



# Child Protection Conference

Meeting guide for  
parents/carers and families

Stronger families,  
safer children



We are committed to helping you to understand the Child Protection Conference process every step of the way. It is very important that you feel able to come to the meeting and take a full part in the discussions and the plans which are made for your children.



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

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting held between families and professionals from different services when there are serious concerns about the safety and welfare of a child.

The Child Protection Conference will make a decision about whether there are serious risks to your child's safety and / or whether they have been seriously harmed or likely to be harmed in the future. The Conference will also make sure your family gets the right help and the plans made at Conference help to make positive changes.

As a parent/carer or family member, you are invited to attend the Conference and we encourage you to take an active part. You can also bring someone with you for support, such as a member of your family or a friend. The chairperson or social worker will talk to you about the Conference and help you to feel prepared.



## **Who else will be at the meeting?**

- An independent chairperson, (the Child Protection Chair) who will lead the Conference
- People from services who know your child or who have involvement with your family e.g. social workers, health workers, police, teachers
- Sometimes individuals from other services (who you may not have met before) are invited



## **What happens at the meeting?**

Before the Conference, the chairperson will meet with you to discuss what will happen at the meeting and who will be there. The chairperson will also talk to you about the best way for you to contribute to the discussions in the meeting.

During the meeting the chairperson will ask you and the professionals at the Conference to talk about...

- What is working well for your child and your family
- What people are worried about
- What things make dealing with the worries harder for you
- How people may be able to help keep your child/ren safe and well

The chairperson will write the important points on a board, so everyone is able to remember what is said.

You will be involved in the discussions.

## Decision making

After the discussion, a decision will be made about whether the risks to your child/ren are significant enough that a Child Protection Plan is needed or if your child/ren can be supported with a Child in Need Plan.

You should leave the Conference clear about the plan that has been made, and what help and support is going to be offered to help you and your family. You should also be clear about what you are being asked to do and why things need to change.

## What happens after the Conference?

You will be sent a copy of the notes made during the Conference and a copy of the Plan. If a Child Protection Plan is made, there will be regular meetings called Core Groups. At these meetings, you will look at the plan and discuss what progress has been made and what else still needs to be done.

A Review Child Protection Conference will be held after three months and then at six-monthly intervals for as long as your child needs a Child Protection Plan.

We really value your feedback about your experience at Conference and will offer you the opportunity to share your views on your experience of the Child Protection Conference after the Conference.





## Where can I get more information and advice?

### **Kent Safeguarding Children multi-agency partnership**

More information can be found on the KSCMP website:  
[www.kscmp.org.uk](http://www.kscmp.org.uk)



### **Out of hours**

If I want to speak to a social worker after 5pm  
or at the weekend, I can call 03000 411111

### **Customer Care Team**

03000 410 304

[csccomplaints@kent.gov.uk](mailto:csccomplaints@kent.gov.uk)

If you wish to make a complaint  
or share a compliment.

### **Family Rights Group**

08088010366

Offers a free, confidential advice service for families  
whose children are involved with Children's Services

If you need this document in large print, audio,  
Braille, alternative format or in a different language,  
please contact your social worker and we will do  
our best to help you.

