

You may not agree with how this is being done and you are entitled to complain about how the Conference was run or managed. The chairperson or your child/children's social worker will let you know how you can do this.

Useful contacts

Citizens Advice Bureau:
Tel: 03444 111 444

Family Lives (formerly Parentline Plus):
Tel: 01623 494320

Family Rights Group:
Tel: 0808 801 0366

For any questions about the Child Protection Conference, please contact:

Your child/ren's social worker:
Tel:

The Conference chairperson:
Tel: 01604 363380
Email: SQAS@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Your Child Protection Conference will be held on:

Date:
Time:
Place:

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board

One Angel Square
4 Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

Tel: 01604 364036
Email: nscb@northamptonshire.gov.uk

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



Child Protection Conference

A guide for parents and carers

October 2017



What is a Child Protection Conference?

It is a meeting to consider your child or children's needs and your family's circumstances. It is being held because professionals have worries about the safety of a child or children that are either in your home or you are a parent of.

The Conference will share information about the concerns, discuss how serious the risks are and what kind of support is needed to keep your child/ren safe.

Professionals such as your child/ren's social worker, a teacher or health visitor who attend the meeting, will be asked to write a report and reports will be shared at the meeting. The meeting is confidential and only people who need to know will attend and be given reports.

The meeting will discuss:

- What people are worried about regarding the safety of your child
- What is going well for you and your family
- What needs to be done, by whom to keep your children safe in the future

The meeting will be led by an independent chairperson who will meet with you beforehand to make sure you know what will happen and how you can say what you want to say. Someone will take notes, and these will be sent to you and everyone else who attends.

Who will be at the meeting?

Parents or carers usually attend Conferences. Sometimes the chairperson will have a reason why a parent or carer should not attend, or might ask you to leave for a short time.

Children/young people sometimes attend. This should be discussed with the social worker in advance.

Professionals such as the social worker and other professionals, such as a teacher or health visitor will attend, and a representative from the police will usually attend the first Conference.

Can I bring someone with me?

You can bring one friend, relative or solicitor to give you support. The chairperson will talk with you both about their role in the meeting.

How will my views be heard?

Your views are an important part of the meeting and you will have a chance to tell the meeting what you think. If you need one, we can arrange an interpreter or signer.

If you are not able to attend, you can ask your social worker to pass your views on to the meeting, or you can email or write to the chairperson who will consider your letter and decide whether and how it should be shared with the conference.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

If the Conference agrees that your child is at risk of significant harm, and a plan is needed to protect them, they will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan. This does not affect your legal rights as a parent or your responsibility for your child.

A Child Protection Plan is a plan of things that need to be done to make your children safer. The Plan will be reviewed regularly and will end when a conference makes the decision your child/children are no longer in need of the Child Protection Plan.

The Conference may decide that your child/children remain in need of support, but a Child Protection Plan is not needed. If this is the case, a Child In Need Plan may be proposed instead.

What if I don't agree with any of this?

It is normal to feel worried about a Child Protection Conference or plans made there. It is very likely that you agree that it is important to make sure your child/children are safe and their needs met. *(please turn over)*