

to make things better for you. You should have a copy of the plan in a way that you can understand.

What happens if I do not need a child protection plan?

If you do not need a child protection plan you can still have help and support. Your social worker will explain what help you can have to sort out some of the difficulties you have been having recently.

What happens after the Conference?

Within 10 working days after the Conference, you will get a copy of the notes taken by the minute taker if you attended the Conference.

Remember

- You are an important and valued person
- Your views and feelings will be listened to and respected.

Further helpful information is available from:

- A solicitor who works with children
- Your local Citizens Advice Bureau
- Family Rights Group (Advice Line)
Tel: 0808 801 0366
- Children's Legal Centre (Child Law)
Tel: 0808 802 000

Complaints

If you have a complaint please contact your social worker and a complaints leaflet will be made available to you. Complaints should be made in writing to:

Customer Feedback and Complaints Officer – Children and Families Services, Customer Feedback and Complaints Team, Staffordshire County Council, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH

Contact Centre: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk

If you would like this document in another language or format, e.g. large text, please contact the Communications Team (Families First) on 01785 277135

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Child Protection Conferences

Information for children and young people



What is a Conference?

A Conference is a meeting arranged by Children's Services if people are worried about your safety. The reason for the meeting is to share information about you and your family and talk about what needs to be done to keep you safe. You can also have your say.

Who will be at the Conference?

You will be invited but do not worry if you don't want to attend. You can tell your social worker what you want the Conference to know before it happens if you want to do this. Many people that you already know will be there including your parents or carers, your social worker and the police officer who has been working with you. Your doctor and a teacher you know may also be there and maybe other professional people. A person called a minute taker will be there to write down all that is said at the Conference.

You are the most important person at the Conference.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you can bring someone with you – it can be anyone who you think will make you feel comfortable, for example a member of your family or an adult who you trust.

What if English is not my first language?

Your social worker will arrange for an interpreter to be there for you. This will make sure that everyone can understand how you feel and knows what has been happening.

What if I have speech, hearing or other difficulties?

Your social worker will make sure there is someone to support you or special equipment provided so that you can take part in the Conference.

What will happen before the Conference?

Your social worker will talk to you about the report they have written about you. Just before the Conference starts the person in charge of the Conference (called the chairperson) will meet you to explain about the Conference and answer any questions you may have. The Conference is confidential and you will have your rights explained to you.

What will happen at the Conference?

- The chairperson will ask everyone to introduce themselves.

- The reports written by the professionals e.g. your school / your Doctor, will be shared and everyone present will talk about their involvement with your family
- We will talk about what we are **worried** about, what the **positives** are in your family and what needs to **change** to keep you safe
- We will listen to you and respect your feelings and views
- Decide if you need a child protection plan

What if I do not agree with the Conference?

If you are not happy or do not agree with the discussion at the Conference, do not be afraid to make your views known or to get your supporter to speak for you.

What happens if I need to have a child protection plan?

A small group of people will spend time helping you and your family to sort out the difficulties. This group is called the core group. Their job is to write the child protection plan that explains what each person has agreed to do to make things better for