

## > About Sacro

Sacro's vision is for there to be Scotland-wide access to high quality, effective services which reduce conflict and offending and which accord with Sacro's values, operating principles and criteria. To achieve this, the specific key strategic areas for Sacro are:

- Direct service provision
- Consultancy and training
- Engaging in, promoting and disseminating research
- Influencing policy and legislation

## > Direct service provision

Sacro provides a range of services to reduce conflict within families and communities.

Its services are based on evidence and international standards of good practice and Sacro is committed to development and innovation.

Sacro's staff and volunteers are trained and experienced people who are able to help people find solutions to their difficulties and disputes. Thousands of people from all over Scotland have found practical and peaceful solutions to problems through using our services.

Sacro works with a broad range of clients, many of whom have multiple needs. When appropriate, it works in partnership with local authorities and other service delivery agencies who share its values.

Sacro currently works in 28 local authorities, providing almost 80 services from 35 locations.

If you would like a translated version of this leaflet, please phone 0131 624 7270 or e-mail [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) quoting reference MOT/320.

This leaflet is also available in large print or Braille.

In order to make Sacro's services as widely available as possible, we have made every reasonable effort to facilitate easy access to all of our premises for disabled service users. Where this is not possible, we will arrange a suitable, alternative venue.

Bu broşürün çevirisini istiyorsanız, lütfen 0131 624 7270'i telefonla arayın veya [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) eposta gönderip MOT/320 dosya numarasını söyleyin.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچہ کا ترجمہ درکار ہے تو براے مہربانی 0131 624 7270 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) پر ای میل بھیجیں اور ریفرنس نمبر MOT/320 کا حوالہ دیں۔

欲索取這單張的翻譯版本，請電 0131 624 7270，或電郵 [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk)，並說明檔案編號 MOT/320。

إذا كنت تريد نسخة مترجمة من هذه المنشورة الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف 0131 624 7270 أو أرسل بريدًا إلكترونيًا إلى العنوان [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) وذكر الإشارة رقم MOT/320

এই পুস্তিকার অনুবাদ যদি আপনি পেতে চান তাহলে 0131 624 7270 নম্বরে ফোন করে অথবা ই-মেইল করে রেফারেন্স নম্বর MOT/320 উল্লেখ করবেন

Jeśli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie w polskiej wersji językowej, bardzo prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 0131 624 7270 lub drogą e-mailową [info@national.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@national.sacro.org.uk) podając numer referencyjny MOT/320.

If you are uncertain about anything you have read in this leaflet or require further information on Family Group Conferencing, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Service at:

### Family Group Conferencing

Sacro, 11 Merry Street, Motherwell ML1 1JJ

Tel: 01698 230433

Fax: 01698 230410

Email: [info@nslanarkshire.sacro.org.uk](mailto:info@nslanarkshire.sacro.org.uk)

Web: [www.sacro.org.uk](http://www.sacro.org.uk)

Leaflet MOT/320



SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES – REDUCING OFFENDING



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



SOA Approved Centre

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## Family Group Conferences



## General Information



SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES – REDUCING OFFENDING

## > What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference is an opportunity to bring agencies together with families in an informal manner, to make decisions regarding the care and protection of the children or young people concerned.

It involves inviting extended family and other significant persons into the process in order to plan for the future well being of the family.

Family Group Conferences follow the ethos of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

### > Aims and Objectives

- To empower the family to participate in the care and protection of their children and take parental responsibility whenever possible
- To explore the resources available from within the family, the local community and relevant agencies, both statutory and voluntary
- To agree on an appropriate plan which will meet the needs of the children and strengthen future relationships
- To keep children at home whenever possible

## > Who comes to a Conference?

The children and parents/carers concerned can attend. Extended family and close friends can be invited too. Key professionals who work with the family, such as a social worker or health visitor, may also be invited.

## > Who runs the Conference?

The Co-ordinator for a conference is employed by Sacro. They will have no previous knowledge of the family or any issues they might have.

Sacro is a voluntary agency, which is independent of any statutory agency working with the family.

## > What happens first?

The Co-ordinator will visit the family at their home. They will explain more about what happens in a conference and discuss how it could help the family.

## > What happens then?

The Co-ordinator may visit everyone coming to the conference to make sure they are well prepared.

## > Where is the Conference?

The conference will be held in a community centre or hall near to the family's home. It will be a quiet and comfortable room.

## > What happens at the Conference?

Everyone will sit in a circle. The Co-ordinator will make sure that everyone gets a chance to speak and that people feel safe.

The meeting will start with the family talking about their problems or concerns as they see them.

The professionals will then tell the group what they know about the situation and what help is available to the family.

The family will then be left alone to talk about things in private and come up with a plan for the future.

The co-ordinator and social worker will be outside the room should you want to ask anything.

Usually someone in the family will agree to make sure the plan is working. The family may also decide to have a second meeting to talk about how things are going

When the family has made their plan, everyone will come back into the room and the plan will be written down. The Co-ordinator will then make sure that everyone agrees the plan will meet the needs of the children.

Everyone will get a copy of the plan so they know what part they will play in it.

## > After the Conference

If the plan is not working for whatever reason, a review conference can be held to alter the plan.