

# WHY IS THERE A CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE ABOUT MY CHILD?



**children** AT THE  
**heart** OF **all we do**



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

We have a Child Protection Conference if we are worried that a child or young person is being harmed, or is at risk of being harmed.

Your Social Worker has talked to you about the worries that people have for your child and will give you a written report that explains this in detail before the conference.

If you feel you have not understood, please do ask them to explain this again.

The conference is a meeting where we will talk about what we can do to work together to make things better.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE?

We will talk about what people are worried about and everyone, including you, will think about how best to support you and your family. The conference will look at what is going well in your family and look at how we can build on the strengths to help reduce the worries that everyone has. The meeting is chaired by an independent person from the Safeguarding Unit called the Child Protection Conference Chair and they will help everyone at the meeting agree how to make things safer for your child.

### WHO WILL BE AT THE CONFERENCE?

All the people who work with your family – for example, your health visitor or your child's teacher – and your Social Worker will come to the meeting. When someone is not able to come to the conference they will send information in writing and you will be given a copy. All the information is private and will only be seen by the people at the meeting.

Both parents of the child have a right to be there, and if this is likely to be difficult for you please advise your Social Worker in advance so arrangements can be made to make sure everyone is safe.

### WILL MY CHILD BE AT THE CONFERENCE?

We want your child to have to have their say but it is not always right for them to hear everything that might be said. We will work out a plan with you and your child to make sure their views are shared. This might be through the support of someone who can speak on your child's behalf – someone we would call 'an advocate'.

### WILL PEOPLE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

We know it is really important that we listen to what you have to say at the conference. Things can only improve if everyone understands your views, what you need and what you think should happen. The Child Protection Conference Chair will meet with you before the conference starts so you can talk to them about any worries you have and what you might want help with. If you do not feel you can speak at the conference, make notes that you can share with the Social Worker or the Child Protection Coordinator and they can speak on your behalf.

If you decide that you do not want to come to the conference, talk to your Social Worker and they make sure your views are heard. You can tell someone who is going to the meeting how you are feeling or you could write something down for everyone to read. Please be aware that the meeting will go ahead even if you do not come, so this is an important way to make sure your views are considered.

### CAN I BRING SOMEONE WITH ME?

Yes of course – you can bring one person along to support you. This should be a person that you trust with your personal information as we will be talking together about your child and family.

### WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN?

If everyone agrees that your child needs a Child Protection Plan, we will write the plan together at the conference. It details how we are going to work together to support you to keep your child safe and help with anything that may be having an impact on your child. The plan sets out what needs to be done, who is going to do it and when it will be done. If the Conference decides your child does not need a plan, the Child Protection Conference Chair will talk about other ways we could support you.

### REVIEWING THE PLAN

While your child is on a Child Protection Plan, there will be opportunities to think about how well the plan is working. Within 10 working days there will be a meeting with you, your family and the professionals working with you to make sure that everyone is doing what was agreed – this is called the Core Group Meeting. These meetings take place every 20 working days.

The Child Protection Plan will be reviewed after 3 months to see if things are better and if the plan is still needed. It will then be reviewed every 6 months until everyone agrees that your child is safe.



**6 THINGS CAN ONLY IMPROVE IF EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS YOUR VIEWS, WHAT YOU NEED AND WHAT YOU THINK SHOULD HAPPEN.9**

### **WHAT IF I AM NOT HAPPY WITH THE CONFERENCE DECISION?**

If you do not agree with the decisions and the plan agreed at the conference, you can write to:

Head of Service for Safeguarding and Reviewing  
Sixth Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower,  
Prince's Way, Bradford BD1 1NN

They will look at the details of the meeting and if the things that were discussed and planned were fair and right to keep your child safe.



### **HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE?**

You can start to think about what you might want to say at the conference now.

- What do you think is going well for you and your family at the moment?
- Do you agree with the worries people have about your children and their safety? If no, why not?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Where would you want your family to be in 6 months time – how can everyone help with this?

If you want to know what we do with your information, please have a look at our website:

[www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/childrens-social-care-privacy-notice/](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/childrens-social-care-privacy-notice/)



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