



Bedfordshire
county council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Information for Parents
& Carers about Child
Protection Conferences



This leaflet tells you about the procedure for Child Protection Conferences. If you would like a copy in your own language, or in a special format such as large print, audio cassette or Braille, please write to the address below.

ਇਹ ਲੀਫਲੈੱਟ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਬਾਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਦੀ ਕਿਰਿਆਵਿਧੀ ਦੇ ਬਾਰੇ ਦੱਸਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਨਕਲ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖੋ ਜੀ।

Kjo fletëpalosje ju tregon për procedurën e Konferencave të Mbrojtjes së Fëmijëve (Child Protection Conferences). Nëse dëshironi një kopje në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutem shkruani në adresën e mëposhtme.

تُعَرِّفُك هذه النشرة بإجراءات "مؤتمرات حماية الأطفال". فإذا أردت الحصول على نسخة من هذه النشرة بلغتك، الرجاء مراسلة العنوان المبين أدناه.

চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশন কনফারেন্সের (শিশুর সুরক্ষা সভা) কার্যপদ্ধতির সম্পর্কে এই প্রচারপত্রে বলা হয়েছে। আপনার নিজের ভাষায় আপনি যদি এর কপি চান তাহলে দয়া করে নিচের ঠিকানায় লিখুন।

U ovoj brošuri objašnjava se procedura koja se odnosi na Konferencije za Zaštitu Djece. Ako želite kopiju na Vaš sopstvenu jezik, molimo Vas obratite se na adresi navedena dolje.

این جزوه به شما راجع به چگونگی روش کنفرانسهای حمایت از کودک اطلاع میدهد. اگر مایل به دریافت نسخه ای به زبان خود هستید لطفاً با درس زیر تماس بگیرید.

Questo opuscolo contiene delle informazioni sulla procedura relativa ai Congressi sulla Protezione dell'Infanzia. Se ne desiderate una copia nella vostra lingua, vogliate scrivere all'indirizzo sottostante.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بچوں کے تحفظ کی کانفرنسوں کے طریقہ کار کے بارے میں آگاہ کرتا ہے۔ اگر آپ اپنی زبان میں اس کی ایک کاپی حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی نیچے دئے گئے پتے پر تحریر کریں۔

Conference and Review Service

7 Stephenson Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WJ

Tel: 01234 276766

What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is held following child protection enquiries. The meeting is arranged to discuss what has been found out during the enquiries and to talk about the concerns professionals may have about your child; these may be about physical or sexual abuse, or about emotional harm or neglect. The aim of the meeting is to consider whether your child/children are at risk and agree what services or action are required to reduce the risks to your children.

You do not have to attend the conference but we hope that you will. We understand that it may be difficult for parents and carers to come to these meetings, but the people in attendance are there to help you and your child.



How can I take part?

It is usual for us to invite both parents even if you are separated. We understand that this may be difficult. If you feel that you are unable to attend with your ex-partner discuss this with your social worker and they may be able to arrange for you to attend separately.

If you find the idea of attending the meeting too upsetting then discuss with your social worker alternative ways of expressing your views and feelings. The aim of the conference is to ensure your child's safety. Your social worker will help you to prepare for the meeting by explaining the process to you. You may find it useful to bring someone to support you. This could be a friend, a relative or a solicitor, however they must understand that they are there to support you and not give an opinion unless they are asked.



Who will be there?

All the professionals involved in the care and protection of your child/children will have contributed to the written report prepared for the meeting. This report will be shared with you prior to the meeting. The professionals who attend the meeting represent health, education, the police and Children's Services Social Care.

The meeting will be chaired by someone from the Conference and Review Service, who has had no part in the initial enquiries, and is not responsible for the management of your child's case. This person is called a Review Manager.

The Review Manager will meet with you in advance to explain how the meeting will be organised, what information will be shared, how you can be part of the process and will answer any questions or concerns that you may have.



If your first language is not English and you are concerned that you might not understand what is said, Children's Services have a duty to provide an interpreter. If you have any other difficulties that may stop you attending or understanding the process please ask your social worker for help.

Your child/children will be invited to give their views and wishes about their circumstances to the meeting. If they wish to come to the meeting and are mature enough to do so they can discuss this with you and your social worker. If it is agreed that they may attend, it is usual for them to attend the appropriate part of the meeting, they may need a friend to support them through this process or they may wish to write or record their wishes for the meeting. (There is a separate leaflet explaining the process for young people.)



What happens at child protection conferences?

The child protection conference will follow a set agenda; the Review Manager will ask people, including you, to speak in turn. You will be given the opportunity to ask questions and to challenge anything that is said that you don't agree with. You may find it useful to make notes during the meeting. There may be certain things that may be discussed that are of a highly confidential nature, and you may be asked to leave the meeting for a short time. Normally you will know about this in advance. However something of a sensitive nature may arise during the meeting and the Review Manager may ask you to leave at short notice.

We understand that you may need to make arrangements, such as child care, before you can attend the meeting. Please inform your social worker if you need help with this. Most conferences take about an hour and a half but some could take a little longer.



What can the conference decide?

A child protection conference can decide that your child or children are at continuing risk of harm and if so your child will be made the subject of a child protection plan. A child protection plan sets out what changes need to be made to make sure that your child is safe and their needs are met. It will list what help and support both you and your child will receive from the agencies, and what you are expected to do to help bring about the changes which are needed.

A group of people called a 'core group' will be identified and they will be the people who will work with you and your child/children. You will also be part of the core group and invited to all meetings.

You will be sent the minutes of the meeting so that you are clear about the recommendations and decisions that are made at the meeting.



If your child is made the subject of a child protection plan a review conference will be arranged to consider what progress has been made. Review conferences must be held within three months of the first meeting and at least every six months thereafter. You will know well in advance when these meetings will be held.

If the meeting considers that your child is no longer at risk of harm, the child protection plan will be discontinued.

If the first child protection meeting decides not to make your child subject to a child protection plan, or at a review conference the child protection plan is discontinued, there will be a plan agreed with you to help you with any problems you may have.



Who will know about the child protection conference?

Children's Services are required to keep a record of all children and young people living in Bedfordshire who have a child protection plan and record which categories of concern the conference has about each child.

Confidentiality is very important at child protection conferences, and although there are a number of professionals involved the Review Manager will remind everyone that the meeting is confidential. Great care is taken to make sure that only those people who need to know are told that your child/children is subject to a child protection plan.

If you are unhappy about the decision to make your child subject to a child protection plan, there is a child protection conference complaints procedure. If you wish

to complain you should write to the Review Manager who chaired the meeting. If you are not happy with the response you can then ask for your complaint to be considered by an inter-agency panel.



With special thanks to the R.A.W.
group for their help with this book



This leaflet is available in large print.
If you would like a copy please contact
your nearest area office.