



Understanding *the*



Child Protection Process



Northamptonshire
County Council



Northamptonshire
Safeguarding Children Board

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

A child protection conference happens after an investigation by social services.



If a child is at risk from harm then a conference is called for.

The conference looks at what has happened and why and then comes up with a child protection plan.

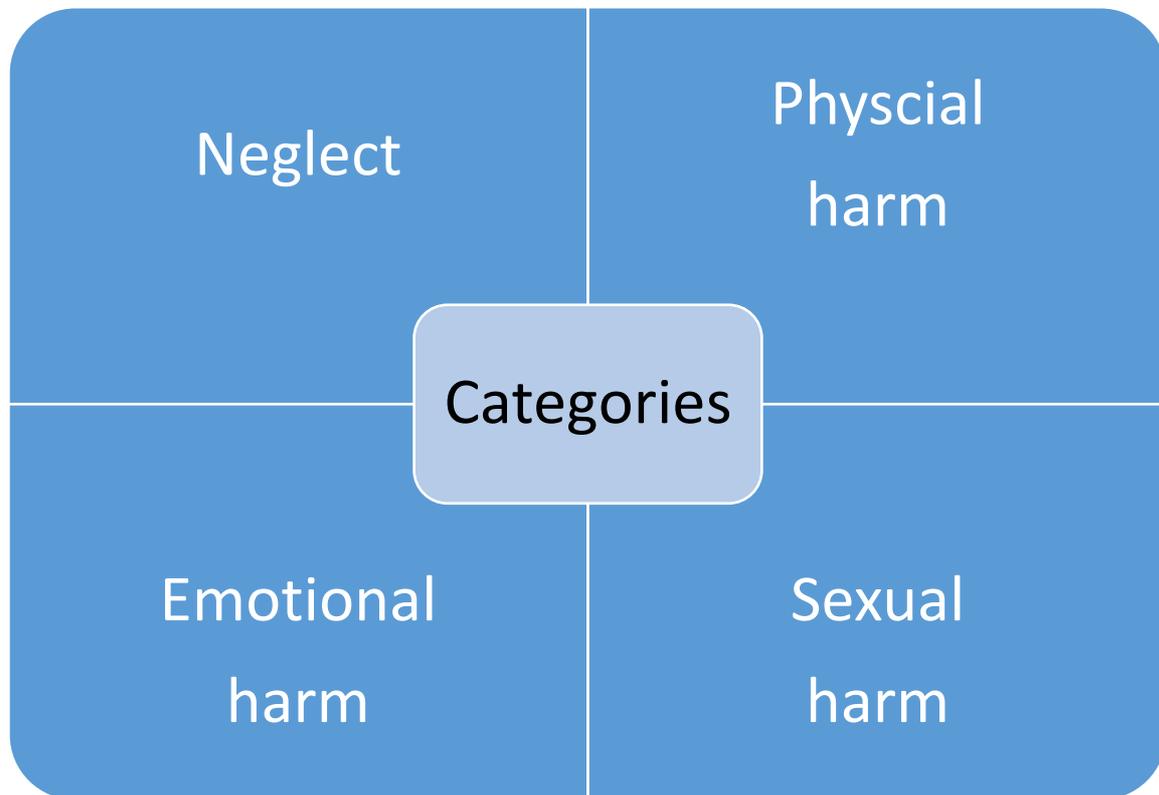
The plan helps to support the safety and welfare of all the children that are involved.

It is important that children are helped to grow into confident, healthy and happy adults.

This is a meeting between family members and people from the different agencies, some who may already know the family.



Child protection concerns are varied and are in the following categories:-



The category is important so that you know what risks your child is facing.

Professionals will discuss the level of risk to your child, this can mean that your child is at risk now or could be at risk of one or more of the above in the future if things do not change.

PERSONS WHO MAY ATTEND CONFERENCE
THESE MAY BE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE
FAMILY:

- CHILD
- CHAIRPERSON
- CHILD'S SOCIAL WORKER
- MOTHER / FATHER / MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
- POLICE
- DOCTORS
- HEALTH VISITORS
- SCHOOL
- ADVOCATE FOR PARENTS

THE CHAIRPERSON



The chairperson will make sure everyone knows whose turn it is to speak and that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

THE SOCIAL WORKER



The social worker works with the child and parents and will normally prepare reports ready for the meeting. They will also work with other professionals and request reports from them. These reports help to decide what is best for the child after the discussions in the meeting. A plan will be agreed in the conference about the future support and work with parents to keep your child safe.

DOCTOR and HEALTH VISITOR



The health visitor together with the doctors will usually support the parents with information and advice around good health and development for the child.

YOUR CHILD / THEIR ADVOCATE



If your child is over 13 years old they will get an invitation and can attend the Conference if they want. Any child over 10 years old can also request an advocate to speak on their behalf. Your Social Worker can make a referral for this service.

MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY



Some of your family might be asked to come along because they see you more than the social workers and will know where you might be struggling and can offer you support in making changes. If your family are worried about you and your child they might tell the social workers things that you might not want them to. They are just trying to help you and your child have a better life together.

PEOPLE WHO MAKE REPORTS FOR THE MEETING



Some people may have been asked to write reports for the meeting, they may or may not be at the meeting. These might be Psychologists, Doctors, Family support workers, School etc.

SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY YOU OR AN ADVOCATE



You can take a suitable person with you to offer you support and help you to understand what is happening. This person can be your advocate and can speak up for you if you are not able to.

What Should I Expect

At the end of the meeting there will be:



- An agreed plan to protect your child.
- An appointed key worker to guide you.
- A core group to work with you.

The meeting will be confidential which means that the information gathered cannot be shared with people who are not involved with you or your child.



Professionals will share information during the meeting.

A decision will be made at the end of the discussion on the level of risk to the child. If professionals think your child is at high risk a child protection plan will be made.

If the risk is not high a child in need plan will be made instead. You will be told how the professionals can work with the family to reduce the risk and you will be offered support to make these changes. A review is held after three months to make sure the plan is being followed.

With the right support and understanding you can make the changes you need to make sure your child grows up happy and healthy.