



## **Eligibility for Referral to Family Group Conferencing**

To be eligible for the Family Group Conferencing Service, the child or young person will need to satisfy the following criteria:

1. A second referral for children aged between 5 – 13 years. A second referral means:
  - a) Two separate requests have been received by Social Care Services in managing behaviour of a child within 12 months
  - b) Where there are multiple referrals from other agencies.
2. There is an Initial Assessment or Core Assessment completed which demonstrates evidence of the risk of family breakdown and/or potential risk of significant harm.
3. No previous intervention from the Family Group Conferencing project
4. Have previously been considered by the Local Authority Family Support Team.
5. If a child becomes looked after as an emergency, a Family Group Conference should be considered, to enable the wider family to plan for the return home. Every effort should be made to return the child home immediately. Serious consideration should be given to a Family Group Conference to prevent a child re-entering the looked after system.
6. If a child becomes looked after as an emergency, a Family Group Conference should be convened within six weeks in agreement with the accommodation panel.
7. The child being referred needs to be allocated to a social worker

Exceptions to the above will always be considered.