



Police Checks

When Children's Services is completing an assessment to help decide what is best for a child or young person, we need to collect information to help us.

It is important we know if an adult involved with the child or young person has any relevant criminal convictions. A police check can tell us this.

Examples of when we might need this information are:

- When we are concerned about a child's safety.
- When we are assessing people who want to care for, or have contact with a looked after child or young person. This includes their relatives and friends.

What is a police check?

A police check is where we ask the police (Durham Constabulary) to check the Police National Computer and their local computer systems for information about a person to find out if they have committed offences relating to violence, sexual offences, drugs or alcohol, or offences relating to children.

The Police are legally able to share this information with us because it helps us to keep children and young people safe.

Can I object to the police check?

Unless there are urgent risks to a child we will always tell you that we plan to carry out a police check. When we talk to you about this you will be able to tell us if you have any objections to the police check taking place.

We will take your objections into account when we make the final decision on whether to go ahead with the check.

Who will know the results of the police check?

We will only share the information if we need to do so to protect a child from harm.

When we have the results of the police check we will normally share them with you and tell you about any action we need to take as a result. We will tell you that we plan to share the information after 7 days. This will give you time to object, possibly by applying to court, or to share the information yourself.

However, in an urgent situation, where we think a child or young person is in danger we may share this information without telling you.

Where will the results of the police check be recorded?

The results of the police check will be recorded on the child or young person's electronic file.

Objections to the police check

If you have any objections to the police check taking place please tell us about them. We will take your objections into account when making the final decision on whether to go ahead with the check.

Name:

Address:

Please let us know your objection(s) to a police check taking place:

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Signed: Date:

