

**NB. Every effort will be made to conclude the appeal within the above time-scales. In exceptional circumstances, such as the unavailability of key staff through sickness or holidays, the above time-scales may have to be extended.**

### **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

The Principal Officer,  
The Safeguarding Unit,  
Children's Services  
St Werburghs  
Boswell Avenue  
Warrington  
WA4 6BB

The Chairperson  
Warrington Safeguarding Children Board  
C/o The Safeguarding Unit  
Children's Services  
St Werburghs  
Boswell Avenue  
Warrington  
WA4 6BB

### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Policy & Practice Manager	01925 457075
Service Reception Team Poll Tax House, Ryland Street Warrington	01925 444239
Out of Hours Service	01925 444400
Principal Officer (Safeguarding Children)	01925 457013
Children's Safeguarding Unit	01925 457016
Warrington Police Station	01925 652222
Police Public Protection Unit	01244 614878
Designated Nurse - Safeguarding Children	01925 643113
Designated Doctor - Safeguarding Children	01925 405712
Consultant Paediatrician or Senior Registrar	01925 635911
Senior Education Welfare Officer	01925 442928
Senior Probation Officer	01925 650613

**For further information visit our website  
[www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk)**

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## Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



### **THE PROCESS FOR APPEALING AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES**

*If you wish to appeal against a child protection conference decision this leaflet will explain how this can be done*

# The process for appealing against the decision of child protection case conferences

## DECISION MAKING IN THE MEETING

Everyone at the meeting will be asked whether a child's name should be the subject of a child protection plan. The Chairperson will then consider the views of everyone present including family members and children. Where it is not possible to agree a decision then the Chairperson will make it explaining the grounds under which, and the reasons why the decision was made.

Those who attend the meeting would be provided with information explaining the reasons why a child is subject to a child protection plan. Following the conference an agreed plan of work will be undertaken by the family with professionals after which a decision will be made at the three month review as to whether the child continues to be at risk.

## How to appeal against the decision of the meeting

If you disagree strongly with the decision of the meeting you can have your views and reasons recorded in the notes of the meeting.

Those who may wish to formally appeal against the decision include:

- Those who attended the meeting.
- Parents or other family members with parental responsibility
- Older children who are able to understand the process of decision-making.

The following paragraphs outline the process for appealing against the decision of the conference:

## The grounds for appeal are:

- the process of the conference
- a decision that a child should be the subject of a child protection plan
- the category of harm selected by the chair

The procedure for dealing with appeals is as follows:

- the complainant must notify the conference chair in writing within 5 working days of being notified of the decision
- the chair will determine whether the complaint can be dealt with under these procedures. If it relates to individual agencies, their performance, and the provision (or non-provision) of services the chair will pass this to the relevant agency for them to deal with in accordance with their own procedures

If the chair is unable to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the complainant, they will refer it to The Chair of the Safeguarding Board. An independent panel of three senior professionals from different agencies will be appointed to consider your appeal within 14 days. This will not include anyone involved in the original meeting but they will have knowledge of the issues. In the intervening period the registration will remain pending the outcome of the appeal.

## How your appeal is dealt with: -

The panel before reaching their decision will: -

- Read the necessary documentation.
- Interview the person making the appeal who may wish to bring along a supporter.
- Discuss the grounds for the appeal with the conference chairperson.
- the chair of the panel will inform the complainant in writing of how the complaint is to be dealt with, and the time scale for reaching decisions
- the panel will consider the information provided to the conference and establish:
  - whether the inter-agency procedures have been followed, and
  - whether the grounds for appeal are upheld or not

If the appeal is not upheld then the appellant will be notified in writing and the subsequent conference will be held on the date agreed at the last conference.

If the panel upholds the appeal a further child protection case conference will be convened with a different chair.

The decision of any subsequent conference will be final and there will be no further process of appeal.