|  |
| --- |
| This letter is explaining a Pre-Case Management Hearing MeetingAs you will know the Local Authority have made an application to court in respect of your child to ask for a legal order. We think this is needed at the moment to help make sure your child is safe. For any child who is in this situation a Children’s Guardian is allocated to understand the worries raised by the Local Authority and to meet with your child to understand their wishes and feelings before making a recommendation to the judge. To help us understand what has happened we always speak with you and your family and the Children’s Guardian to make sure everyone has the same information about what is working well, what we are worried about and what we think needs to happen. Your child’s social worker will be meeting with the Guardian to talk about what's happened, why the Local Authority made the decision to apply to court and to understand what our plan is. This meeting is called a Pre-Case Management Hearing Meeting.During this meeting we will talk about the help and support in place and the work we have been doing before the decision was made to make an application to court. No decisions will be discussed or made at this meeting, it is an opportunity for us to share information and improve understanding about you and your family.After the meeting we will write to you again with a summary of what was talked about, and any information shared. As a service we want to make sure all our information is shared, and this will also be shared with the solicitors working on your behalf so they can understand the work we have done as well. The guardian will want to talk to you to ask about what you think should happen to make sure they have all of the information to act on behalf of your child. We will send a copy of the notes from this meeting to the court so that the Judge also understands that we have met with the guardian. Please contact your child’s social worker if you have any questions about this letter.  |
| This is a reminder you are entitled to free legal advice. You can find a lawyer who can help you by going to: <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law>There are also a number of other organisations offering support to families in your situation:* Family Rights Group [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk) - Advice and support for families whose children are involved with children’s services
* Family Lives <http://www.familylives.org.uk/> - Tel: 0808 800 2222 (free) Support for parents and carers
 |