

A large, stylized graphic of a human figure is positioned in the background. The head is a white circle, the neck is a white arch, and the torso is a large black shape. The figure is set against a background that transitions from teal on the left to light green on the right. A white circle is also present in the light green area, resembling a second head or a decorative element.

Young People and Child Protection Conferences

This leaflet explains what happens at a Child Protection Conference



What is a Child Protection Conference?

It's a meeting held when workers (people such as doctors, teachers, social workers) are worried that young people may be coming to harm because of the way they are being looked after. Young people can attend a Conference if they wish to.

Should I go to a Conference?

Together with your social worker you can decide whether you wish to go. Whether you attend or not, the booklet 'Young People and Child Protection Conferences', will help you prepare for this, as will your social worker.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY IS IMPORTANT. We believe it is very important that people hear your views. You might want to bring someone with you to a Conference to support you. Sometimes, it might be best if you only attend for part of the Conference. Again, this will be discussed with you. In unusual situations it may be best for you not to come.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

- **Your parents/carers** will be invited
- **Other people who know you and your family**, for example, teachers or a health visitor if you have a baby brother or sister.
- **Your social worker.**
- **Other people** you may not know (for instance the Police), but who may know your family. Your social worker will explain who has been invited and why.

What happens at the Conference?

The people present share information about the good things and the difficult things in your family. After this, they have to decide whether you need a Child Protection Plan. If you already have one, they decide whether it is still required and if it is, whether it needs to be changed in some way

What is a Child Protection Plan?

It's a Plan of what different people will do to try to keep you safe.

If you would like to come to your Child Protection meeting, please talk to your social worker.

Can a conference take me away from my parents?

A Conference can only make recommendations about how to make the situation safer for you.

What if I don't attend?

Your social worker will talk to you to find out how you are and what you feel so that he or she can tell the meeting on your behalf. Even better, you could write something yourself, which could be read out at the Conference. We will always try as hard as we can to make sure the Conference knows your views and feelings.

What if I have any questions?

Your social worker will try to answer all your questions. If you do come to the Conference, you will be able to meet the Chairperson first. They can also answer any questions you have.

Useful Phone Numbers

Child line - Phone 0800 1111

Free and confidential telephone advice line for children and young people.

Childrens Legal Centre - 0800 783 2187

University of Essex, Wivehoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ. An independent national organisation concerned with law and policy affecting children and young people. Free advice and information service by letter or telephone (2-5pm weekdays).

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) - 0808 800 5000

Child Protection Helpline. Advice, information and referrals. 24 hour service.

Who Cares? Linkline: 0207 251 3117

Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays 3.30 - 6pm) This is a free service and counselling service for young people in care.

Children's Rights & Advocacy Service 'Voice' 0808 800 5792

Provides information, advice and support for looked after children in the county.

Useful Websites

National Childrens Bureau

www.youngncb.org.uk

Childline

www.childline.org.uk

Childnet International

www.childnet-int.org.uk

Kidscape

www.kidscape.org.uk

Young Minds

www.youngminds.org.uk