

How is an advocate different from a social worker ?

An advocate is independent which means they don't work for social services or schools or anyone else.

An advocate will only talk about what you want to say and not what they think.

Social Workers are trying to work out what is best for you and your family, whereas an advocate just listens and passes on what you say.

Your voice matters !!!

When your family is involved in the Child Protection process you have a right to be listened to and have your views taken seriously. But sometimes it is difficult to say how you feel and to know who to talk to.

An advocate is an independent adult who will listen to what you want to say. They will then help you to feel confident to say things for yourself or speak for you. They will make sure that your views are heard at meetings where decisions are made about you. You can also speak to your Social Worker or the Child Protection chair before the Child Protection conference.

How do I request an advocate?

You can ask your Social Worker, Child Protection Chair or school to request an advocate for you or you can do it yourself via the following link:

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/young-northants/children-in-care/Pages/childrens-rights.aspx>



This leaflet can be made available in large print, Braille, or in other languages on request.



Children, Young People and Families at the heart of all we do.



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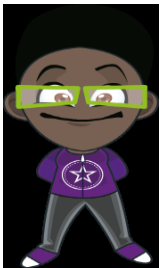
Child Protection Conference

A guide for children and young people.



What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection conference happens if a child is at risk from harm.



It is important that children are helped to grow into confident, healthy and happy adults. At the conference it will be discussed what is going well for you and your family, what we are worried about and what needs to change.

What is a Child Protection Plan?



At the end of the meeting there will be an agreed plan to help your family to make positive changes. If the conference agrees that you are at risk and a plan is

needed to protect you, you will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan.

A Child Protection Plan is a plan of things that need to be done to make you safer:



What are you worried about?	What's working well?	What needs to happen?
Harm - What has happened that worries us? Complicating factors – what makes things more complicating?	Safety – when harm is present, who/what happens to make sure the children aren't hurt/harmed? Strengths – what are the strengths within the family/ situation?	Safety Goal – what do we need to see to know the children are safe? Next Steps – What are we going to do to reach our goals?
On a scale of 0-10, where 10 means there are no real concerns about the child and family and 0 means that things are so unsafe for the child, immediate action needs to be taken, where would you scale this today? 0 _____ 10		

The Plan will be reviewed regularly and will end when professionals who know you agree that you are safe.

The Conference may decide that you and your family need support, but a Child Protection Plan is not needed. If this is the case, a Child In Need Plan will be suggested instead.



Who attends Child Protection conferences?

This is a meeting between family members and people from different agencies, for example; school, school nurse, Police - some who may already know you and your family.

Do I have to come to Child Protection conferences?

If you are aged 12+ you will usually be invited to attend. But it is your **choice** whether you attend or not.

You can request an advocate who can go to the meeting with you if you want to go, or they can represent your views at the meeting for you.