Bwrdd Diogelu Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff & Vale Safeguarding Board

My Child Protection Meeting



Child Protection Conference
for Children Age 11+ & Young People

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

This document is available in Welsh

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

STRONGER FAIRER GREENER

CARDIFF
CAERDYDD

Contents

What is a Child Protection Conference? 2

Can I go to my Child Protection Conference? 4

Who might be at the meeting? 5

What happens at a Conference? 6

What happens next? 7

What Can I Do if I Want to Complain? 8

Useful Contact Details 9

What is a Child Protection Conference?

Protecting children and young people and keeping them safe is everyone's business. It is the job of Children's Services and other agencies working with you to make sure you have all the help, support and protection needed to keep you free from harm.

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting about you and your family, held by Children's Services. This meeting is arranged when we think that you may be at risk of harm or abuse.

DRAFT



The only decision made at the conference is whether your name needs to be added to the **Child Protection Register**.

The decision is made by professionals that attend the conference. If they are worried about your safety and have the view that you are at risk of harm, they could decide that your name needs to be placed on the register. The meeting cannot decide where you live or arrange for you to go into care.

The meeting is confidential, and the information will only be shared with those who need to know. What is written in the conference and reports cannot be shared with anyone else without the chair's permission.

Your social worker will talk to you about the kind of harm they feel you are at risk of and how they are worried this may be affecting you.

i The **Child Protection Register** is a confidential record of all the children in the area who professionals believe may not be safe

DRAFT

Can I go to my Child Protection Conference?

You have a right to be heard and taken seriously and to have your views and feelings listened to. You can also attend the meeting. To help with decisions made at this meeting you can let people know about what is worrying you or what is going well for you. Your social worker will also help you to understand what is going on.

We know it can be a scary process, but please do remember that there are always people you can talk to. You can do this in different ways:

1. Attend part of the meeting yourself either independently or with an **Advocate** (An Advocate can support you and help you to share your thoughts and feelings at the Child Protection Conference)

2. Don't attend the meeting but instead ask an adult (this could be an Advocate, Social Worker, teacher, grandparent) to attend the meeting on your behalf.

3. The chairperson, prior to the conference, can offer to speak with you in a way that suits you before the meeting.

4. You can write down your views and those can be read during the conference by the person chairing the conference.

DRAFT











Who might be at the meeting?

You and your parents/carers will be invited to the meeting. The Chair of the Child Protection Conference will also be there. Other professionals who are likely to be invited are:

- Your Teacher/Head of Year
- Your Social Worker
- Your Advocate (if you have agreed for this support)
- Your GP
- Your School Nurse
- A Plain Clothes Police Child Protection Officer (you are not in any trouble; they always attend these meetings).
- Any Other Person Involved in helping You and Your Family
- A Minute Taker to Write Down What Happens

DRAFT

What happens at a Conference?

Someone called a **Child Protection Conference Chair** will chair the meeting. They will not have been involved in the assessment that led to the meeting being held. This means they are independent.

All agencies, your parents/carers and you will provide information to the conference on what is working well and what they are worried about. Your parents/carers and you will be given the opportunity to share your views on what is being reported.

A plan will be made which will say what needs to happen to make things better at home for everybody.



DRAFT



What happens next?

If your name is added to the child protection register and a **Care and Support Protection Plan** is made, a Social Worker will work with you and your family to make sure you are safe. The plan will list who the people are who should help to make sure you are safe and will include your parents or carers.

> **i** Once a **Care and Support Protection Plan** is put in place it will continue for as long as people believe you need protecting.

These people are called the core group.

The core group will work together on the plan to improve your care and safety. You should be shown a copy of the plan, so you know what has been decided. The plan will usually involve your social worker visiting you regularly to make sure you are safe. It may also include you getting help with school, your health or other help you need.

We regularly review whether there is a need for your name to stay on the register and further meetings will be held.

DRAFT



What Can I Do if I Want to Complain?

If you don't agree with the decisions made at the Conference, or if you think that you have not been listened to, you should speak to your Social Worker after the meeting. Tell them what you are concerned about and ask them how they can help you. If they are not able to help, you can make a complaint.

We can also arrange for you to speak to an advocate at any time, who will listen to you and share how you feel with others. You can also make a complaint, which your social worker or advocate can give you more information about.

DRAFT

Useful Contact Details

Your Social Worker is:

.....

They can be contacted on:

.....

or call and ask for Children's Services on: **02920 536400**

Your Child Protection Conference chairperson is:

.....

They can be contacted on:

.....

NYAS Advocacy Team:
0808 808 1001

Children's Commissioner:
Freephone: 0808 801 1000

Childline: 0800 1111
(A free 24-hour counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday in the UK provided by the NSPCC)

If you want to make a complaint or share a compliment:

Cardiff Social Services Complaints Office:
Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm

Tel: 02920 873663

Email:
socialservicescomplaints@cardiff.gov.uk

Vale Social Services Complaints Office:

Tel: 01446 704800

Email: socialservicescomplaints@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

DRAFT