



FACTS 4 U 2: Child Protection Conferences & Child Protection Plans

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet - **Information for all.**

If a Child Protection Conference is being held about you and your family, you will probably have lots of questions about what a Child Protection Conference is, what will happen at one and, most of all, how it will affect you.

This fact sheet has been written to help to answer some of your questions. Don't forget that if there is something else you want to know, don't be frightened to talk to your social worker.

Why do we have Child Protection Conferences?

Adults in any family must try to give babies, young children and teenagers a safe, secure and loving home. Whoever you live with, you must be safe. Sadly, sometimes parents and people who look after children harm and hurt them. When this happens it can be difficult for children to talk about it.

Children are harmed or are unsafe or are made unhappy for lots of different reasons. This might be because the parents have got problems themselves or they might need help to keep their children safe.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is held when Social Care are told that a child has been hurt or is unsafe or unhappy. Lots of different people attend the meeting - such as doctors and nurses, teachers, social workers, police and parents - so that Social Care can be sure that they have all the information they need to help make a decision about how they can help you and your family. During the meeting these

people will talk about how to keep you safe and what they need to do to help to sort things out. The people at the meeting will only talk to people who can help you.

Can I attend the Child Protection Conference?

It is important that the people at the conference know how you are feeling, what you think and what you would like to happen, so if you would like to attend some or all of the conference this is ok. If you want to attend you should let your social worker know.

It is also ok if you do not want to attend the conference. However, if you do not want to attend because you are frightened, nervous or scared of all of the people at the meeting please talk to your social worker as they might be able to help.

If you do want to attend the meeting, you can bring an adult with you if you like. You can also write down what you would like to say before you get there - your social worker can help you do this.

You can ask to meet the person who will be in charge of the meeting. This person is called the chair. The chair can meet you before the meeting and he or she will look after you at the meeting or see you after the meeting has finished. They will explain what decisions are made.

If you do not want to attend the meeting but want to make sure that your views are known you can ask your social worker or someone who will be attending the conference to give your views for you. You can also write down your views for the chair to read out in the meeting. If you want to do this you will need to send your views directly to the chair at Unit 10, Whitney Court, Southlink Business Park, Oldham OL4 1DB or e-mail the chair at thesafeguardingunit@oldham.gov.uk

What happens at the Child Protection Conference meeting?

The people at the meeting will talk about how they can protect you and what you need protecting from. If they think everything is ok, they will tell you straight away and there will be no need to do anything else.

If they think you and your family need extra help to keep you safe they will write up a Protection Plan that clearly notes what you need protecting from and how you will be protected. If you need a Protection Plan, no one will know except the people who can help you.

If you and your family need additional as well as your protection, the people at the meeting will also decide what sort of help you and your family needs and add that to your Protection Plan.

If we decide you need a Protection Plan, we will review this regularly and, once you are safe, you will not need a Protection Plan any more. But if you and your family still need help we will put together a Child In Need Plan to sort out the help you need. This will be for at least three months and will be reviewed regularly.

Sometimes, on very rare occasions, the people at the meeting might say it is not safe for you to live at home. If this happens you might have to live away from home. It is best that your parents or carers agree with this, but sometimes parents do not agree and Social Care have to get permission from the court for you to move away from home. Also, if you have been hurt badly or very seriously, the police may want to talk to you and make a video of this. The video might be shown in court. The police officer will talk to you about this, as the video cannot go ahead unless you say so.

If you are not happy with the decision made at the Child Protection Conference, you have the right to say so and complain about it. If you are unhappy about any of the decisions made at the conference please fill in this form below and give it to your social worker or the chair or you can email at thesafeguardingunit@oldham.gov.uk. Alternatively you can take or post the form to the Safeguarding Manager or the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board c/o Unit 10, Whitney Court, Southlink Business Park, Oldham OL4 1DB.

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I am unhappy about the decision made at my Child Protection Conference. I would like to talk to someone about it.

My name

My address

My social worker

My telephone number