

Discriminatory statements are not acceptable and will be challenged.

The Decision Making Process

It is the requirement of the conference to identify the nature of professional concern and decide if the child requires a child protection plan, a family support plan, or if no plan of support is needed. This decision is made by a majority view of agencies attending the conference, whilst taking into account the family's views.

If the chair has reason to believe the conclusion reached by the agencies is not appropriate or if there is not a majority view, the chair will make the final decision and explain their reasoning.

If the child needs a child protection plan the category of concern will be decided by the chair and recorded. This could be emotional, physical or sexual harm or neglect and the concern could be recorded as "Risk Of" or "Actual". Additional concerns could be noted.

Should the child need a child protection or a family support plan, the chair will assist agencies in developing the outline of an outcome focused plan, which is known as the recommendations of the conference.

The family has a right to appeal against the decision made at the conference. A leaflet is available to explain the process.

If this leaflet has not answered your questions, further information is available on the website and you are welcome to contact the chair of the conference.

www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk

The Chairs of conferences are based in Warrington's Children's Safeguarding Unit and can be contacted on 01925 457013, email ChildReviewUnit@warrington.gov.uk.

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



You have been invited to a child protection conference?

This leaflet has been designed to answer your questions

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Roles and Responsibilities

The Roles and Responsibilities of those attending a Child Protection Conference.

1. The Chair

The chair is an independent person whose role it is to manage the conference and offer impartial advice.

The chair will be available 30 minutes prior to the start of the conference to assist the family in their understanding of the conference, and so that the chair understands how they can support the family in sharing their views.

The chair will explain the purpose and confidential nature of the conference.

The chair will manage the conference to enable everyone to share all relevant information, paying particular attention to the views of the child and the family, so that informed and objective decisions about the child's needs are reached.

Attendance is encouraged for all those invited. If there is a valid reason why attendance is not possible, a contribution form should be completed and returned to the chair before the day of the conference, so that the chair can share these views.

2. The Child

Children aged over 4 have the right to participate in their conference. The decision about how the child participates is shared between the child, their carers, the social worker and the chair.

If possible the child will be encouraged to attend the conference, or part of the conference, and the social worker will assist with this. If the child's attendance is not possible, or felt to be inappropriate, the social worker will seek alternative methods. For example the child might want an Independent Advocate to speak on their behalf or might want to write down their views.

3. The Family

The main carers and significant adults of the child, invited to the conference, will be offered support to enable them to fully participate. This support will be provided by or arranged by the child's social worker (for example; transport, child minding, an advocate, and/or an interpreter). Parent/s may invite one person to act as their supporter at the conference and this should be arranged in advance with the support of the social worker and chair of the conference.

Family members attending a conference will be asked to provide their understanding about the child's needs and how they feel they have met these or intend to meet these in the future.

Whilst main carers and significant adults to the child should be invited, there are occasions when this is not possible due to court orders, difficult family relationships or concerns about violence. If possible arrangements will be made for people to attend part of the conference. When exclusion is necessary the excluded person will be offered the opportunity to contribute their views by writing to, or telephoning, the chair prior to the conference.

4. The Social Worker

When a decision is made to hold a child protection conference the social worker will discuss this with the family and adults significant to the child as soon as possible.

Before the conference, the social worker will provide relevant reports, ensuring that everyone has enough time to read and develop an understanding of these. For the family this should be at least one day before the conference, so that they have enough time to consider their response.

During the conference, the social worker will share verbal information about the welfare of the child and how the carers are able to meet their needs, detailing any risks that child has or is likely to encounter.

5. The Police

During the conference the police will provide relevant information relating to alcohol, drugs, violence or offences against children or police intelligence in respect of anyone who is currently or may in the future have care or supervision of the child/ren who are the subject(s) of the conference.

6. All other agencies working with the child

Any reports should be shared before the conference so that everyone will have chance to read them. Agencies should bear in mind family members' literacy skills or other specialist needs and make alternative arrangements when necessary.

Information presented in the reports or verbally during the conference, should include the nature of the agency's involvement with the child, an assessment of the child's developmental needs, explanations of the possible causes of any unmet needs and what should change to ensure the child's welfare and safety is met in the future.

7. All other Agencies working with parents/ carers or significant others

Any reports need to be shared before the conference. Agencies should pay particular attention to the time the family will need to read the report and make alternative arrangements when necessary.

The information provided in the report or verbally at the conference should describe the support the agency provides, why this is provided and if anything limits the person they work with from meeting the needs of the child.

All information, written or verbal must be evidence based and presented in a fair and understandable form.