



**WE LISTEN, WE SUPPORT,
WE TAKE ACTION**
For Scotland's vulnerable
children and families

European FGC Network Report from Scotland 2013

European FGC Network 2013 Report from Scotland

The main providers of Family Group Conferencing (FGC) in Scotland are CHILDREN 1ST and the City of Edinburgh Council.

We continue to promote FGC through a national steering group which is hosted by CHILDREN 1ST in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. The Steering group comprises council and CHILDREN 1ST representatives and independent FGC providers. The group is open to other FGC providers. Minutes of the meetings and for example practice papers are put on a FGC practitioners web based Knowledge Hub, which is administered by the City of Edinburgh team on the group's behalf. Practitioners use the Hub to share good practice and for support.

A researcher based in Edinburgh University is working with the steering group to conduct a PhD study into the longer term outcomes of FGC. The researcher, Mary Mitchell, can be contacted at maryalice@hotmail.com.au

The lead partners continue to work with Robert Gordon University to provide accredited FGC training in Scotland. This course has been very successful to date, has always been full subscribed and as a result, the number of trained and accredited practitioners in Scotland is growing.

The steering group is working to extend the range of situations in which FGC is used in Scotland and to provide support and practice guidance in this extended range, including youth justice, young people leaving care, families who are separated or are separating and one independent provider group is providing FGC for older people affected by dementia. We recently held our annual Scottish Network meeting. This was well attended and key themes included discussion on how we can extend the range of use of FGC in Scotland.

Extending FGC in Scotland remains a considerable challenge. Austerity measures in Scotland have meant that local government is constantly looking to reduce spend and that can mean that some services are cut, even when it is demonstrated that FGC has provided very good outcomes for children and families, avoided children being moved into formal state care and, as a result, saved state spending.

CHILDREN 1ST is attempting to extend the reach of FGC by including an element of funding for FGC in new service development bids to enable FGCs to be spot purchased when required.



**WE LISTEN, WE SUPPORT,
WE TAKE ACTION**
For Scotland's vulnerable
children and families

European FGC Network Report from Scotland 2013

CHILDREN 1ST and City of Edinburgh Council have worked together to influence the content of the Children Bill which is currently progressing through the Parliamentary process in Scotland. We have responded to consultation on the Bill, have given evidence at Parliamentary committees and have developed relationships with senior civil servants to ensure that we influence the content of the Bill as it passes through Parliament to become law and to influence guidance. We are hopeful that we can ensure that guidance on the range of supports to which vulnerable children and families will be given in future when the Bill becomes an Act will include FGC.

Name: Ronnie Hill

Title: Assistant Director for National Services

Date: October 2013