

What will happen next?

- At the end of the conference the professionals will make a decision about which plan will best suit the needs of your child either a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need Plan.
- Both types of plans are to support your child. Changes will need to be made and an action plan will be outlined with timescales and who is responsible for each action.
- A Child Protection Plan is serious. If you do not cooperate with a Child Protection Plan legal advice will be taken and the matter may have to go to Court.
- A Child in Need Plan will have everything a child protection plan would offer your child, but the regular meetings and visits may be less frequent.
- There will be a core group of people set up who will work with you to support your child. You will be aware of who is involved in this group and will be provided with all professional's details during the conference.
- At the end of the meeting a review date will be set for the next conference. This is usually in 12 weeks' time. This meeting will be to review the progress of the plan. It is not usual to remove a child from a child protection plan at this meeting.

Information sharing

Derbyshire county council wants to be confident that it treats any information you share with us with respect. As a rule information about you and your family will only be shared with your consent. However, there may be times when a worker needs to share information without your consent.

- If they need to urgently find out if a child is at risk of harm
- To help a child or adult who is at risk of harm
- To help prevent or detect serious crime

What if I do not agree?

You might not agree with everything that is said at the conference, but we hope that you feel you have been able to take part and that you have been listened to. The Chair will not allow people to be angry, threatening, or disruptive at any point in the conference process.

You should try to discuss the reasons you do not agree with the social worker or with someone you feel is independent such as a Solicitor.

It is helpful to speak to someone if you are not happy with the conference process.

Social worker contact details

A Guide for Parents and Carers

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERNCES



If Social Care have been made aware by the police, health, schools, or other agencies, including members of the public that there are concerns that a child may have suffered or be likely to suffer significant harm. (Children Act 1989) they have a duty to investigate. This is called a Section 47 investigation.

When they start their investigation, they need to decide, with other agencies, if the worries are great enough to hold a Child Protection Conference

What is a Child Protection Conference?

- A Child Protection Conference is a meeting, involving you and professionals who work with your child, where a discussion can be held around the safety and care of your child.
- Worries and concerns about your child being at risk of harm will be discussed in the conference.
- A place where you are supported to think about things through your child's eyes.
- Where you are supported to make good plans to change or improve your child's life.
- Where you will be supported to get involved with services that you and your child would find useful.

What happens before the conference takes place?

- The Conference will take place, usually within 15 days of the Investigation for a first (Initial) conference. At least 2 days before conference you will be provided with reports from Social Care and any other agencies who might have contact with your child.
- You can bring a friend or family member for support, or you can bring a solicitor.
- You will be asked to complete the Safety and Well-being Grid and bring it to Conference. The Social Worker will help you so you can think about it and give some thought to it before the conference.
- The Chair will talk to you before the conference starts to ensure you understand the conference process.

You should always have time to know what people are saying in their reports so that you understand fully what their worries are about your child.

Will my child be at the conference?

- It is important that all children are represented at conference and that they can take part in a way that is best for them.
- They can take part in lots of different ways; they could meet the Chair, be at a part of conference or say what they think in other ways helped by the Social Worker or a special Advocate.

- Young children should NOT be at Conference; children and babies are easily upset by things that are different for them. The Social Worker will talk to you about making other arrangements.

What will it be like?

- You will talk with the Conference Chair this will either be in person, virtually via MS teams or though a telephone call.
- They will spend time with you to get a picture of who is in your family and friends' group at home. All attendees at the conference will be introduced to you.
- The Social Worker will say what brought us to conference and what are we worried about. You will be able to say your views. Everyone will be asked about; the risks, what might help, what good would look like and what needs to change.
- You will all be asked what it might feel like for the child and what could happen if things don't improve.
- The Chair will make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- As the meeting progresses, a summary of the meeting and a Plan will develop to outline what has been said during the conference.
- A decision will then be made by professionals about what kind of Plan should be made. This depends on the risks and likely harm to your child.