

Child Protection Conferences

www.hartlepool.gov.uk

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This factsheet answers some of the questions you might have about **child protection conferences**. Child protection conferences are sometimes called **child protection meetings**.

If you have more questions or need more information about child protection conferences you can talk to your social worker.

What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is a meeting that is set up when there are worries about your safety. It gives people who are close to you and/or work with you the chance to:

- share information
- identify any problems in your family
- decide what will happen next to deal with any worries we have about your safety.

Who will be at my child protection conference?

People who we invite to your child protection conference are mainly people who are important in your life or people who you know well. They might include:

- your parents or carers
- your social worker
- your family doctor
- someone from school.

We might also have to invite some people whom you do not know but who have information about you and your family.

There will be an **independent chairperson** who will be in charge of the meeting. It is the chairperson's job to make sure that everyone's views are heard.

If you are aged 11 years or over we will invite you to the meeting **unless** we think it is better for you if you do not come. If you are not invited to the conference your social worker will talk to you before it so that they can make sure your thoughts are heard at the meeting.

Do I have to go to the conference?

Some young people go to all or part of the meeting and some young people don't. Every young person and every situation is different. Your social worker will talk to you about whether or not you want to go to the meeting. It is your choice and your social worker will support you in whatever decision you make.

Can I bring someone with me?

You can bring someone with you to the conference if you want to. You can bring someone who is just there with you or, if you like, you can take someone to act as your **advocate** and speak for you. Your advocate can be a relative, friend or a worker you trust. Your social worker can explain more about what an advocate does and how to get one if you want one.

What if I don't go to the conference?

Even if you don't go to the conference, you can still make sure that your views are heard. It is very important for the people at the meeting to know what you think. You can tell the people at the conference your thoughts by writing an email or letter, or in another way that you decide with your social worker or advocate.

What happens at the conference?

The people at the conference will explain why there are worries about your safety. You and your family will be able to say what you think about those worries, and tell people at the meeting if you think there is anything that can help.

There will be an **agenda** which lists what we will talk about at the conference meeting. We will write down what we say during the meeting. We will send copies of these notes to everyone who came to the meeting within 28 days of it happening.

What will the child protection conference do?

Your safety and wellbeing are the most important things. The people at the conference will:

- work out what needs to happen to make your life better, and
- decide who is going to do the things that will make your life better.

The workers at the conference will make a final decision on whether these things should be done as part of a **child protection plan**.

If we decide that a child protection plan is the best way to support you, the conference will decide who your key worker will be. Your key worker - who will be a social worker - has to make sure that the things the conference says must happen, do happen. The conference will agree on a child protection plan.

What is a child protection plan?

A child protection plan is an official plan to help keep you safe. The plan says what people need to do to keep you safe and well. Once the plan is in place there will be regular meetings to make sure the plan is working properly. You will get a copy of the plan from your social worker who will explain it to you.

How long will the child protection plan last?

After 3 months the plan will be reviewed and you will be asked whether things are getting better. When people are less worried about you and things are getting better you will come off a protection plan.

What if I am not happy with the conference's decision?

If you are not happy with what the conference decides, please let us know. We will listen to your views but we can't always promise to do what you want. Contact the Safeguarding and Review Manager by:



Telephone: 01429 523878



email: safeguardingchildren@hartlepool.GCSX.gov.uk

Contact us

You can contact the First Contact and Support Hub by letter, telephone or email. If you want to speak to someone in person, visit reception at Civic Centre and ask to see a social worker. If English is not your first language we can provide a translation service.

Our opening times

We open at 8:30am every weekday we close at 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we close at 4:30pm



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About this factsheet

This factsheet gives more information about child protection case conferences. We issued this factsheet in April 2014 and updated it in November 2014. We will check the information is up to date in November 2016.

Other useful factsheets



You can download all of our factsheets and booklets from our website,
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensfactsheets