

> 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 quoting reference MOT/323.

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 eposta gönderip MOT/323 dosya numarasını söyleyin.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچہ کا ترجمہ درکار ہے تو براہ کرم 0131 624 7270 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا info@national.sacro.org.uk پر ای میل بھیجیں اور ریفرنس نمبر MOT/323 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，並說明檔案編號 MOT/323。

إذا كنت تريد نسخة مترجمة من هذه المنشورة الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف 0131 624 7270 أو أرسل بريداً إلكترونياً إلى العنوان info@national.sacro.org.uk وانكر الإشارة رقم MOT/323

এই পুস্তিকার অনুবাদ যদি আপনি পেতে চান তাহলে 0131 624 7270 নম্বরে ফোন করে অথবা ই-মেইল করে রেফারেন্স নম্বর MOT/323 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 podając numer referencyjny MOT/323.

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

Web: www.sacro.org.uk

Leaflet MOT/323



SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES – REDUCING OFFENDING



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



SOA Approved Centre

Family Group Conferences



Information for Professionals



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

> The Referral Process

Referral forms are available in all Social Work Area Teams as well as your local Sacro office. Please feel free to contact the Co-ordinator for a discussion before completing and submitting the referral form.

Social Work referrals will be processed through the Social Work Screening and Resource Groups initially, to assess their suitability for Family Group Conferencing. You will be informed of the Screening Group's decision.

Family Group Conferencing should be discussed with the family prior to the referral, so that the family are aware of why the Co-ordinator is contacting them.

If the referral is accepted, the co-ordinator will meet with the family and young person and will discuss who will be present at the Conference.

The co-ordinator will then contact all other relevant parties to prepare them for the meeting.

> Your Role in the Process

When making your referral, the co-ordinator should be informed of issues such as race, gender and culture if relevant, as well as any particular needs of the family, in order to address them prior to the conference.

Whenever possible the risk of violence from an individual family member should be reported to the co-ordinator.

During the conference you will be expected to outline your contact with the family, your concerns and any help or resources you can provide, if available.

You will also be expected to evaluate the plan made by the family. Once agreed the monitoring and reviewing process will be decided.

A copy of the plan will be given to every participant so that they know what is expected of them and within what timescale, if relevant.

The plan should be supported by professionals unless they have any concerns regarding its feasibility or risk to the child or young person.

> The FGC Process

1 Referral by Social Work.



2 The co-ordinator meets with the family and discusses who should be invited to the Conference and what issues are to be addressed.



3 The co-ordinator meets with the agencies already working with the family and their views on the issues are taken into account.



- 4 The Conference:
- a) *Information Sharing:*
Everyone discusses issues and resources available.
 - b) *Private Family Time:*
Family meets alone to come up with a plan.
 - c) *Plan and Agreement:*
Everyone meets again to agree on a plan and monitoring arrangements.