



Child Protection Conference

A guide for parents and carers

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting between families and professionals that is held when there is concern about the welfare and safety of a child within the family.

What is the purpose of a conference?

- Share information about a child's health, safety and wellbeing.
- Assess whether a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- Identify strengths within the family.
- Identify any support needed by the family and the professionals / agencies that might be able to provide this.
- Identify changes needed in order to ensure the safety of the child.
- Decide if the child needs to be made subject to a child protection plan.

The Independent Chair makes sure that everyone at the conference is able to contribute and that the welfare and safety of the child are the main focus of the meeting.

Who will be at the conference?

As a parent / carer you are invited to the conference. You may bring someone with you to support you if you would like to do so.

Most of the people at the conference will know you and your family. Your social worker will attend and other people who might attend include; your child's teacher, youth worker, doctor, or school nurse.

You will be introduced to everyone at the start of the conference.

What will happen at the conference?

The Chair will meet with you before the conference and will explain what is going to happen, how the conference will be run and how you will be able to contribute to the meeting.

The Chair will ask everyone in turn to talk about what they are worried about highlighting risks and danger / harm to your child; they will also look at what is going well and what complicating factors there may be. You will also be asked for your views and will have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion the Chair will write the information on paper the wall.

At the end of the conference the chair will ask all the professionals to write down their decision about whether risks to your child are enough that a Child Protection Plan is needed.



It is the job of the Chair to make sure that a clear decision is made and the Chair will have the final say on whether a Child Protection Plan is agreed.

What is a child protection plan?

A child protection plan will highlight all the things that professionals are worried about and will list the work that needs to be done to make sure that your child is safe. The child protection plan is in place to help you and your family, you will receive a copy of the plan along with the minutes of the conference.

The social worker will visit you at your home regularly to see how you are getting on; they will talk to you and will also talk to your child when they visit.

What happens after the conference?

If the professionals agree that a child protection plan is required a group of professionals (a Core Group) will meet on a regular basis to monitor the plan and make sure that the actions in the plan are being followed and that your child is safe.

After your child has been on a plan for three months there will be a meeting called a Review Child Protection Conference to see how things are progressing and decide if the plan needs to continue.

If your child stays on a plan then there will be a review conference every six months which will keep meeting until the professionals agree that your child is safe and no longer needs to have a plan in place.

If you have any further questions / queries about the conference please contact:
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