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| **FACE-TO-FACE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES****February 2023** |

In response to the Pandemic, the Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Service moved to Chairing Child Protection Conferences virtually. Whilst this has worked well for both service users and professionals, we are aware that the ideal is to support parents in attending Child Protection Conferences in Person. The standard offer for all conferences is a hybrid conference with parents, social worker, and Child Protection attending in person. Parent advocates and interpreters are also able to attend.

**WHAT DOES A FACE-TO-FACE CONFERENCE LOOK LIKE IN TOWER HAMLETS?**

* The designated Child Protection Conference Room at Mulberry Place will be used as the venue for families and their children to attend.
* Child Protection Chair, allocated social worker, and parents should attend in person
* Where possible, Interpreters and parental advocates should attend in person to support parents’ participation.
* Parents should be consulted about who they would like to attend in person so if there is a professional whom they would like to be present in the room – effort should be made to support this.
* All other professionals attending the hybrid Child Protection Conference can either attend in person or join by a TEAMS link.
* If parents do not attend in person, as part of the move to hybrid conferences the allocated social worker and child protection chair should still be present for the meeting in person.

**HOW ARE FACE-TO-FACE CONFERENCES FACILIATED IN TOWER HAMLETS?**

* The Clever Screen is full integrated into the room – a laptop is not necessary to operate the meeting any longer.
* There is not a maximum number of people in the Conference Rooms

**SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS TO ATTEND IN PERSON:**

* **Childcare:** Consider with parents if there is family that can assist with childcare to allow parents to participate. For school age children, school will often support if needed by offering after school club. Conference times have changed to facilitate parents in getting back to school on time. There is a family room available for booking for families with younger children. Mothers with babies are allowed to attend with their baby.