

What is the Families First Partnership?

The Families First Partnership (FFP) is a national programme launched by the Department for Education to ensure the delivering of key reforms to children's social care.

The aim of the FFP programme is to transform the whole system of help, support and protection, to ensure that every family can access the right help and support when they need it, with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent crisis.

This will create a more connected, family-focused system. It will deliver the right support at the right time, ensuring that children are safe and families are strengthened.

FFP is part of the wider Stable Homes, Built on Love reform strategy. It consists of three key reform strands - implementing Family Help, Multi-agency Child Protection Teams and Family Group Decision Making.

The programme is underpinned by principles of co-production, early intervention and multi-agency collaboration.

Families First Partnership in Tameside

This programme builds on our strong multi-agency partnerships, which provide a solid foundation for delivering FFP.

Its implementation aligns with Tameside's ongoing improvement journey, creating an opportunity to sustain and accelerate the progress already being made.

Family Group Decision Making

Family Group Decision Making, also known as Family Group Conferencing, gives families the power to create their own plans and identify solutions before formal at all decision points.

It involves:

- Giving families and their network the chance to meet and agree their own family-led plan to keep children safe and well.
- Facilitated meetings, involving extended family and close friends.
- A focus on early, proactive solutions.

FGDM is based on the belief that families often know best how to support their children and should lead the process wherever possible.

Next Steps

As a professional, you can expect:

- Staff Briefings across the multi-agency partnerships, to provide overview of the programme
- More collaboration with other agencies
- New processes and tools to help identify needs and coordinate support earlier
- Training and guidance to support you to adapt to these new changes
- Regular messages and updates on progress as the programme is rolled out, including early opportunities to get involved

For families, this means better coordinated, wraparound support, less duplication, clearer pathways, and feeling heard and supported in a holistic way.

Family Help

A system of Family Help that brings together early help and statutory support.

Family Help brings together Early Help and Child in Need services into one system, with the ambition to remove the traditional separation between these services.

Key features include:

- Multi-disciplinary teams that work with the whole family to provide consistent relationships and support. These teams will wrap support around the whole-family at the earliest opportunity – using the expertise of multi-disciplinary practitioners from local authority services, health, police, and education, who will make up the teams.
- A Family Help Lead Practitioner who is the main contact for families, coordinates support and provides a trusted relationship.
- A single assessment that will make it easier for families to navigate services and adapt as needs change. This will focus on the needs of the whole-family and the child's voice.

The aim is to provide earlier intervention, minimise escalation and handovers, and deliver practical, relationship-based support that builds on family strengths.

Families First Partnership Reforms Briefing



Multi-Agency Child Protection

Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) enable faster, more coordinated responses to significant harm.

These teams:

- Bring together professionals from social care, police, health, SEND services and education. They will support and advise the Family Help Lead Practitioner, who has a trusted relationship with the family.
- Share responsibility for decisions and planning.
- Focus on timely, proportionate responses to risk, with clear thresholds and accountability.
- Ensure the right decisions will be made, at the right time for children.
- Engage and empower parents, family networks and others to care safely for their children, wherever this is possible.

This model aims to reduce delays, improve information sharing, and ensure children at risk receive coordinated, effective protection at the right time.

How you can get involved:

- Take part in co-design opportunities, such as consultations and workshops
- Help champion and lead the way for this new approach
- Share what's working well and any barriers, to help shape the programme for Tameside
- Look out for briefings and training sessions
- Read the programme newsletter, once launched, to stay up to date on all the latest updates

If you have any questions, please contact: lucy.hamilton@tameside.gov.uk

