

Barnardo's Family Group Conference – Costing Outcomes Flowchart

Barnardo's
training
learning
consultancy



Case Scenario

“David” and “Laura’s” mother unexpectedly died.
The children were living with a family member. The local authority did a full assessment of the father whom it was decided was unable to care for them due to his lifestyle. Three family members had applied for residency yet none of them had parental responsibility.
The local authority were considering adoption for the children.

Referral to Barnardo's Family Group Conference Services?

No

Yes

Children placed for adoption

Outcome: Children Adopted

Two 'looked after' children placed for adoption at a cost of £12,075 per child.

£12,140 per child for two years (average) adoptive placement before making adoption order.

Adoption service to adoptive families post adoption order, £2,334 per child for one year

Total Cost for David and Laura:

Placed for adoption ...	£24,150
Placement before adoption order ...	£24,280
Adoptive services for family ...	£4,668
TOTAL	£53,098

Barnardo's Family Group Conference Service

Outcome: Successful Family Plan

All family members agreed for both children to live with maternal aunt.

All other applications for residency withdrawn.

Successful assessment on Aunt - £853

Total Cost for David and Laura:

Barnardo's Family Group Conference ...	£2,500
Parenting Assessment ...	£853
TOTAL	£3,353

Barnardo's Family Group Conference – Conclusions

In the above scenario...

- Not only does the **Family Group Conference** route save money, it keeps the family together.
- Evidence shows this leads to better outcomes for children. This is in line with The Public Law Outline (PLO) which came into force in April 2008.
- This stresses the duty of local authorities to consider the wider family as potential carers for children who are risk of being accommodated

“A family group conference (FGC) can be an important opportunity to engage members of the wider family and friends at an early stage of concerns about a child, either to support the parents or to provide care for the child, whether in the short or longer term....”(PLO,2008)

- Taking the route of not carrying out a **Family Group Conference** is much more expensive and has led to family breakdown with two children being adopted.
- **Barnardo's Family Group Conference Service** delivers successful outcomes for family group conferences every day.

References:

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