

## What happens after the Child Protection Conference?

After the meeting the Social Worker will organise another meeting called a core group meeting. This meeting will look at the plan put in place to protect you and make sure people know what they have to do. This plan is called a Child Protection Plan and will list things that you, your parents/carers, Social Worker and other professionals can do to protect you. The plan will be looked at in smaller meetings called Core Groups every 4-6 weeks. Three months after the first conference there will be a review conference. This will look at what has happened in the past three months and decide if the Child Protection Plan is still needed for you. Review conferences will be held every six months until we know you are safe and no longer need a Child Protection Plan.

### Conference Chairperson is

Name:

Tel:

Email:

### Your Social Worker is

Name:

Tel:

Email:

Your Social Worker will advise you on who to call in an emergency if you are worried for your safety at home



A young person's  
guide to  
child protection

For children aged 11 and over

## What does child protection mean?

Protecting children and keeping them safe is everyone's responsibility. It is the job of Children's Social Care to make sure you have all the help and support you and your parents or carers need to keep you safe from harm. Some people refer to Children's Social Care as 'Social Services'.

## Why might you need to be kept safe?

Children need to be kept safe. Harm could come from other people hurting you, such as your Mum or Dad, or another adult. There are different types of harm:

**Physical harm** – hurting or injuring a child or causing pain on purpose

**Sexual harm** – forcing or threatening a child to take part in sexual activities or making them watch or listen to sexual activity.

**Emotional harm** – making children feel unloved, worried about their safety, worthless or humiliating them or exposing them to frightening and scary behaviours from adults

**Neglect** – not caring for a child properly; not providing clothes, food, a safe home, education or medical attention.

## What happens if you are thought to be at risk of harm?

Someone will contact Children's Social Care to say they are worried about you. This might be a friend, teacher, doctor, police, neighbours, family, a stranger or even you.

Children's Social Care will look into these concerns Children's Social Care will allocate you with a Social Worker to assess if you are at risk and take action to help keep you safe. If Children's Social Care think you are at risk, they will request a meeting called a Child Protection Conference.

## What does a Social Worker do?

A Social Worker's job is to keep you safe and protect you from harm. The Social Worker will work with you and your parents or carers to get your family the help and support needed to keep you safe. It is important that you talk with your Social Worker or a teacher you feel comfortable with so that all the professionals at the conference understand what life is like for you at home and what makes you feel happy, sad or worried.

## What is a Child Protection Conference?

This is a meeting organised by the Children's Safeguarding Unit. The conference is led by an independent person called a conference Chairperson. In the meeting

your Social Worker and other professionals working with you and your family will talk about why they are worried about you and discuss how they can help to keep you safe. Everything at the meeting is kept private and only shared with people who really need to know.

## Who might be at the Child Protection Conference?

Your parents or carers will be invited to the meeting. You may also be invited to the meeting to be in part or all of the meeting and we will support you to share your views. Your Social Worker and their manager will also be there. Other professionals who are likely to be invited are:

- Teacher/Year Head
- Doctor
- School Nurse
- Police

The Chairperson may want to speak with you alone before the meeting, but will only do so if you feel comfortable with this.

## Why should you go to your Child Protection Conference?

You might be worried about attending the Child Protection Conference. The conference is about YOU and it's important that we know what your views are; your Social Worker will talk to you about how you want to do this. You might want to come to the conference; you can ask someone you trust to attend with you for support or your Social Worker can request a Child Advocate to support you to put your views across. Your Social Worker will talk to you about the role of an Advocate before the conference.

## What decisions are made at the Child Protection Conference?

The professionals at the meeting will be asked by the Chairperson to decide if they think you are at risk of significant harm. If they think you are, they will recommend a Child Protection Plan should be developed for you. The plan will set out what your parents/carers and professionals need to do to keep you safe. For example, if one of your parents drinks alcohol a lot and it means they struggle to care for you properly the plan will say they must get professional help to reduce or stop drinking.

If the professionals decide you are not at risk of significant harm, a Child Protection Plan will not be developed, but you and your family will continue to receive support at a lower level. Either way a plan of support will always be put into place to help your parents/carers make sure you are not at risk of harm in the future.