



**Diogelu Gwent
Gwent Safeguarding**

Parents/Carers guide to Child Protection Conferences

An easy read/accessible version is available via this link [Parents & Carers CP Conference leaflet](#)

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that is held when Children Services are worried that a child may be at risk of significant harm. You will be aware that enquiries have been made about the safety and welfare of your child. Following these enquiries an initial Child Protection Conference is now required. This leaflet is to tell you what will happen at a Child Protection Conference.

It is a meeting to:

- Share all relevant information.
- Make decisions whether your child is at risk of harm
- Decide what action is needed to safeguard and promote your child's welfare.
- Discuss what action is needed to safeguard and promote your child's welfare.

What will happen before the Child Protection Conference?

All practitioners involved in the Child Protection Conference will be requested to write a report to be shared with you 2 days prior to the Conference. Police are required to provide information including any convictions on all significant adults that have had involvement with the child or family members. This information will not be shared prior to the Conference.

You will be given the opportunity prior to the Conference to speak with the Chairperson to share your views.

Where an advocate is working with a child/young person, consideration will be given to the child/young person's views/report being shared at Conference, this is determined by the child/young person/Chairperson.

Where will the Child Protection Conference be held?

The conference will usually be held at your local Children Services office however, sometimes other venues are used or this meeting may take place virtually. You will be given full details about the time and location of the meeting by your Social Worker initially. An invite will be sent to you thereafter confirming the details.

Who will be at the Child Protection Conference?

You may not know all the people who attend the Child Protection Conference. Some of them may be there because they may be working with your family in the future or to give specialist advice.

Your child will be invited if they are old enough to understand what is happening. They may be invited to attend for part of the meeting or asked for their views separately. The child/young person's views may be presented by an advocate.

The Child Protection Conference will be chaired by a Conference Chairperson. They will not be directly involved in managing your case.

People invited may include;

- You and your child (if appropriate)
- Your child's Social Worker and or other representative of Children Services i.e., Team Manager
- Health representative
- Education representative
- Police representative
- Probation representative (if appropriate)
- Housing representative
- Other agencies who are involved in, or have knowledge of your situation
- Other family members or those with parental responsibilities
- Parent/child advocate
- An interpreter if required

There will also be a minute taker present.

Can I bring someone with me?

You may bring an advocate (this is a friend or a supporter) who may help you participate in the Conference. Personal information about you, your child and other family members will be discussed at the Conference, so please think carefully about who you want to bring.

You can seek legal advice and you can bring a solicitor to the Conference; however, they are unable to contribute to the discussion or decision making of the Conference.

What if there is someone who you do not want to attend?

Please discuss this with your Social Worker. Whether the concern is regarding a family member or professional, it is ultimately the decision of the Chairperson as to whether an individual should or should not attend.

In exceptional circumstances a parent or carer may not be invited to the Child Protection Conference. This is when the Chairperson decides that their presence will disrupt the meeting. In such cases the parent or carer can give their views in a letter or request to meet the Chairperson separately.

Why Should I attend/What if I am unable to attend?

As a parent or carer, you have an important role in the meeting, and you are encouraged to attend.

If you find the idea of attending the Conference too difficult or you do not wish to attend speak to your child's Social Worker.

If you do not attend the Conference, a representative from the Conference will contact you to provide feedback and let you know the outcome of the Conference.

What happens at the Child Protection Conference?

At the start of the Conference everyone will be asked to introduce themselves and an explanation of why the Social Worker will talk about the concerns that have led to the Child Protection Conference being convened.

Your child's Social Worker's report will include your views on the concerns being raised about your child. Your views will also be sought throughout the Conference. You may also want to write something to be shared at the Child Protection Conference.

Each professional representative will have the opportunity to share their report at the Child Protection Conference including strengths and risks.

You may be asked to leave the Conference in some circumstances.

Tell the Chairperson if you wish to leave the Conference for a short break or to speak in confidence to your solicitor. The Conference will usually break whilst you do this.

The Chairperson will then summarise what has been said before asking all professional in the Conference whether they feel that your child's name needs to be placed on the Child Protection Register.

What can the Child Protection Conference decide?

The practitioners at the Child Protection Conference will decide whether your child is at continuing risk of harm and needs a care and support protection plan.

It may be decided that your child does not require a care and support protection plan as there is no risk of continuing harm, but you may still be offered support.

What happens if your child's name is placed on the Child Protection Register?

You will receive the minutes of the meeting within 20 working days.

The Social Worker will work with your family and implement the care and support protection plan that has been agreed in the Child Protection Conference. The care and support protection plan will be devised within 10 working days by a core group of practitioners.

The care and support protection plan will clearly indicate what needs to be done, who should do it, where they should do it and within what timescale.

A date will be set to have another Conference to review how the plan is working. The first review will be within 3 months and every 6 months thereafter if your child's name remains on the Child Protection Register.

The care and support protection plan will be monitored by practitioners and yourself through core group meetings every 4-6 weeks.

What happens if your child's name is NOT placed on the Child Protection Register?

There may be no further action, or you may be asked to continue working with your Social Worker and others to improve things for your child.

To do this, a care and support protection plan will be formulated to support your family. This will be reviewed regularly.

Who will know whether my child has a care and support protection plan?

Confidentiality is very important, and the Child Protection Conference Chairperson will remind people present about this. We take great care to make sure that only those people who need to know are given the information, so that they can help you and your child.

What can you do if you are unhappy with the decision or recommendations of the Child Protection Conference?

You can complain for these 3 reasons:

- You don't think the proper process was followed.
- You don't agree with the decision to put a child on the Child Protection Register or take them off the register, as it was affected by the process which was followed.
- You don't agree with the reason the child was registered, as it was affected by the process which was followed. This is known as the 'category of registration'.

If you wish to complain please discuss this with your child's Social Worker.

Your Notes

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