## 4.1 [Consultations](#_Consultations)

**Consultation with Child Protection Conference Chair Service**

A consultation with a Child Protection Chair is an opportunity for a social work manager and social worker to spend time with an experienced Child Protection Chair to discuss complex and complicating factors within the experiences of children and their families. The consultation is an opportunity to use a case mapping approach to explore current information, understand the gaps, and help think about what the best next steps may be to work with the children and their family.

**How can you access a Consultation?**

Send an email request for a consultation to CPC consultation inbox.

North / West:  *CPC Consultations NW – CY* *cpcconsultationsnw@kent.gov.uk*

South / East: *CPC Consultations SE – CY* *cpcconsultationsse@kent.gov.uk*

1. The Child Protection Coordinator will allocate the consultation to the duty CPC
2. The Child Protection Chair will contact the requesting social worker within 24hours and arrange a suitable time for the consultation.
3. After the consultation the Child Protection Chair will record the consultation on the child’s Liberi record within 48 hours.

**Suggested headings to be used:**

* **Previous CP**
* **Previous CIN**
* **Previous proceedings**
* **Previous CLA**
* **Brief history – What is working well? What are the concerns?**
* **What work has been completed with the family to prevent the case escalating to a Child Protection Conference?**
* **Other agency involvement**
* **Family safety plan**

Our aim is that a consultation with the Child Protection Chairs Service will support district decision making and planning however the District Social Work Team remain responsible for decision making including whether the family will be presented at an initial child protection case conference.

**Things to consider:**

* **Consultations should take place prior to a Strategy discussion.**
* **Consultations should not be requested when a decision to progress to ICPC has already been made.**