

# Child Protection Conferences

*A Guide for Parents and Carers*

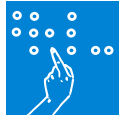


## Look for this symbol

We want you to be able to read our information. Wherever you see this symbol, on request, we will translate our information into any of the following formats:



Large print or  
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Language



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### ***What happens after the Conference?***

Within two days of the conference you will get a copy of the Child Protection Plan by post.

You will receive the minutes of the conference as soon as they are ready.

If your child's name has been placed onto the Child Protection Register, you will be invited to a smaller meeting which will be held within ten days. This is known as a Core Group Meeting. Only those professionals working closely with yourself and your family will be invited. This meeting will look at the details in the Child Protection Plan.

### ***What if I have a complaint about the meeting?***

You can talk to the social worker, the chairperson or contact our Complaints Officer.

The Complaints Officer can be contacted by:



(01609) 780780 and ask for extension 2638

**Or**



Freephone (answerphone)  
(0800) 515875

**Or**



**social.complaints@northyorks.gov.uk**

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

This is a meeting that is held when there are concerns that your child has been harmed and may also be at risk of future harm.

### ***Who goes to the Child Protection Conference?***

People who are invited usually include your GP, the school nurse or health visitor, head teacher, someone from the police and the social worker.

There will also be a minute taker present. Your invitation letter will list the names of all the people invited.

### ***Can I attend?***

As a parent or carer you have a very important part to play in the meeting and you are encouraged to attend.

We know that parents and carers can find it stressful to attend such meetings so you may wish to bring a 'supporter' with you. This could be another member of your family, a friend or a solicitor. This should be someone you can trust to give good advice and to keep your personal information confidential. Your supporter is there for your support and will not be required to give their views and opinions.

### ***What if I do not attend?***

If you cannot attend the meeting, please let the social worker know as soon as possible. It may be something that we can help with.

If you don't attend, the conference may go ahead without you. If this happens the social worker will visit to explain what happened.

In exceptional circumstances a parent or carer may not be invited to the conference. This is when the chairperson decides that their presence threatens others or will disrupt the meeting. In such cases the parent or carer can give their views in a letter or a tape that will be heard in the meeting

### *What if there is someone else I would like to be invited?*

This depends on who it is. Please talk to your social worker about this.

### *What if there is someone I do not want to attend?*

Please discuss this with your social worker.

### *Will my child be invited?*

This is dependant on your child's age and understanding and is something that the social worker will discuss with you and your child. The decision to invite your child is made by the chairperson in discussion with the social worker.

## *What happens at the Child Protection Conference? A step by step guide*

- The chairperson will meet with you before the meeting starts. They will talk to you about what will happen and answer any questions you may have.
- At the start of the meeting everyone will be asked to introduce themselves.
- Most usually the social worker will then talk about the concerns there have been for your child and the sequence of events in the investigation.
- The meeting will then share general information including the involvement that other professionals have had with your family.
- Your child's health and development will also be looked at.
- The meeting will then talk about any future risks there may be to your child.

### *What kind of decisions are made?*

If the people attending the meeting agree that your child is at risk of harm, they will decide to place his or her name onto the **Child Protection Register**.

Every child on the Child Protection Register has a "**Child Protection Plan**". It is based on what has been agreed at the meeting. This plan lists what needs to happen to change the situation. It decides on the people who will do this and by when.