Wandsworth Family Recovery Project (FRP) is a unique integrated team of professionals dedicated to working with families in the most need to achieve positive and lasting change for those families, individuals and their communities.
What is the Family Recovery Project? (FRP)

The FRP is an innovative multi-agency service set up by Wandsworth Council and a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies including the local police, health services and Job Centre Plus.

The FRP works intensively alongside a small number of complex families focusing on addressing the root causes of social breakdown rather than dealing only with its symptoms.

The multi-agency team continuously mediate and support these families who are at risk of losing their children into care, losing their homes or, in the case of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, their liberty.

The FRP works to strengthen and stabilise families to secure better outcomes for children, young people and adults. The project aims to provide stronger support networks and encourage families to take the lead on restoring sustainable and long lasting change.
How does it work?

The FRP operates on a consent-based model. Families must consent to join the programme and consent to have information shared amongst the Team Around the Family in line with strict confidentiality and data security guidelines.

The FRP team is a single, unified group of experienced professionals who are able to share information openly while working towards a range of key shared outcomes. They provide intensive targeted and coordinated support to reduce extreme anti-social and criminal behaviour.

The team currently consist of professionals with the following expertise:

- Intensive outreach
- Parenting skills
- Adult mental health
- Employment and benefits advice
- Domestic violence
- Substance misuse
- Housing issues
- Crime and anti social behaviour
- Child and family health
The FRP is different to other services because it offers

- A whole view of the family
- Fast, intensive, targeted outreach
- A Team around the family (TAF)
- A bespoke care plan for each family reviewed every three weeks.
- A ‘contract with consequences’ for families to formalise their involvement with the programme.
- A comprehensive data and intelligence gathering system.

Typically the FRP would work with a family for about 12 months before agreeing a step-down plan. Where families fail to engage or honour their care plan commitments, the decision can be taken to cease working with the family at an earlier stage.

The progress of each family and individual members is carefully evaluated against a set of outcomes agreed during the Care-plan process.

The FRP can work with up to 30 families at any one time.
How to make a referral

In order to refer a family to FRP, a referral form will need to be completed along with any relevant documents including CAF’s, single assessments &/or asset, risk assessments.

The referrer should ensure that the family is aware that they are being referred to FRP.

It is also strongly recommended that the referrer speaks with the FRP manager in advance of making a formal request for service to discuss where the FRP approach may be able to help.

The FRP Manager will consider new referrals weekly. If a referral does not meet the eligibility criteria or cannot be accommodated the FRP will inform the referrer with reasons within 3 working days of the decision being made.
Criteria for acceptance

Wandsworth FRP will prioritise their work with families who:

- Fail to engage with the services that they currently receive; or
- Do not make sufficient or sustained progress despite being engaged with services.

A family would be considered provisionally eligible for acceptance onto FRP if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Child(ren) in the family subject to a current Child Protection Plan
- Child(ren) in the family at the edge of care
- Children subject to care pre-proceedings.
- Child(ren) in the family who are in need (CIN) who themselves, their adult carers, or both are exhibiting multiple problems including:
  - Rent Arrears
  - Incidents of Antisocial Behaviour
  - Parent Mental Health issues
  - Parent Illness / Disability / Learning difficulties
  - Parent substance misuse client
  - Domestic violence
  - Worklessness
  - Parent with Convictions
  - Young person with convictions
  - Teen parent / pregnancy

The extent and severity of these additional issues will be taken into account when the decision is being made to accept a referral to FRP. This may take the form of a scoring needs assessment subject to further discussion.

Where the criteria above are not met, a family may still be accepted where:

- Child(ren) in the family have convictions where that family are also council or RSL tenants / leaseholders.

In addition to the criteria above, full acceptance to FRP will not be based on the referral form alone. It will be dependent on:

- The family providing explicit and informed consent for agencies to share information about them.

The outcome of the initial Team Around the Family Meeting (iTAF), where a fully informed assessment of the suitability of that family for FRP can be made based on a full intelligence profile.
Further Information

For more information on FRP or to make a referral, please contact Michele Harris, FRP Manager or Eva Thomson, FRP Support Officer on:

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