

**Children Services**

**CHILD PROTECTION  
CONFERENCES**

**Approved by  
Swindon Local Safeguarding Children Board**

Information for children / young people

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**help you to understand**  
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**help you to understand**  
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## **Introduction**

This leaflet is to help you understand why a Child Protection Conference is to take place and what it means for you.

It is important to remember:

- A conference is called in order to find ways to help and support you.
- Most conferences decide that the child or young person concerned stays at home with their family.

If you do not understand what is going on, your social worker will explain things to you.

## **What is a Conference?**

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting for people who are concerned about you, to talk to each other about the things that are worrying them. The reason a Conference is held is to decide how best to help and protect you and help your parents/carer to make changes to how they care for you.

The people who could be invited to the Conference are:

- You
- Your parents
- Your teacher
- The school nurse
- Your doctor
- A paediatrician (a doctor who cares for children and young people)
- A health visitor
- The police – if they have been involved already

Your social worker or people from other organisations will decide if a Conference is necessary. They will tell you and your parents when the Conference will be and the reasons for holding it.

## **The person in charge of the Conference**

The person who makes sure the Conference takes place in the proper way is known as the Independent Reviewing Manager. They make sure that:

- Everyone listens to each other
- Everyone is clear about the decision
- Your views and feelings are put first and listened to carefully

## **Can my parents go to the Conference?**

Parents are usually invited to the Conference, whether or not you live with them. They will be told when and where it will be held.

Sometimes parents will be invited for part of the Conference if this helps to make things easier for you.

## **Can I go to the Conference?**

You can be invited to the Conference if you, your social worker and parents think this is a good idea. They will talk to the Independent Reviewing Manager about this. You do have to be old enough to understand what is going on. If you come you can bring a friend with you, to help you understand what is being said and to support you. If you would like someone to help you get ready for the conference talk to your social worker about having an 'advocate'.

An advocate will:

- arrange to see you before the conference takes place
- explain what the conference is, what is likely to happen and who will be there

- listen to what you think
- go to the conference if you want them to
- tell the people at the meeting what you think

Wear clothes that you feel comfortable in; the conference could take more than an hour and you need to be as relaxed as possible.

You will be able to meet the Independent Reviewing Manager before the Conference, and he or she will be able to tell you about the Conference and answer any questions you might have.

If you do not want to attend the conference but wish to make your views known, you can write them down and the Independent Reviewing Manager can read them out or you could discuss your wishes and feelings with your social worker or another person you trust to put your wishes and feelings forward.

### **What will happen at the Conference?**

The Independent Reviewing Manager will ask everyone in turn who they are. The social worker will have written a report explaining why a Conference has been arranged. They will already have talked to you and your parents about the report. Other people may have written reports, and copies of these will be given to everyone. These will include important things that have happened in the past. There will be a chance to talk about any problems and worries, and you can say what you think ought to happen next.

### **What is decided at a Conference?**

The most important thing is to decide how best to help and protect you. All the people there play a part in your life, so they need to make sure they are all working together.

This might mean:

- Adding your name to the Child Protection Register. (This is explained on the next page). You may be asked for your views about this.
- Agreeing a Child Protection Plan – working out and writing down what each of the people at the Conference needs to do to help protect you from harm. This could include asking a Court to make an order to protect you.
- Appointing a ‘Keyworker’ – someone, usually a social worker, who will make sure that everything decided at the Conference gets done. A Keyworker will be part of a ‘Core Group’ – this is made up of people who will work closely together to help you.

## **What is a Register?**

The register is a list of all the children and young people who have been harmed or neglected, or are at risk of harm or neglect, and for whom there are continuing concerns. If someone like a teacher, social worker, or police officer is worried about a child, they can check the list to see if their name is on it. Other people cannot see the list, as it is kept very securely.

## **Will everyone know if my name is added to the Register?**

At the end of the Conference everyone there will know if your name will be registered. The Independent Reviewing Manager will make sure that everyone understands what decision has been reached.

Only those who need to know about your Registration will be told. The other children in your school won’t know, your neighbours or friends won’t know.

## **The last word**

It is very important not to worry too much if a Child Protection Conference is held. If you are worried, talk about it with someone you can trust, like your school counsellor or nurse, your social worker, or parents. Remember that you are very important and special, and we want to help you and your family to get things right.

## **Key Words**

This explains some of the words you may hear used at a Child Protection Conference.

### **Agenda**

A list of what is to be talked about at the Conference.

### **Child Protection Conference (or just Conference)**

A meeting to decide how best to help someone where parents and professionals – like teachers, doctors, health visitors, social workers – attend.

### **Categories**

Different types of harm which a child or young person might be at risk of suffering.

### **Child Protection Plan**

What the professionals, and usually parents as well, agree to do to help protect the child or young person.

### **Conference reports**

Reports written for the Conference about any worries the writer might have.

### **Confidentiality**

Making sure that what is spoken or written is only shared with people who need to know.

### **Core Group**

A small group of people involved with the child or young person, who work together to help and support them and their family.

### **Criteria**

The definitions that are used to decide how seriously the child or young person is at risk.

### **Independent Reviewing Manager**

The person in charge of the Conference.

### **Initial**

This means the 'first', as in the Initial Case Conference.

### **Keyworker**

The person who makes sure the decisions of the Conference are put in action.

### **Parental responsibility**

The powers and duties which an adult (usually the parent) has towards a child or young person.

### **Review**

Another Conference to see what has happened since the last one and to decide what should happen next.







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Bengali

如果您需要用其它语言或方式咨询这方面的信息，请拨打我们的顾客服务热线：(01793) 463725。

Chinese

જો તમને બીજા ફાર્મેટ (પત્રક) માં જાણકારી જોવાની હોય તો કૃપા કરી ગ્રાહક સેવા પ્રતિનિધિનો ટેલીફોન નંબર (01793) 463725 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

यदि आपको अन्य फार्मेट (प्रपत्र) में जानकारी चाहिए तो कृपया ग्राहक सेवा प्रतिनिधि से टेलीफोन नंबर (01793) 463725 पर संपर्क करें।

Hindi

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Italian

別の構成・形式で資料をご使用される必要がある場合には、次の番号の弊社顧客サービスまでお問い合わせ下さい。電話：01793 463725

Japanese

Jeśli chcesz uzyskać informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt z Wydziałem Usług dla Klientów pod numerem telefonu 01793 463725.

Polish

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਸਟਮਰ ਸਰਵਿਸਜ਼ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ (01793) 463725 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Punjabi

**Hadaad u baahatid macluumaad hab kale ku qoran fadian la soo xinir Adeega macmiisha (Customer Services) oo kasoo wac lambarkan (01793) 463725**

Somali

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Urdu