



South Gloucestershire

Child Protection Conferences

A Guide for Children and Young People



A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that takes place when social workers, teachers, doctors and family members are worried about your safety and how well you are being looked after.

At the meeting these concerns and worries will be talked about and decisions will be made on how to keep you safe and what support you and members of your family may need.

Who will be at the conference?

- Your parents, carers or other family members.
- The Chairperson of the meeting.
- Your social worker, teacher or other professionals who work with you.
- If you are 10 years old or more you could attend. You do not have to be at all of the conference, you can talk about this with your social worker or your advocate. You will be offered an advocate at least for the first conference from an organisation called Reconstruct.

Their job is to help you tell conference what you are worried about and what is working well. They can come with you to conference, or you can ask them to tell conference your views. They can talk to you after the conference about what was said.

Before the conference

Your social worker and advocate will talk with you, your parents, your carers and perhaps other family to understand what everyone is worried about and what they can do to keep you safe. They will write a report to the conference, they will explain to you and your parents/ carers what they have said in this report and why.



What happens at the conference?

- You may be able to attend the conference if you feel happy to do so.
- Before the Conference starts the Chairperson will meet with you to answer any questions and explain what will happen. This is your opportunity to ask any questions. The other people attending will then join and the conference will start.
- The Chairperson will find out from everyone what they are worried about and what is going well. The most important information will be written on the whiteboard.
- The Chairperson will help conference to agree what needs to happen to keep you safe and well looked after and to decide if a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need Plan is to be made.

After the conference

If a Child Protection Plan has been made your social worker will need to see you and your parents regularly, they would like to be able to talk with you separately from your parents. How often your social worker needs to see you will be decided at conference.

Your social worker will want to see how the plans made at conference are helping you and your family, they will want to know your views about this and what you think could help.

There will also be regular smaller meetings – Core Group Meetings where those people working with you and your family meet to check how well the plan is progressing. Your parents attend these meetings, if you want to attend please talk to your social worker.

There will be another Child Protection Conference in three months and then every six months to consider what changes have been made and if people are still worried for your safety.



Can the conference decide if I will be taken away from my parents?

No. Conference decides if a Plan is needed to keep you safe and how everyone will work together to do this.

Listening to your views

Your social worker will listen carefully to your thoughts and how you are feeling. You may hear the words Signs of Safety being used. This is how we help children and young people talk about things that go well in their family as well as things that worry them. Your social worker will use drawings like the one below to record your thoughts. You could also draw your own picture and write your thoughts down. What is important is that we understand your thoughts and views and how you think we could help.

The image shows three house-shaped templates arranged horizontally. Each house has a colored triangular roof and a white rectangular body. The first house on the left has a magenta roof and is labeled 'House of worries'. The middle house has a blue roof and is labeled 'House of good things'. The third house on the right has a green roof and is labeled 'House of dreams'. All three houses are empty, intended for a child to draw and write in.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the child protection conference process you should talk to your allocated social worker or a trusted adult such as a teacher who will be able to help you.

Useful contacts

- South Gloucestershire Access and Response Team (ART)
– **01454 866000**
- South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/>
- ChildLine – **0800 1111**
- NSPCC – **0800 1111**

If you would like this information
in a different format or language,
please contact **01454 868009**