



# Contextual Safeguarding Child in Need Meetings

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A guide for parents and families



# Contents

1. What is a contextual safeguarding CIN meeting	3
2. Who attends	4
3. What happens at the meeting	6
4. What happens after the meeting	8
5. How to prepare for the meeting	8
6. Your right to complain	9

# 1. What is a contextual safeguarding Child in Need (CIN) meeting

Contextual exploitation takes place in spaces and places outside the family, sometimes in the local community and sometimes elsewhere. It is harm to a child, usually from someone or some people who are not family members. A contextual safeguarding Child in Need meeting takes place when there are worries about the safety of the young person outside of the family. It is a meeting between:

- a young person's parents
- their family
- their family friends
- professionals
- the young person

The focus of the meeting is putting support and planning around your child. The process is focused on teenagers and "spaces and places" risks.

The professionals will be people involved with you and your child.

We welcome you bringing family members and adult friends who you think can help, but please remember they will hear your family information.

When we describe your child's experiences, we will not use any language which could suggest that they are in some way responsible for exploitation they may suffer, or crimes they may be victims of. Language like this will always be

challenged. We should reflect the pressures children are put under, and be clear that they themselves do not have control of abusive or exploitative situations. We must be clear about how badly affected children are.

## **Record of the meeting**

A written summary of the meeting and the plan will be typed by the chair during and after the meeting. It will be sent to you within two working days, with the reports from the social worker and other professionals involved, and your and your child's contribution forms.

## **Where the meeting will be held**

The meeting will be held in a meeting room, with yourselves, your child, family members, the chair and professionals present.

## **2. Who attends**

### **Can my child come to the meeting?**

Yes, it's really important that your child comes. We want to work together with young people. Please tell us how you think your child can be supported to take part.

The social worker will put them in touch with an advocate from Barnardo's, who is independent, works for them and can support them at the meeting.

## Meeting chair

The chair is an experienced social work manager who is not part of your child's social work team. Their job is to run the meeting. They will contact you before the meeting to talk about it, and how they can support everyone to take part.

They would like to talk to your child before the meeting too, and will contact them as well.

The chair will give everyone a chance to speak and will help to build a plan of what needs to happen.

## Social worker and social work manager

You have already met your child's social worker as this is the person who completed an assessment with you and your family. The social worker will come to the meeting to talk about the work they have been doing with your child and yourself.

Sometimes the social work manager attends.

## Which other professionals might attend

**Education:** If your child is at school or college, they will be invited.

**Health:** If your child attends school the school nurse will be invited, as well as other health professionals working with them. Your GP will be asked to share relevant health information about you and your child, usually in a report.

**Other professionals** working with you and your child are invited. For example, someone supporting their mental

health, or working with them about drug or alcohol misuse, or a Youth Justice worker.

They will be asked to come so they can share information about your child, and suggest how they can help with the plan.

## **Reports**

All the professionals invited to the meeting write a report about how they support you and your child, what they think is working well and what they are worried about. The social worker writes an assessment.

Each professional is responsible for their own report and for sharing this with you. This should be two working days before the first meeting, and five working days before any other review meeting.

## **Contribution forms**

You and your child will be asked to complete contribution forms. Like the professionals you will be asked to share what you think is working well and what you are worried about. You don't have to complete these forms but we hope you will do so.

## **3. What happens at the meeting**

The chair will settle you into the meeting room and answer any questions you have before anyone else joins you.

The chair asks everyone to introduce themselves at the start of the meeting.

They will ask the social worker to read out the danger statement from their assessment and explain why the meeting is needed.

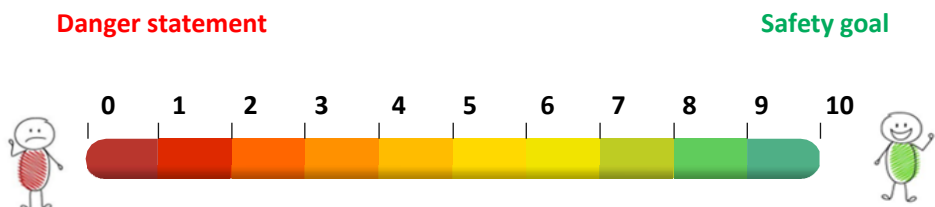
They will ask your child, you, and your family members what you think. They will ask what works well in your family, what you are worried about and what additional support you need.

The professionals will share their views.

The chair will type the key points for everyone to see and ask what would help to keep your child safe and well.

## Using a scale

Everyone in the meeting including you and your family will be asked to use the scale below to think about how safe your child is.



## The plan

Everyone at the meeting will agree a plan of what needs to happen next to support you to keep your child safe. Everyone will think about what may help. It is important the plan is right

for your child, you and your family.

You will all be asked to give your views about whether the plan you make should be a contextual safeguarding Child in Need plan, in order to help to keep your child safe from exploitation risks outside the family.

## **4. What happens after the meeting**

The record of the meeting which includes your child's plan, and the reports and contribution forms to the meeting, will be sent to you within two working days.

If a contextual safeguarding plan is made there will be regular "progress meetings", when family and professionals will meet to look at the plan. You will all review the progress of the plan and if it is helping to reduce the concerns.

The social worker will meet with your child at least every 2 weeks.

Another review contextual safeguarding Child in Need meeting will be held three months later, to see if the plan has helped to make changes and make your child safer. There may be further meetings agreed after that, if you and those attending agree this is necessary.

## **5. How to prepare for the meeting**

You will get the reports before the meeting so you can read them. Please let the social worker know if you need help to do this.



Please tell the social worker if you or your child have additional needs they should know about so they can support you in the best way possible.

Please do think before the meeting about the strengths of your family, as well as what you are worried about, and what might be helpful for you and your family.

It would be very helpful if you could complete the parent contribution form for the meeting, although you do not have to. Please do this 2 days before the meeting so it can be shared in advance with the chair and others who are invited.

## 6. Your right to complain

The chair will try to resolve any concerns you have about the meeting. Please speak to them or write to them as soon as possible after the meeting if you wish to raise something.

To make a complaint about the meeting, you can also email [cpcentraladmin@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:cpcentraladmin@haringey.gov.uk) or write to:

Head of Service, ESQA, 3rd Floor, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green London N22 8HQ

Another way to make a complaint is to contact Haringey's complaints service.

You can use the online feedback form at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/contact/council-feedback/childrens-social-care-complaints-procedure>

or if you can't access this link or form, call 020 8489 3424.

Barnardo's is funded by Haringey to provide a free independent advocacy service to help young people who wish to complain about social care services.

**Barnardo's:**

*Freephone: 0800 085 8287*

*Telephone: 020 8768 5058*

*Email: [advocacy2@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:advocacy2@barnardos.org.uk)*

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