

# Families First Partnership Reforms – 7-Minute Briefing

The Families First Partnership (FFP) is a national programme launched by the Department for Education to support local safeguarding partners in delivering key reforms to children's social care. It aims to create a more joined-up, family-focused system that provides the right help at the right time—keeping children safe and strengthening families.

## What Is FFP?

The FFP is part of the wider Stable Homes, Built on Love reform strategy. It supports local areas to implement three major changes:

- A system of Family Help that brings together early help and statutory support.
- Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) to improve how professionals respond to significant harm.
- Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to empower families to find their own solutions before formal proceedings.

The programme is underpinned by principles of co-production, early intervention and multi-agency collaboration.

## Strong Foundations

Our system is already built on strong, inclusive, trauma-informed and relational foundations:

- FAST & CHAT
- Team Around the Baby
- Team Around the School
- Focus on Inclusion and Trauma-Informed Approach
- Systemic and Relational Practice
- Family Group Conferencing
- Strong, effective multi-agency partnerships

These foundations give us the credibility, relationships, and tools to build a truly integrated approach across the system.

We are growing a culture of reflection and learning and continuing to design with families through coproduction.

## Family Help

Family Help replaces the traditional divide between early help and Child in Need services.

It features:

- Multi-disciplinary teams with professionals from the local authority, health, police, education, and community groups.
- A Family Help Lead Practitioner who coordinates support and builds trusted relationships with families.
- A single assessment and plan, reducing duplication and making it easier for families to navigate services.

The goal is to intervene earlier, reduce escalation, and provide practical, relational support that builds on family strengths.

## Multi-Agency Child Protection

Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) enable faster, more coordinated responses.

These teams:

- Include professionals from social care, police, health and education.
- Share responsibility for decision-making and planning.
- Focus on timely, proportionate responses to risk, with clear thresholds and accountability.

This model aims to reduce delays, improve info sharing and ensure that children at risk receive coordinated, effective protection. It builds on our strong local partnerships.

## Family Group Decision Making

Family Group Decision Making, also known as Family Group Conferencing in Sefton, empowers families to develop their own plans and solutions.

It involves:

- Offering families the opportunity to meet and develop their own plan to keep children safe and well.
- Facilitated meetings that include extended family and close friends.
- A focus on early, proactive solutions.

FGDM recognises that families often know best how to support their children and should be empowered to take the lead wherever possible.

## What Next?

You can expect more collaboration with other agencies as well as new processes and tools to help identify needs and coordinate support earlier. You will be given training and guidance that will support these changes.

Families will see more coordinated, wraparound support, less duplication, clearer pathways and they will feel heard and supported holistically.

## What We Need from You

Get involved in consultations, workshops and co-design opportunities and be a champion of the change – share what's working and highlight barriers and make sure you look out for briefing sessions and training.

Got any questions?

Contact [ChildrensTransformation@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensTransformation@sefton.gov.uk)

