

## CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS
- 2 FAMILY TREE (ECOMAP)
- 3 CHAIR EXPLAINS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE
- 4 FIRST QUESTION OF CONFERENCE GOES TO FAMILY AND CHILDREN
  - *Why do you think we are worried?*
- 5 SOCIAL WORKER PRESENTS DANGER STATEMENTS
  - *Return to parents to check understanding of above*
- 6 SOCIAL WORKER PRESENTS BEST EXAMPLES OF SAFETY
  - *Return to parents to check understanding of above*
- 7 SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION FROM PROFESSIONALS IN RELATION TO DANGERS, SAFETY AND STRENGTHS
- 8 SAFETY GOALS
  - *What do we need to see from the family to reduce concerns about the children?*
- 9 NEXT STEPS/SAFETY PLAN
  - *Who will do what and when, to keep the children safe?*
  - *What is happening to keep the children safe and well (EXISTING SAFETY)*
- 10 CONTINGENCY
- 11 CHAIRPERSONS SUMMARY
- 12 OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE/DECISION/CATEGORY
- 13 SET DATE FOR REVIEW CONFERENCE

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

This conference will treat everyone equally, with respect and no discrimination because of race, culture, ethnic or national origins, religious or political beliefs, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status or responsibility for dependents. The Chair, or other conference members through the Chair, will challenge any discrimination made by, or against, any conference participant. Violent and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated and persons will be asked to leave the meeting.

### REASONS FOR A CHILD BECOMING SUBJECT OF A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

- The child can be shown to have suffered ill treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment are likely; or...
- Professional judgement, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in the individual case or by research evidence, is that the child is likely to suffer ill treatment or the impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect.

### REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING THE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

- It is judged that the child is no longer at continuing risk of significant harm requiring safeguarding by means of a Child Protection Plan.
- Child has moved permanently to another local authority area. Only after the receiving authority has convened a conference may discontinuing the Child Protection Plan take place in respect of the original local authority's Child Protection Plan.
- The child has reached 18 years of age, has died or has permanently left the UK.

### CATEGORIES *(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)*

**Physical Abuse** is a form of significant harm and may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.

**Emotional Abuse** is a form of significant harm, which involves the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual Abuse** is a form of significant harm which involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the Internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect** is a form of significant harm, which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.