

Confidentiality

Young peoples' views are important and are taken into account but they won't influence the decisions taken by conference. All information discussed in a child protection case conference is confidential and private, but it may be necessary to share some details with others so that they can help to protect you. Notes of the meeting will be sent to your parents/carers and your social worker will also have a copy. You can ask them to tell you what is in the notes but we do not send young people their own copy. Anything you said while your parents were out of the room will not be recorded on their copy but will be kept on record.

Appeal against the decision

If you disagree with the decision taken at the case conference you should discuss this with either your social worker or an independent advocacy service. If you are still unhappy you can formally appeal against the decision. There is a leaflet about how to do this which your social worker can get for you.

Independent Advocacy Service
0151 649 8700

NYAS - National Youth Advisory Service
0151 342 7852

CONTACT NUMBERS

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Policy & Practice Manager	01925 457081
Access to Social Care, 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 457015
Warrington Police Station	01925 652222
Police Public Protection Unit	01244 614878
Designated Nurse - Safeguarding Children	01925 251514
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

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Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



THE CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE PROCESS - WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW

Attending meetings and feeling able to say what you think is difficult even for most adults but it is very important that you tell everyone what you think as the meeting is all about keeping you safe and giving you protection.

Child Protection Case Conferences

What is a child protection case conference?

The child protection case conference is a meeting which has been arranged because there are concerns about your safety and wellbeing. The purpose of the meeting is to decide if you are, or at risk of being, either; physically, sexually, emotionally harmed or you are being neglected. If you are, the meeting will decide how everyone in your life is going to help you be safe and make life better.

Should you attend?

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board actively encourages children and young people, as they are very important, to make their views, feelings and wishes known to all the people who attend the case conference meeting. This will help them make the right decisions about your future. You can either come to the meeting and tell everyone what you think or you can write it down and have it read out for you, or you can make an audio tape or video that can be played at the meeting. It does not matter how you do it; the important thing is that you have your say.

Who else will be at the conference?

- The person who chairs the meeting
- Someone who will take notes of what is said
- Your school health adviser and or any health person you see regularly
- The social worker, who will have met you and your family. They will provide a report about you, your family and the concerns for your safety. They will make recommendations about how to protect you.

- His /her manager
- A police officer who works with young people and their families
- Someone from your school/college
- Anyone else who is important in your life and can help to protect you.

What happens at a conference?

The social worker who has been visiting you has to write a report about all the things they know about you and your family and make suggestions about keeping you safe and happy. You can ask the social worker to tell you what is in the report. Your parents/carers will also be shown the report. The social worker is there to help you say what you want to the conference, they will help you write or record what you want the meeting to know.

If you decide to come to the conference the person who is to chair the meeting will meet you in private beforehand to explain what will happen in the meeting and how it will run. Once the meeting starts everyone will be told the reasons why a conference is being held.

All those present, including you and your parents/carers, will be given a chance to tell everyone what you think about the concerns and tell the meeting about your family, school and other things that are important to you.

If you do not understand something that has been said please tell the chair of the meeting there and then. They will make sure you understand. If you want to tell the meeting something but do not want to say it in front of your parents/carers the chair can ask them to wait in another room while you have your say.

At the end of the meeting the chair person will give a short account of what has been said in the meeting before asking all the professionals to decide whether or not you need a child protection plan.

What decisions can the case conference make?

The conference can only decide whether or not there should be a child protection plan about you. If this is the case a social worker will be appointed to work with you and your family to keep you safe and protected. All the key people in your life and maybe some new people as well will work together with you and your family to make a child protection plan and ensure that all the tasks and jobs are done.

The conference will also suggest what needs to go into the plan to keep you safe and who will be involved in helping you and your family.

Removing young people from their family is rare. However, in serious situations the social worker may take legal advice to protect you as no other way of keeping you safe can be found.

If it is felt that a child protection plan is needed there will be another conference in 3 months and after that every 6 months. The conference will look to see if there is still a need for a child protection plan or whether things have improved so much that it is no longer needed.