

The information you share with your Social Worker will be confidential, and not shared with your parents unless there is a risk to yourself or others. Social Workers cannot keep secrets, but we will talk with you about what you shared before sharing it with other people.

Social workers do everything they can to ensure families stay together, unless you need to be protected or at risk of being harmed. In extreme circumstances the Police or Courts may decide that it would be best for you to stay somewhere else, so Children's Social Care may find someone else to look after you. Social Workers follow a child centre approach, and make decisions with you, ensuring your well-being and feelings is at the centre of the work they do.

What happens next?

Once the assessment has been completed the Social Worker will decide what happens next. This may be:

1. No Further Action is needed, with no more involvement from Children's Social Care
2. Support may be needed from another service such as our Strengthening Families or Partnership Team, which is not with a Social Worker.
3. If there are some concerns then you will be placed on a Child in Need Plan where a social worker may visit you once a month and work with you.
4. If there are significant concerns a multi agency meeting will be arranged called an Initial Child Protection Conference, which could place you and your family on a Child Protection Plan.



Your Guide to Social Services



Northamptonshire
Children's Trust



What does a Social Worker do?

Social workers are professionals whose job it is to promote the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. They offer a range of services and support to children and their families. Children's Social Care receive information called a referral, which can come from a professional, member of the public or anyone who is worried or has concerns about a young person. A Social Worker may then come and visit you at home or at school to make sure you are safe and have the support you need.

What is an Assessment?

When you are allocated a Social Worker, they will collect lots of information from yourself, your family, and professionals you may know or work with such as your teacher or GP. This information will form an Assessment, which is similar to a report. The Social Worker will make a decision as to whether you have suffered or are at risk of suffering from harm.

What information does the Social Worker want?

Your Social Worker will look for various information relating to you including if you have any health needs or disabilities, need any extra support with education or learning, if your parents/guardians are struggling with their own needs, how well your family treat you, how you fit in with your family, how happy you are with your life at home and at school, who you live with, and how your wider family network support you, among other things. It is very important you be open and honest with your Social Worker, You will not get into trouble for anything you share. Social workers need as much information as possible to make sure they can get the right support for you and your family. If your social worker doesn't know what's going on, then they can't support you.