

CONTACT NUMBERS

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For further information visit our website
www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk

August 2006

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



CONFERENCES INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

This guide is intended to assist professionals to understand their role and responsibilities when invited to a child protection conference.

Conferences information for professionals

As a professional you may be asked to attend a child protection case conference. If this is the case you will need to be well prepared and will need to write a report for the conference. You need to understand that you will be part of the decision making process.

**CLEAR AND ACCURATE INFORMATION
SHARING IS ESSENTIAL**

What is a Child Protection Case Conference?

A conference is arranged when there are serious concerns about the safety and welfare of a child. It gives everyone who attends the opportunity to share relevant information and to work together, in partnership with the family, to help them build on their strengths as parents and to protect the welfare of their child as far as possible.

Who can ask for a Conference?

Any professional concerned about the safety of a child can request a Child Protection Case Conference. In general a conference will be convened following discussion with a manager from the Children's Safeguarding Unit.

Who attends the Conference?

It is expected that parents and other significant family members or carers of the child will attend unless there are particular reasons for their exclusion. Representatives from Children's Social Care, Health, Education, the Police and Probation will be invited to the meeting, together with other professionals who may become involved in the Child Protection Plan.

Do children attend Conferences?

Warrington Borough Council and the WSCB are committed to children and young people being able to participate in meetings about their welfare and future. However, there may be reasons in some circumstances where it would not be advisable for the child to attend. Irrespective of whether the child is present, his /her views, wishes and feelings will be sought, recorded and shared with those people at the conference.

What information should you bring to the conference?

You will be provided with guidance by your own agency, which will assist you in preparing a report. The report will include relevant information about your past and present involvement with members of the family. You will also be asked to share information verbally, please prepare carefully before the conference, so that you will be able to present it in a clear and structured way.

Children subject to a child protection plan

These children are included on a confidential data base they are considered to be at risk of harm and require professionals to work closely with their families to protect them.

What criteria are used to decide whether children should be the subject of a child protection plan

The categories are Neglect, Physical Harm, Sexual Harm and Emotional Harm. Everyone who attends the conference will be expected to express an opinion as to whether or not a child's name should be placed on the data base. More detailed information about these categories will be provided at the conference to help you decide about.

Confidentiality

All information discussed in a case conference is confidential. However, there may be exception when sharing certain information with others is necessary in order to safeguard further the welfare of a child.

If admission of an offence is made in the conference, police officers will consider acting upon this information. In the event of either civil or criminal proceedings being instigated to safeguard a child's welfare, the information shared at the conference could be used as evidence in court.

You will receive notes of the conference and these should be stored in a secure place. Warrington Safeguarding Children Board is committed to working in partnership with other agencies who work closely with parents to ensure the welfare of children is safeguarded as far as possible.

If you need more information please contact the Children's Safeguarding Unit on 01925 457013