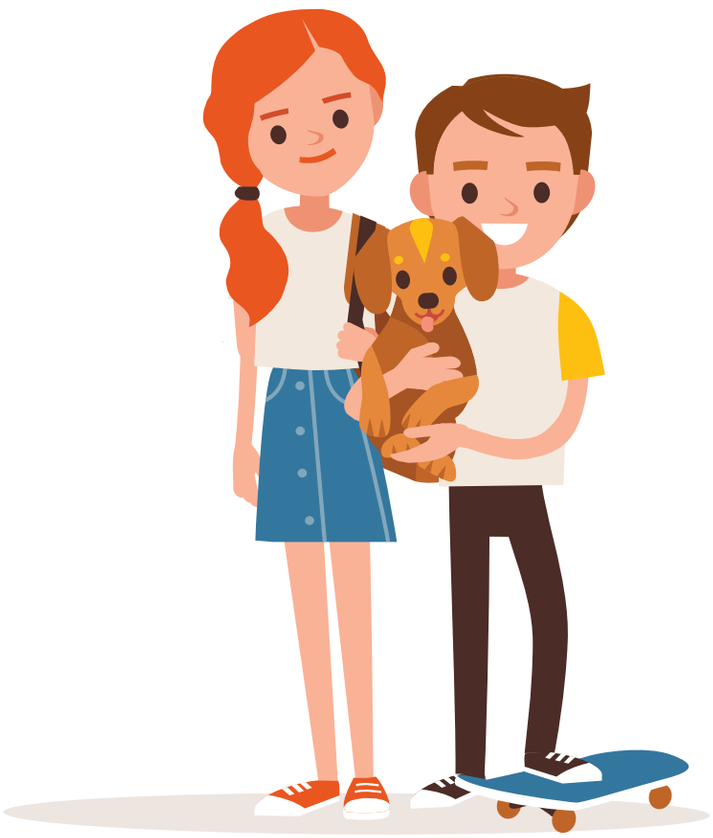
GOING TO A CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

A Guide for Young People in Warwickshire



WARWICKSHIRE Safeguarding Children PARTNERSHIP

Do you want to be part of the group of people who make decisions about your future?

Then you probably have some questions about the conference you have been invited to.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

It is a meeting of people directly concerned with you and your family such as Schools, Health, and Children Services to look at what has happened to you, and whether you need a plan to protect you in the future. The conference is managed by an independent person (Independent Chairperson) who is responsible for ensuring the conference is managed well and that the right decisions are made.

Who will be there?

The other people who will be invited to the conference will be there as they provide important support to you and your family. This may be your teacher, health visitor, Doctor , social worker, and possibly a probation officer or police officer. The Social Worker will explain who will be at the conference and why that is.

Will my parents be there?

It is important that your parents take part in the conference as they are responsible for looking after you, so their views are important. We will plan arrangements carefully so that you feel supported and comfortable in sharing your views. If you do not feel comfortable talking in front of your parents, we will find a way to manage this.

Who will know me and my situation?

Only the people at the meeting and their managers. They must keep all the things they hear confidential, and they would be in serious trouble if they did not.

Can I bring someone to the Conference?

Yes, you can bring a trusted adult. However, there is an Advocacy Service whose role is to support young people who wish to take part in the Conference process. Your social worker should always ask you whether you want an advocate to support you and, if you do, will ensure that the Advocacy service is contacted.

What is an Advocate ?

An advocate is specially trained to support you to share your views and to ensure your voice is heard and listened to before any important decisions are made about your life. They are there to help you say what you want to say in the easiest way possible and ensure that your rights are respected.

Will I be able to talk at the Conference?

Yes, the chairperson, who is the person that manages the conference will meet with you before the conference so that you can talk about what you want to say and how you want to be involved in the conference.

How long will it last?

Conferences usually last one to one and a half hours, although some are longer, and some are shorter.

Will I have to stay for all of it?

No, how you take part in the conference can be agreed between you, your advocate or support person and the chair of conference. There will usually be a meeting between you all before the day of conference to agree arrangements.

What happens at the end of the meeting?

If the people at the Conference decide you need A Child Protection Plan to protect you from any harm, this will be agreed. The plan is put into action by your Social Worker, who is then called the Keyworker. If the conference decides that you do not need a Child Protection Plan, Children's Services may still offer you and your family help.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

If a decision is made that you need a Child Protection Plan, it means that a plan to protect you has been made in your name. Only professionals working with you or your family will know that you have a Child Protection Plan. Information about Child Protection Plans is kept confidential by the Independent Reviewing Service, who chair the conferences.

When will the Child Protection Plan no longer be needed?

When the group who are working with you decide that you are no longer at risk from harm, they will decide that the Child Protection Plan can end. A plan of ongoing support to you and your family will be agreed if this is needed.

We also have a leaflet entitled:-

‘Your Child: Child Protection Conference.
A Guide for Parents in Warwickshire’.

Published by on behalf of
Warwickshire Safeguarding

We hope this leaflet has been helpful,
please provide any feedback on the following link:

http://bit.ly/childrenandfamiliesWCC