

Child Protection Conferences

Information for children and young people

This factsheet answers some of the questions you might have about child protection conferences.

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 arranged when there are worries about your safety. It gives people who are close to you and work with you the chance to share information about:

- what is working well for you and your family
- what you are worried about
- what other people are worried about
- what needs to change

» **Who will be at my child protection conference?**

- your parents are always invited, even if they are no longer living together
- your social worker
- someone from your school
- a health worker
- a police officer
- other family members
- your family doctor

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 and provide you with an advocate if you want one.

» **Do I have to go to the conference?**

Some young people go to all of 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 your 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 they are worried 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 will be talked about at the conference. 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 a 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 Children's Hub by letter, telephone or email. 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 Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we close at 4:30pm.



Telephone: 01429 284284



Textphone: 60006 (start your text with HBC)



Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk



Post: Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

» About this factsheet

This factsheet gives more information about child protection case conferences. We issued this factsheet in April 2014 and updated it in January 2018. We will check the information is up to date in January 2020.



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