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Noble Lords,
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Noble Lords

During the first day of Report stage for the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill on 14th January 2026, we discussed clause 1 of the Bill which introduces a duty on local authorities to offer a Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meeting at the pre-proceedings stage to parents or those with parental responsibility, unless it would not be in the child's best interests.

In response to amendment 3, tabled by Baroness Barran about using FGDM to support reunification, I said I would share an embargoed copy of FGDM Best Practice Support and Resources, which the Department has commissioned an external supplier to produce.

This best practice support is aimed primarily at LAs – including service managers and frontline practitioners – who are responsible for designing, commissioning, managing, or delivering FGDM. It sets out what is required to achieve the best outcomes for children and families, and provides practical insight and tools to support high-quality, consistent implementation. It is expected to be ready for sharing in the week commencing 16th February. I will then deposit a copy in the House Library and write to notify peers once it is available.

I hope this further detail has been useful and I will place a copy in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Blake'.

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS, CBE