



South Gloucestershire

# Child Protection Conferences

Information for parents and carers



## What is a Child Protection Conference?

**A Child Protection Conference is a meeting held between families and services when there is concern about the safety of a child within a family.**

The reason we hold a Child Protection Conference is to share information about your child and discuss concerns with you and other professionals to make decisions about your child's future safety, health and development.

As a parent or family member you will be invited to attend the conference, and we encourage you to take part. You may hear the words Signs of Safety being used, this is a method we use to help capture everyone's views to help keep your child safe.

## What is the purpose of the conference?

The purpose of the conference is to:

- Share information about your child's safety and wellbeing.
- Listen to the views of your child.
- Identify the strengths within your family.
- Assess whether your child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, abuse or neglect.
- Identify the changes needed to ensure the safety of your child.
- Identify who will help and support your family to make these changes.

## Who will be at the conference?

People who know your child and family will attend the conference. This may include professionals such as health visitors, social workers, teachers, doctors, police etc.

## What happens at the conference?

Before the conference starts, the chairperson will meet with you to explain how the meeting will run and how you can contribute to the discussions. The agencies attending the conference who have contact with your child or yourself will have been asked to prepare a report (they will have spoken to you about this). The chairperson will speak with conference members including yourself to gather information about:

- What is working well
- What people are worried about
- What complicates things
- How people could help you keep your child/children safe.

The key information is written on a whiteboard so everyone can see. When all the information has been shared the Chairperson will ask the social worker what they are worried will happen if nothing is done to change the situation? Scaling questions may be used to help assess how worried everyone, including yourself is. We use a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is good and 0 means we are very worried for the child's safety. The conference will agree a Safety Goal, this describes what you need to do to assure everyone that your child is safe now and in the future. Actions that need to happen to help you achieve the Safety Goal are agreed during the conference and written on the whiteboard.



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**We feel very worried  
for the child**

**We have no worries**

## Decision making

At the end of the conference it will be decided whether the child is in need of a Child Protection Plan because of significant risks or whether they can be supported through a Child in Need plan. You should leave the conference understanding fully what needs to happen and why things need to change.

## What happens after the conference?

You will be sent a copy of the key information, the decision of the conference and action agreed. If a Child Protection Plan has been made the Plan will state how frequently the social worker will visit the child. You will be asked to attend Core Group meetings with the social worker and other key professional, these take place between conferences and look at how the plan is progressing.

A Review Child Protection Conference will be held after three months and then at least every 6 months for as long as a Child Protection Plan is needed.

## Useful contacts

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

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