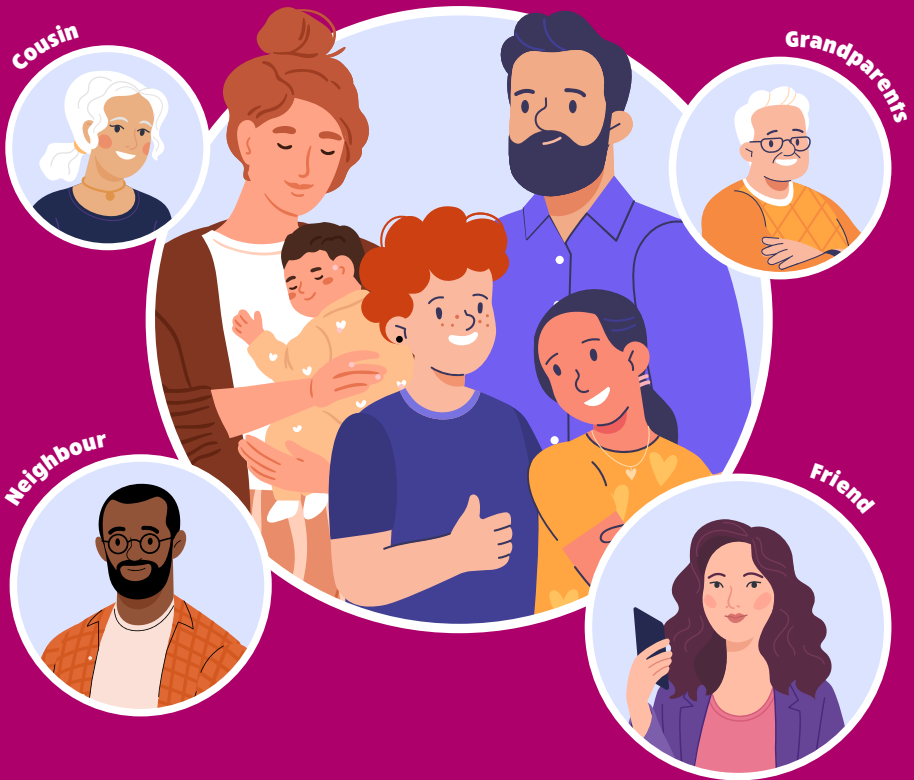




Norfolk County Council

The Family Networking Approach in your setting

What it is, why it's important and our service offer to you



Information from the:
Family Group Conference and Family
Networking Advisory Service



What is the Family Networking Approach?

The Family Networking Approach complements Signs of Safety, the practice framework we use in Norfolk. Both approaches put networks at the centre of practice and provide the opportunity for families to draw on those around them to help with aspects of family life and to make sure their children feel safe and loved.

The Family Networking Approach has four principles:

- 1.** Everyone has a network and we can find out about that network and the strengths within it if we ask.
- 2.** Networks help develop and maintain a sense of belonging and identity. This approach is to strengthen the network around families.
- 3.** Connected networks = Positive Outcomes, boost health, attainment and achievement outcomes through promoting trusted adults and strong relationships.
- 4.** The network can help with planning and decision making. You can facilitate this opportunity and work together to bring about change.

Benefits of embedding the Family Networking Approach in your setting

- Offers a framework for conversations with families;
- Helps you broaden the family's support network;
- Enabling families to take more ownership and creating a shared plan reduces the need for your involvement;
- Allows you time and space to focus on needs that require a professional response;
- Encourages the network to support the child or young person to engage with organisations;
- The family plan is led by the network, allowing the setting to become the facilitator rather than the leader.

FGC and Family Networking Advisory Service Offer

Free Family Networking Approach Support Package for Partner Agencies. Our comprehensive service offer provides you with the tools to embed the Family Networking Approach in your setting.

Our offer has 4 key elements:



- 1.** Meet and communicate offer - to ensure you have the information you need to identify the key people to be part of the implementation group and embed the approach as a way of working in your setting.
- 2.** Learning sets - to give you the tools to use the Family Networking Approach across your setting.
- 3.** Coaching and mentoring - enables you to build capacity and confidence in the Family Networking Approach, embed it in your day to day processes and bring together a child's network at a Family Network Meeting to make a plan for positive change.
- 4.** Keep in touch - with regular visits and on-going coaching to help you continue to use the approach and remain family thinking.

For more information regarding Family Networking and how we can support you:

Email: FNA@norfolk.gov.uk

Visit: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/family-networking

Feedback from Partner Agencies about the Family Networking Approach in practice

'The Family Networking Approach has helped me think about the manner in which questions are asked and used. Using the appreciative inquiry style of questioning has helped me gain an understanding of the strengths of the network.'

'I have used some of the family networking resources with my families to support them to gain a better understanding of their network, and identify their shared responsibility.'

The family networking approach has helped me be more open and honest with families about any worries and use sensitive questions in a subtle way to help them identify their own solutions.'

'Working in this way helps me dig a bit deeper and not be afraid to ask those curious questions that will help me find out who is important to them.'

'Using the Family Networking Approach means that families are involved in planning and decision making and their voices are heard.'

