



*Published by on behalf of  
Warwickshire  
Safeguarding Children's Board.*

# **YOUR CHILD**

## **CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES**

**A Guide for Parents  
in Warwickshire**



***You will know from your social worker that a Conference is going to be held to discuss your child/children and the reason for this.***

***(The rest of this leaflet will refer to “your child” even though you may have more than one child who is the subject of a Conference).***

***This leaflet will explain the purpose of the Conference, who attends, and how you can be a part of the discussion arrangements that will happen. A separate leaflet is available for young people.***

### ***Records of children subject to a child protection plan***

A central confidential record will be maintained of children subject to a child protection plan.

### ***What does the core group do?***

The core group and family members meet on a regular basis to ensure that the actions and support agreed within the plan are progressed.

### ***What happens next?***

A review conference will be held within three months of the initial conference and then at a minimum frequency of six months to review the progress of the child protection plan and decide whether the plan should be continued or discontinued.

When the decision is made that a child protection plan is no longer required all relevant professionals will be notified in writing.

The Central Records of children subject to a child protection plan will be amended to reflect this decision.

At the start of the Conference everyone will be asked to introduce themselves and the Independent Reviewing Officer will then explain why the Conference has been called. Information will be shared and you will have an opportunity to give your views. If you are asked to leave for part of the Conference (for example when legal advice is given), you will be invited back as soon as possible and will be present whilst the decisions and recommendations are made.

### ***What Can a Conference Decide?***

The main decision that will be made is whether your child should be subject to a child protection plan to ensure their ongoing safety. You may lodge a complaint against this decision. A separate leaflet will be sent to you explaining this process.

### ***What will be included in a child protection plan?***

- What needs to change to reduce the harm to your child.
- What actions and support will be needed to make the necessary changes.
- How soon the changes should be made.
- What will happen if the changes are not made.
- Identify the professionals responsible for implementing the plan. This will be the core group.

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

The Conference is being held because it is believed that your child may be harmed in some way, or may be at risk. The professional workers who know you and your family will meet to share relevant information and will respect different cultural and religious values. Whatever information is shared will remain confidential.

All child protection conferences and review conferences will be chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer. This is a team of experienced social work staff who, although employed by the Local Authority work independently from the Children's Teams.

### ***What is the Purpose of the Conference?***

The purpose of the Conference is to:-

- Share information about the incident or events which have led to the Conference.
- Share relevant background information about your family members including any problems which your family are having.
- Discuss whether your child or children need protection.
- Recommend the best way of protecting your child in the future and how best to help your family.

### ***Who Will be There?***

You will receive an invite letter to the conference advising you of the time to arrive. Time will be made available for you to meet with the chair of conference to discuss the conference process and how you will be supported to fully participate. It is important that your views are heard and that you can be involved in any plan which needs to be made to protect your child.

The other people who will be invited to attend the conference will be there either because of their professional expertise, direct knowledge of your child and family or both.

If the Conference needs legal advice the Local Authority Solicitor is invited. You will be asked to leave the Conference whilst legal advice is being given.

### ***What Help is Available at the Child Protection Conference***

A interpreter will be provided if required. If you have particular needs which would enable you to take part fully in the Conference, these should be discussed beforehand with your Social Worker.

If you have difficulties in transport or child care arrangements, you should also discuss these with your Social Worker.

If you would like someone to attend the Conference with you as a supporter, you can bring a friend, relative or legal advisor. This should be someone who can be trusted to treat information given in the Conference as confidential. You may wish to discuss this with your Social Worker.

### ***What if I Cannot Attend the Conference?***

If you cannot or choose not to attend the conference please discuss this with your social worker so that agreement can be reached about how your views will be included.

### ***What Happens at the Conference***

Your Social Worker will usually have talked to you about the information that they will be giving. The Social Worker will have prepared a written report and you should have had the opportunity to see this beforehand.