



## Dissenting to the Decision Of a Child Protection Case Conference to make/not make or end a Child Protection Plan

These procedures are for representatives from statutory and non-statutory organisations to use when they wish to formally dissent to the decision made by the Child Protection Case Conference. If agency representatives have a concern about the process or management of the Conference this should be resolved through the [Resolution of Professional Differences \(Escalation Policy\)](#)

Parents and children who are unhappy with the decision of a Case Conference should be referred to the Appeals process.

If the concern relates to the practice of an agency /organisation this should be referred to that agencies complaints procedure.

When there is disagreement regarding whether the threshold for significant harm is met or not met and this is raised during the conference the Conference chair will attempt to facilitate the conference to reach a consensus by referring to the threshold for significant harm and considering this in the light of information shared in conference and the child's assessed needs.

If a consensus cannot be reached the Conference Chair will make the decision based upon information shared at conference using their knowledge, skills and experience.

If an agency representative does not agree with the decision, the Conference Chair will ask them for their reasons for dissenting and these will be formally recorded in the notes of the CP Conferences dissent.

The Conference Chair will refer this dissent to the Quality Assurance and Reviewing Manager who will review the notes of the conference, reason for dissent and make a

decision as to whether the dissent is upheld or not. Whilst the dissent is being resolved the decision of the conference stands and plans made should be progressed.

The Quality Assurance and Reviewing Manager may require additional information from the dissenting worker and from the Conference Chair, but will always seek to make a decision within 10 working days of the conference. If the dissent is upheld the Quality Assurance and Reviewing Manager may require the conference to be re-convened to re-considerer information shared at conference and any new information. The reconvened conference should be held within 15 working days of the Quality Assurance and Reviewing Managers decision.

The dissenting agency, conference chair and parents will be informed of the decision and a copy of the reasons for the decision placed on the child's file.

If the worker who dissented is unhappy with the decision of the Quality Assurance and Reviewing Manager they should refer to their agency's nominated Safeguarding Children Board representative who will refer to the Strategic Safeguarding Service Manager and the matter will be progressed in accordance with The Resolution of Professional Differences (Escalation Policy) Stage 4.