

Explaining Pre-Proceedings



You're now on a plan called a **pre-proceedings plan**. This is because services that know your family are worried that your needs are not being met safely or properly and due to this we feel you are experiencing significant harm. We have tried to support your parents and carers to make changes before this, but this has not happened.



What is it?

Pre-proceedings is a process that we have, to give your parents or carers a last chance to make the changes being asked of them to keep you safe and meet your needs. It is the last step before having to go to court if we continue to be worried about you.



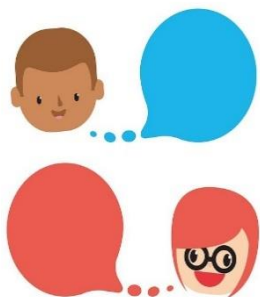
Your parents or carers will need to attend pre-proceedings meetings it is very **important** that they attend because we will tell them what services are **worried** about and what **changes** they **need** to make in these meetings.



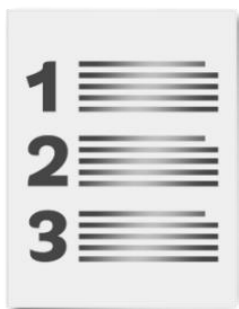
Your parents or carers won't need to attend on their own, so don't worry. They will be supported at the pre-proceedings by a **family law solicitor** to represent them and give them advice.



You parents or carers won't need to worry about how to pay for a solicitor as they will get **Legal Aid**. This means that they **do not** have to **pay** for a solicitor, it is **free**.



Your **voice and views** are very important to us, you can speak to your Social Worker about your views on how things are for you at home, or you can tell your advocate your views who will make sure these are heard at the pre-proceedings meetings.

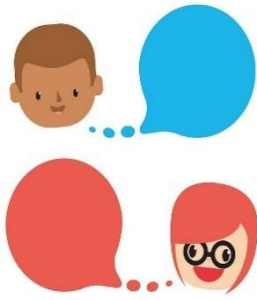


What will happen at these meetings?

- Children's Services will give your parents and carers an action plan.
- This will tell them what jobs need to be done, who needs to do them and when these need to be done by.
- At the meetings we will go through the list of jobs so see if things are being done.



Pre-proceedings can last up to **16 weeks**. But it could be shorter or longer than this.



Your Social Worker will continue to see you at least every 4 weeks at home during this time. Your Social Worker will want to know how you are feeling, be open and honest, so they can help you with any worries or questions you have.



Remember **not** all cases in pre-proceedings go to Court, if this is going to happen your Social Worker will tell you this and explain what will happen next.