

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

Information for Children and Young People

What is a Child Protection Meeting?

A Child Protection meeting is held if people think that a child or young person is at risk of harm or isn't being looked after properly. You may hear it being called a Child Protection Conference.

What will happen at the meeting?

Agencies and professionals who are involved with you and your family, for example School and GP, will be asked to provide a report to the meeting so that everyone understands what they have been doing with your family and what they are worried about. These reports will be shared with you by your Social Worker or Advocate (see below) before the meeting takes place.

Who goes to a Child Protection meeting?

- Social Worker
- Teacher/Head teacher
- Family members
- Your Parents/Carers (unless there is a good enough reason why they shouldn't be there)
- Other workers/ people who know you

Sometimes there might be:

- A Health Visitor
- A School Nurse
- A Police Officer
- A Doctor/GP
- An Interpreter if needed

Can I go to a meeting?

Yes if you are able to understand it and feel comfortable. You may only want to go for part of the meeting which is OK as well.

How long do these meetings last?

Up to 2 hours

What if I can't make it?

If you are unable to attend then your Social Worker or Advocate will talk to you as soon as they can to let you know what happened. This may not be on the same day as the meeting.

The Advocacy Service

An Advocate is a person who gives one-to-one support to a young person and will support you in Child Protection meetings or tell people YOUR views and opinions. The Advocacy Service is for children and young people aged 10 and over.

The Advocate can go to the meeting with you (if you want to go and if you understand it) and support you to tell people what you think and help you to make yourself understood.

If you don't want to go to the meeting, the Advocate can go for you and make sure that your voice is heard in the meeting, they will speak up for you and put forward your views, wishes and feelings.

If the Advocacy Service is involved will they give feedback?

Your Advocate will arrange to meet with you after the meeting to talk to you about any decisions that have been made and make sure you understand what is happening.

If you have any worries about the meeting:

You are encouraged to talk to your Social Worker or the Conference Chair, who runs the meetings, or your Advocate. The Chair will meet with you and your parents before the meeting to explain what is happening. You can speak to them alone if you wish.

If you attend and have any worries during the meeting, you can ask your Advocate for a short 'timeout' so you can talk to them alone before returning to the meeting.

Your Advocate will also give you the contact details for the Advocacy Service so you can get in touch if you have any worries either before or after the meeting.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

A Child Protection Plan is only made if people have concerns about your safety and welfare. Your Social Worker will explain it in more detail when they come and visit you

How long will I have a Child Protection Plan for?

Within three months after the first meeting there will be another meeting called a Child Protection Review, to see if things are getting better for you. If you stay on a Child Protection Plan there will be other meetings held every 6 months until such time as it is decided you don't need a plan anymore.

Who will know if I have a Child Protection Plan?

Only the people who need to know, such as your Social Worker, School, Doctor or School Nurse.

Will my brothers or sisters have a Child Protection Plan?

Your brothers and sisters will also be spoken to and if there are any concerns for their safety then yes they will also have a plan made for them.