

Your Rights

A Social Worker cannot take away your child/ren without your consent, unless there is a court order issued by a judge. Police have special powers whereby they can take your children away immediately for up to 72 hours if they deem it unsafe for them to stay in the home, known as a Police Protection Order. Your child/ren will be allowed to return home as soon as it is safe.

If your first language is not English, then an interpreter will be used via the phone to interpret all communication between you and Children's Social Care. Furthermore, if you or your child has a disability, you will be supported to accommodate your needs.

Contact Us

To contact Children Social Care please call:

0300 126 1000

Each Team has their own duty number which your Social Worker should give you.

If you have any comments, complaints or compliments contact:

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

One Angel Square

Angel Street

Northampton, NN1 1ED

myfeedback@westnorthants.gov.uk

A Guide to Assessment's



**Northamptonshire
Children's Trust**

Introduction to Social Care

A referral is made to Children's Social Care because someone, a professional or member of the public, has concerns about your child. When a referral is received your family will be allocated a Social Worker. They will complete an Assessment, exploring the concerns raised, where they stem from and how it is effecting your family, as well as offering you support to overcome these problems and how to move forward.

What is an Assessment?

An Assessment is a written report completed by the Social Worker which helps decide how best to support your family. During this time the Social Worker will gather information from various professionals, yourself and any other family members if relevant, and your children. The Social Worker will consider various elements involving your family, which can include identifying your children's needs, how well you meet these needs, if your child/ren are at risk of significant harm or risk, and how the concerns raised may affect your child/ren's safety and well-being.

It is really important you try and share as much information as possible with your Social Worker.

This allows them to carry out an effective and robust assessment, and identify the best possible services required to support you and your family.

The assessment is usually conducted within 45 days from the initial referral and will be shared with you once your Social Worker has completed it.

If your child/ren is at risk of significant harm or risk, then a Section 47 investigation will be conducted. Your Social Worker will explain this.

What happens next?

Throughout the Assessment your Social Worker will decide on what will happen next. There are 4 options the Social Worker can decide upon:

- No Further Action
- Referral to another service for additional support
- Proceed to a Child in Need Plan (CIN Plan)
- Proceed to Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)

If your case is transferred to either a CIN Plan or ICPC, then you may be allocated a long term Social Worker from the Safeguarding team. They will work with you more in-depth to support you and your family to ensure your children are not at risk of harm.