

Complaints

If you have a complaint please contact your Social Worker and a complaints leaflet will be made available to you. Complaints should be made in writing within 28 days of the Conference to:

Complaints Manager
Staffordshire County Council
Social Care and Health Directorate
The Walton Building
Martin Street
Stafford
ST16 2LH

www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Remember

- You are an important and valued person.
- Your views and feelings will be listened to and respected.

Further helpful information is available from:

- A Solicitor who is a member of the Law Society's Children's Panel.
- Your local Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Family Rights Group (advice line) Tel: 0800 7311 696
- Children's Legal Centre (child law) – Tel: 0845 120 2948

What happens after the Conference?

Within 10 working days after the Conference, you will get a copy of the notes taken by the minute taker if you attended the Conference.

The Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board is a partnership between:

Staffordshire County Council – Children and Lifelong Learning
Adult Social Care
District Councils
The Police
Probation
Youth Offending Services

Health
Connexions
CAFCASS
Young Offenders Institutes
The Voluntary Sector

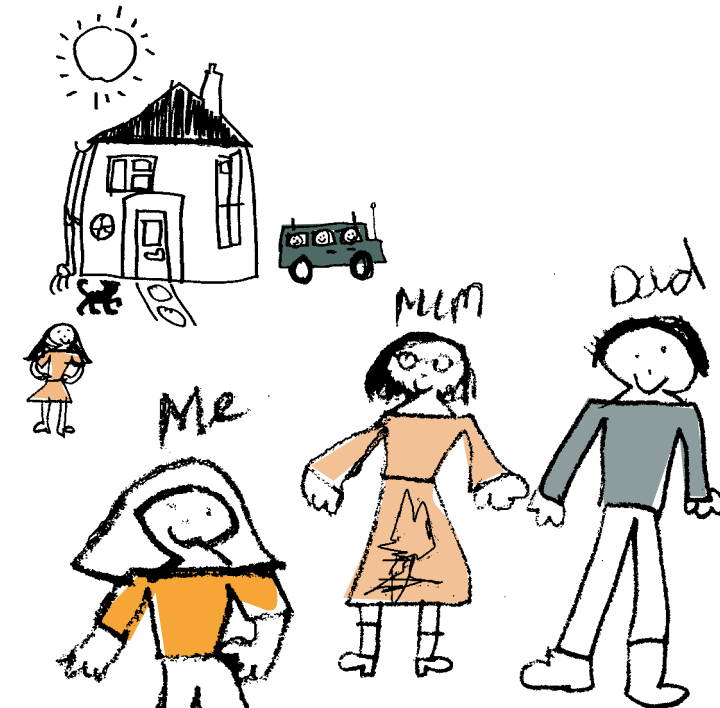
If you would like this document in another language or format, e.g. large text, please contact the Communications Team (Children and Lifelong Learning) on 01785 278666.

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Child Protection Conferences

Information for children and young people



Who will be at the Conference?

You will be invited but do not worry if you don't want to attend. You can tell your social worker what you want the Conference to know before it happens if you want to do this. Many people that you already know will be there including your parents or carers, a social worker and the police officer who has been working with you. Your doctor and a teacher you know may also be there and maybe other professional people. A person called a minute taker will be there to write down all that is said at the Conference.

You are the most important person at the Conference.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you can bring someone with you – it can be anyone who you think will make you feel comfortable, for example a member of your family or an adult who you trust.

What if English is not my first language?

The social worker will arrange for an interpreter to be there for you. This will make sure that everyone can understand how you feel and knows what has been happening.

What if I have speech, hearing or other difficulties?

The social worker will make sure there is a helper or special equipment so that you can take part in the Conference.

What will happen before the Conference?

Your social worker will talk to you about the report they have written about you. Just before the Conference starts the person in charge of the Conference (called the chairperson) will meet you to explain about the Conference and answer any questions you may have. The Conference is confidential and you will have your rights explained to you.

What will happen at the Conference?

The chairperson will ask everyone to introduce themselves. Then all of the people at the Conference will:-

- Read the social worker's report
- Talk about their involvement with you and your family
- Talk about whether they think you are safe at the moment
- Talk about what they may need to do to protect you
- Listen to you and respect your feelings and views
- Decide if you need a child protection plan

What if I do not agree with the Conference?

If you are not happy or do not agree with the discussion at the Conference, do not be afraid to make your views known or to get your supporter to speak for you.

What happens if I need to have a child protection plan?

A small group of people will spend time helping you and your family to sort out the difficulties. This group is called the core group. Their job is to write the child protection plan that explains what each person has agreed to do to make things better for you. You should have a copy of the plan in a way that you can understand.

What happens if I do not need a child protection plan?

If you do not need a child protection plan you can still have help and support. Your social worker will explain what help you can have to sort out some of the difficulties you have been having recently.