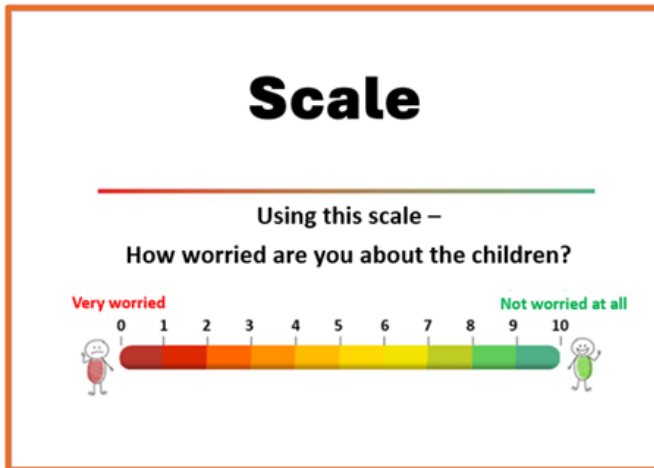


Agenda for Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences ICPCs and RCPCs

1. **Introduction**
Introductions and note apologies.
Reports and contribution forms noted.
Information about the written record.
Signs of Safety explanation, and the purpose of the conference.
Equal opportunities and confidentiality statement.
Confirmation of family details.
Note about complaints and compliments.
Expectations if someone is attending online.
Toilets and emergency procedures.
2. **Reason for CP conference [or CP plan, if Review conference]**
This will be shared by the social worker.
3. **Update since last conference [At Review Conference only]**
Significant events since the last meeting.
4. **Review of the child protection plan [At Review conference only]**
Brief note of whether each action on the plan has progressed.
5. **What is working well**
What are we worried about
Complicating factors
Are there "grey areas"
Safety factorsContributions from everyone present
6. **Each child/young person's views**
The young person may come, their advocate may come, or they may share their views in other ways.
Professionals will share what they have gathered from each young person.
7. **Chair's summary of strengths and worries**
The chair will summarise at this point.
8. **Danger Statement**
What are we worried could happen if nothing improves or things deteriorate.
Parents/carers and professionals will review a danger statement.
9. **Safety Goals**
What do we want to see happen so people are no longer worried.
Safety goals discussed and agreed with the family and professionals.
10. **What needs to happen next (the Plan)**
Contributions from everyone present.

11. **Scaling question and conference decisions**
a) **Scaling**



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

b) **Recommendations**

The professionals need to make a recommendation for each child: is a child protection (CP) plan needed, or a different sort of plan. Parents/carers can give a view but do not have to.

If a CP plan is proposed, a category will be suggested.

The chair takes the final decision, taking recommendations into account.

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

Any formal dissents are noted.

12. **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 (chair discussion with social worker) and next conference.

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

NOTES

WRITTEN RECORD OF CONFERENCE

The chair will write a summary after the conference, and include the plan. This will be sent to invitees within one working day of the meeting, with the professional reports and family contribution forms. These make up the record of the conference.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

This conference will treat everyone equally, with respect, and not discriminating because of race, culture, ethnic or national origins, religious or political beliefs, class, gender, sexuality, age, disability, marital status or responsibility for dependents. The chair, or other conference members through the chair, will challenge any discrimination by anyone there. 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. The welfare and protection of the child must always take priority in considering this. 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

The conference should consider the following question when determining whether a child requires a multi-agency child protection plan:

- Has the child suffered significant harm? and
- Is the child likely to suffer significant harm in the future?

The test for likelihood of suffering harm in the future should be that either:

- The child can be shown to have suffered maltreatment or impairment of health or development as a result of neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment is likely; or
- A professional judgement, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in this individual case or by research evidence, predicts that the child is likely to suffer maltreatment or the impairment of health and development as a result of neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

(From the London Safeguarding Children Procedures 7th Edition 2022)

CATEGORIES

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 so 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:

- provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- provide suitable education

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

(From Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)