

FDAC Service Standards

These Service Standards seek to describe the key elements of an FDAC service that has fidelity to the evaluated FDAC model. FDAC follows the key principles of problem solving; actively enabling the court to become an agent of change, procedural fairness, underpinned by trauma informed practice and awareness, tailored to the needs of those accessing it, a multi-disciplinary team or network and recognising families are experts in their own lives.

Standard 1	FDAC is a therapeutic problem-solving family court with specially-trained judges and an independent, multidisciplinary assessment and intervention team. All staff are expected to undertake the FDAC Induction Training which should also be open to partner organisations and key stakeholders in the region to ensure a cohesive approach and the development of a shared vision.
Standard 2	There is a clear referral pathway into FDAC.
Standard 3	Parents are able to make an informed choice about whether to accept the offer of FDAC. All parents who choose to work with FDAC will be offered a 'trial for change'
Standard 4	The assessment and intervention work of the FDAC specialist team starts promptly and proceeds without delay and follows the FDAC reporting and court hearing timeline. This timeline adheres to the Public Law Outline.
Standard 5	The plans for children are revised as necessary, whilst remaining mindful of the timescales required by (a) the law and Public Law Outline, and (b) the importance of responding to children's needs in a timely fashion.
Standard 6	Once the FDAC Intervention Plan has the authority of the court the 'trial for change' begins, and parents and professionals have clear tasks to perform and a timescale to adhere to.
Standard 7	FDAC work is collaborative – there is regular communication between the judge and the specialist team, and both work closely with parents, the local authority and others involved with the children and their families.
Standard 8	Parents have the opportunity of support from a parent mentor where available. It is recognised that not all services are able to offer this provision. It is currently recommended that wherever possible, that access to mutual aid/lived experience recovery support is included within the intervention plan.
Standard 9	The procedure in court, including the use of non-lawyer hearings, acknowledges the role of the judge as a catalyst for change, nurturing a positive relationship with parents and giving families a voice in the proceedings. (It is also important to note that this includes ensuring that children's experiences remain central to decision making whilst making sure the proceedings provide greater transparency, coordination and understanding of the processes).
Standard 10	FDAC specialist team uses national data collection tools to measure the health and well-being of each child and parent during their time in FDAC, with a view to understanding the impact of FDAC on families and highlighting potential areas for improvement and service development.

We call these the *FDAC Service Standards* because, taken together, they summarise our expectations about (a) the provision and ethos of an FDAC service and (b) what a service in development will be working towards. To adhere to this, all FDAC Teams and members of staff are expected to have completed the multidisciplinary FDAC Induction Training, remain committed to ongoing practice development and learning, support data collection and ensure open feedback loops and dialogue continue with families, community partners and stakeholders.