

WHY IS THERE A CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE ABOUT ME?



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



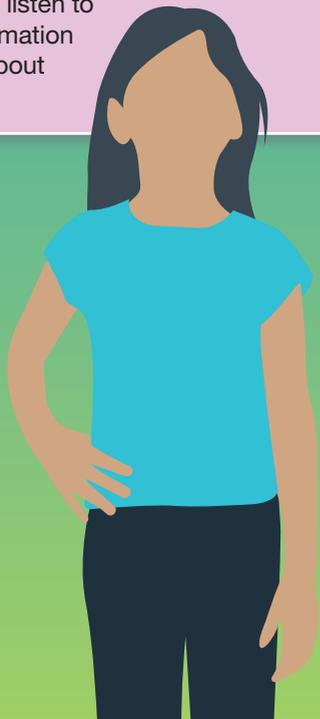
City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

We are worried you might not be happy and safe. Your social worker will be able to tell you what the worries are and you can ask them to explain this again at any time if you don't understand.

We set up a meeting called a Child Protection Conference so that all the important people in your life, like your parents or carers, your teachers and health workers can talk about what we can do together to keep you safe.

CAN I COME TO THE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE IF I WANT TO?

It's your choice if you want to attend or not. You may not be able to attend all of the conference because other people will be talked about and you can only listen to the information that is about you.



IF I DON'T COME TO THE MEETING, HOW WILL PEOPLE KNOW WHAT I THINK?

It is really important that we know what you think and whether you feel that you are safe or not and what you would like to happen.

Your Social Worker will ask you about your views before the meeting, and will make sure that everyone at the meeting knows what they are, or you can ask someone else you trust like a teacher or health worker to speak on your behalf. Or you can email or text and this could be read out at the meeting.

If you want, your Social Worker will ask an 'advocate' to visit you – the advocate can then tell everyone at the meeting what you wanted to say. They will use the words that you want them to so it is like you are speaking. The advocate is an independent person who does not work for Children's Social Care.

You can still have an advocate if you come to the meeting, if you are worried you will not feel confident to talk for yourself.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT A CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE?

The conference is run by someone who is not your Social Worker, called a Child Protection Coordinator. They will meet with your parents or carers, and you, if you decide to attend, before the conference to make sure you understand what is going to happen and are able to have your say.

The meeting will talk about:

- What is going well for you and your family?
- What is worrying you?
- What would you like to change?

At the meeting you can ask questions.

At the end of the conference people will decide whether they think you need the support of a child protection plan to keep you from harm. They may decide that help can be provided to your family in other ways instead.

Your Social Worker will make sure you are told what happens as soon as the conference is over.

THE CONFERENCE CANNOT DECIDE TO MOVE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY.

THE PLAN WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY GET THINGS BACK ON TRACK AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE SAFE.



WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN?

If everyone agrees that you or your brothers and sisters need a child protection plan, we will write the plan together at the conference. It explains how we are going to work together to keep you safe and make sure you get the right help. The plan will help you and your family get things back on track and make sure you are safe.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

People will start to put the plan into action. It may be that you spend extra time with a teacher or school nurse who knows you well, to talk about things. If your Social Worker thinks you need extra help, they may arrange with you to speak to another person who works with children and young people.



New people may come to your home to talk to your parents or carers too. They will always introduce themselves to you and explain who they are.

Your Social Worker will carry on visiting you regularly – around every 10 days. They want you to be safe and well cared for and they will listen to you. It is their job to check on how things are going, and make sure the plan is working for you, so it's really important to tell them how you feel.

If your home is quite busy and noisy they might also spend time with you away from home, perhaps at school, to get some quiet time to talk about the things that are worrying people.

REVIEWING THE PLAN

There will be regular meetings, called core groups and child protection reviews to check the plan is working well and everyone is doing what they should.

WHEN WILL THE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN END?

The meetings will carry on until everyone is happy that your family can manage without a plan to help you stay safe. When this happens, your Social Worker may carry on seeing you to help you or someone else in your family or they may say goodbye and will stop visiting. If your family still needs support, your school or health workers may organise this instead.



We hope that having a Child Protection Plan will keep you safe and you will be happier at home.

This leaflet is available in other formats such as large print or braille. For more information call 01274 435600.