

FDAC Service Standards

The FDAC national partnership uses the term Service Standards to describe the key elements of an FDAC service that has fidelity to the evaluated FDAC model.¹

- Standard 1 FDAC is a therapeutic problem-solving family court with specially-trained judges and an independent, multidisciplinary assessment and intervention team.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Standard 10 The FDAC specialist team uses the National Unit 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 the key elements of (a) the provision and ethos of an FDAC service and (b) what a service in development will be working towards. Alongside these, there are a set of **FDAC Practice Indicators** against which FDACs can be audited to measure their progress towards a fidelity FDAC.

¹ Harwin et al. (2016) *After FDAC: outcomes 5 years later*. Final Report. Available at: <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/cfj-fdac/publications/>