If you decide that FDAC is right for you, you will commence your Trial for Change which will last for about 14 weeks. This will involve you engaging with the interventions outlined within your individualised plan. There will be on-going drug/alcohol testing throughout.

Every fortnight you will meet with your Judge who will be eager to hear about what has gone well, and what areas need further work and focus.

At the end of your Trial for Change the FDAC Team will complete an assessment in which they will provide a view about whether or not you have made enough progress for your child to live with you permanently.

If sufficient progress has been made, the proceedings can be extended to enable a period of support while your child/ren transition back to your care.

Sometimes, despite a parent's best efforts, there is not sufficient progress to enable the FDAC Team to recommend that their child/ren returns to their care. If this is the outcome for you, the FDAC Team will continue to provide you with support for a period of time, so that you can continue your recovery journey.

Want further information?

Your social worker and lawyer will be able to further discuss the FDAC process with you. However, you can also contact the FDAC Team Manager who will also be able to provide any further information:

FDACoffice@liverpool.gov.uk

Family Drug and Alcohol Court Team
Liverpool City Council
Cunard Building
L3 1AH

Liverpool City Council



Liverpool Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC)

What is the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC)?

FDAC is a different way of managing care proceedings when the Local Authority are very worried about children. It helps families where children have been placed at risk because of their parent/s substance use by helping them to try to solve the problems that have led the Local Authority to be so concerned.

Why have you been invited to join FDAC?

You have been invited to participate in FDAC because your drug or alcohol use is one of the main concerns in respect of your parenting.

Liverpool Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC)

Research shows that using the FDAC process instead of standard court proceedings, means families are 50% more likely to have their children returned at the end of proceedings.

It also shows the changes that parents made were more likely to be sustained on a long-term basis. Parents also have a better experience in the FDAC court process and often feel that they have been given the best chance possible to make the changes necessary.

The FDAC Team

The FDAC team is made up of a clinical psychologist, social workers and intervention workers who are trained in helping parents where there are difficulties including substance use and domestic abuse. The team has strong links with partner agencies including housing, the Department of Work and Pensions and mental health services which makes it easier to provide you with all the support that you need. As part of the FDAC process you will be also allocated a Judge who will meet with you in person on a fortnightly basis.

What is expected of you?

Engaging with FDAC is a real opportunity to turn things around and achieve stability for yourself and your child/ren. The FDAC Team and the Judge will provide you with support, encouragement, strategies, and tools. However, in order to be successful, you will need to bring your hard work, determination, perseverance, openness, and honesty.

What happens next?

At your first FDAC court hearing, you will be asked whether you wish to be considered for the FDAC process. If you do, an initial assessment will be arranged with the FDAC

Team. The purpose of this is to explore and discuss the worries and concerns and what needs to happen in order for the risks to reduce. You will also be asked to engage in substance testing so that a baseline measure of your drug/alcohol use can be obtained.

Once we understand your needs, we will invite you to join an Intervention Planning Meeting so that we can agree a plan to support you and your family. The plan may include:

- Support and advice to help you to understand why you are using drugs/ alcohol.
- Support to help you stop using drugs and/or alcohol
- Support for your mental health and emotional well-being
- Support in regard to domestic abuse and violence
- Support to improve your basic parenting
- Housing and budgeting support
- Help to build strong and safe networks and relationships

Four weeks later we will return to court and present your assessment and intervention plan to your Judge and the parties. It is at this hearing that you will be asked whether you want to engage in the FDAC process or move to standard care proceedings.