



CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS & FAMILIES

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting held between families and services when there is concern about the safety of a child/ren within a family. As a parent/carer or family member, you are invited to attend the conference and we encourage you to take an active part. You may also bring someone with you for support, such as a member of your family or a close friend.

Who else will be at the meeting?

- An independent chairperson, who will lead the conference
- A note taker
- Other people from services that have involvement with your family e.g. social workers, health workers, police, teachers
- Sometimes people from other services are invited because of their particular expertise or background

What is the purpose of the meeting?

- Share information about your child's safety and wellbeing
- Assess whether your child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm or abuse or neglect
- Identify the strengths within your family
- Identify any support needed and who might be able to provide this, including family members, friends and professional services
- Identify changes you may need to make as a parent/carer to ensure the safety of your child.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

The Child Protection Plan will say what needs to change to make your child/ren safe and who will help you to do this. The people working with you are called the Core Group and are usually people already known by you or your family.

What is a Child in Need Plan?

The Child in Need Plan will say what the needs of your child/ren are, what services will be provided to help your family meet those needs, who will provide them and for how long. It will also say what outcomes are expected.

What happens at the meeting?

Before the conference starts, the chairperson will meet with you to discuss how the meeting will run and talk about the best way for you to contribute to the discussions. The chairperson will then speak with the conference members, including you, to outline:

- What is working well
- What people are worried about
- What complicates things
- How people may be able to help keep your child/ren safe and well.

You will be part of these discussions. After the discussion, a decision will be made about whether the risks to your child/ren are significant enough that a Child Protection Plan is needed or if your child/ren can be supported with a Child in Need Plan. You should leave the meeting clear about what, if anything, needs to happen and why things need to change.

The Child's Plan

Your child's plan will be developed throughout the meeting and any agreed actions will be recorded at the time they are discussed. The plan will include details of what needs to happen to change the current situation, to improve things for your child.

What happens after the conference?

You will be sent a copy of the plan of support agreed in the meeting and summary notes of the points discussed and the decisions made.

If a Child Protection Plan is made, you will be asked to attend regular meetings called Core Groups. At these meetings, you will look at the plan and discuss what progress has been made and what else still needs to be done. A Review Child Protection Conference will be held after three months and then at six-monthly intervals for as long as your child needs a Child Protection Plan.

Where can I get more information & advice?

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership website: [Overview of the Parents, Carers & The Community page](#) | NSCP | PC&TC (norfolklscp.org.uk)

If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, let your social worker know and we will do our best to help you.