



WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE?

The Child Protection Conference will be an inclusive, safe, and encouraging space where we help your support network to work well with your family at difficult times, making sure that your child(ren)'s needs, safety, and wellbeing is at the centre of decisions. The conference will take approximately 1 ½ hours, and your child(ren)'s Social Worker will help you to attend.

Together we will ensure that everyone is prepared and that families feel respected and valued.

Together we will work to openly talk about worries, identify strengths, and consider the offer for your family.

Together we will enable the development of a family-owned safety plan.

Together we will agree the key next steps with the family to ensure that the child(ren) are safe and their needs are met.

AGENDA – WHAT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT

Welcome everyone to the meeting and discuss the expectations (everyone needs to behave in a respectful and supportive way) and make sure that you understand everyone's role and why you are here.

Check that the family details we have are correct and that everyone you would like to invite is present or should be invited to future meetings.

Family will be asked why you feel the meeting has been arranged or what has happened since the last conference, you will then be asked what you are worried about, what has been going well, and what support you feel would be helpful.

Everyone will be asked what your child(ren) are saying about what is happening in their family.

Everyone will be asked to share their worries and what is working well, and to include the impact this has upon your child(ren) and family.

If professionals or family members have different views on what's happening for your child(ren), the Chair might use scaling questions to discuss and help to understand the different views. The most important part of this conversation is talking about what everyone would want to happen for their score to be higher.

We will talk about what needs to happen in order for the worries to reduce, and the family can develop a safety plan (*Linked to the report that was shared with the family before conference and the safety plan and next steps that were discussed and agreed at the last conference*).

The conference Chair will have a conversation with the professionals and family to decide what else is needed for your child(ren) to be safe and healthy, and who can help your family do this.

Together we will agree what needs to happen next to build safety and support for your child(ren) and family. This will start or review the family-owned safety plan and next steps that we have discussed and agreed in the meeting. Everyone will be clear about what they need to do and how this will be supported.

The Chair will sum up the conversations that have taken place in the meeting and the next steps that have been agreed to make sure that everyone understands what has been said about the worries and strengths for the family. They will make sure that you have heard how these impact upon the child(ren).

The Chair will ask if the professionals present feel the threshold for a Child Protection Plan or Child in Need plan is met. We want family to understand what this means, and the reasons will be explained.

The Core Group meeting, Review Conference, or Child in Need meeting dates will be agreed along with who should attend.