



Contextual Safeguarding Child in Need Meetings

A guide for children and young people



Haringey
LONDON



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1. What is a contextual safeguarding CIN meeting

This is a meeting which is held because of harm to you, which is taking place in spaces and places outside your family. This may happen near to where you live, or somewhere else. It is harm which usually comes from someone or some people who are not family members. The meeting takes place because of the worries about your safety. The people who come are:

- your parents
- family members
- family friends
- professionals
- yourself

The aim of the meeting is to make a plan. This will put support in place which will help to make you safe or keep you safe. The meeting will think about “spaces and places” risks.

Record of the meeting

A summary of the meeting and the plan will be typed by the chair. This will be shared along with reports from the social worker and other professionals, and contribution forms from you and your parents or carers.

Where the meeting will be held

The meeting will be held in a meeting room. You, your parents or carers, family members, the chair and some professionals will be there.

2. Who comes to the meeting

Can I come?

Yes, it's really important that you come. Please tell us how you think you can be supported to take part.

The social worker will put you in touch with an **advocate** from Barnardo's. An advocate is independent and will work for you. They can come with you and support you at the meeting. You can also share what you want to say in other ways. There is a contribution form you can fill in, or you could write a letter or talk to the chair.

The chair

The chair is a manager who is a qualified social worker, but is not part of your social work team. Their job is to run the meeting. As long as you are happy with this, the chair will contact you before the meeting.

The chair will give everyone at the meeting 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 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 what

they have been doing with you and your family.

Sometimes the social work manager attends.

Which other professionals might attend

Education: If you are at school or college, they will be invited.

Health: If you are at school the school nurse will be invited, as well as other health professionals working with you. Your GP will be asked to share relevant health information. They often send a report rather than coming to the meeting.

Other professionals working with you and your family would be invited. For example, someone helping with your wellbeing or mental health, or working with you about drugs or alcohol, or a Youth Justice worker.

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

Reports

You and your parents or carers will be asked if you would like to fill in a contribution form before the meeting. You can say what you think is working well, what you are worried about and what changes or support would be helpful.

All the professionals invited to the conference write a report as well. They will share how they support you and your family, and what they think they could do in future. They say what they think is working well, what they are worried about and what changes or support they think would be helpful. The

social worker writes an assessment.

Each professional is responsible for their own report and for sharing it. Some but not always all reports will be shared with you.

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.

During 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 everyone what they think, what works well in your family, what are the worries and what support might be needed.

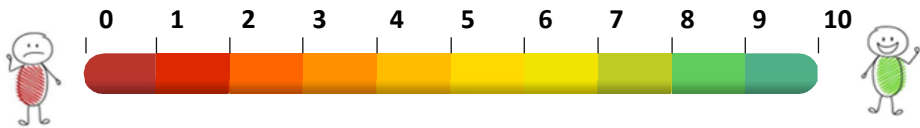
The chair will type the main points for everyone to see and ask what would help to keep you safe and well.

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 you are.

Danger statement

Safety goal



The plan

Everyone at the meeting will agree a plan of what needs to happen next, to support you and help you to stay safe. Everyone will think about what may help. It is important the plan is right for you, and your family.

Everyone will be asked whether the plan should be a contextual safeguarding CIN plan, to help you to stay safe from risks from outside your home.

4. What happens afterwards

The plan, and the reports and contribution forms, are shared after the meeting.

If a contextual safeguarding CIN plan is made there will be regular “progress meetings”, when everyone will meet to look at the plan. You will all think about whether the actions on the plan have moved on, and if the plan is helping to keep you safe.

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

Another contextual safeguarding CIN meeting will be held three months later, to see if the plan has helped to make changes and make you safer. There may be more meetings agreed after that.

5. How to prepare for the meeting

The reports will be ready before the meeting so you can see them. The social worker will discuss this with you.

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

Please do think before the meeting about what is going well, 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 fill in the contribution form for the meeting, although you do not have to.

6. Your right to complain

The chair will try to deal with any concerns you have about the meeting. You can ask to speak to them or write to them after the meeting if you want to share something. You can also ask the social worker to contact Barnardo's advocacy service to get in touch with you - or you can contact them yourself (see below). They are independent and can help you make a complaint.

Barnardo's:

Freephone: 0800 085 8287

Telephone: 020 8768 5058

Email: advocacy2@barnardos.org.uk

Or if you want to do this directly, you can email cpcentraladmin@haringey.gov.uk

or use the online feedback form at
<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/contact/council-feedback/childrens-social-care-complaints-procedure>
or call 020 8489 3424.

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