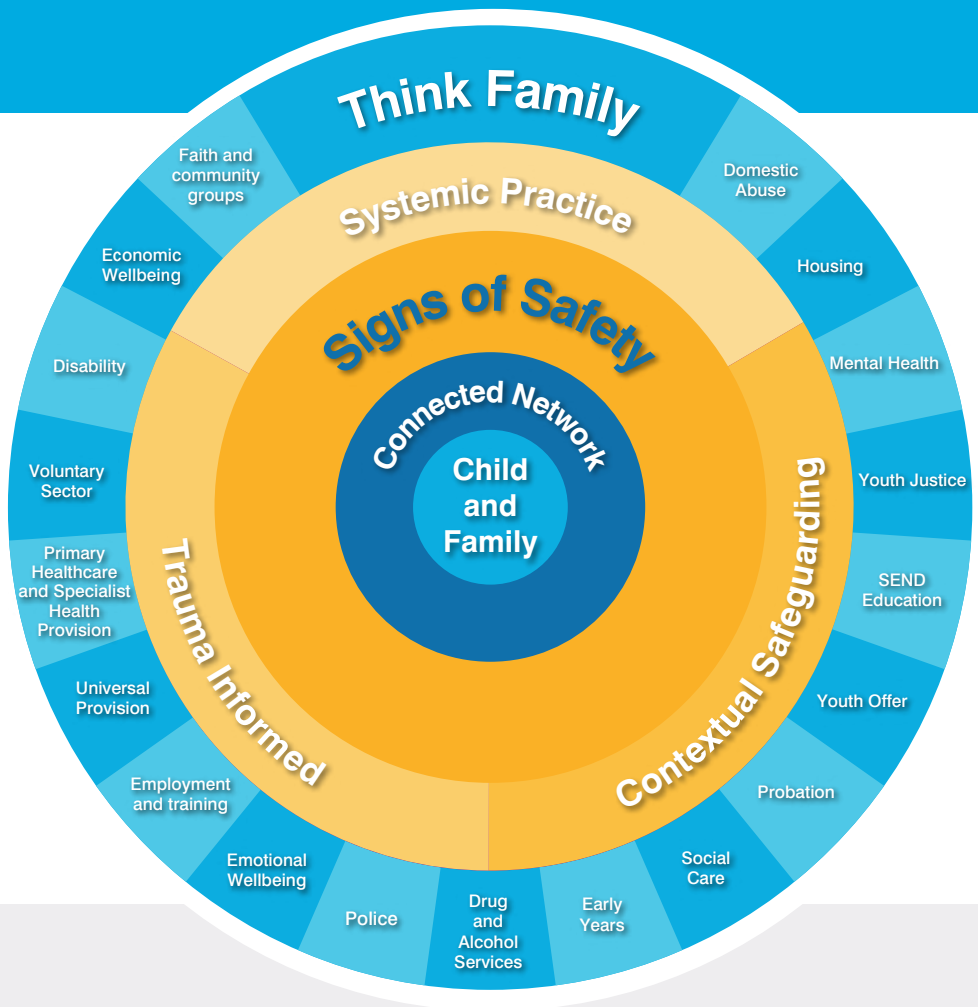


Family Network Meetings



What is a Family Network Meeting?

All families come up against problems from time to time, and some more difficult situations can be more easily resolved with the help of relatives and friends. A Family Network Meeting (FNM) is a way of giving families the opportunity to get together and make

the best plan possible for the children. Every family is an expert within its own culture, personality and history. A FNM gives the decision-making role back to the family and helps them to come together to make a plan to keep children safe and improve their future wellbeing.

Who is at my FNM?

Your child/ren's Social Worker will usually support you with your FNM, however, in some circumstances a referral will be made to the Think Family Service for an independent Family Network Meeting Facilitator. Either your Social Worker or the facilitator, will have a discussion with you, complete a genogram (family tree) and look at yours and your child/ren's support network. With your permission, we will invite these members of the team to your FNM.

What happens next?

Once your support has been identified, you can either contact your family and invite them to an arranged meeting or the social worker can support you to contact your family.

A list of bespoke questions relating to the specific concerns that professionals have will be shared with you and your family prior to the meeting. These are what you will be making your family plan around.

At the FNM, the Social Worker and/or the facilitator will introduce themselves, talk you through the agenda and some meeting agreements.

The Social Worker will then share with your family what they and professionals are worried about and where you're doing well.

The questions that you would have received prior to the meeting will then be read out, you can either have a discussion and answer them there and then or if you need some family time to discuss your responses the professionals can leave the room.

Remember your plan is specific to your family so your responses will need to be

realistic and detailed. The plan will then be typed up after the meeting and you will each receive a copy.

Is there only one FNM?

No, at the end of your meeting the Social Worker or facilitator will book a review date with you all. This is called a review FNM.

You, the Social Worker or facilitator and your support group will look through your plan to see if anything else needs to be added, taken away or amended. This is to make sure that you and your Child/ren are still being supported effectively and in the right way.

Useful Contacts

Social Worker:

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FNM Facilitator (if allocated)

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Think Family Service:

62-64 Hogg Lane, Grays, Essex
RM17 5QS
01375 652700 / 652013

Family Rights Group:

Independent service that works with families that are involved with Children's Social Care

www.frg.org.uk

Free helpline number:

0808 801 0366

(Please check with your mobile provider that this is free from your device)