

What If I'm unhappy with the conference?

If you don't agree with what the conference says we hope that you will tell someone, such as your carer or advocate.

You can talk to your social worker. Don't be afraid to ask questions, no matter how silly they seem to you.

There is an appeals process, your carer or advocate should speak to the chair of the conference to start this process on your behalf.

Children's Rights

The Children's Rights Service is there for you if you need any advice or support. You can talk to them on 303 7217 / 7224, or you can call in:

**150 Church Lane
 Handsworth
 Birmingham B20 2RT**

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This information is available in large print, braille, audio-tape and community languages on request.

Please contact 0121-464 3123.

Additional copies of this leaflet can be obtained from:

**Birmingham Social Care and Health, Level 5,
 Louisa Ryland House, 44 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3PL**

• Tel: 0121-464 3123 •

www.birmingham.gov.uk/socialcare

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Child Protection Conferences

Keeping you safe



Information for children and young people

**Birmingham Social Care and Health
 Level 5**

**Louisa Ryland House
 44 Newhall Street
 Birmingham B3 3PL**

Telephone: 0121-464 3123

What is a child protection conference?

This is a meeting arranged by Social Care and Health if people are worried about your safety. We will talk about what needs to be done to keep you safe.

What is the conference for?

- To talk about what may have happened, and why there is a worry.
- To talk about what problems you and your family might be having.
- To see if you need protecting.
- If you do need protecting to find the best way to keep you safe.

Who will be at the conference?

- Your social worker -who will work with you and your family to help make your life better.
- It is likely that teachers, health visitors or doctors who know you will be there.
- There may also be people that you don't know such as police officers, solicitors and interpreters.
- Someone to lead the meeting and someone to make notes.

Do I have to attend?

If you want to come, talk to your social worker. If people involved believe that it's best for you, then you can attend for some or all of the meeting.

If you can't come, then you should talk to your social worker about how you can still make your views known.

Children's Rights have people called Advocates. These are people who can speak up for you, and make sure your views and wishes are heard by the adults.

Can I bring a friend?

If you would like someone you know and trust to help you feel more at ease, this usually okay. This must be an adult. Speak to your social worker about who you would like to bring.

What If I don't attend?

If you can't or don't want to attend, you can send your views in writing, or get someone to speak on your behalf like a Children's Rights Advocate.

Your social worker will tell you what was said, and you will get a report of what happened at the meeting.

What happens in the conference?

- You and your family will be invited to meet everyone.
- The person leading the meeting, will tell you why the conference is happening.
- Some of the people at the meeting will talk about you and your family and what may have happened.
- You will also be asked your wishes and feelings.

What can a conference decide?

The main thing that can be done at a conference is that your name may have to be put on a special register. This is called Birmingham Child Protection Register.

What is the child protection register?

This is a confidential list of children who need to be kept safe. Your name may be put on the list so that people who are there to keep you safe can work together to make sure this happens.

How long will I be on the register?

Until the worries about you have gone.

What happens after a conference?

- If the conference believes that you are safe then nothing else will happen.
- If your name has been put on the child protection register we may feel that you need some help so we will come up with a plan. This is called a child protection plan.
- This plan says what people must do to make sure that you are safe.
- The conference can also decide if you need to be taken away from your home. **This is to help keep you safe.**