



# Appendix

## Appendix 1 Participation describer

### Family Group Conference (FGC) since 2000

A family group conference (FGC) is an opportunity for people and their support networks to get together to plan for the person which addresses the problems identified by professionals or the support network who know the person, with extra help being given by other appropriate agencies. The FGC process involves:

- Preparatory work to gain the involvement of all those with an interest in a person's welfare (both family and significant others)
- Facilitating a meeting which comprises
  - an initial discussion with all practitioners involved
  - 'private family time' in which those present devise their own plan
  - checking out and agreeing the plan with practitioners
- Review(s) to see how the plan is working.

### Adult FGC since 2014

Adult FGCs are family/network-led meetings that encourage and empower an adult with care and support needs and their family/wider support circle to think about their collective strengths and resources to make personalised plans for the future. When we talk about a family in FGC we don't just mean immediate relations: Family = relational network of significant others.

### Early help FGC since 2015

Making family group conference available for families looking for early intervention, moving family group conference further upstream to help families draw on their own resources and support networks at a much earlier stage and well before child protection or proceedings.

### Helping hands (Matching peer experience with peer experience) since 2016

Parents with experience of family group conference get matched up to parents at the start of the journey who maybe uncertain, need some explanation.

### Advocacy in Child Protection since 2017

Independent Family Group Conference Coordinators providing advocacy to parents in child protection conferences.

### Lifelong Links for Looked after Children since 2017

Identify and build positive lasting support networks for children in the care system. These networks can consist of family, extended family, friends and professionals. Lifelong Links is aimed at young people under 16, who have been in care for less than three years and for who there is no plan for them to return home.

### Youth Led / Right Balance for Children in Need FGC since 2017

A new approach to social work offering multi agency support for children aged 10 – 13 who are already receiving support from social care. Right Balance puts the families at the heart of the plan, who set their own goals, which are discussed in depth at the Family Group Conference. This creates a family-led plan which underpins the work with the family going forward.

### Camden conversations participatory research since 2018

Parent citizen researchers conducted interviews with 25 professionals made up of social workers and social work managers and 25 people that had experienced the child protection process and made recommendations for potential changes to the child protection process based on their findings.

### Peer Advocacy in early help & child protection since 2019

Bringing the skills and expertise of lived experience into the helping network in early help and child protection, offering and receiving help, based on shared understanding, respect and mutual empowerment between people in similar situations.

## Full Circle meetings organised by Camden people for Camden people since 2019

Combining family group conference values and asset-based community development approaches, full circle is a community-led problem-solving model for individual or groups of residents looking to make a change.

## Relational activism since 2019

Relational activism makes change happen through personal and informal relationships. It's open to anyone who wants to achieve social change but may not choose to participate in the demonstrations and campaigns of more "traditional" forms of activism.

See articles by Becca Dove and Tim Fisher.

[https://ssir.org/articles/entry/becoming\\_unstuck\\_with\\_relational\\_activism](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/becoming_unstuck_with_relational_activism)

## Relational Camden films since 2019

These films show Camden's commitment to bringing people together from different parts of the system to talk.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSLzJejPVAYajxXCUnDtGPg>

## Whole service Camden conversations led by young people and families since 2019

Getting the whole of the children's safeguarding service together at events facilitated by Camden people and families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EPTljQ94qE&t=1s>

## Banner 'To Love is To Act' first flown since 2019

For the last six months, a giant banner emblazoned with 'To love is to Act' - the Victor Hugo proclamation - has become our travel companion and art-fully adorned the places we have met, talked and shared; It's been at a parent activist meeting, in a disused café in Kentish Town, in a British Legion hall in Bath. It's been up and down the M4 to Cardiff, and it's made its way across oceans to Turku and Oslo.

## Relationships making the difference/ Love Shows Up – national events since 2018

These national events bring together citizens and professionals in order to hear stories from people with lived experience from both children and adults services. Through mutual learning the events help council officers to see how they can develop and sustain credibility when working in the community with citizens and their social networks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n53hW-0r3c0>

## Training with social workers, led by Annie from Surviving safeguarding and Camden Parents (2016)

Holding 'empowering families' sessions where family members work co-productively with social workers to help develop our relationship-based practice in Camden.

Featured in community care - click through link.

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2016/09/22/werent-service-users-social-workers-just-people/>

## Citizen led focus groups in Camden places since 2017

Family members, parents, young people and community members led discussions in Camden places like the Town Hall, 5 Pancras Square and Crowndale Centre about growing up, staying safe and how we can help each other.

## Learning exchange workshops since 2018

Social workers meet with parents and discuss different topics e.g. Domestic Abuse, and how they impact on their lives and ability to provide professional help.

## Camden conversations launch 2019

The findings of the Camden conversations were shared widely to inside and outside of Camden to highlight the findings.

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/1006758/Camden+Conversations+-+full+report.pdf/675d7d6c-827b-a4ba-08a9-1fbaa9378d10>

## High Street conversations 2019

High street conversations – taking and finding opportunities to use neighbourhood locations to open up spaces for citizen led conversation and action. Example at Think and Do in Kentish Town, based in a disused café and opened as a participatory space for residents to talk, connect and generate ideas. Parent activists used the space to talk about how they could help local parents affected by trauma. Next stop, a public living room in West Hampstead.

## Family Advisory Board since 2013

In Camden, its citizen-led Family Advisory Board is now in its 8th year. This parent group has given a platform for participation, inclusion and the co-construction of services which has been very useful to the local authority.

Camden Conversations is an example of this 'a family-led child protection inquiry' it was born out of a partnership with academic Professor Anna Gupta and 'Annie' from Surviving Safeguarding and became a developing case study in the power of parents to change how social workers conceive of their practice.

Throughout 2018, our parent-activists led this major participatory research project into child protection practices, engaging other parents and also professionals to talk about their experiences, which enabled them to participate and influence the system.

Their final report has already led to real change, for example, parents now lead monthly "learning exchange" workshops, sharing with practitioners their experiences of subjects such as domestic violence and of being in State care. The relationship between the independent chair of the child protection meetings and the family is being improved; the chair now keeps in contact with the family between meetings so the family has the opportunity to give feedback and build a trusting relationship so they can speak openly and honestly.

### Link to full report and recommendations:

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/1006758/Camden+Conversations+-+full+report.pdf/675d7d6c-827b-a4ba-08a9-1fbaa9378d10>

### Camden Conversations a video summary

<https://youtu.be/nnhjunSxGAg>

### Whole service conversation led by parents and young people

<https://youtu.be/4EPTljq94qE>



## Friday story since 2020

These stories show diverse situations and relationships of people from Camdens work. They connect together conversations with social workers, adults, family networks, people of different backgrounds, with the aim of finding human situations. Friday Story is not trying to function as a platform for case studies or direct best practice but rather it is an exercise in connecting people and recognising experiences.

## Local Authorities that Listen Circle since 2020

Camden has been convening a network of local authority peers for professionals and their parent partners to think about parent inclusion. More than 40 different local authorities are connected and the good practice shared includes a wide range from new Parent Peer Advocacy programmes to improving feedback forms.

## Family Changemakers since 2021

Changemakers is a participatory design project that brought together Camden parents and family members with service design Masters students from the University of the Arts London College of Communication to co-create a design vision for good family help after COVID. The parents and students worked together to describe how good help should feel and what good help should be, and created a set of design concepts to bring the vision to life.

