



Sefton Families First Partnership

Families First Partnership Newsletter

A New Chapter in Supporting Families

As professionals dedicated to supporting children, young people, and families, we each play a vital role in shaping a more joined-up, compassionate system. That's why we're excited to introduce the **Families First Partnership (FFP) reforms**—a fresh, collaborative approach that places early help, lived experience, and shared responsibility at the heart of our work.

Key principles of the FFP approach:

- Whole-family, strengths-based working
- Early intervention to prevent escalation
- Multi-agency collaboration with shared ownership of outcomes
- One single front door to simplify access and reduce duplication
- Listening to families and co-producing support that meets their needs

The Three Strands of Reform

These reforms focus on *doing with*, *not doing to*, and they're grounded in three key, interlinked strands that will shape the way we work:

1. Family Help

A reimagined early help offer that works with families from the moment they need support. The focus is on building trusted relationships, offering practical help early, and reducing the need for statutory intervention. The approach is strengths-based and whole-family, and it empowers practitioners to respond in timely, tailored ways—without families needing to retell their story.

2. Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs)

These teams bring professionals from across disciplines into shared local teams that work together around families. Rather than signposting or referring between services, MACPTs



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collaborate, co-locate, and co-own outcomes. Expect joint working and planning, and more agile responses to the needs of our communities.

3. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

We're embedding FGDM as a core part of our FGC (Family Group Conferencing) offer—a restorative, family-led approach to planning and problem solving. Through facilitated conversations, families take the lead in identifying solutions and support networks that work for them, reinforcing autonomy and resilience.

Building on Strong Foundations in Sefton

We are proud to be launching this transformation from a position of strength. Across Sefton, a number of well-established approaches have already laid the groundwork for the FFP reforms, including:

- FAST (Family Advice & Support Team) & CHAT (Children's Help & Advice Team)
- Team Around the School (TAS)
- A strong focus on inclusion
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Systemic and relational practice
- Family Group Conferencing (FGC)
- Strong, effective multi-agency partnerships

These practices reflect a system already closely aligned with many of the core FFP values: putting relationships at the heart of support. This strong foundation enables us to move forward with real momentum.



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What's Changing?

The FFP reforms mark a shift toward integrated working across all services that support families. Whether you work in policing, public health, early help, clinical care, social work, or community support, this approach aims to build a seamless, joined-up system that works with, not around, families.

What This Means for the FFP Rollout in Sefton

Thanks to the foundations already in place, the FFP rollout in Sefton is less about redesigning from scratch and more about building on what works:

- We are reforming from a place of readiness and ambition.
- Models like FGC and TAS demonstrate our multi-agency commitment to working with families.
- Our system-wide trauma-informed and relational practices create the conditions for trust and consistency.
- We are growing a learning culture, where we reflect together rather than assign blame.
- Through lived experience and co-production, we're designing services alongside the people who use them.
- We're aiming for seamless family journeys, removing siloed responses and unnecessary handoffs.
- We are evidencing improved outcomes—whether through TAS, FGC, CHAT, or FAST.

What does this mean for you?

You may see new ways of working, including:

- Cross-service team meetings or huddles



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- More consistent tools and frameworks for assessment and planning
- Shared digital pathways for referrals and case management
- Learning and development opportunities to support the new ways of working

Get Involved

You are central to this transformation. We want to ensure you feel equipped, connected, and inspired. Over the coming weeks, we'll be hosting engagement and awareness sessions, alongside newsletters, podcasts, and 7-minute briefings. Our website will be regularly updated – feel free to visit anytime to stay informed, simply scan the QR code below.

To help us understand what's working well, the challenges you face, and where you see opportunities, please take a moment to complete our short survey.

Scan the QR code to get started.



This is more than just a change - it's a commitment to a better way of working, and we look forward to collaborating with you.