**CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE**

**Confidentiality**

Please remember that information shared at the conference is confidential. It should only be shared with workers bound by professional confidentiality and only when it is necessary to carry out the Child Protection Plan or protect any child.

**Equal access to services**

Equal opportunity requires that Cumbria County Council recognises and respects cultural and religious diversity and serves all members of the local community making special provision where this is necessary. It is expected that all members of the conference are treated with respect and courtesy and that derogatory language and behaviour will be challenged.

**AGENDA**

### Initial Child Protection Conference

**Introductions and apologies**

1. Consideration of:
   - Confidentiality
   - Equal Opportunities
   - Agenda
2. Events that have led to the conference being called.
3. A chronology of significant family events and previous contact with services
4. Reports on:
   - The child’s health and development and an analysis of their current needs
   - The parents and carers’ ability to safeguard the child from harm and meet their care needs;
   - The wider family environment
5. Discussion of:
   - Is any child suffering or likely to suffer significant harm
   - Does any child need services to support their welfare?
6. Chairperson’s summary.
7. Analysis of Risk and Protective factors
   Chair to ask conference if they feel a plan is required, and if so, would a CIN or CP Plan be more effective and appropriate?
8. Chairperson confirms points agreed for the plan and/or services the family should receive
9. Child Protection Planning and appointment of a Key Worker
10. Decision on Core Group membership and date of first Core Group Meeting

### Review Child Protection Conference

**Introductions and apologies**

1. Consideration of:
   - Confidentiality
   - Equal Opportunities
   - Agenda
2. Reminder of the reasons for Child Protection Planning and the category.
3. Review of the Child Protection Plan including dates when the children and family seem.
4. Summary of significant events and any child protection concerns which have arisen since the last conference.
5. Core Group report on:
   - The child/ren’s needs
   - The carers’ ability to meet those needs
   - The impact of the wider environment on the children’s day to day lives
6. Re-assessment of
   - Each child’s needs to be safeguarded from harm
   - Each child’s need for services to support their welfare.
7. Chairperson’s Summary
9. Chairperson to refer to thresholds
10. Chairperson confirms the updated Plan and/or services the family should receive.
11. Decision on continued Child Protection Planning
Criteria for Child Protection Planning:

- Is the child at continuing risk of significant harm

  ‘The child concerned is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, and that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to...the care given to the child, or likely to be given to him if the order were not made, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give him...’

The test should be either:

- The child can be shown to have suffered ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional or 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 this individual case or by research evidence, that the child is likely to suffer ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect.

CATEGORIES:

Physical Abuse
Physical abuse 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, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional abuse
Emotional abuse is a persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s 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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on the children. It may involve causing children to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of the child although it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse
Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non penetrative acts. They may involve non contact activities such as involving the children in looking at or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet the child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

Following registration, the Chair should determine under which category of abuse the child’s name will be registered. The category will indicate the primary presenting concerns at the time of registration.

A child should no longer be the subject of a Child Protection Plan if:-

- It is judged that the child is no longer at risk of significant harm. (For example, the likelihood of harm has been reduced by action taken through the Child Protection Plan; the child and family’s circumstances have changed; or re-assessment of the child and family indicates that a Child Protection Plan is not necessary.) Under these circumstances only a Child Protection Review Conference can decide that a Child Protection Plan is no longer necessary.
- The child and family have moved permanently to another Local Authority area.
Or
- The child has reached 18 years of age, has died or has permanently left the UK.