

# What is an initial Child Protection Conference?

A guide for young people and children

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Illustration by Kellie Craig

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## A guide for children and young people

### What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is held if people think that a child or young person is at risk of harm or isn't being looked after properly.

### Who will be at the conference?

A group of people, including a social worker, your teacher or headteacher and other people who know you and your family will be there. Sometimes a health visitor, school nurse, police officer, or doctor may also be invited.

The person who runs the meeting is called an Independent Reviewing Officer - their job is to make sure everyone is listened to and to help people decide what to do next.

### Will my parents be there?

Your parents or the people who look after you will be invited to the meeting, unless we think there is a good reason why they shouldn't be there.

### Can I go to the conference?

You will be invited to attend if we think you will be able to understand the meeting and if it is not likely to upset you. You might be invited to go to just a part of the meeting. Your parents will also have a say in whether or not they want you to go to the conference. Before the conference a social worker will talk to you about whether you want to go or not.

If you are worried about seeing someone at the meeting, tell the social worker as soon as possible before the meeting. Then we can arrange for you to attend part of the meeting without them being there.

If you are not going to be at the conference, you can tell the social worker what you want to say to the people at the meeting, and they will pass it on for you. You could tell your teacher or another person if you prefer. Or you can write down what you think and it will be read out at the meeting.

The meeting will be in English. If you need an interpreter, or you use sign language, let the social worker know before the meeting so that they can arrange this.

### Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you can ask a person over 18 to come with you. They can support you and help you to get your views across at the meeting, but they won't be allowed to give their own opinions.

### How long does the conference last?

Meetings normally last up to two hours. Sometimes there is a short break in the middle.

### If I don't go to the meeting how will I know what happened?

The social worker will talk to you as soon as possible after the meeting to let you know what happened, but this might not be on the same day.

### What will happen at the meeting?

At the meeting people will read reports about you and your family. These will have been written by the social worker, your teacher and other people who know your family. These people will give other information about you and your family at the meeting, for example about your health or about school.

The social worker will talk to you before the meeting about what the social work report says.

If the people at the meeting think you've been hurt, or might be hurt or not looked after well enough, a child protection plan will be made for you, and your name will be added to the list of children with protection plans in Calderdale.

### What does this mean?

This means that your parents, the people who look after you, your teacher, health visitor and maybe others, have to make a plan to try to make sure that you are kept safe and looked after well. This is called a **child protection plan**.

If the conference decides that you don't need a child protection plan, but you and your family still need help and support, a social worker will visit your family to arrange this.

### What if I have brothers or sisters?

If you live with brothers or sisters, the conference will talk about them too. If there are concerns that they are at risk of harm or are not being looked after properly then child protection plans will be made for them as well.

### What if I'm not happy about what happens at a conference?

Tell the social worker or the Independent Reviewing Officer who ran the meeting straight away. It may be possible for the Independent Reviewing Officer to sort this out for you. If not, there are other things you can do, but you need to tell us within 3 working days of the conference.

Ask for our information sheet CSCB5 about Complaints/Appeals,  
or look at the CSCB web site at:  
[www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk)

## Help and advice

If you want help and advice from someone else,  
you could ring these numbers or visit these websites:

### Childline

Tel: 0800 11 11

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### Children's Legal Centre

Tel: 0800 783 2187

[www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

### NSPCC Helpline

Tel: 0808 800 5000

[www.nspcc.org.uk/helpandadvice](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpandadvice)

### Time to Talk

'Relate' Helpline for young people aged 10-17

Tel: 01422 363845

### Who cares? Linkline

Telephone service for young people in care

Tel: 0500 564570

[www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk)

Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board wants to provide helpful, accurate and understandable information. If you find any of this information unclear, wrong or out-of-date, or if you think additional information would help other readers, please let us know so that amendments can be made.  
Contact: 01422 393337

If you would like this information  
in another format or language,  
please contact: 01422 393337

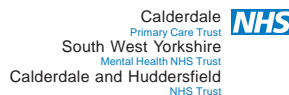
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یا شکل میں چاہیے تو رابطہ کریں:  
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Calderdale  
Safeguarding  
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Board

[www.calderdale-scb.org.uk](http://www.calderdale-scb.org.uk)



Call 01422 393337

Safeguarding children - everyone's responsibility