

Your social worker will visit you at home or sometimes it will be away from home. You can see your social worker without your mum, dad or carer being with you.

You might want someone else to be with you or to talk for you. Your social worker can help with this and can arrange for you to have someone called an advocate to support you. Your social worker will explain this to you.

If you want to talk to someone, you can call your social worker:

Your social worker's name:

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Their email address:

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Their phone number:

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## What happens next?

Everyone will follow the plan and you will have meetings with everyone who is involved. Your social worker will help you to join in the meetings. Or you might want to use texts, email or write down how you feel.

There will be a Core Group meeting every four weeks or so. This is to help everyone to make sure that the plan is working.

Whatever the kind of plan, we want you to be as involved as you'd like to be. If it's a child protection plan, you can attend the conference and you can speak to the chairperson at any time.



**Derby and Derbyshire**  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

## A Guide for Children and Young People

# Child Protection Conferences



This guide will help you to understand what will happen at a child protection conference. Your social worker or someone else you feel okay with can help you go through the guide so you know what will happen.

### Why have I been given this leaflet?

- ◆ People are worried about things that have been happening to you at home.
- ◆ A social worker should go through this guide with you. You might want to take time to read it first and then you can talk about it with them. You might want someone like your teacher to be with you and that would be okay.
- ◆ This guide will help you to understand what is going to happen next.
- ◆ There will be a meeting called a child protection conference. This is where people will get together to talk about the worries they have about you or your family.
- ◆ There will be people from school or college, health or other people who know you. Your mum or dad or carer will be invited and they can bring someone to support them.
- ◆ You will be asked how you would like be involved in the meeting.

### Will this mean I can't live with my family?

If the people at the meeting think you are not being looked after properly and are not safe, they will have to make a plan to protect you. Sometimes it isn't safe to be at home until things are sorted out. If you can't stay at home, your social worker will talk to you about who you could stay with. This could be other family or friends.

### What happens at the conference?

Everyone will have a say. This includes your mum, dad or carer, but it is important to listen to you as well. Even if you don't want to be at the conference, it is important you have your say.

You can have your say by:

- ◆ Being at a part of the conference. You will be able to have someone to support you.
- ◆ Even if you don't go to the conference, you will be helped to say what you think. Your social worker can speak for you or you can write it down. Your social worker will talk to you about other ways of saying what you want, like texting or emailing.
- ◆ You can speak to the person who will run the conference, this is the chairperson. They will make sure everyone understands what the problems are. If you decide to come to the conference, they will talk to you before it starts and they will make sure you are okay.

- ◆ The chairperson will also talk to your mum, dad or carer before the meeting and explain the same things to them.
- ◆ Everyone will talk about the things they think have been good and that work well. They will also say what they have been worried about. They will ask how things are for you and your brothers or sisters, if you have any.
- ◆ A plan will be made which will say what needs to happen to make things better at home for everybody. It could be a child protection plan or a child in need plan. The social worker will explain the difference to you.
- ◆ Everyone will decide who will do what and how we will know if things are getting better.
- ◆ A special group of people will be asked to work with your family to help with the plan. This is called a Core Group.
- ◆ You will have a social worker who will make sure you take part in the plan and the meetings so that you can always have your say.