

Initial Child Protection Conference Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

- Audio recording conference statement
- Electronic boards will be circulated as the written record of conference
- Signs of Safety model explanation/what is the purpose of the conference?
- Equal Opportunities and Confidentiality Statement
- Reports and confirmation of family details

2. Reason for Child Protection Conference

- Danger statement/s to be read by the Social Worker

3. What is working well (think about each child)

- From young person and parents/carers
- From professionals
- Social Worker to include wishes and feelings and any direct work around the referral reason

4. What are we worried about (think about each child)

- From young person and parents/carers
- From professionals
- Social Worker to include wishes and feelings and any direct work around the referral reason
- Past harm
- Complicating factors

5. What needs to happen next (think about each child)

- From young person and parents/carers
- From professionals

6. Chair's Summary of Strengths and Worries

The Chair will summarise what is working well, and what they and professionals are worried about impacting on the child/young person having safe and positive experiences now and for the rest of their childhood.

Do parents/carers and professionals understand and agree with the Danger Statement based on all the information shared?

7. Safety Goal/s

- Safety goal discussed and agreed with the family and professionals

8. Scaling question - Chairperson

If 10 is where the child/young person is not at risk of significant harm

And 0 is where we are so worried if things continue in the same way the child/young person will not be safe, cared for or have a positive future of good physical and mental health, education and relationships.

9. Family and Professional's scaling answer including a professional recommendation as to whether a Child Protection Plan is required for each child.

10. Chair's Decision

- Including reason which plan and if Child Protection Plan is required the category of abuse; or the reason why the threshold for a child protection plan is not met
- Noting of any formal dissents.
- Child in need plan and need statement and wellbeing goal
- Child Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan

11. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Who is in the Core Group or Child in Need Group? When is the meeting? When is the next Review Child Protection Conference? When do professional reports need to be shared with the family?

AUDIO RECORDING STATEMENT

This meeting is being audio recorded using a commercial recording service. The recording will be held securely on the child/ren's Achieving for Children social care record and not reproduced for the attendees of this meeting. The audio recording of this conference may be subject to a confidential audit to ensure standards are being met and a summary of the conversation may be typed at the request of the Court or the Complaints Service. The written summary of the conference and the Plan we develop will be completed on the screen during the conference and shared with conference participants alongside the formal decision letter within one working day of the meeting. Those with legal parental responsibility can request an electronic copy of the audio recording by formally requesting this from the conference chair.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

This conference will treat everyone equally, with respect and no discrimination because of race, culture, ethnic or national origins, religious or political beliefs, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status or responsibility for dependents. The Chair, or other conference members through the Chair, will challenge any discrimination made by, or against, any conference participant. Violent and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated and persons will be asked to leave the meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please note that information discussed at this meeting is strictly confidential and must only be discussed with other individuals who have a 'need to know' in order to carry out their professional duties. In considering this, the welfare and protection of the child is foremost and must always take priority. If in any doubt the Conference Chair should be consulted. However, this information, including any confidential section, will always be disclosed if requested by a Court who will decide on any further disclosure.

REASONS FOR A CHILD BECOMING SUBJECT OF A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

- The child can be shown to have suffered ill treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, and professional judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment are likely; or...
- Professional judgement, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in the individual case or by research evidence, is that the child is likely to suffer ill treatment or the impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect.

REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING THE CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

- It is judged that the child is no longer at continuing risk of significant harm requiring safeguarding by means of a Child Protection Plan.
- Child has moved permanently to another local authority area. Only after the receiving authority has convened a conference may discontinuing the Child Protection Plan take place in respect of the original local authority's Child Protection Plan.
- The child has reached 18 years of age, has died or has permanently left the UK.

CATEGORIES (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

Physical Abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. **Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: a. provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment) b. protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger c. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers) d. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.