

Family Group Conferences – Family Experiences **Information for parents/carers – Interviews**



This leaflet tells you what information we would like to collect from you as part of a research study called *Family Group Conferences – Family Experiences*.

- **Coram** is a charity that wants to make life better for children, young people and their families.
- We are leading some research **about Family Group Conferences and how these are offered to families**. Family Group Conferences are a family-led decision making process during which the family and their friends meet to make a plan for a child. This process is supported by an independent coordinator who helps the family prepare for the family group conference.¹
- We are doing this research for the government-funded organisation **Foundations** (also known as the What Works Centre for Children and Families) and in partnership with the charity **Family Rights Group**.
- We want to find out more about your experience of being introduced to the idea of family group conferencing and being offered a family group conference. You do not need to have agreed to go through with the family group conference to take part in an interview with us.

To do this, we need to find out some information about you and your family, and what you think.

If you take part in an interview, we will send you a £25 voucher to say thank you.

If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. The support you receive from your local authority will not be affected by your decision not to take part.

Please read this data privacy notice **carefully**. It provides important information about your rights and how we handle your personal information.

How we collect information about you

If you decide to take part in the research, we will collect information about you (also called “**personal data**” or “**personal information**”) through doing an interview with you. During this interview, we would like to hear about your experience of family group conferencing and will ask questions:



- Who first spoke to you about taking part in a family group conference and how it was explained to you,
- What was happening in your life when you were offered a family group conference,
- Your feelings about being offered a family group conference,

¹ Family Rights Group (2022). *What is a Family Group Conference?* [online] Family Rights Group. Available at: <https://frg.org.uk/family-group-conferences/what-is-a-family-group-conference/> [Accessed 12 Nov. 2024].

- What information it would have been helpful for you to know about family group conferencing when it was suggested to you.

All of this your responses during the interview will be used for this research study only and will be treated as confidential. You will not be named and your identity will be protected in all published reports about the study.

What will we do with your information?



We will look at what you tell us during your interview alongside what other parents and carers we speak to tell us. We will also consider all of this information together with other information we learn about family group conferences.



We will use all this information to better understand how family group conferences are offered to families and why some families may choose not to take part in one. We will write a report about what we find out, and share it with Foundations, who will publish it. Foundations and others will use this report to better support children and families in similar situations to yours in the future.

Your name or any details about you will NOT be included in the report, and we will make sure no one will know that the information is about or from you.

Sharing your information and keeping it safe



Your personal information will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team at Coram. We will only hold onto your personal information for as long as we need it for the research, and then we will delete it so no one else can look at it.

There may be situations where we have to share information about you because the law requires us to. This will only happen if we believe you or someone you mention is **at risk of harm** (for example, they were going to be attacked). We will only ever share the information that is necessary and we will try to talk to you about it before we do.

We make sure we keep all personal information stored **securely** in a safe place, which only the research team can access.

The final report will be published in Summer 2025. We will therefore keep the information we collect about you for **2 years after** the report is published. Then we will securely destroy this information.

Your rights:

Because we are holding on to some of your personal information, you have the right to:



- Ask for a copy of the information we have about you,
- Ask to make personal information correct if it is wrong,
- Ask us to stop using your personal information at any time. If you do not want your personal information (meaning what you have said in your interview) included in the final report you will have to let us know by **May**

2025.

The lawful bases for processing your data

We will process your data for the purposes of this research study under these lawful bases:

Personal data will be processed under the basis of **Public Task** under UK General Data Protection Regulation Article 6.1(e).

You can also see the Foundations’ Privacy Notice by visiting <https://foundations.org.uk/privacy-policy/#:~:text=We%20will%20only%20keep%20personal,you%20have%20said%20we%20can>.

For this research, Coram is acting as the data controller.

Any questions or want to talk?

If you want to get in touch with us, use the information below:

Name of the project:	Family Group Conferences Service Design – Family Experiences
Organisation:	Coram
Address:	41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ
Email:	research@coram.org.uk
Call or text:	07805 813 071

If your question is specifically about your personal information, you can also get in touch with Chris Kelly, Director of People and Compliance at christine@coram.org.uk.

How to complain

You can lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office:

Address:	Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Helpline phone number:	0303 123 1113
ICO website:	https://ico.org.uk/concerns

Changes to this privacy notice

We may update this notice (and any supplemental privacy notice), from time to time as shown in the footer. We will notify you of the changes where required by applicable law to do so.