WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that takes place between parents, carers, multi-agency professionals including social care, when professionals involved with your family are worried that a child is or likely to be at risk of being harmed.

A Child Protection Conference is chaired by an Independent Chair, this person has no management responsibility for your children's social worker.

The Child Protection Conference is held to share information about your child and discuss concerns with you and other professionals to make decisions about your child's future safety, health and development.

It is really important that you attend and participate in the meeting so that your voice is heard.

THE OUTCOME

The Chair will ask for a multi-agency recommendation on if a Child Protection Plan should be implemented for your child. The Chair will be responsible for the final decision. This decision is based on the recognition of a child being at risk of or is likely to suffer significant harm.

If threshold is agreed for a Child Protection Plan, a plan will be agreed under one of the following categories
Neglect, Emotional, Physical or Sexual Abuse

Future meeting dates will be set, this includes a Review Child Protection Conference initially 3 months and then reviewed 6 monthly (new born babies will also have a meeting within a month of baby's birth)

You will also attend regular Core Group meetings every 4-6 weeks with a core group of professionals who will support you to develop and progress your Child Protection Plan. The first meeting will be within 10 working days of your conference

The Child Protection Plan will end when it is agreed that sustainable safety has been achieved for your child.

Essex County Council

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

A Guide for Parents & Carers



We Care Book Collection from Essex County Council

WHO ATTENDS?

All professionals who are working with or may have been involved with you and your child will be invited to attend. This will include agencies like:

- Social Care
- Health Visitor / School Nurse
- School / Nursery / College
- Police
- GP
- Housing Provider
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Mental Health Services
- If appropriate your child may attend some or all of the meeting, if not their views will be gained and shared in the meet

You are welcome to bring someone to support you at the meeting, this may be a family member or friend, but you must be prepared for them to hear all of the information shared in the meeting.

If you would like additional support in attending the meeting or sharing your views please speak to your child's social worker who can enquire about an advocate on your behalf. Please let us know if you require additional support such as an translator.



BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

All professionals invited to the conference are asked to write a report before the meeting. This report should be shared with you 2 days before an Initial Child Protection Conference and 5 days before a Review Child Protection Conference.

You should have all of the information about why professionals have requested a meeting, so there are no surprises on the day.

Make sure you have time to read all of the reports before conference, you may wish to write notes or complete the questionnaire sent to you with your invite to help you prepare what you would like to share in the meeting.

If you need help going through reports please ask your social worker or supporting professionals.

The Chair will speak with you before the meeting and their number is on your invite so please contact them if you have any questions.

DURING THE MEETING

It is the role of the Chair to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their view throughout the meeting. This includes you. So be prepared to be share your thoughts and answer questions.

The meeting will focus on

- What are we worried about?
- How does it impact your child?
- What is going well for your family?
- What do we need to know more about - Grey areas
- What needs to change so everyone feels your child is safer - The Plan
- If your attending a Review Conference it will also look at the progress you have made on the existing plan.

Once everyone has shared their information the Chair will complete a safety scale, asking you and professionals from 0-10 how safe you feel your child is.

The Chair will support you and professionals to develop a plan of how to increase safety and wellbeing for your child and your family.