



Working together

to keep children safe

Child protection conference

Information for parents/carers & families

Contact information

Your child's social worker is:

The contact number is:



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. You may hear the words Signs of Safety mentioned, this is a method we use to ensure everyone thinks about your child/ren's life and their safety.

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 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 individuals from other services (who you may not have met before) are invited because of their particular expertise or background

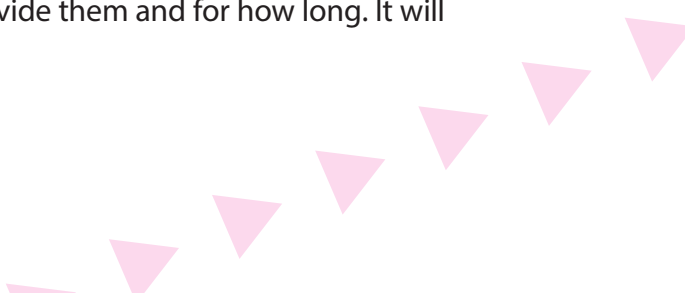
What is the purpose of the meeting?

- 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 by your family and identify who might be able to provide this, including family members, friends and professional services
- Identify changes you may need to make to ensure the safety of your child
- Decide if your child needs to have a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need plan

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.

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 also ask you to help draw a diagram of your family tree on a board, which will be put at the front of the room.

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 and if there are things that are not clear
- How people may be able to help keep your child/ren safe and well

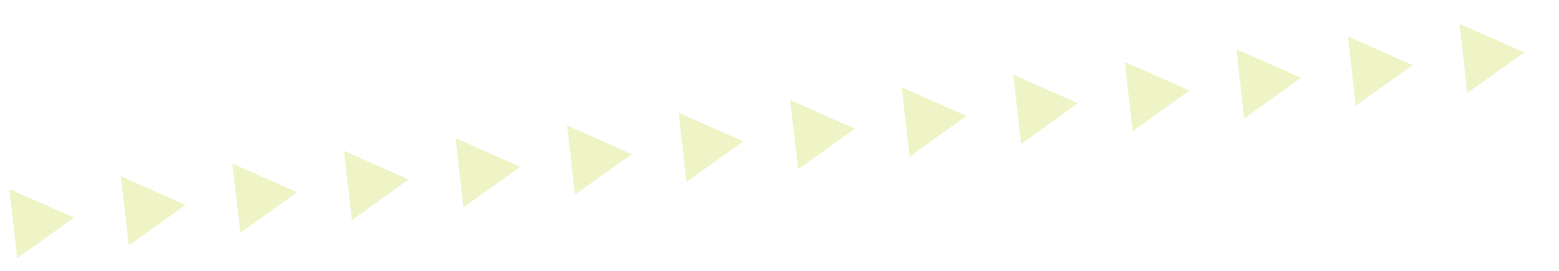
You will be part of these discussions. The chairperson will write the important points on a board, so everyone is able to remember what is said.

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.

Decision making

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 conference clear about what, if anything, needs to happen and why things need to change.



What happens after the conference?

You will be sent a copy of the notes after the conference. 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 and advice? More information can be found on the KSCB website: www.kscb.org.uk if you would like to offer feedback on the Child Protection Conference, please complete the feedback form provided at the conference.

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

If I want to speak to a social worker after 5pm or at the weekend, I can call 03000 411111

Customer Care Team - 03000 410 304 cscomplaints@kent.gov.uk If you wish to make a complaint or share a compliment.

Family Rights Group 08088010366

Offers a free, confidential advice service for families whose children are involved with Social Services

