studies and practice experiences, with an emphasis on how policies and structures must support family-centred solutions.

15:45-16:10 Whole family approaches in child welfare – South Africa's experiences and ambitions

Dr Jacqueline Gallinetti, Community Law Centre, University of Western Cape, South Africa.

16:10-16:45 The whole family approach – improving outcomes for children at risk

Naomi Eisenstadt, Director of Social Exclusion Unit, Cabinet Office, UK.

16:45-17:00 Panel discussion

19:30 Dinner & entertainment for overnight conference guests.



DETAILED AGENDA

DAY 2 - 18TH SEPTEMBER 2008

8:00-10:00 Day visitor registration and coffee

8:30-9:45 Workshops/seminars C

C1. A showing of the DVD Taking Care of the Children for those unfamiliar with the FGC model, plus questions and answers session with Family Rights Group's policy team

C2. Family and friends care – developing a strengths based assessment framework

David Roth, Family Rights Group.

Workshop: advanced

The workshop will look at supporting families to engage with and participate in the assessment process when children cannot live with their parents. The workshop will consider what information is needed to carry out these assessments and will look at what options are being developed to utilise the families' strengths as well as consider potential risks, in order to ensure that the child's placement is secure and effectively supported. Family Rights Group is piloting a new form for assessing family and friends carers which will be presented as part of the workshop.

C3. Family engagement in youth justice & child welfare - the South African experience

Dr Jacqueline Gallinetti, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Seminar: advanced

The seminar will examine how dispute resolution and family involvement in decision making has evolved in family law, the care system and the youth (child justice) system in South Africa. This will involve an examination of law and practice and the different ways in which this has been effected. For example in the criminal justice field, whilst South Africa has no legislative framework at the moment for restorative justice and dispute resolution in relation to children, nevertheless restorative justice and family involvement in cases involving children accused of committing crime has been an integral part of child justice practice since the mid-1990s. On the other hand dispute resolution and restorative justice has not been part of the care system or family law system in practice yet South Africa does now have a legislative framework for both within the Children's Act. The seminar will explore the achievements, lessons learned and challenges that lie ahead.

C4. "FG... but not quite C." How are outcomes affected when the FGC process doesn't end in a meeting?

Anne Hamilton, CHILDREN 1ST, Scotland

Workshop: advanced

In Scotland, approximately 35% of active FGC referrals do not result in a family meeting. In situations where a co-ordinator has at least three interventions with key family members resulting in some kind of outcome or resolution, this is logged as Significant Work and is viewed as the equivalent of a family meeting. The seminar will examine Significant Work, outlining current research into the concept and comparing its outcomes with those arising from the family meeting.

C5. Involving young people in their meetings

Kacey Lane and Stewart Parker, young people involved in young persons' group, Barnardos Neath FGM Service, Karen Rees, Barnardos FGM Service, Neath and Maureen Japp, Cwlmw, Wales.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

Young people will share their experiences of using a FGM service and what it meant for them. They will also discuss their experiences of being involved in a user group. The workshop will share ideas about how other services could involve young people in the development of the FGM service and why they should. There will be a managed question and answer session.

C6. Parental mental health needs and child welfare: taking a family focus

Prof Nicky Stanley, University of Central Lancashire.

Workshop: advanced

This session will use a recent review of health and social care policy in respect of parents with mental health needs and their children to explore the evidence for an increasing focus on the family in England and Wales. The extent to which this approach reflects families' own perceptions of their needs will be discussed and the challenges and drivers for interagency communication and collaboration in this field will be explored. Workshop participants will identify the skills and resources required for developing a family focused approach.

C7. When is the optimum point for a family and service to make best use of a family group

Linda French, Thurrock FGC Service, England.

Workshop: advanced

Managers who are running FGC projects will find this workshop useful and thought provoking. Findings will be presented of an MBA study conducted by the researcher on a small FGC project and the identified points where a focus group and other methods considered the question on when to use an FGC. The workshop will consider implications of building in FGCs into the common assessment framework in England and pre-preventative strategies for keeping children and young people safe.

C8. Working restoratively with families in a challenging school community.

Estelle Macdonald, Collingwood, Primary school, Hull, England and Paul Carlisle, Hull Centre for Restorative Practice.

Workshop: Beginner/intermediate

Collingwood Primary School is an inner city primary school in a socially deprived area in the city of Hull, England. The school moved from failing to outstanding in two years and has been recognised for its pioneering work in developing social and emotional wellbeing. The transformation of Collingwood Primary School and its work in the field of Restorative Practices has inspired a city wide project. The school uses Restorative Practices at every level. This workshop looks at how the success of working restoratively with children in school has been extended to working effectively with families, thus building communities and improving outcomes for the children and their families.

C9 Learning about poverty from families who use services: a demonstration of SCIE's elearning tool.

Colin Paton, E learning project manager, SCIE, UK

Workshop: Beginner/Intermediate

10:00-11:30 Plenary - drawing upon families' experiences including:

10:00-10:15 Launch of the Stockport children and families FGC users DVD

10:15-11:00 Family-centred approaches in developing the child care workforce

Joan Fletcher and Anna Fairtlough, academics at Goldsmiths, University of London, Ann Tucker, grandparent carer and Angela Morford, a parent and social care service user and Shantel Thomas is a social work student on supporting service users to influence social work students and practice training.

11:00-11:30 Panel of family members on their experiences of social care system – why and what could be different?

11:30-11.45 Refreshments

11:45-13:00 Workshops/seminars D

D1. Addressing domestic abuse in FGCs

Marilyn Taylor and Alison Powey, Daybreak.

Seminar: advanced

The seminar will contribute to the understanding how FGCs can help families struggling with family violence and abuse. Daybreak has been involved in using FGCs to address domestic violence since 2001, when the first Dove project was established.

By the end of the seminar participants will have a clear understanding of:

- how Daybreak uses FGCs to address violence and abuse in the home, and the contexts in which this happens;
- how the post conference interviews with victims helps us to understand the value of FGCs and what needs to be addressed;
- a new programme that uses FGCs to address elder abuse;
- some examples of good practice

D2. Building Bridges - working with families affected by parental mental health problems and other complex needs

Rose de Paeztron & Briony Hallam, Family Welfare Association (FWA).

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

FWA's Building Bridges services currently works across England with children and their families affected by parental mental health problems and other complex needs. The workshop will discuss this model of working and present findings from the recent independent evaluation of FWA's Building Bridges services. Small group discussion and exercises will include how to meet conflicting needs and how to enable a successful 'team around the family.'

D3. Family and friend carers support groups - how to get them going and make them sustainable

Sally Deignan, Rutland Children's Services, Rose French, Northampton Children's Services, Chris Leaves, grandparent carer & Family Rights Group consultant, Rosie Smith, Hampshire Children's Services.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

There are still very few support groups for family and friends carers in the UK, despite the many benefits that carers get from participating in support groups. This interactive workshop will be led by practitioners and carers with extensive experience of setting up and running local family and friends carers groups. This workshop will consider what practical steps need to be put in place for a group to be sustainable, how to avoid pitfalls and will consider with participants how they can be assisted to develop support groups back in their localities.

D4. Family group conference coordinator accreditation – developing and embedding a framework for best practice

Sean Haresnape, FGC Policy Adviser, Family Rights Group and Svanhild Vik, Norway.

Workshop: advanced

The world's first post graduate certificate in FGC co-ordinating has been developed by Family Rights Group, the FGC Network

and the University of Chester. Norway is also pursuing a similar process although it at an earlier stage, as are a number of other countries in Europe. The workshop will examine the rationale for pursuing accreditation for FGC co-ordinators and developments to date in England/Wales and Norway, including the challenges faced. The facilitators will discuss their experience of setting clear learning outcomes that enable new and existing co-ordinators to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of child welfare FGCs in practice and the principles that underpin FGCs. It will also consider accessibility of accredited qualifications and the potential to add additional modules to the post graduate certificate, for example on co-ordinating FGC in youth justice.

D5. Family group conferencing: meeting the needs of culturally diverse communities.

Kathy Nuza, Foyzal Hoque & Jane Towey from FGC Service, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Andalina Kadri, FGC Service, Slough Borough Council, England.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

The aim of the workshop is to share the facilitators' experiences in developing FGC services in two culturally diverse areas: the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Slough in South East England. An initial presentation setting the scene will be followed by discussion and information sharing covering: developing links with marginalised communities; recruiting coordinators from different communities; how best to provide choice for families and what they say; cultural matching, and what to do when you can't; and the cultural sensitivity of the FGC model. There will be case presentations with an opportunity for discussion.

D6. How can the Public Law Outline support family decision-making when children need to be safeguarded from significant harm?

Anne Barlow, Milton Keynes FGC Service, Ruth Bennett, Bury FGC Services & Liz Holton, Hampshire FGC service.

Seminar: advanced

The new system for managing care proceedings in England and Wales, known as the Public Law Outline (PLO) and its associated guidance to local authorities, appears to be resulting in more families being offered an FGC in order to make safe plans for their children prior to the local authority issuing care proceedings care. This seminar will consider the implications for FGC policy and practice of the PLO, exploring the opportunities as well as some of the challenges. It will consider the possible impact on family members including potential carers and consider practice frameworks to best support the use of FGCs in the light of the PLO.

D7. Mainstreaming a community-based child protection model in a developing country – the Sri Lanka experience

Nayomi Kannangara, CCF Sri Lanka and Deanna Edwards, Family Rights Group.

Workshop: advanced

The workshop will draw upon research being conducted by Nayomi at Deakin University, Australia to identify, analyse and discuss challenges faced in introducing, integrating and assimilating FGCs to mainstream child welfare systems in developing countries. Nayomi has worked in child welfare for some years in Sri Lanka, and will draw upon her experience of introducing FGCs in Sri Lanka. Deanna Edwards and other staff from Family Rights Group will also promote discussion on their experiences of training in Sri Lanka, and the dilemmas and opportunities in a country with a very different legal and support framework from the UK.

D9. Hot Topic

A decision will be taken by conference participants on day one of the conference about what 'hot topic' this open workshop would wish to discuss.

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-14:30 Plenary - changing organisation's policies, practices and cultures

Andy Couldrick, Paul Nixon and Mark Gurrey, Assistant Directors Oxfordshire, North Yorkshire and LB Barnet

14:30-15:00 Plenary - the Canadian experience – what can others learn?

Mark Sieben – Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC, Canada

15:00-16:00 Workshops/seminars E

E1. Beyond Family Group Conferences - Re-designing decision making to be family centred

Andy Couldrick, Oxfordshire CC, England and Sharon Inglis, Circles Training.

Workshop: advanced

We know that “bolting on” family-strength based practices to our traditional professionally driven organizations is a challenge. This workshop will explore the impact that working with the values and principles of FGC can have on organisations and services.

- How can this shift in approach impact on the decision-making that families experience at all levels of our organizations?
- What would our traditional systems and decision-making mechanisms look like through a family-centred lens?
- What are the key changes we can make to improve these systems and processes?

E2. Community conferencing - can they have a role in addressing forced marriages?

Andalina Kadri, Slough FGC Service.

Workshop: advanced

Whilst managing the FGC service in Slough, Berkshire in England an issue that has been raised is forced marriages within minority ethnic communities. Slough's FGC service manager will lead a discussion on how the service has responded by developing a community conferencing approach. Coordinators, for example, have worked with families who came to the attention of Children's Services due to young people wanting to leave the family home due to east/west cultural divides, and there has been awareness raising work undertaken with local social work students.

E3. Evaluation of family-centred models

Kate Morris, University of Birmingham

Workshop: advanced

This will be an open seminar and will allow those engaged in researching family-led decision making to discuss methods, findings and future developments. The meeting will be informally chaired by Kate Morris and the discussions will feed into the ongoing international review of evidence.

E4. Including fathers in 'family-centred' solutions: issues and ways forward

Sean Haresnape, Fathers Policy Adviser, Family Rights Group, Professor Brid Featherstone, University of Bradford and Steve McGarvey, Gap Community Centre, Warwickshire.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

Latest research carried out as part of the Fathers Matter project (*Fathers Matter 2*, 2008, FRG) in England would suggest that there continues to be difficulties for children's services in engaging with fathers. Too often fathers are treated as 'invisible' by children's social care services, thus their contribution as a risk and/or a resource to the child are overlooked. The workshop will provide an outline of the difficulties and outline what is known about 'what works' in engaging fathers, including a short film made by fathers as part of the local fathers' group 'Dads Allowed'.

E5. Overcoming the obstacles: supporting local authorities in introducing the use of FGCs

Liz Holton, Hampshire FGC Service.

Workshop:

For managers, policy makers, and project leaders interested in developing the use of FGCs in a local authority setting
Come and learn about the promise and pitfalls of setting up and developing an FGC project: consider key issues and options and explore the implications of different models of provision. The workshop will provide opportunities for participants to network with colleagues on the same path and relate input from the session to your own situation through discussion and questions.

E6. Total respect - How to work with young people who are looked after – what young people want

Louise Cunningham and John Murphy, Barnardos, Warwickshire and care experienced young people.

Workshop: beginner/intermediate

The workshop will be co-facilitated by care experienced young people. The workshop puts listening to young people at the very heart of what we do. The training materials were devised by young people and their central message is that all of us that work with children and young people should be actively listening to their messages and most importantly change our practice.

E7. Working with marginalised parents: the effects of poverty on family life and positive difference policy makers and practitioners can make

Moraene Roberts, ATD 4th World with other family members

Workshop: beginner/intermediate.

This interactive workshop will outline the impact of poverty on family life and provide participants with an appreciation of how a family-centred approach to child welfare can lead to positive outcomes for children and their parents. Jointly delivered with parents from a background of poverty and social work intervention, it will capitalise on the work of the charity ATD Fourth World in the field of social work education to train parents as social work trainers.

E8. Hot Topic

A decision will be taken by conference participants on day one of the conference about what 'hot topic' this open workshop would wish to discuss.

16:00 Plenary - participants' views – interactive session

16:15-16:40 Plenary - final address – working with socially excluded families the way forward

Professor Ravinder Barn, Royal Holloway, University of London, England.

16:40-17:00 Plenary - final panel discussion on the way forward for family-centred solutions

17:00 Chairs' closing remarks

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Cathy Ashley

Cathy Ashley joined Family Rights Group in 2004 as their chief executive. Cathy has co-authored and edited the publication *Family Group Conference Toolkit – a practical guide to setting up and running an FGC service* (2006, Family Rights Group), and is joint-editor of *Family Group Conferences: Where Next? Policies and Practices for the Future* (2007, Family Rights Group).

She is also a contributor to *Fathers Matter* (2006, Family Rights Group) and *Fathers Matter Volume 2: Further findings on fathers and their involvement with social care services* (2008, Family Rights Group). Cathy has been involved in supporting partner organisations to introduce FGCs in Poland and Sri Lanka and has facilitated training in both countries.

In her spare time Cathy is vice-chair of the Parent Promoters' Foundation in Lambeth, which has set up The Elmgreen School, the first parent promoter comprehensive school in Britain. She previously chaired Lambeth's Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and was a councillor for eight years. She has a wonderful 10-year-old daughter and enjoys running and scuba diving.

Anne Barlow

Anne Barlow trained as an FGC co-ordinator 10 years ago and works in this field as a manager and trainer.

A qualified social worker for over 25 years, she trained in psychiatric social work and for the majority of her career has specialised in local authority children and families work.

Anne was involved in the early development of the Essex FGC service as a manager of a front line Children's Services team. Anne developed and currently manages the FGC service in the English unitary authority of Milton Keynes. The focus is on offering FGCs to families in early intervention and family support, in line with the 'team around the child' agenda, as well as within statutory procedures.



Professor Ravinder Barn

Ravinder Barn is Professor of Social Policy and Social Work at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her research interests are in the areas of 'race', ethnicity, and welfare. She has published widely on the situation of minority ethnic children and young people in the public care system. Ravinder is the author of six key textbooks - *Black Children in the Public Care System* (1993, Batsford); *Acting on Principle* (1997, BAAF); *Working with Black Children and Adolescents in Need* (1999, BAAF); *Black Youth on the Margins* (2001, JRF); *Life After Care* (2005, JRF); and *Parenting in Multi-Racial Britain* (2006, NCB).

Ravinder is currently leading on an evaluation study of Family Rights Group's project into the use of FGCs with Caribbean and Bangladeshi families in London.

Ruth Bennett

Ruth Bennett is Bury's Family Group Meeting (FGM) service co-ordinator. Ruth has worked as a FGM service co-ordinator for the last six years, co-ordinating over eighty FGMs and thirty FGM reviews covering a wide range of welfare, education and youth justice issues. She has also advocated for many children and young people who are part of an FGC and has found the experience invaluable.

Academic work has included a Masters in Political Development from Manchester University researching international law and working children and a Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in social work from Manchester Metropolitan University including research on social services provision and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Ruth is also an FRG associate tutor for the post graduate FGC accredited certificate.

Robert Bradshaw

Robert Bradshaw is a social worker with responsibility in West Berkshire for FGCs, review meetings for looked after children and child protection conferences. Robert applies the Signs of Safety approach to assessment and is taking a similar approach to planning and reviewing. Robert is committed to building increased partnership between families and professionals in decision-making.

Dorit Braun

Dorit Braun's background is in adult and community education. She has worked with parents, teachers, social workers and health professionals, and has had a long career supporting parents and families in different settings. She became chief executive of the National Stepfamily Association in 1997, successfully guiding the organisation through the merger with Parent Network and Parentline UK, to form Parentline Plus in 1999.

Dorit is now working as a consultant to Parentline Plus and to a number of other charities. She is a trustee of Working with Men and chair of the Female Prisoners Welfare Trust/Hibiscus

Paul Carlile

Paul Carlile was formerly employed as a head teacher by Hull City Council, England, where he transformed schools classified by the national inspection authority (Ofsted) as failing. Paul became a schools adviser within Hull, where he has supported schools that caused concern. He then worked for the Department for Education and Skills, where he coordinated school improvement at a regional level. Paul is now a member of Hull Centre for Restorative Practice, which is helping drive restorative practices across the city.

Helen Casey

Helen Casey has been a practising solicitor since January 1993 and has always specialised in Family Law. Helen set up and ran a Family Law Service at the Cambridge Citizens' Advice Bureau, England and then Helen returned to private practice where she has remained since 1996. She is a member of the Law Society's Family Law Panel and an Accredited Specialist with Resolution (formerly Solicitors Family Law Association). Helen does a lot of her own advocacy and deals with both private and public law cases. Helen also works as a mediator and legal consultant at the Cambridge Family Mediation Service, where she is keen to further develop mediation in public law proceedings. She has been a practising mediator for almost as long as she has been a solicitor and finds that these two roles complement each other.

Angela Maddalyna Clark

Angela Maddalyna Clark is 33 years old. Her two sons were placed for adoption in 2004.

Angela had a very abusive childhood and as a result suffered from severe mental health problems from her early teens. She began abusing drugs and alcohol at the age of 14. Angela's GP attempted to get her treatment without success. Following a traumatic birth of her first child and severe birth complications, Angela suffered from very bad post natal depression for which she never received treatment. Shortly after this Angela became involved with a very abusive partner and her mental health deteriorated rapidly and drug use escalated. Angela approached Social Services for help but ended up having her son placed in foster care. Angela then fell pregnant with her second child and made every effort to clean up her act. Her eldest child was returned to her shortly before the birth of her second child. Unfortunately Angela had a very traumatic birth and again suffered life threatening complications and ended up using drugs again. Despite asking repeatedly for help she did not receive any. Her partner's behaviour worsened and she was told that unless she left him she would lose the children. She was however not given any help to do so. In the end the children were removed and she agreed to them being adopted as Angela thought she was never going to get out the situation she was in.

Eventually Angela found a place in a women's refuge and became involved with the charity After Adoption. She managed to get clean and sort herself out. Angela has been off drugs for three years now. Angela finally left her abusive partner and now lives in Northampton with her new partner. She no longer suffers from mental health problems and has completely transformed her life thanks to the help and support of After Adoption.

Harriet Clarke

Harriet Clarke joined the Institute of Applied Social Studies at the University of Birmingham, England to work as a lecturer on social work courses in 2001. She had previously worked as a social policy researcher at the Nuffield Community Care Studies Unit, University of Leicester (1994-2001), where she also gained her PhD. Harriet supervises PhD students and MA dissertation students, and teaches primarily on social work qualifying courses. Harriet's research interests are: disabled parents; disabled children and their families; and welfare attitudes and care. She has recently completed work for the

National Evaluation of the Children's Fund, now published by the Department for Education and Skills, bringing together current literature on services for disabled children and their families.



Andy Couldrick

Andy Couldrick is head of early years and family support for Oxfordshire County Council, England. Here, and in previous roles he has led the introduction of new policies and practices that seek to enable and support families to find solutions for their children, through FGC's, kinship care and other developments, aiming to shift the role of "the State" from intervention to support. He is a qualified social worker and a less qualified husband and father.

Marie Connelly

Marie Connelly is the Chief Social Worker in the New Zealand Government.

Keri Cooper

Keri Cooper is passionate about her work with young children and their families and is committed to raising standards in early years services. Keri's role within an English voluntary sector Children's Centre involves reaching out to vulnerable and isolated communities and this has been enhanced through her training in the Family Partnership Model. This work has required a great deal of self reflection and has widened Keri's knowledge of the travelling community and the discrimination they face in today's society.

The enthusiasm Keri has for her role and community stems from her upbringing and her mum who campaigned passionately (and continues to do so) for improved children's services.

Louise Cunningham

Louise Cunningham is an advocacy project worker at Barnardo's, Warwickshire, England. She has been a children's advocate for over 5 years and has worked with looked after children and children in need. Louise has promoted the voice of the child at statutory reviews and safeguarding conferences and supported children within FGCs. Louise has been a Total Respect trainer and worked closely with care experienced young people to co-facilitate training to counsellors, managers, foster carers and social care staff and recruit staff for the project.

David Crampton

David Crampton is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. From 1995-2001 he worked as a programme evaluator in Kent County, Michigan where he helped implement and evaluate child welfare reform initiatives that included the use of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to divert children from foster care and into kinship care. Since 2006, he has contributed to a national evaluation of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family Initiative, which includes another family meeting practice called Team Decision Making. Family to Family operates in 60 locations across 17 states.



Nick Crichton

Nick Crichton practiced for 15 years as a solicitor in private practice in North West London. He has served as a District Judge (Magistrates Courts) for 21 years, for the last 15 years Nick has specialised in family work. Since it opened in April 2007, Nick

has been the Resident District Judge at Inner London Family Proceedings Court, Wells Street.

Nick is a member of Family Justice Council and sits on numerous committees, steering groups etc. He is a passionate advocate for listening to what children have to say to us about their experiences.

Sally Deignan

Sally Deignan has been a social worker working with children and families for thirty years. She now works in Rutland, England where she is an FGC co-ordinator and supports family and friends carers. Sally has recently set up a support group for grandparent carers.

Rose De Paeztron

Rose de Paeztron is head of strategic development for Family Welfare Association (FWA). Her career within the voluntary sector has primarily been in adult and family social care. Work includes couple and group therapy and supervision, substance misuse, training and development of national programmes. Her current role within FWA supports and develops new and existing services as well as promoting and supporting practice development.

Deanna Edwards

Deanna is a policy adviser for Family Rights Group and manager of Stockport Family Group Meetings. She has 10 years experience of coordinating and managing FGCs. Deanna is also a Family Rights Group associate tutor for the post-graduate certificate for co-ordinators and is the first person in the world to have been awarded the certificate.

Deanna has visited Sri Lanka twice to train coordinators and referrers in the FGC model.

Naomi Eisenstadt

Naomi Eisenstadt is director of the Social Exclusion Task Force at the UK Cabinet Office. She is responsible for proposals for a Public Service Agreement target on Social Exclusion, Cabinet Office work on Families at Risk and advice on social exclusion across Government.

From 1999 Naomi ran the Sure Start Programme. This grew over seven years into responsibility for the UK Government's policy on services for young children, extended schools and parenting. She is a non-executive director of a primary care trust. In 2002 Naomi was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Open University for services to families and children. She was awarded a CBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours List.

Megan Ellis

Tena koutou katoa. Megan is from Aotearoa (New Zealand) and is a woman of K_i Tahu, Ngati Mamoe and Waitaha descent. She lives in South London with her partner and her whanau (family) live close by, both are precious to her and are a constant source of joy and motivation.

The kaupapa (values) of the Family Partnership Model (FPM) reflect Megan's own values, those of building partnership relationships, mutual respect and honest communication these, making it a pleasure for her to work at the Centre for Parent and Child Support as a training facilitator.

Megan's professional background spans 20 years and has involved mental health nursing, psychotherapy (group & individual), psychodrama and education. Mauri ora kia koutou

Anna Fairtlough

Anna Fairtlough is a lecturer in social work at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has many years experience in social work and social work management, specialising in children and families work. Anne has had responsibility for social work policy and practice development in the areas of child sexual abuse and domestic violence. Her research interests are concerned with professional development and learning, domestic violence and parenting. She has recently undertaken evaluations of an innovative training programme for practitioners working with parents and a pan-European project designed to transfer knowledge and approaches to the training of practitioners. Ann is currently working on an evaluation of the Community Consultants project, which has trained parents with disabled children and parents from ethnic minority communities to act as consultants to and representatives of these groups of parents. At Goldsmiths she has developed service user and carer involvement in qualifying and post-qualifying programmes.

Hannah Farncombe

Hannah Farncombe is the Strategy, Performance & Development Service Manager for Children & Families in Oxfordshire's County Council's Children, Young People & Families Directorate. She has contributed to children and young people's rights and participation and has led the directorate's developments in parents and carers' involvement in service-design. Hannah has also co-led the re-design and introduction of a new FGC service for Oxfordshire. A children's social worker by profession, Hannah's interests are in collaborative and inclusive approaches at all levels.

David Flanagan

David Flanagan is the Project Manager of NCH Family Answers based in Newport, South Wales and has been instrumental in promoting and establishing FGC and Advocacy projects in South Wales both with NCH and Barnardo's. David is currently Chair of the All Wales Family Group Conference Network, which in conjunction with Family Rights Group is preparing to lobby the Welsh Assembly regarding the wider use of FGCs.

NCH Family Answers provides an FGC and Advocacy service to a number of local authorities. The project averages over 100 FGCs a year with Looked After Children, Child Protection, Youth Offending Service, Health and Education referrals and has been working with the courts re contact, residency and family conflict re orders.

David is married with 4 very energetic boys, Jac aged 7, Sam and Tom aged 3 and baby Max. David came into social work late after being a tank soldier and working with young offenders in YOI and residential home settings.

Professor Brid Featherstone

Brid Featherstone became professor of social work and social policy at the University of Bradford in January 2006. Prior to this she was the NSPCC funded Reader in Applied Childhood Studies at the University of Huddersfield. She has carried out a wide range of evaluations for a number of child welfare organisations and a five-year evaluation of a Sure Start programme. She was a member of the Family Rights Group-led Fathers Matter project researching father involvement with social care services. Currently she is directing the evaluation of the advocacy project being run by the Family Rights Group.

She is a founder member of the international gender and child welfare network and is involved in a range of research projects in the UK and Canada in relation to gender and child welfare. Her publications include *Working with Men in Health and Social Care* (with Rivett and Scourfield) and *Family Life and Family Support: A Feminist Analysis*. She is currently writing a book on *Contemporary Fathering: Theory, Policy and Practice*.

Joan Fletcher

Joan Fletcher's social work career spans several years spent working as a mental health social worker and team manager, before moving into social work education in the mid 1980s. For the past twenty two years Joan has worked as a social work lecturer, alongside undertaking training and accreditation as a psychotherapist. Throughout her time in higher education, she has also worked as a psychotherapist and consultant, specialising in the areas of; working with difference and diversity; internalised oppression; conflict management and group work with survivors of sexual abuse. Joan's current research and writing relates to "relationship based social work", namely service users' experiences of change moments in therapeutic encounters, multi-generational family group work, family focused grief work and diversity and progression on social work courses. Joan joined Goldsmiths, University of London in autumn 2005.

Linda French

Linda French set up and now manages the FGC project in Thurrock, Essex. She was previously an independent co-ordinator with Essex for 4 years working on restorative justice and social care FGCs. Linda has recently completed her MBA and her dissertation focused on the question "When is the optimum point for an FGC to have the best chance of success?"

Linda is a retired police officer having served with Essex Police. During her career as a police officer she was a specialist investigator for child protection and offences against young people. Linda subsequently became team manager for Nacro and saw at first hand how offenders and their families were able to make changes when offered support to do so. In 2004 Linda became the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel co-ordinator in Thurrock and her project was identified by the Youth Justice Board Inspection Team as an example of good practice. Linda is married to Peter and has two children.

Rose French

Rose French is a qualified social worker and has more than 25 years experience of working with adults, children and families. She has had particular experience in learning disabilities, supporting carers and undertaking adoption support and group work. She is currently employed by Northants County Council as a senior group worker with a Family Support Team in Northampton, England. Recently she has formed a new grandparent carers' support group, with assistance from Family Rights Group. This group will now be extending to include other kinship carers. Her other interests include environmental issues, complementary health, walking in the countryside and trying to keep fit.

Professor Frank Fruchtel

Frank Fruchtel is a Master of Social Work and Master of Sociology, as well as holding a PhD. He is Professor for "Theory of Social Work" at Potsdam University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Jacqueline Gallinetti

Dr Jacqueline Gallinetti is a senior researcher and project co-ordinator of the children's rights project at the Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She was in practice for 7 years before taking up this position in 2001. When in practice she mainly handled civil, family and criminal law matters, focusing on representing children in the criminal justice and care system.

Kaz Gill

Kaz Gill is a teenager from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. He is in a group 'Streetz R watchin'.

Philip Gilligan

Philip Gilligan has 2 children aged 19 and 17 years. He qualified as a social worker in 1976, and has worked as a practitioner, trainer and manager in child and family social work in the statutory and the voluntary sector in Bradford, Derbyshire, Kirklees, Rochdale and Kenya. He has worked primarily with willing service users, notably in the context of therapeutic work with children and young people who have been sexually abused. He became a university lecturer and researcher in 2004. He teaches qualifying and post-qualifying courses in social work at the University of Bradford. He has undertaken research and published on a variety of subjects, including the Common Assessment Framework; child sexual abuse and Asian communities; social work with disabled children and their families; and the significance of religion and belief in social work practice.

Damian Griffiths

Damian Griffiths is a social worker, employed in Oxfordshire County Council as assistant head of service for Safeguarding & Quality Assurance within children's social care. In a previous role Damian was responsible in West Berkshire for leading the introduction of the Signs of Safety approach and the implementation of the Strengthening Families Framework within child protection conferences and other decision-making forums.

Mark Gurrey

Mark qualified as a social worker in 1981. He worked firstly as a social worker in the London Borough of Haringey, then as a team manager in the London Borough of Newham (where he specialised in child protection work) and then as an area manager in the London Borough of Hackney. In 1997, he went to Thurrock as head of children's services and helped set up what was then a new unitary authority. By the time he left in 2007, Mark was managing a number of education services as well as social care services within an integrated children's department. He joined the London Borough of Barnet in April 2007 in his current role of deputy director with responsibility for safeguarding and social care. He manages these services as well as the youth offending service and the children's centres and extended services agendas. He is currently leading the development of Barnet's innovative prevention strategy, 'Building Resilience and Supporting Independence' which builds on his long term commitment of working in partnership with parents and families and in trying to reduce formal interventions into children's lives.



Anne Hamilton

Anne Hamilton has been working with CHILDREN 1ST (Scotland) in the development of FGCs since March 2003. She became manager of the, then, newly established National FGC Development Unit in January 2005, and is leading on the promotion and integration of FGC across Scotland. Anne is the author of a number of FGC (and related papers), notably *Releasing the Power of the Family: CHILDREN 1ST and FGCs 1999 – 2005*, and the forthcoming follow-up *It's A Family Thing*. She also wrote the original and film versions of *Kelly's Story*, one family's story of FGC. Anne has spoken on FGC in a number of countries including New Zealand and Norway. Prior to her time in Scotland, Anne spent 10 years in the west of Ireland as a social worker/manager with Children & Families. She also has extensive experience in community health and overseas development issues, research and statistics.

His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton

His Honour Judge Donald Hamilton was Designated Family Judge for Birmingham (i.e. the judge with oversight of family law in Birmingham) for 12 years until July 2008. He is currently on an 8 months career break, which includes spending the summer visiting and undertaking some 'gentle' studying of the systems in New Zealand and Australia.

Sean Haresnape

Sean Haresnape is married with 2 small children. He lives in Bath and works part time as the manager of North Somerset's FGC project. He also works 3 days a week as a policy advisor to Family Rights Group in respect of FGCs and on the Fathers Matter project.



Sean qualified as a social worker in 1989. Since then he has worked in two London local authorities as a locality social worker. In addition he was involved with others in setting up the Breslaff Centre, a charity that ran a residential family assessment unit. Sean has been involved with FGCs since the early 90s and has now set up and managed three FGC projects. He has led on the development of a postgraduate certificate in coordinating FGCs offered by the University of Chester.

As part of the Fathers Matter project Sean has developed and run a well received one-day training programme for social workers entitled 'Engaging fathers in social care'.

Briony Hallam

Briony Hallam is the manager of the Family Welfare Association Building Bridges project in Lewisham, London. Her background is in adult mental health, particularly postnatal depression, family support, and the training and development of adults.

Liz Holton

Liz Holton manages FGCs in Hampshire Children's Services and pioneered FGCs in education for the local authority in 1998, promoting inclusion and home-school partnerships which have continued. She has trained and practised as an FGC co-ordinator.

A qualified social worker for over 25 years, specialising in children and families and child protection work, Liz is also qualified as a trainer and for six years was Hampshire Child Protection Committee's inter-agency child protection trainer.

Currently she manages an active and growing FGC service, and has been involved in consultancy and training in FGCs, both nationally and internationally, and in 2006 was a co-author of the FGC Toolkit (2006) commissioned by the DFES. Liz contributed to *FGCs – Where Next?* Ashley & Nixon (ed) (2007 Family Rights Group)

Foyzul Hoque

Foyzul Hoque is employed in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Muslim children's safeguarding co-ordinator. He works with Imams and management committee members of the all the mosques in Tower Hamlets to address issues affecting the Muslim communities of the borough. This includes safeguarding children training, organising seminars on domestic violence, mental health, Islamic counselling and various other topics.

Foyzul has been working in Tower Hamlets for 18 years, previously as a social worker. Foyzul worked closely with FGC managers in Tower Hamlets in its early stages, in order to get it established and identified and helped a number of individuals from the local Bangladeshi community to be recruited as FGC co-ordinators.

Hilary Horan

Hilary Horan has worked as a children's services manager for Barnardo's in South West England for ten years. She has helped establish, train and support ten FGC services in the area working with Social Services, Education, a black inclusion project and a Youth Offending Team.

Sophika Houck

Sophika Houck is the current manager of the Camden FGC Service. Sophika has been involved with FGCs as a trained social worker in child protection, a FGC co-ordinator and a FGC Project manager for eight years.

Sharon Inglis

Sharon Inglis is a FGC co-ordinator, consultant and trainer who runs Circles Training and Consultancy, an organisation that supports local authorities in the implementation of FGC services. Previous posts have included managing the Dove Project in Hampshire, England, a project set up to look at the use of FGCs in situations of domestic violence. She also led on the implementation of a Home Office funded local research project exploring the use of FGCs across education, youth justice and social services, leading to the development of a unified, multi-agency service delivery model which puts families back in to the centre of decision making. Sharon lives in Hampshire, England with her husband and two sons.

Maureen Japp

Maureen Japp is project manager with Cwlwm, in North Wales and has twelve years experience of working with FGMs. Maureen works in the voluntary sector with a children's charity and has a strong emphasis on participation. The secretary for the All Wales Network, she is particularly interested in service-users being involved at an All Wales level. Maureen is also currently working towards the post graduate certificate in coordinating FGCs and has been accepted as an associate tutor with Family Rights Group.

Andalina Kadri

Andalina Kadri has been managing the Slough FGC Service since 2004. As part of a recruitment drive to appoint new co-ordinators, she enlisted several people who are from various ethnic backgrounds. They are able to communicate in numerous languages as well as English. As Slough is a diverse English town the co-ordinators have been used to facilitate FGCs using their language skills and interpretation as well as cultural heritage.

Prior to this Andalina managed an Asian women's refuge and young person's service. Her management experience stems from her social care background and started initially when she was a manager of an elderly person's home. Andalina has created several projects abroad and enjoys working with diverse communities. She speaks a range of south Asian languages and is married with two children aged 17 years and 21 years. Andalina is studying part time at Surrey University BSc in Social Care Management.

Patricia Kearney

Patricia Kearney is director of Practice Development at the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) which was established by Government in 2001 to improve social care services for adults and children in the United Kingdom. Patricia is a registered social worker. Since qualifying in 1975 she has worked as a practitioner and manager in statutory social work services and as a social work teacher, developing and delivering advanced practice programmes. At SCIE she is involved in developing the evidence from research with children, adults and their families as well as from practitioners into Guides that help inform practice and demonstrate the importance of participation between people who deliver services and people who use them.

Nayomi Kannangara

Nayomi holds a Masters degree in International Development from Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia (2005). She



has been working in the international development sector, particularly focusing on child protection and child rights for the past 8 years, and has until May 2008 been working in Sri Lanka, as the Child Protection Programme Manager of one of leading international non-governmental organisations. Nayomi is currently conducting a research study with Deakin University on FGC – "Mainstreaming a community-based child protection model in a developing country."

Ryan Leahy

Ryan Leahy is a teenager from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. He is in a group 'Streetz R watchin'.

Chris Leaves

Chris Leaves worked with young children and families throughout her career as a social worker. Chris and her husband Colin were foster carers for forty years. In 1992, Chris and Colin took on the full time care of their two granddaughters, due to their daughter's ill health. They knew of no others in this situation, until through her work Chris began to receive some referrals for day care spaces for under fives being cared for by their grandparents. This led to Chris setting up the Second Generation support group in Peterborough for grandparents who had fulltime care of their grandchildren. That was in 1994 and the group still runs today. Chris now works for the Family Rights Group setting up support groups around the country.

Kacey Lane

Kacey Lane is 17 years old and has been a member of our Barnardo's young persons group, Neath FGM project since summer 07. She came on the activities week in Shrewsbury in August 2007 and took a lead role in the community theatre project where the young persons' group worked in partnership with a third year performing arts student from Swansea Metropolitan University. They produced their own original musical piece of work called 'A Talent for friendship' which they performed at the Townhill Theatre in Swansea. Kacey choreographed all the dance routines and taught the rest of the cast. She now teaches dance to young people voluntarily in her local community. Kacey completes her First Diploma in dance and performance this Summer and plans to start her National Diploma in September. Kacey has helped the service promote the benefits of FGCs for young people and accompanied the team leader on a training workshop for social work degree students at Swansea University.

Pam Ledward

Pam Ledward is an experienced, qualified social worker who works part time at Family Rights Group managing the Advocacy Service. Since 1991 she has specialised in working with children and families, with a particular interest in child protection. She worked as a Guardian ad Litem (court appointed special advocate) in California from 1999 to 2000, and her most recent work in an English local authority was as an independent chair (child protection).

Bridget Lindley

Bridget Lindley was admitted as a solicitor in 1986. She is deputy chief executive and principal legal adviser at Family Rights Group where, for the last 19 years, she has provided legal advice to thousands of vulnerable parents and other family members about the care and protection of their children. At Family Rights Group she has also been actively involved in lobbying government and Parliament on legal and policy issues relating to family support, child protection, family and friends care, looked after children, special guardianship and adoption. She is a

member of the Family Justice Council and has participated in a number of key stakeholder groups which have influenced

policy development, for example the Review of Child Care Proceedings in which she lobbied for the mainstreaming of FGCs in practice before children are removed from their families. Bridget is also a family mediator at Cambridge Family Mediation Service where she has practised since 1998. She was a senior research associate at the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge where she undertook socio-legal research on family involvement in child protection processes (1997-2002). Bridget has three wonderful children and loves dancing in her spare time!

Estelle Macdonald

Estelle Macdonald is head teacher of a very successful inner city primary school in Hull, England. The school was transformed from its status as requiring 'special measures' in September 2004 to 'outstanding with realistic potential to become exceptional' in September 2006, according to the national inspectorate Ofsted. A key element of this transformation has been as a result of the work done on social and emotional well being. Estelle is also a key member of Hull Centre for Restorative Practice, which is helping drive restorative practices across the whole city.

Ellie McCann

Ellie McCann is a parent of two children, one of whom has profound disabilities. Ellie worked in secondary education but following the birth of her daughter required flexible employment arrangements and became a parent representative for Coventry's Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Ellie is involved in commissioning new services, ensuring the needs of parents are considered.

Steve McGarvey

Steve McGarvey, working in partnership with the Warwick Children's Centre, The Gap Community and Training Centre has set up a fathers' club called 'Dad's Allowed'.

Steve is a youth and families development manager, who carried out some consultation with fathers in the area and found that many fathers would like to attend play sessions with their toddlers but could only attend during Saturdays due to work and other commitments. The Saturday club is free and provides brunch and fun activities for children and their fathers, grandfathers and male carers.

Lisa Merkel-Holguin

Lisa Merkel-Holguin, MSW, is the director of the National Centre on Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) at the American Humane Association in Denver, Colorado, USA. Since 1997, she has directed American Humane's FGDM initiative. She and other American Humane staff/consultants have provided training, technical assistance, and consultation to over 100 US communities. Lisa has presented on FGDM to over 25 national and international audiences and co-organizes the only national annual meeting of professionals interested in FGDM in the USA.



Angela Morford

Angela Morford has been a mental health service user since 1976. During this time she has cared for her two children, her father who had Alzheimers and her mother who was registered blind and had senile dementia.

Angela has been involved with Goldsmiths, University of London student social work training since 2004 telling the students of her experiences during these times. Since 2005 she has been employed by South London and Maudsley NHS Trust as Project Coordinator.

Kate Morris

Kate Morris is head of social work for the University of Birmingham. She was part of the early group that developed the use of FGCs in the UK, and has since evaluated a number of local FGC projects. She led the recent literature review for the UK Cabinet Office exploring whole family approaches, and is currently part of an international team (with Gale Burford, Marie Connolly and Joan Pennell) reviewing the literature that describes the impact of family led decision making for policy, practice and families. Kate has researched and published in the areas of family involvement, prevention and multi agency working.

John Murphy

John Murphy is children's service manager at Barnardo's Children's Rights service, Warwickshire. John has been involved with advocacy and children's rights for over 9 years. He has overseen the development of advocacy services for looked after children and children in need and supported young people's participation at FGCs, in safeguarding conferences and for years worked alongside care experienced young people to deliver training to foster carers, managers and social care staff. John has worked as a local authority social worker in Wales and Warwickshire before moving into the voluntary sector. More recently John has been involved with developing the Right2BCared4 project which is aimed at enabling young people to stay in care until they are 18. He is passionate about championing the rights of all children and young people.



Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon is a qualified social worker and assistant director (children's social care) Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire. He has worked for the last 16 years in local authorities with children, young people and their families.

Paul's main interests are family support, kinship placement and child, family and community participation. He has organised a number of international conferences on FGCs and provided training and consultancy around the UK and abroad. He has published numerous articles and chapters and is co-author of *Empowering Practice? A critical appraisal of the Family Group Conference approach* (1999, Policy Press) and *Children growing up with relatives and friends* (2004, Family Rights Group). He recently jointly edited *Family Group Conferences: Where Next? Policies and Practices for the Future* (2007, Family Rights Group).

Kathy Nuza

Kathy Nuza is FGC service manager in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Kathy has been involved in the development and practice of FGCs in the UK since the introduction of the model from New Zealand in the 1990s. She worked on establishing one of the first pilot projects in London and participated with Sheffield University, in central government funded research into the use of FGCs in child protection work. She is experienced in delivering training on FGCs to a wide variety of audiences and working in the highly diverse setting of London, has developed a particular interest and expertise in the use of FGCs as a culturally respectful way of working across communities.

Kathy has a masters degree in social work and social policy and is a qualified social worker with twenty years experience in the field of child welfare, including as a child protection coordinator and independent reviewing officer

Cecilie Omre

Cecilie More is Associate Professor at the University of Stavanger, Norway.

Andrew Papworth

Andrew Papworth was manager of the Camden FGC Service for three years. He has continued to be involved in the development of the service including its restorative justice work. Andrew's background is working with local authority children and family social work. He has assisted with the development of FGC services in several authorities. He is currently involved with FGCs as a co-ordinator, consultant and trainer. He also works as an independent reviewing officer (IRO).

Stewart Parker

Stewart Parker is 16 years old and started volunteering with Neath FGM young persons group in March '07 He was instrumental in writing the 'Make it Happen' lottery bid that funded the project's young persons' activity holiday in summer '07. Stewart completed his Bronze Youth Achievement Award last Autumn and his contributions towards this event will go towards his Silver Award. Stewart attended the service's project planning day to talk about the young person's group in March 08, and along with Kacey Lane also shared his experiences with the social work students at Swansea University. Stewart is a talented performer who has written and performed his own songs. Stewart would like to enrol to do his First Diploma in September at Neath College.

Colin Paton

Colin Paton is e-learning project manager at the Social Care Institute for Excellence, UK.

Alison Powney

Alison has managed the Daybreak Dove Project in Basingstoke, Hampshire since 2003. The Dove Project is a multi-agency project that works with families experiencing domestic violence.

Alison has worked as a practitioner, trainer and a manager in the statutory and non profit sector. Her work has included offering supported lodgings to care leavers, youth work, facilitation of parenting programs and the co-ordination of a unit offering support and education opportunities to disadvantaged families with pre-school children. Alison is the parent of two children so has personal experience of some of the difficulties, tensions and joys of family life.



Jaroslaw Przeperski

Jaroslaw Przeperski is the founder of the National Centre on FGCs in Poland – the main organisation in Poland responsible for implementation of FGC.

Karen Rees

Karen Rees is team leader for the Barnardo's FGM in Neath Port Talbot, South Wales and has worked with Barnardo's since 2002. Before joining Barnardo's, Karen was a teacher. Karen works closely with the All Wales Family Group Meeting Network, producing their bi-annual newsletter and other publicity materials. She represented Wales at the European Conference in Berlin 2007.

Karen is currently working towards the post graduate certificate in coordinating FGCs and has been accepted as an associate tutor with the Family Rights Group. She is particularly interested in establishing a young persons' group to help develop the FGM service and to help promote the use of the model as a right for families.

Nigel Richardson

Nigel Richardson, is director of Children and Young People's Services, Hull City Council, England.

Moraene Roberts

Moraene Roberts is a family member of ATD Fourth World, a voluntary organisation working alongside families experiencing long-term poverty to support them in finding the solutions to eradicate poverty. Since receiving support from ATD Fourth World for herself and her children some 17 years ago, Moraene now volunteers with the organisation's policy development team. She regularly represents the organisation at seminars and conferences on the theme of social care and social policy and has authored and co-authored numerous reports and articles on poverty and social care. Moraene was part of the steering groups of an innovative project, jointly run with Family Rights Group, to train parents with experience of poverty to become social work trainers.

David Roth

David Roth has been the policy adviser at Family Rights Group on family and friends care for the last two years where he has delivered training to social workers and non-statutory professionals, and helped pilot charities new family and friends assessment form. Previously, he worked for 25 years in social care for three London local authorities as a social worker. He came into social work believing that families should be offered support to manage their own problems, and sees family and friends care as an important working tool which can achieve this aim and provide real benefits to children. David holds an MA in English Literature and Moral Philosophy, and a Diploma in Social Work.

Liv Schjelderup

Liv Schjelderup is Associate Professor at the University of Stavanger, Norway.



Mark Sieben

Formerly the director of child welfare for British Columbia, Mark Sieben was appointed the assistant deputy minister for integrated policy and legislation at BC's Ministry of Children and Family Development in April 2006. Mark oversees the development of cross-policy initiatives along a continuum of services for vulnerable children and families, including: child welfare, adoption, child and youth mental health, and children and youth with special needs.

Over the last twenty years, Mark has compiled a varied set of experiences in child welfare-related positions ranging from youth and family counsellor and child protection social worker to senior administrator in a large child welfare system. Such experience continues to inform his work in policy and legislative development, child fatality reviews and responses, service delivery management, administration, and strategic initiatives.

Mark Sieben is an unabashed champion for FGC and related initiatives in his home province of British Columbia. Informed by his experience as a front line worker, he seeks principle-based practice solutions to increase family and community participation in case planning, case decision-making, and care giving for vulnerable children, while remaining committed to child safety and well-being.

Rosie Smith

Rosie Smith has worked as a social worker, with children and families, for many years, as a social worker, manager, family therapist and counsellor.

She helped to set up Hampshire's Family Mediation Service and also Hampshire County Council's in-house counselling service for employees and she worked as one of the first cohort of GALs when that service was started in the 1980s.

One of her roles in Hampshire County Council Children's Services Department in recent years has been to set up and run Hampshire's Kinship Care Project- a project which has been very successful in keeping some children out of the care system and living with extended family members.

Duncan Stanway

Duncan Stanway is the Children's Services manager for two Barnardo's services in Bristol. The FGC service works with Bristol City Council to provide FGCs for children on the brink of becoming looked after and the innovative Bristol Family Support Service uses FGCs to work with families facing eviction due to their anti social behaviour.

Professor Ute Straub

Prof. Dr. Ute Straub has worked since 1997 at the University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt am Main, Department of Social Work and Health Services. Ute is a tenured Professor for Humanities and Social Pedagogy.

Ute's main fields of teaching and research are:

- family welfare, care and education;
- youth care;
- International and comparative social work and the history of education and social work;
- PR in social work including the public image of social work;
- gender: working with male and female service users, domestic violence, gender oriented perspectives on youth and family care;
- community development and organisation; and
- media pedagogy and communication.

Professor Nicky Stanley

Nicky Stanley is professor of social work at the University of Central Lancashire. Her work straddles the boundaries of health and social care and she researches in the areas of parental mental health and child welfare, young people's mental health and interagency work. Research includes studies of parental mental health needs, domestic violence initiatives, the mental health of looked after young people, teenage pregnancy and student suicide. She has recently completed reviews of policy and professional education in the field of parental mental health and child welfare and is now managing a NSPCC funded study of police and children's services' responses to children experiencing domestic violence. She is co-editor of *Child Abuse Review* and has published books on such issues as mothers' mental health needs, inquiries in health and social care, student mental health and domestic violence and child protection.

Marilyn Taylor

Marilyn Taylor is the co-founder and chief executive of Daybreak FGC. Her background is in social work and probation, and she has worked as a practitioner, manager and trainer in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. She has worked in England and in Canada.

She has been involved with FGCs since 1992 as an independent FGC co-ordinator, trainer and manager. She has led the growth and development of Daybreak, and is particularly interested in the management of change. Daybreak was set up to provide FGCs and more recently has expanded its interest across the range of restorative practices and family centred solutions.

Shantel Thomas

Shantel Thomas is a MA Social Work second year student at Goldsmiths, University of London

Jane Towey

Jane Towey has over 20 years experience in social care and is an experienced FGC co-ordinator. Jane has been FGC manager at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets since 2002. In her spare time she, along with Richard Desjardins, runs a consultancy in FGC training and provides FGC services to a number of local authorities. Jane contributed to the FGC Toolkit (2006, FRG).

Ann Tucker

Ann Tucker is of mixed ethnicity – British/Trinidadian/Jewish born in England and brought up by her mother, stepfather and grandparents. Ann is a double carer for her eldest daughter who has mental health issues and her grandchild who has been with her since birth. She became a single parent/grandparent in 2000.



Ann qualified as a primary teacher in 1973 and started a family in 1974. In 1977 she began working with families in the community and in 1985 moved to adult education – initially as a crèche coordinator but eventually becoming a head of centre. In 2005 she became co-ordinator for an adult education project supporting people with mental health issues back into main stream education.

Ann works with Goldsmiths University as a trainer on their BA Social Work course and has been involved with the Post Qualifying courses including mentoring MA students.

Ted Wachtel

Ted Wachtel is the president and founder of the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), an international training organisation and a graduate school in Pennsylvania, USA. He is the co-founder of Community Service Foundation and Buxmont Academy (CSF Buxmont) schools and other programs for delinquent and at-risk youth. Wachtel co-authored the book *Toughlove*, a best seller for parents of troubled adolescents. He is also the author of *Real Justice*, as well as numerous articles on restorative practices.

Dawn Walsh

Dawn Walsh is one of the founder members of the Kent FGC Service and has held the post of FGC County Manager for the past two years. Dawn holds a MA in Social Work and has a social work background in both child welfare and youth justice. In earlier years, Dawn's career was in marketing with a particular focus on research, an interest that has continued into her work in FGCs. As a result, in 2007, Dawn, co authored a report with Professor Peter Marsh from Sheffield University into *FGCs-More than just a plan?*

Kent FGC Service is part of Kent County Council's commitment to working in partnership with families. It is part of their policy for permanence that all children at risk of coming into the public care system be offered the opportunity of an FGC.



FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP PUBLICATIONS

Family Rights Group has published a number of up to date reports and guides on children's social care available for purchase.

To order either purchase online at:
http://www.frg.org.uk/online_shop.asp or by phone 020 7923 2628 or email office@frg.org.uk.

Family Group Conferences

Where Next? Policies and practices for the future (2007) edited by Cathy Ashley and Paul Nixon **£14.00**

The reader combines a series of essays from policy, research and practice perspectives. It is hoped the text will provide practitioners, managers and policy makers with some fresh ideas on how best to deliver and develop family group conference practices.

Family Group Conference toolkit - a practical guide for setting up and running an FGC service (2006) by Cathy Ashley, Liz Holton, Hilary Horan and Jane Wiffin **£25.00**

The toolkit, published jointly with the Department for Education and Skills, and the Welsh Assembly Government is a practical guide to assist agencies set up and run an effective family group conference service.

Taking Care of the Children: Video or DVD for Family Members (2001) **£14.95 (bulk discounts are available for members of the FGC Network)**

The video shows two fictional family group conferences. These were created with the help of families who have attended an FGC. Interspersed are comments on FGCs by family members, co-ordinators and social workers. It shows how an FGC works and will be useful for family members and young people who may be attending an FGC.

Fathers Matter

Fathers Matter - Research findings on fathers and their involvement with social care services (2006) with contributions from Cathy Ashley, Brid Featherstone, Clare Roskill, Mary Ryan and Sue White **£14.99**

The publication includes a series of research reports, including new analyses of fathers' experiences, an international literature review and the results of a survey of local authorities.

Fathers Matter Volume 2 - Further findings on fathers and their involvement with social care services (2008) with contributions from Clare Roskill, Brid Featherstone, Cathy Ashley and Sean Haresnape **£14.99**

The publication includes a series of reports. These include new action research with two Children's Services authorities aimed at identifying and developing good practice that can

be replicated elsewhere and a survey of higher education institutions designed to improve the teaching of social work students on engaging fathers. The publication complements the original Fathers Matter report published in 2006.

Family and Friends Care

Getting Together - a guide to setting up and running a support group (date) by Alison Richards **£5.00 for professionals. Free for carers.**

This guide is based very much on the suggestions of support group leaders and is aimed at anyone who is a family or friends carer and is considering setting up a support group.

Growing up in the care of relatives and friends (2004) edited by Mike Doolan, Paul Nixon and Patrice Lawrence **£12.00**

This book sets out findings from action based research projects in two Local Authorities that consulted extensively with children, caregivers and social workers about 'what works' with this distinct care type.

Special Guardianship - what does it offer children who cannot live with their parents? A Family Rights Group Reader (2006) edited by Leonie Jordan and Bridget Lindley **£12.00**

This Reader fully explores the potential implications of the special guardianship order for permanency decisions for children. With an introduction by Lady Justice Hale, the book contains chapters by High Court Judge Sir James Munby, Professor June Thoburn, a grandparent carer and other legal and social care practitioners.

Survival guide (2004) by Anne Morgan **£5.00 for professionals. Free for carers**

Explores the emotional impact caring has on all family members and offers some ideas for reducing stress and getting support. This guide is aimed at those people who care for a child who is a family member or a child of a friend.

Wider Family Matters - a guide for family and friends raising children who cannot live with their parents (2007) by Clare Roskill **£8.00 for professionals. Free for carers**

This is a comprehensive guide that sets out the latest research, spells out the legal situation for family and friends carers and explores what financial support may be available.

Please note the costs stated above do **NOT** include the costs of postage and packaging.

FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP TRAINING & CONSULTANCY

Family Rights Group – training and tailored consultancy

Led by experts - and informed by our experience of providing services to families as well as by our legal, research and policy development expertise, our training courses are unique and well respected.

Family Rights Group can be commissioned by local authorities and other agencies to deliver the courses listed below. We will tailor the day to your requirements. In addition we can work with you to develop and deliver new courses. For further information contact Cathy Ashley on 020 7923 2628 or email cashley@frg.org.uk.

• Family Group Conferences

Family Rights Group is acknowledged internationally as one of the leading authorities in the development of family group conferences (FGC). We have delivered training on FGC to a wide variety of organisations and local authorities, supporting them to run highly effective FGC services. The course material and content of all training courses on FGC will be tailored to the specialist area in which participants are working, including child welfare, domestic violence, education and youth offending and vulnerable adults.

1. Introduction to family group conferences.
2. Referring and working with family group conferences.
3. Developing a family group conference service.
4. Training and support for new family group conference co-ordinators. (3 days)
5. FGCs and the law – a course for co-ordinators on the child welfare legal framework.
6. Children and young people's voice at family group conferences.

• Family and Friends care

7. Family and friends care for non-statutory practitioners.
8. Assessments of family and friends carers.

• Child care law

9. An Introduction to child care law for voluntary sector workers and advocates.
10. Parental advocacy in the child protection process. (intermediate level)
11. Working with families: an introduction to children's social care law, practice and procedures. For local authority employees.
12. Advanced course for practitioners on child care law and child protection procedures. For legal professionals and experienced social workers.

• Involving families

13. Involvement of birth families in adoption planning and placement under the new adoption framework
14. Involving families in planning and developing services.

• Other courses

15. Fathers Matter training - addressing child welfare concerns working with fathers
16. Updating your knowledge and practice for independent reviewing officers
17. Special Guardianship.

Continuous Professional Development

Solicitors and Legal Executives: Law Society Accreditation: the legal components of our advanced courses will contribute to CPD points

Social Workers: Our courses directed at social work professionals will contribute to CPD points

Family Group Conference Co-ordinators: the 3 day FGC course for co-ordinators forms an important part of the first module of the new accredited post-graduate certificate for FGC co-ordinators.

GET INVOLVED WITH FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP

Become a member of Family Rights Group

Your membership fee directly helps the charity to continue to support families. Family Rights Group membership entitles you to:

- receive a newsletter three times a year about Family Rights Group's activities and a copy of the annual review;
- receive a 20% discount on Family Rights Group publications, training courses and events; and,
- attend free member events/seminars on child welfare law and practice

You can choose to pay annually or monthly, and fees are on a sliding scale from £5 - £100 depending upon ability to pay.

To download a Family Rights Group membership form go to <http://www.frg.org.uk/membership.html>, call us on 020 7923 2628 or fill in this form.

Become part of the Family Group Conference Network

The Family Group Conference (FRG) Network aims to promote the development of FGCs and the values they represent, and connect together all people who are interested.

What will you get from being a member of the FGC network?

- 10% discount on all publications and selected training courses
- access to the FGC online discussion board;
- up to date information about FGCs;
- a tri-annual newsletter (group membership entitles you to multiple copies of the newsletter);
- briefing papers;
- invites to meetings of network members including free workshops;
- opportunities to network and share ideas with others working with or interested in FGC's.
- priority booking for events and training run by the network;
- a chance to influence the development of FGCs; and
- you will also be supporting the development of FGCs;

FGC Network membership types & costs

- Family member: free;
- Students: £10
- Self employed FGC co-ordinators: £40
- Other UK individuals: £75
- Small group membership: £175 (for organisations with a budget of under £2 million or who undertake fewer than 50 FGCs a year)
- Large group membership: £500

To download a membership form go to http://www.frg.org.uk/fgc_network.html telephone 020 7923 2628 or fill in the form below

Get involved in Family Rights Group

There are many ways you can help Family Rights Group's work. For example we are currently recruiting trustees – please see our website www.frg.org.uk for more information.

To receive further details on any of the ways you can help, please tick the relevant box below and hand this form to a member of staff at the conference or send to: Family Rights Group, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Email address: _____

I am interested in joining Family Rights Group

I am interested in becoming a member of the FGC network

I wish to make a donation to Family Rights Group

I am interested in becoming a trustee or sitting on a project steering group

I am a barrister or lawyer, who would be interested in doing pro bono work

I would be willing to help fundraise for Family Rights Group (e.g. helping organise an event or taking part in a sponsored run)

My organisation has facilities that Family Rights Group could use to host training or seminars

CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM

Please photocopy this booking form and return to: Family Rights Group, The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL or fax: 020 7923 2683

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE BOOKED A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS AT THE HOLIDAY INN AND THESE WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

..... Post Code

Telephone No Email

Rate (please indicate the number of places required next to the appropriate rate)

1 night rate (17th September)

£350 for FRG and FGC Network members

£450 for non members

2 night rate (nights of 16th and 17th)

£425 for FRG and FGC Network members

£525 for non-members

1 day conference rate for:

17th September

£170 for FRG and FGC Network members

£225 for non-members

18th September

£170 for FRG and FGC Network members

£225 for non-members

Billing address (for invoice) :

.....

Method of payment (delete as appropriate) Cheque made payable to FRG Ltd/ Please invoice

Any special requirements (i.e. dietary/sight/hearing/access)? YES NO

If yes, please specify assistance required

.....

How did you hear about the conference?