

Child Protection Conferences: Information for Children and Young People

This leaflet explains what happens at a Child Protection Conference.

1. What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is a meeting about you and your family. This is arranged when people, such as social workers, teachers or health professionals are worried about you and possibly your brothers and sisters. If we are worried about your safety we call a meeting to decide whether you and your family need help to keep you safe from harm.

If it is decided that there is a serious risk to your safety a Child Protection Plan will be made.

2. Who can attend the meeting?

Your parents are always invited to the meeting. Your social worker and other key people will also attend. This may be your teacher, doctor, school nurse or other professionals who know you and your family. We make sure that only people who need to know your situation are invited. Everyone is told that the meeting is confidential, in other words we make sure that they know that they should not talk to people about your family situation.

The Conference will be run by a senior person called the Chairperson. They will ask everyone to say how worried they are using a scale:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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0 – People are very worried 10 People are not worried

Those who come to the meeting will share information about you and your family, so that people can think about the good things in your life as well as what is worrying us.

At the end of the meeting everyone will decide whether we need a 'Child Protection Plan' to keep you safe from harm and help your family make important changes so that you are safe.

3. Can I go to the Child Protection Conference?

Yes. You are the most important person and your social worker will talk to you about attending. You may want to attend for all, part of the meeting or not at all. If you attend, the Chair, the social worker and everyone there will support you. Maybe you do not want to come to the meeting but are happy to talk to your social worker. You could bring an adult you trust and who can help you say what you want to say. This person is called an advocate.

It is very important that we hear what you think!

What you have to say about your family, your life at home and how you feel is very important to us. If you are not happy talking to a group of adults you can get help to do these things instead:

- Write down what you think
- Make a drawing that tells people how you feel or about something important that has happened
- Email us
- Come and meet the Chairperson before the meeting to talk to them

4. What is a Child Protection Plan?

It says what needs to happen to make things better for you and to keep you safe. This plan tells how everyone involved will work together with you and your family to make changes at home so that you are safe and healthy and cared for. The plan is the way we write down what needs to be done and who should do it. You will be able to read your plan or someone will talk to you about what is in it so you know what is happening.

We will then have regular meetings called **Core Groups** with your family to see how the plan is working and make sure that what needs to be done is done and things are getting better.

5. What is a Child in Need plan?

A child protection conference may decide there is no serious risk to your safety but that you and your family need extra support. A Child in Need plan says what this extra support will be.

6. What happens next?

Your Social Worker will meet with you to talk about the plan and what is going to happen. They will visit you and your family in your home to talk about whether life is getting better and safer for you. There will be Core Group meeting to make sure all things in the plan are happening.

A **Review Conference** will be held some months later to see if things are better for you and your family. It may be that there is a need for some more help to make sure you stay safe. In this case a there will be a further review a few months later to see if everyone is certain that you are now safe enough to end the plan.

7. Can the conference decide I will be taken away from my parents or carers?

No. The conference decides if there is a need for a plan to help everyone work with you and your family to keep you safe. Having a child protection plan does not mean you will be taken away from your family.

8. If you need help or want to ask more questions about this you can:

- Talk to your social worker, teacher or another professional you trust
- Contact the Children's Rights team
Children's free phone number: 08000 562 132
Children's text number: 07805 846 386
Children's email: be.heard@surreycc.gov.uk
- Speak with someone at Child line on 08001111 or www.childline.org.uk

My social worker is:

Name

Team

Contact number

Or contact Surrey Safeguarding Children Board: 01372 833330