

Warrington Local Safeguarding Children Board is committed to working in partnership with parents and listening to children and young people to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded as far as possible.

If you disagree with the decision taken at the case conference, you have the right to have it recorded in the written record of the meeting that you strongly disagree with the decision made. Additionally, you can appeal against the decision made. Please contact the number below for further information or the social worker allocated to your family.

If you are worried or need more information please call 01925.457013 or contact the Social Worker. If you don't have his/her telephone number call 444000 and ask for him/her by name.

## 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)**

August 2006

# Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



## CONFERENCES INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

*This guide is intended to help parents and carers understand what happens at a child protection case conference*

# Conferences information for parents and carers

Attending meetings and feeling able to say what you think is difficult for most people. It is very important that you as a parent/carer understand, hear what other people have to say and put your own views forward.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE AT THE CONFERENCE IS THE CHILD AND HIS OR HER PARENTS**

## What is a conference?

The child protection case conference is a meeting, which has been arranged because there is concern about the safety and well being of your child. The purpose of the meeting is to consider whether your child is in need of protection. If so, what help, support and guidance can be given to your child and the family to keep him/her safe.

## What is expected of you as a parent or carer?

It is important that you come to the case conference. You can bring a friend or relative to support you. If you can't come you should tell the Social Worker so that your views and comments can be shared at the conference in another way. Everyone needs to hear your point of view so that the right decisions can be made about your child.

## Should your child attend?

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board actively encourages children and young people to participate in meetings where decisions are being made about them. However there may be reasons why you and the professionals involved would not wish your child to attend. However, if your child does not attend his/her views, wishes and feelings will be sought, recorded and shared with conference members.

## Who else will be at the conference?

The following people are invited to the meeting:

- The person who chairs the meeting

- Someone who will take notes of what is said
- Someone from the Health Authority who will share information about health issues
- The Social Worker who will have written a report about the concerns raised and a summary of their assessment, along with recommendations about how to protect your child.
- His/Her manager will also attend
- A specially trained police officer who works with children and families
- Someone from the school or nursery that your child attends
- Sometimes your GP will attend but generally they send a letter to share relevant information
- Any other relevant person who can help when a family has difficulties.

## What happens at a conference?

Before the meeting the Social Worker responsible for the initial investigation about the concerns will circulate a report outlining Children's Social Care's actions and you will have the opportunity to talk about the report with them.

Just before the meeting starts, you will be invited to speak in private with the chairperson who will tell you how the meeting will be run. Once the meeting starts, the reason for the conference will be explained to everyone who is there.

Those present will be given a chance to share any information they have about your family and about the help they may be able to offer you in the future.

If you do not understand something please ask at the conference and this will be explained more fully to you. You will have the chance to express your own views about any reports, the support and help you have been given and what you feel might be of help to you and your family in the future.

The chairperson then summarises all that has been said.

## What decision can the conference make?

The conference can only decide whether or not your child should be the subject of a child protection plan. If this is the case, Children's Social Care will advise everyone at the meeting who will be the keyworker for your child/ren.

The conference can also make recommendations about what issues should be considered in a child protection plan, which may involve offering support and assistance in your home, or other professional help, including attendance at clinics or family centres.

Removing children from their family is very rarely recommended. However, in serious cases the conference may recommend that legal advice should be obtained to protect your child. If this happens you will be fully informed of the reasons why and encouraged to see your own solicitor.

A confidential database will include details of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan.

## Confidentiality

All information discussed in a child protection case conference is confidential. However, there may be occasions when some information will be shared with others in order to further safeguard the welfare of your children. You will receive notes from the meeting and these should be stored in a secure place.