



**Suffolk  
Safeguarding  
Partnership**

# **Child Protection Conference**

## **Information for Parents and Carers**

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### **What is a Child Protection Conference?**

This is a meeting arranged by Children and Young People's Services [CYPS] when there are concerns about a child.

The aim of the Conference meeting is for you, and the people who are involved with your family, to make a Plan of how best to make sure your child is safe.

### **Who will be at the Conference?**

- You, as the parent/carer, will usually be invited to attend.
- If your child is over 12, they are also usually invited to attend.
- People that know your family such as teachers, health visitors, school nurses or doctors, as well as your child's social worker.
- A representative from the Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit [CAIU) is always asked to the first 'Initial' Child Protection Conference and there may also be a legal person from the County Council.
- There will also be a Chairperson and a minute taker.

### **Can I bring someone with me?**

You can bring someone you know to support you. You can also bring a solicitor, although it is not expected that they will speak for you.

## **Information**

- Your social worker will let you know where the Conference meeting will take place. They will help you with any problems you have in attending such as child care for younger children.
- Either your child's social worker or an advocate should help you to prepare what you want to say at the Conference meeting.
- You will be given a copy of the social worker's report to read before the Conference meeting. If you need help with this, please ask a social worker.
- The Chairperson will meet with you before the Conference meeting so you know what will happen.

## **What happens in the Conference?**

- The Chairperson will introduce you to everyone at the Conference meeting.
- People at the Conference meeting will explain why there are concerns for your child.
- You will be asked to give your point of view and to make any comments in a way that you are most comfortable with. You may want to provide something in writing.
- If your child has been invited to the Conference meeting, they will be asked for their views too. They might be asked to stay for only some of the Conference meeting.
- The people at the Conference meeting will consider whether your child needs protecting from harm and agree the best way to ensure their safety.

## **What can the Conference decide?**

- The Conference will decide whether your child needs a Child Protection Plan [CPP]; this plan will make it clear 'who needs to do what' to keep your child safe.
- A smaller Core Group meet regularly to make sure the CPP is working – you will be part of this group. The first Core Group meeting will happen within 10 working days of the Conference meeting.
- If it is decided your child is not in need of a CPP, you could still be offered help or support as part of a Child In Need Plan [CIN].
- If it is decided there is a serious risk to your child, legal advice will be taken to see whether care proceedings are needed.
- A copy of the Child Protection Plan will be sent to you and you can talk this through with your social worker.

## **What is a Child Protection Review Conference?**

The Child Protection Review Conference must be held within 3 months of the Initial Child Protection Conference and 6 monthly thereafter.

A Child Protection Review Conference will consider how the Child Protection Plan is working. If the Review Conference decides that your child no longer needs a Plan, they will decide with you whether you still need support.

## **Complaints**

You or your child may make a complaint about the way the Conference was organised or managed, or about the decisions reached, or the category of any Plan made. The complaints process cannot itself change the decisions made and while your complaint is being considered, the decision made by the Conference will stand.

Any concerns raised during the Conference meeting should be recorded in the minutes. The Conference Chair should try to resolve your concerns during or immediately after the Conference. If you are still not satisfied, the Chair will explain the Conference complaints process and invite you to write to him/her within 28 days of receiving the minutes (with help from an advocate or your child's social worker, if you want). Your complaint will then be considered at a formal meeting with the Conference Chair.

If your complaint remains unresolved, it will be considered by Children's Social Care's Complaints Manager and, in the case of a Conference category decision, by a panel of Local Safeguarding Children Board members.

## **Contact Numbers**

**Customer First: Tel: 0808 800 4005 (24hr service)**