Gloucestershire County Council

Child Protection Conferences

A Guide for Parents

Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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What is a **Child Protection Conference?**

Being invited to a Child Protection Conference can feel worrying. The conference is a meeting where parents, carers and professionals come together to talk about concerns for a child's safety and wellbeing and decide what support may be needed.

Why is it being held?

A conference is held when there are concerns that a child may have been harmed or may be at risk of harm. The purpose of the conference is to:

1 Before the **conference**

- Receive copies of reports before the conference (at least 2 working days before an Initial Conference and 5 working days before a Review Conference)
- Have the opportunity to share your views and ask questions
- Be able to bring notes to help you remember what you would like to say
- Be offered support if needed

2 Who will **attend?**

The meeting is chaired by a Lead Child Protection Practitioner, whose role is to make sure everyone has an opportunity to take part and that the meeting stays focused on your child's safety and wellbeing.

People who may attend include:

- Parents and carers
- Your child, where appropriate
- A supporter, friend, family member or advocate
- Your child's Family Help Social Worker (the professional coordinating support for your family)
- Education, health and police representatives
- Other professionals involved with your family

3 What happens at the **conference?**

Everyone shares information about your child's situation and experiences. The meeting will consider:

1. What is going on with your child and family
2. Any concerns about your child's safety and wellbeing
3. What support and actions may help keep your child safe

What decisions can be made?

The conference may decide that:

A Child Protection plan is needed to help keep your child safe; or

A Child in Need Plan may be agreed if your child and family would benefit from additional support, but a Child Protection Plan is not needed.

If a Child Protection Plan is agreed

- A Core Group meeting (a smaller meeting involving family members and key professionals) will take place within 10 working days
- Parents and professionals will work together to put the plan into action
- Progress will be reviewed regularly
- A Review Conference will usually take place after 3 months and then at least every 6 months

What can you expect from us?

You can expect to:

- Be listened to and treated with respect
- Be involved in decisions about your child
- Receive info and support in a timely way
- Have your culture, identity and experiences respected
- Receive the help and support that has been agreed with the agreed timescales
- Receive a copy of the conference decision letter within 1 working day of the conference
- Receive a written summary of the conference outcomes from the Lead Child Protection Practitioner within 20 working days

Need support?

If need an interpreter, advocate, information in another format, or any other reasonable adjustments to help you take part fully, please speak to your child's **Family Help Social Worker** or the **Lead Child Protection Practitioner**.

If there is anything you do not understand before, during or after the conference, please ask. **We want to work with you to help keep your child safe, healthy and supported.**