



Your Child Protection Conference

A guide for children and young people

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting arranged by your social worker when people working with you and your family are worried about your welfare and safety.

Professionals and members of your family come to the conference and talk about what they are worried about and find out more about the whole situation.

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

Who will be at the conference?

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 teacher, youth worker, doctor, or school nurse.

What will happen at the conference?

The Independent Chair will ask everyone in turn to talk about what they are worried about and also what is going well. People will share important information and the Chair will write the information on paper on the wall.

This information will help the professionals to decide whether you need to be subject to a child protection plan in order to protect your welfare and safety.

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 you are safe. The child protection plan is in place to help you and your family.

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 parent / carers.

How can I have my say?

It is important that the professionals who come to the conference are able to listen to your views.

If you come to the meeting you can:

- Talk to your social worker about the conference before it happens.
- Meet with the Independent Chair before the meeting to discuss how to put your views across.



- Ask for an advocate to go with you and help you have your say at the meeting. If you want an advocate you can ask your social worker, or you can refer to NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service) and ask for an advocate yourself. The contact details for NYAS are at the end of this leaflet.

If you do not want to come to the meeting you can ask your social worker, advocate or the Independent chair to share your views on your behalf.

It is your right:

- To be heard
- To feel safe and be safe

What happens after the conference?

If the professionals agree that a child protection plan will help to keep you safe a group of people called 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 you remain safe.

After you have 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 you need to continue to be on a plan.

If you stay on a plan then there will be a review conference every six months which will keep meeting until the professionals agree that you are safe and no longer need to have a plan in place.

NYAS Information

Helpline: 0808 808 1001

Website: www.nyas.net

Email: help@nyas.net