

## Child Protection Conferences

### Additional Local protocols

#### **Decision making**

The Conference Chair must ensure that the decision about the need for a Child Protection Plan takes account of the views of all agencies represented at the conference and also takes into account any written contributions that have been made. This discussion will normally take place with the parents/carers present.

The decision will be taken by professionals attending the conference, i.e. those eligible to be counted for the purposes of establishing a quorum (see [Section 3](#)); for example, this will not include the child, parents, carers, supporters although they may be asked to comment on the strengths, concerns, risks, future plans and protection.

**Where there is no consensus, the decision will normally be made by a simple majority. Where a majority decision cannot be reached, the Conference Chair will make the decision.**

The Conference Chair must ensure that all members of the conference are clear about the conclusions reached, the decision taken and recommendations made, and that the conference minutes accurately reflect the discussions, the decision and, where relevant, the reasons for the Conference Chair exercising his or her decision-making powers.

Any dissent by professionals at the conference must be recorded in the conference minutes (see also [Section 12](#)).

If parents/carers disagree with the decision, this also must be recorded in the minutes and the Conference Chair must discuss the issue with them and explain their right to and the process for challenge – see [Complaints About Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#).

#### **CSE**

At the point of a child becoming looked after under s20 of the 1989 Children Act and the child is not subject to a Child Protection Plan; where there are complicated circumstances, including when children have been a victim of CSE, an ICPC should be held and a Child Protection Plan considered. The ICPC will take account of continuing or future risk.