

Q9

WHAT ABOUT EVALUATING THE DIFFERENCE FDAC WILL BE MAKING?

Collection of data helps sites monitor progress and outcomes in accordance with the FDAC outcomes framework and the local logic model.

In addition, if all sites collect this data the evidence base for FDAC will be strengthened. In particular, data from the sites will improve our understanding of the impact of FDAC and will provide information on whether the improved outcomes identified in the evaluation of the pilot FDAC are also found in new sites. Use of the database will improve understanding of how best to measure outcomes. A larger evidence base will also enable more work to be done on identifying whether there are particular types of cases that will benefit more than others from the FDAC approach.

The FDAC ACCESS DATABASE

The database has been developed by members of the FDAC National Unit, together with colleagues at Brunel and Lancaster Universities. Its development was informed by the methodology and the findings of the evaluation of FDAC. All FDAC sites nationwide use it.

The database has been designed to provide all FDAC teams with the key information needed to monitor the delivery of the service and to evaluate outcomes.

The database will provide information on:

- The population making use of FDAC – background information on the parents and children
- Outcomes for parents and children - by collecting data on certain key issues at the start and end of proceedings
- Information about activities, process and outputs - for example the interventions provided to families, the number of families worked with, length of proceedings, final orders made.

By outcomes we mean the impact of an intervention or service on parents and children. It is also helpful to collect information on process issues such as orders made and placements for children. Collecting this data enables local sites to monitor the effectiveness of their FDAC and to build their case for longer term sustainability.

For information about obtaining a copy of the specially developed data base and guidance on its use visit the FDAC website and contact Mary Ryan, [FDAC advocate](#) or the [FDAC National Unit](#).