**The Safeguarding Family Group Conference Study**

**Study Summary**

Our Local Authority is taking part in a research project to try a different way of working with families who would usually have an Initial Child Protection Conference when referral and subsequent enquires under Section 47 of the Children’s Act (1989) find that a child is a risk of harm. The Safeguarding Family Group Conference (Safeguarding FGC) is an alternative, family-centred approach to decision-making that could change the way that families and professionals work together to keep children safe. The aim of the research is to understand the enablers and barriers to implementing the Safeguarding FGC pathway and to identify which families are most likely to benefit from it.

**Partners**

The study is a research-practice partnership between the University of Exeter Medical School, the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE), the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Council and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

**Ethics and Governance**

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter Medical School (Reference Number 493165) and is part of the Southwest Peninsula Clinical Research Network.

**Funding**

This study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Services and Delivery Research Programme (Grant Reference Number [NIHR131922](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR131922)).

**Methods**

The researchers will collect data by observing meetings, conducting interviews, running workshops, and reviewing case files.

**Research Outputs**

The research will lead to the production of a manual and training which will help different Local Authorities decide when Safeguarding FGCs may be an appropriate alternative pathway in child protection, and how the Safeguarding FGC pathway can be adapted to local contexts. Findings will also be shared on the study website, at conferences, in academic journals and in teaching/training sessions.

For more information about the study, please visit <https://sites.exeter.ac.uk/fgcstudy/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

If you would like to get in touch with questions or comments about the research, you can email: fgcstudy@exeter.ac.uk

