



An Introduction to Child Protection Conferences in Mid and West Wales

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that is held when Children's Services are worried that a child may be at risk of significant harm. Your child's Social Worker should have been clear with you what those worries are. The meeting is a chance for everyone to share information.

What is decided at the conference?

After listening to all of the information everyone is asked if there is evidence of harm and whether your child needs a Care and Support Protection Plan to keep them safe.

Who will be at the conference?

Parents are usually invited to the conference. There will also be professionals who may include:

- Your child's Social Worker
- Health Visitor
- School
- School Nurse
- Police
- Nursery Worker
- Anyone else who is working with you and your family.

Do parents always attend?

You will be invited to the conference unless there is a specific reason not to.

You can bring someone to support you. This could be a friend, solicitor or advocate.

Excluding a parent from conference?

Sometimes we are not able to invite parents, however you will be given an explanation and we will ask for your view before the meeting so that your views are heard.

What will happen before the conference?

Your child's Social Worker and other involved professionals will write a report to share at the conference.

Everyone who writes a report should share it with you 24 hours before the conference so that you can comment on them.

Conferences can be upsetting.

We understand that this is a difficult meeting for you and hope that you will find it a useful way to get any help you and your child may need.

What will happen during the conference?

The Chair will meet with you before the conference starts and you can ask any questions.

The conference will follow an agenda, it will discuss the incident and concerns.

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What will happen during the conference?

The Chair may use flip charts/whiteboard to share everyone's view about what is going well, what people are worried about and if anything needs to change (Signs of Safety).

A decision will be made whether your child needs a Care and Support Protection Plan.

What happens if my child requires a Care and Support Protection Plan?

You will have clear goals of what you need to do so that people are no longer worried.

Core Groups (you and all the professionals) will meet monthly to discuss how things are going.

What happens after the conference?

You will receive a decision letter within 5 working days confirming the outline plan.

We aim to send the minutes (notes) of the meeting within 20 working days. If you feel these are not what is said at the meeting please contact the Chairperson.

Confidentiality.

Everything that is said in the conference is confidential and can only be shared with people who weren't in the meeting with permission of the Chairperson. Details of the meeting should not be shared on social media.

What can I do if I am unhappy with the conference decision?

You have the right to complain if you feel that you are unhappy with the process.