

What does it mean for those involved when a child is subject to a child protection plan?

Being the subject of a child protection plan does not affect parental right and does not mean that the child will be removed from parental care. This can only happen when there is an order from the courts.

Once a child protection plan is in place, a social worker will act as a worker for the child. The worker makes sure that regular visits are made to the family.

The protection plan may also involve workers from several agencies such as Health and Education. The worker for the child will be responsible for co-ordinating the plan.

It is important that all professionals involved in the protection plan work together and with the family members so that the best results are achieved for the child. This will be helped by meetings called core groups.

Further Advice

Family members need to be clear about the involvement of all agencies and how any involvement or decisions affect them. So it is important that if you are not sure about the process, or why any particular agency or individual is involved you should ask questions.

If for any reason family members have a complaint about the service provided, they should contact the;

Information Governance and complaints

Municipal Offices
Town hall Square
DN31 1HU

Tel 01472/ 326427

Res-customerservices@nelincs.gov.uk

If you would like to receive this information in another language or in another format such as large print, Braille or on audio tape please contact Children's Complaints and Information Access Services.

This leaflet is available from the Local Safeguarding Children Board

A Guide to Child Protection Conferences

North East Lincolnshire

LSCB

Local Safeguarding
Children Board



A guide to Child Protection Conferences

This leaflet tells you how a Child Protection Conference works. It should help you understand why we hold conferences, who goes to them and how you may be involved.

This leaflet is published by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and is available electronically. The Board is made up of senior officers from all the agencies concerned with safeguarding children. The LSCB is an organisation which meets regularly to make sure that all agencies work together effectively for the welfare of children.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

The conference is a meeting where different people get together to discuss any concerns regarding the care and protection of children and young people.

Who will go to the conference?

This will depend upon which agencies are directly involved with the child and the child's family. Representatives of the Local Authority, Children's Social Care, Police and the Health Service regularly attend conferences. Other agencies who hold relevant information may also attend the conference.

The Conference is chaired by an independent chairperson who will not have had any previous involvement in any investigations that have been carried out. Before the conference, family members can ask for a friend or supporter to be present at the conference. The supporter can be a solicitor. There are guidance notes for friend and supporters. These will be provided by the Social Worker if appropriate.

Family members may not be included for certain parts of the conference. This can happen when information from a third party is being shared.

On rare occasions family members are not included for the whole of the conference. This depends on the conditions set within the LSCB child protection guidelines and procedures.

What will happen at the conference?

The independent chairperson will meet with family members before the conference starts and explain the proceedings; this also provides the opportunity to discuss any concerns or anxieties that may exist. All those taking part will introduce themselves; reports are then shared and discussed. Throughout this process family members will be asked to contribute. This may mean questioning information in a report or providing the conference with extra information.

The final part of the conference is to decide whether there is a risk to any children within the family. If risks are identified, the child or children will become the subject of a child protection plan.

What can be decided at the conference?

The only decision that can be made at a child protection conference is whether or not the child requires a CHILD PROTECTION PLAN. If the meeting decides that a child protection plan is required they will recommend what future actions need to be taken.

If a child protection plan is required then an initial review conference will be held within three months and if required thereafter six monthly. This will look at the effectiveness of the child protection plan and any new information. The review conference will decide whether to continue with the plan or make changes to it, or that the child no longer requires a child protection plan if there is no further risk.