



Children's Duty Team

Your worker's name

Your worker's contact details

This leaflet has been put together to show the journey that you and your family might go through when a referral is made to Children's Social Care.

If you have any questions or concerns about the possible journey ahead please talk to us.

Children's Duty
0116 305 0005

Children's Social Care Journey



Step 1

Someone has contacted Children's Social Care because they have a worry about a child who may not be safe, has been hurt or hurting themselves, or is not being looked after in a way that keeps them healthy.

A Social Worker will look into this, and figure with you out what needs to happen.

Step 2

If the Social Worker thinks that the child is safe and well then nothing more will happen.

If they think that the child and family would benefit from some help then they will see what can be offered by local groups or by Early Help.

If they are worried that the child is not safe and some extra help is needed then they will and talk to the child and family.

Step 3

The Social Worker will check with the family that it is OK to talk to other people who know the child – but there are times when they need to speak to the child without asking if it is OK if they think the child is not safe.

The Social Worker will talk to the child, family, and others who know them really well (like School, Health Visitor, GP).

They will speak about the worries and ask the child and family what they think has worried people.

This is to help them find out how best to support the child and the family.

Step 4

Everyone's views will be put together in a report to look at how best to support the child and their family. The family will be given a copy and asked what they think

It will look at what works well in the family, what the worries are, and what needs to happen next.

Step 5

If Children's Social Care decide the child is safe and well then nothing more will happen.

They may tell you about some local groups that may help or from Early Help.

Step 9

Everyone will come back together to see if the plan is still needed.

If everything is going well the plan will end with support from the family's network and services. If there are still some worries then the plan will continue for a further period.

If things have not improved as hoped or have got worse then Children's Social Care may need to ask a Judge about the next steps, while the family work on the worries.

Step 8

Once it is decided that a Child Protection Plan is needed, then the chair of the meeting will help everyone put the plan together.

The Social Worker, the family, and other people who best know the family and are part of the making the plan work will meet soon after the Child Protection Conference in a smaller meeting called a Core Group, where everyone agrees who will do what by when.

The Core Group will meet regularly to check out how the plan is working.

Step 7

Children's Social Care may decide that things are so worrying that steps need to be taken to keep the child safe.

They will talk to the family about these worries and what actions they need to take, and if they are still worried then a Child Protection Conference will take place.

This meeting will decide what happens next, this could be that needs some extra help for a time. But, if everyone decides it is not safe enough then a Child Protection Plan will be put in place.

The family can bring along someone to support them and be helped to put together their best ideas as to what they can do to make sure the child is safe.

Step 6

They may decide that something more direct is needed for child and their family to help things improve.

They will ask for a meeting to put together a Child in Need Plan. The child's family, wider family, friends and others who can help (eg Teacher, Health Visitor) will help put a plan together.