

frg
building on
STRENGTHS

International perspectives on
family group conferences



International conference
Hosted by Family Rights Group
October 8th/9th 2002
Hulme Hall, Manchester, England

A unique opportunity

This important international forum is designed for all those interested in the future development of family group conferences. Drawing on a wealth of knowledge and experience from family members, leading practitioners, managers and academics this conference will examine the most up to date theory, research and practice from a range of international perspectives.

This multi-agency event will be of particular interest to those working with children, young people, families and their communities. The conference will explore the applicability of family decision making in a range of areas such as:

- ◆ Child welfare and protection
- ◆ Youth justice
- ◆ Problems in schools
- ◆ Domestic violence

Family members and young people who have attended a FGC will be contributing to the conference and running workshops.

Participants will have the opportunity to pursue their learning through a choice of high quality seminars, interactive workshops, open discussion groups and 'hot topic' forums.

Building on Strengths hosted by Family Rights Group - organised in partnership with

- ◆ American Humane Association, USA
- ◆ Barnardo's
- ◆ The Bibini Centre for Young People Manchester
- ◆ Bury Family Group Meeting Project
- ◆ Children 1st Scotland
- ◆ Cwlwm - Cartref Bontnewydd Trust
- ◆ East Coast Area Health Board, Dublin
- ◆ Eigen-Kracht, Netherlands
- ◆ Essex County Council
- ◆ Flintshire Children's Services Family Group Meeting Project
- ◆ Grandparents Plus
- ◆ Hampshire County Council Social Services Department
- ◆ Hampshire County Council Local Education Authority
- ◆ Hull Social Services FGC Project
- ◆ Milton Keynes Council Children's Services
- ◆ Reading Social Services Department
- ◆ Stockport Family Group Meeting Project
- ◆ West Berkshire Children & Young Peoples Directorate
- ◆ Ulster Community and Hospital Trust
- ◆ Surrey Children's Services

Venue

Manchester is a rich melting pot of heritage, culture, sport, innovation and ideas and is a key commercial, financial, educational and cultural centre in the North of England.

Manchester is well served by road and rail. Manchester Airport is serviced by 95 airlines to 175 destinations world wide.

Hulme Hall at Manchester University is a mile from the city centre and Manchester Airport is a short taxi ride from the University.

Booking Priority will be given to delegates booking for two days. Places at seminars and workshops will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Early booking is advisable

DAY ONE

DAY ONE

Chair **Lena Dominelli**, Professor of Social and Community Development, The University of Southampton

- 10.00am **Registration, tea/coffee** 2.15pm **Seminars and Workshops - Session Two**
- 10.45am **Welcome and introduction**
- 11.00am **Keynote; Rebuilding the US democracy through family group conferencing - fact or fiction?** Lisa Merkel Holguin, *Programme Manager - American Humane Association-USA*
- 11.30am **Keynote; Effective engagement, appropriate action; responding to the needs of Black and minority ethnic families** Jabbeer Butt, *Deputy Director REU*
- 12.00pm **Seminars and Workshops - Session One**
- 1 Kinship care and FGCs**
Mike Doolan, Lynda Ince, *Senior Lecturer University of Hertfordshire* & Paul Nixon, *Hampshire Social Services*
- 2 Comparative European approaches**
Bo Morthorst Rasmussen, *Jytte Faureholm, Denmark*, Mats Erkers, *Sweden*, Tarja Heino, *Finland*
- Workshops**
- 3** User involvement in developing services
- 4** Children's participation
- 5** The theoretical basis for FGCs
- 6** The role of the referrer
- 1.15pm **Lunch**
- 3.30pm **tea/coffee**
- 4.00pm **Developing FGCs in youth justice**
Charles Clark, *Deputy Chief Constable Essex Police*
- 4.30pm **Ten minute challenges** - key issues that confront family group conferences
- 5.15pm **End**
- 7 Meeting the needs of diverse communities**
Tana Thomas, *Lambeth Social Services*
- 8 A partnership approach to restorative Justice** John Mauger, Julia Hennessy, Tanya Gillet, *Essex*, Rob van Pagee *Chief Executive Eigen Kracht Netherlands*
- 9 The development of FGCs in England Ireland and Wales, learning the lessons, future directions.** Robert Tapsfield, *Family Rights Group*, Louise Brown, *Lecturer in Social Work, University of Bath*, Dr Valerie O'Brien *University College Dublin*
- Workshops**
- 10** User involvement in developing services
- 11** Children's participation
- 12** School exclusions
- 13** Co-ordinators: do they make or break the process?
- 14** FGCs and permanency planning

DAY TWO

Chair **Rita Stringfellow**, Chair Social Affairs and Health Executive, Local Government Association

- 9.30am **The news** - Information from FGCs around the world and headlines from day one.
- 10.00am **Keynote; Meeting the needs of families living in poverty**
Moraene Roberts, *ATD Fourth World*
- 10.30am **Keynote; Establishing state and family partnerships in child welfare - Does the end justify the means?** Mike Doolan, *Social Work Consultant (formally National Manager and Chief Social Worker-New Zealand)*
- 11.00am **tea/coffee**
- 11.30am **Seminars and Workshops - Session Three**
- 15 Issues of sustainability & implementation**
Lisa Merkel Holguin & Jane Wiffin, *Senior Research Fellow - Making Research Count*
- 16 Problems of empowerment, partnership & family group conferences - A critical perspective** Dr Gale Burford, *Professor of Social Work University of Vermont, USA*
Kate Morris, *Senior Lecturer University of Birmingham*
- Workshops**
- 17** User involvement in developing services
- 18** Dealing with issues of family violence (Child protection and domestic violence)
- 19** Community building approaches to FGCs
- 12.45pm **Lunch**
- 1.45pm **Seminars and Workshops - Session Four**
- 20** The co-ordinators role in working with conflict in the FGC process
- 21** FGCs and permanency planning
- 22 FGCs and family violence - Guidelines for safety conferencing** Dr Joan Pennell, *Professor North Carolina State University*, Sharon Inglis, *Project Director* & Paul Bright, *Chief Inspector, Dove Project*
- 23 Using FGCs to promote school inclusion** Liz Holton, *Family Group Conference and Schools Counselling Service Manager, Hampshire*
- Workshops**
- 24** Monitoring and reviewing plans, whose job is it?
- 25** Kinship care
- 26** Youth Justice
- 27** School exclusion issues
- 28** Hot topic discussion group
- 3.00pm **Closing Session**
- 3.45pm **End tea/coffee**

PROGRAMME

BOOKING FORM

Please photocopy this booking form for Building on Strengths 8th & 9th October 2002 as required and return to conference booking at;

Family Rights Group

The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL

Tel; 44(0)20 7923 2628 Fax; 44(0)20 7923 2683

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name _____ Organisation _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone No. _____ email _____ Fax _____

Billing address (for invoices, if different to above) _____

Post Code _____ Telephone No. _____

COST if booking for one day specify 8th or 9th October

Full conference	<input type="radio"/> FGC Network members £185	
	<input type="radio"/> non members £225	
	<input type="radio"/> small voluntary organisations £125	
Daily rate	<input type="radio"/> FGC Network members £105, date	
	<input type="radio"/> non members £130, date	
	<input type="radio"/> small voluntary organisations £70, date	
Please reserve me a place at the conference dinner and entertainment on 8th October at the Britannia Sachas Hotel; cost £18.50		
		Total cost

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

Some bursaries are available for family members to attend the conference

There will be a £10 administration charge for cancellations made before September 13th. The full cost will be charged for cancellations made after September 13th. Substitutions may be made at any time.

Accommodation is available at the Britannia Sachas Hotel in the centre of Manchester Tel; 44(0) 161 228 1234, Fax; 44(0) 161 236 9202, or via website www.britannia-hotels.co.uk You should quote Family Rights Group and this will entitle you to accommodation at the reduced rate of £59.50 for bed and breakfast (£49.50 for an internal room). For those willing to share a room, £69.50 will secure Bed and breakfast for two or £59.50 if you choose an internal room. The Britannia Sachas Hotel is a short taxi ride (1.5 miles) from Hulme Hall. For information about other accommodation contact Family Rights Group.

For information about this and other FRG events please visit the FRG website at www.frg.org.uk

SEMINAR & WORKSHOP CHOICES

Please write the number of your 1st and 2nd choice seminar/workshop for each session

Day One	1st choice	2nd choice	Day Two	1st choice	2nd choice
1st Session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3rd Session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2nd Session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	4th Session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>