

Making an Appeal

Details of your appeal should be sent to: **Directorate Safeguarding Manager. Po Box 61. County Hall, Preston PR1 8RJ**

Who will consider your appeal

The appeal will be considered by the Directorate Safeguarding Manager and a member of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board. Following consideration of your appeal a decision will be made whether to:

- Uphold your appeal and reconvene the Child Protection Conference to reconsider the decision made.
- Not uphold your appeal. In which case the original recommendations of the Child Protection Conference will stand.

For more information
about this service visit
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/
safeguardingchildrenboard](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard)

Any Further Questions

We hope this leaflet has explained how professionals and families work together to ensure that children and young people are kept safe.

If you have any further questions, please speak to your social worker.

If you need this information in another language we will arrange a translation. Information can also be made available in an easy read format for people who have a learning disability and large braille or audiotape.



A Family Guide to the Child Protection System

This booklet aims to help you understand how the
child protection system works in Lancashire



Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board



Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board brings together the main organisations that work with children and families in Lancashire with the aim of ensuring they work together to help keep children safe.



For more information about the LSCB
see [www.lancashire.gov.uk/
safeguardingchildrenboard](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard)

Why enquiries are being made about your child(ren)

A concern for your child's welfare has been raised with Lancashire Children's Social Care.

Where it is suspected that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm a **Strategy Discussion** is held involving Children's Social Care, the police, health and other appropriate agencies. A decision will be made as to whether further enquires are necessary (**under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989**).

"What will happen?"

The Section 47 Enquiry

A social worker and sometimes a police officer will visit and talk to you and your child(ren). They will discuss the concerns and talk with you about any support you and your child(ren) may need. They will also need to talk to other professionals who know your family, such as your doctor, health visitor and someone from your child's school.



It is very unusual for anyone to have to leave home. This would only happen if professionals believed that a child was in immediate danger.

Sometimes the child stays at home and an adult may be asked to live somewhere else during the enquiries. Usually no emergency action is needed and your child can stay at home. You may also be offered extra support.

However, if it is felt that your child is at immediate risk of significant harm, both the police and Children's Social Care have a legal duty to protect your child and if necessary can seek a legal order through the court. An Emergency Protection Order, means that they can remove your child from your care for up to 8 days. An Interim Care Order could be up to 8 weeks. Where a child is in immediate risk of danger, the police have protection powers to remove a child.

How is my child involved?

Your child's views are very important.

A social worker will talk to them on their own to discuss their wishes and feelings about their situation. They may also talk to their brothers and sisters and any other children living in the household.

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Medical examinations

Your child may have a medical examination as part of the Section 47 Enquiry. This will normally be with a paediatrician. Usually parents are asked to be with their child when they see the doctor unless it is not in the child's best interests. You also have the right to have an independent medical examination of your child, but you would arrange and pay for this yourself. You can contact the Family Rights Group for advice.



What happens after the Section 47 Enquiry is completed?

One of three things can happen after the enquiry:

- No further action is taken.
- Support is offered to the family.
- A multi-agency Child Protection Conference is held if it is felt that your child(ren) are at continuing risk of significant harm.

The Child Protection Conference

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting to discuss concerns that have been raised about the safety and welfare of your child(ren).

The meeting will decide whether your child(ren) are at continuing risk of significant harm and whether your family needs any additional support/ services. The meeting should last no more than 2 hours but can sometimes take longer.

Everything that is said
at the meeting is
confidential

Who will be at the conference?

Parents and children will be invited to attend. Other family members may also be invited if this is appropriate.

Sometimes family members may be excluded from all or part of the meeting if it is considered that it is not in the best interests of the child(ren). If you have concerns about any family member attending you should speak to your social worker.

There will be a chairperson, social worker, police officer, health and educational representatives and anyone else who may be working with you or your family. There will also be somebody there to take notes of the conference. You will receive a copy of these following the meeting.



Before the meeting

You can write down your own views for the meeting

You will get a letter confirming the date, time and place of the meeting. If you have any problems attending or need child care support please speak to your social worker.

The social worker will write a report explaining the reason for the conference and their assessment. They will include information about your family and any previous concerns. They will also include your views about what has happened and your child(rens) wishes and feelings.

Their report will also make a recommendation as to whether a **Child Protection Plan** is required. The social worker should meet with you at least two days before the conference to go through the report.

Other professionals will also have written reports about their involvement with your family. They should also have discussed their report with you.

Your view's are important and you should attend the conference. You can write down your views for the meeting. If you need help with this please ask your social worker. They will discuss with your child how their views will be presented to the meeting. There are separate leaflets for children and young people about Child Protection Conferences to support them to participate.

