

Ferries Family Groups

Making a Difference

My Story

When I became a member of Family Groups in 2002, I was in a very low place. I was in an unhappy marriage but was reluctant to leave as I wanted the best for my 2 children.

I hadn't had the best upbringing and although I knew I didn't want to parent the same way as my parents, I had no idea how to do it the right way. How to tackle daily tantrums and bad behaviour in a positive way. So I would let them get away with everything, I had no rules. So as you can imagine life was hectic and most days ended with me exhausted and crying.

I was referred to Family Groups. I can still clearly remember the day Ferries Family Groups support team knocked on my door, they had their work cut out as I didn't trust anyone and was reluctant to speak to them let alone join a group. They didn't give up on me, they could see I needed help and made a few house visits until I agreed to join a group. I never looked back, from that day on Thursday afternoons became the centre of my life. I could mix with other parents and my children could let off steam. I had the opportunity to discuss my problems and learn new skills. I did courses that helped me parent in a more positive way. We went on family holidays and days out that were partly subsidised, that I otherwise could never have afforded to go on. This was great as I feel making happy memories to be very important.

They helped me manage my finances, gave me food parcels at Christmas to help out. Invited me to bingo nights, time out for adults with no children (I still, to this day, never miss bingo night).

They helped me find a better home for me and my children. Helped me through a divorce when I finally realised the children would be better off seeing dad separately, than to see us argue all the time. I truly believe without the support of Family Groups, be it courses or one to one chats in cafés over a brew, I would of either ended up going crazy and been admitted to Clatterbridge or I'd have killed him and ended up in prison. I later met a fab new man who helps me all the time, loves and supports me. We have married and have had three more delightful children and Family Groups were there to help through the good times too.

More recently one of my older children has left to live with their dad. This devastated me to the point of breaking point, as my ex was being difficult and not encouraging two way parenting as I had for him over the last 9 years. Again along with my husband Family Groups has been there every step of the way to get me back on track. I am actually on a teenage course right now to help me see things as they do. As I'm sure you can see from my story Family Groups is invaluable to me, as I'm sure it is to too many families. For me there's no way I could endure a life without them, they are my saviours.