

Initial and Review Child Protection Conference Agenda

1. Introduction

Introductions and apologies.

Reports checked.

Information about the chair's written record - summary and plan.

Signs of Safety explanation, and the purpose of a child protection conference.

Equal opportunities and confidentiality statement.

Confirmation of family details.

Note about complaints and compliments.

Expectations when taking part in virtual meetings.

2. Reason for child protection conference

Danger statement will be shared by the social worker.

3. Review of the child protection plan *[At Review Conference only]*

Brief note of whether each action on the plan has progressed.

4. What is working well

What are we worried about

Complicating factors

Are there "grey areas"

Safety factors

Contributions from parents/carers, professionals and children/young people.

5. Each child's views

The young person may be present, their advocate may be present, or they may share their views in other ways.

The social worker and others will share what they have gathered from talking to and doing direct work with each young person.

6. Chair's summary of strengths and worries

The chair's summary will include what is working well, past harm, and what could happen in future that would be unsafe.

7. Review of Danger Statement

Do parents/carers and professionals understand and agree with the danger statement outlined at the beginning of the meeting - based on all the information shared today?

8. Safety Goals

Safety goals discussed and agreed with the family and professionals.

9. What needs to happen next (the plan)

Contributions from parents/carers, professionals and children/young people.

10. Scaling question

The chair will ask each person to give their views about danger and safety, using a scale from 1 to 10.

The professionals need to give a recommendation for each child, whether a child protection plan is needed. Parents/carers can give a view but do not have to.

11. Conference Decisions noted

If a child protection plan is required, a category will be agreed.

If a child in need plan is made instead this will be noted (or any other decision).

Any formal dissents are noted.

12. Agree the plan

The chair will summarise the plan and add any further points.

13. Core group membership and next meetings agreed:

The core group of family members and professionals who will meet regularly.

The date, time and place of next core group, midway review (discussion between chair and social worker) and next conference.

Date when reports are to be shared before the next conference.

NOTES

WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE AND PLAN

The chair will complete a written summary of the conference and the plan which is developed during and after the conference. It will be shared with invitees within one working day of the meeting.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

This conference will treat everyone equally, with respect and no discrimination because of race, culture, ethnic or national origins, religious or political beliefs, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status or responsibility for dependents. The chair, or other conference members through the chair, will challenge any discrimination by or against any conference participant. Threatening and violent behaviour will not be tolerated in the meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information discussed at this meeting is strictly confidential and must only be discussed with other individuals who have a 'need to know' in order to carry out their professional duties. In considering this, the welfare and protection of the child is foremost and must always take priority. If in any doubt the conference chair should be consulted. The record of the conference cannot be shared without the chair's permission.

REASONS FOR A DECISION THAT A CHILD WILL HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN:

A child protection plan is made where:

- The child can be shown to have suffered ill treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment are likely

Or:

- Professional judgement, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in the individual case or by research evidence, is that the child is likely to suffer ill treatment or the impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect

CATEGORIES (From *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*)

Physical Abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. **Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: a. provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment) b. protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger c. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers) d. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.