

What will happen at the meeting?

When you get there, the Chairperson will come to see you and tell you what is going to happen in the meeting. When everyone is ready, they will all sit around the table and take it in turns to say what they think, **including you.** If they think that you are not safe, they will decide what has to change and make a plan to help you become safe and happy.

What happens after the meeting?

At the end of the meeting, your Social Worker or Chairperson will make sure you know what has happened, answer any questions and explain anything you don't understand. They will tell you if you have a plan to make you safe and happy—and what other meetings there will be to start doing the things agreed at the meeting.

If you wish to speak to an Independent Chairperson, please contact:

Children's Independent Reviewing Team
176 High Street West
Sunderland
SR1 1UP

Tel: 0191 561 7155

If you have any comments or questions about this leaflet, please contact:

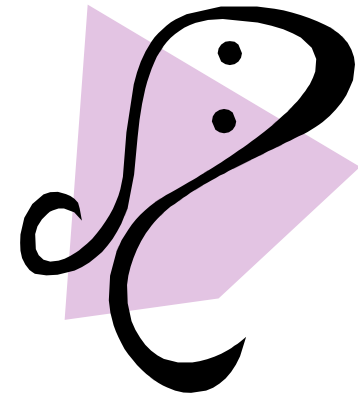
Debra Doran
Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board
Business Unit
Sandhill Centre
Grindon Lane
Sunderland
SR3 4EN

Tel: 0191 561 7017



Child Protection Conferences

A guide for children and young people



What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that takes place when people are worried about your safety. The meeting will talk about what is going on in your life, with your family and anything that needs to be done to make sure you are safe and happy.

Can I go to the Meeting?

Yes, you will be able to go to some or all of the meeting. The meeting is **about you** and it is important people know how you feel about what is happening at home.

If you want to, you can write down or draw pictures about how you are feeling before you get there. Your Social Worker, teacher or someone else you choose can help you to do this.

You may want to go, but feel a bit worried or upset about it. If you feel like this, talk to your Social Worker, teacher, the person who will be in charge of the meeting (a Chairperson) or another adult you trust. **If you decide not to go, we still want to hear what you think.**

Will People Listen to What I Say?

This meeting is **about you** and it is important that everyone knows what you think—even if they cannot always do what you want.

To help you say how you feel you can:

- Talk to your Social Worker at some time before the meeting and tell them what you would like everyone to hear
- Write things down, or draw a picture, and ask an adult you trust to show people at the meeting
- Talk to the Chairperson
- Ask your Social Worker for someone called an advocate who will help you say what you think and feel. Your Social Worker will be able to tell you more about advocates

Who will be there?

The people who work with you and your family will be asked to go to the meeting. Some of them you will know and some you don't. Your Social Worker will tell you who is going to be there.

People you might see at the meeting:

- Your mam, dad and anyone else who looks after you
- The person in charge of the meeting—called the Chairperson who will see you and talk to you before the meeting starts
- Your Social Worker
- Your teacher, to tell people how you are getting on at school
- A doctor, health visitor or school nurse to talk about your health
- A police officer to give information about your family

Who can I take with me?

You can take any adult you trust. This might be someone who is already going to the meeting or someone else.