

- Your child's social worker will visit your home every 15 working days as a minimum (announced and unannounced). The social worker will want to see and talk to your child alone (subject to their age and understanding) during the visits.
- A Family Group Conference can also be arranged to help identify additional support within your own network.

Child Protection Review Conference

- The decision that your child no longer needs a child Protection plan can only be made at a Child Protection Review Conference.

What happens if my child does not need a child protection plan?

- If the decision is made that your child does not need a child protection plan you are still entitled to help and support for your family. Your social worker will discuss with you an appropriate plan.

What if I do not agree with the Conference?

- As we have previously explained, on hearing the information that is shared, the Conference will decide whether or not your child needs a child protection plan. You may be asked your views about the need for a child protection plan but the decision cannot be challenged.
- If you do not agree with the decision made at the conference you can have your views recorded.

Further helpful information is available from:

- A solicitor who works with children
- Your local Citizens Advice Bureau
- Family Rights Group (Advice Line)
Tel: 0808 801 0366
- Children's Legal Centre (Child Law)
Tel: 0808 802 000

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 to:

Customer Feedback and Complaints Officer – Children and Families Services,
Customer Feedback and Complaints Team, Staffordshire County Council,
2 Staffordshire Place,
Tipping Street,
Stafford
ST16 2DH

Contact Centre: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk

If you would like this document in another language of format, e.g. large text, please contact the Communications Team (Families First) on 01785 277135

Leaflet updated: March 2017

Child Protection Conferences

Information for Parents and Carers



What is an Initial Child Protection Conference

- A meeting where families and professional people meet to discuss concerns about your children and young people. This may be because of concerns about harm or abuse.

Child Protection Conferences

- Any 'follow-on' Conferences are known as Review Conferences
- At the Conference people will talk about what they are worried
- About what are the positives and what needs to change.

Who attends a Child Protection Conference?

- Parents and/or those who have parental responsibility or care of the child.
- The child or young person, if it is appropriate and if they are able to understand.
- A supporter – you may wish to bring a family member, friend or legal representative with you.
- An advocate for the child
- Professional people who are responsible for providing services for your child. This may include Health Visitor,
- School Nurse, General Practitioner, School Teacher, Police and Probation Officer.
- You will receive an invitation to the Conference along with a list of all the people who will be attending and/or providing reports

Can I attend?

Yes. Parents and carers should attend the meeting because their views and feelings are very important. However, there may be some circumstances where you may have to leave the meeting for a short time.

The reasons are as follows:

- When Police enquiries are incomplete.
- Where there is a concern that the Conference may be disrupted through violence or unacceptable behaviour.

What happens if English is not my first language?

- Your child's social worker will arrange with you for an interpreter to be present at the Conference. This will ensure that the people who are present know what you are saying and explain to you what is being said.

What happens if I have speech or hearing difficulties?

- Please let us know before the Conference so that we can arrange for an interpreter or special equipment so that you can fully take part in the meeting.

What can I do to prepare for the Conference?

- Your child's social worker will discuss everything with you before the Conference and will share their report with you. Your views should be included within this report.
- The chairperson will meet with you before the Conference to hear any concerns that you may have and to answer any questions.
- The chairperson will help you to take part and express your views, knowing that this can be difficult.

What can I expect from the Conference?

- The chairperson will ask everyone at the Conference to introduce themselves.

- A copy of the report from all professionals will be available and all of the people present will talk about their involvement with your family.
- We talk about what we are **worried about**, what are **the positives** and what **needs to change**. We will also talk about what it is like to be a child in your family.
- A decision will be then made about whether your child needs a child protection plan. The child protection plan ensures that all those concerned work together to ensure a child's welfare and to create change needed.

What happens if my child needs a child protection plan?

- A small group of people, called the Core Group, will be identified
- At the Conference as having an important role to play with you and your family. You will play an active part in this group.
- The plan will clearly state what each person has agreed to do to help to make sure that your child is safe.
- Core Groups meet every 4-6 weeks. The information will be reviewed at regular intervals, the first time within 3 months of the initial Conference and thereafter every 6 months while your child has a child protection plan.