



ChildProtectionConferences in Kensington and Chelsea

A guide for parents and carers



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is a meeting that is organised when there are concerns about a child at risk of harm. It is a meeting that brings together the child (7+), parents / carers and professionals.

The meeting will

- share information and discuss the child's needs and the parenting they receive
- explore the strengths within the family and what helps keep the child safe
- explore the grey areas (things we are not sure about and need answers for), complicating factors and the dangers
- make a plan to ensure that the child is safe and the needs of the child are met
- make a decision whether the plan needs to be a child protection plan

Who will be there?

The invitations are determined by the child's allocated social worker and will include:

- The child (age 7+), subject to their level of understanding
- The advocate for the child
- The parents and / or carer
- The child's allocated social worker

- A police officer
- A health representative (GP, Health Visitor, School Nurse)
- The chair of the meeting

The meeting could also involve:

- A school representative (subject to age)
- A professional working directly with the child (e.g. nursery officer, play / youth worker)
- A professional working directly with a parent/carer (e.g. mental health nurse, a substance misuse worker, a domestic violence support worker, a therapist).

What happens at the initial conference?

The Chair of the conference will meet with you immediately beforehand to welcome you, to explain how the conference will run, and to talk about the best way for you to contribute to the discussion. The Chair will also ask you to help draw a diagram of your family tree on a board which will be put at the front of the room.

At the start of the conference all of the participants will introduce themselves, and the chair will then ask professionals to summarise the most important parts of their reports.

You will then be invited to contribute to the discussion, after which a decision will be made about whether the risks to your child are significant enough that a child protection plan is needed. A child protection plan is a list of actions with details of who is to carry out these actions, and over what timescale.

You should come out of the conference clear about what (if anything) needs to change. More detailed plans are usually made at a later meeting (called a core group meeting).

How can you prepare?

During the conference you will be given the chance to comment about what others are saying, and to give your own information and views. You will also be asked what you think should happen in the future, including any help that you feel is necessary.

Many families who have attended conferences in the past tell us that they were very nervous and don't say as much as they would like to. To help overcome this, it is useful to do some preparation in advance. Please fill out the form on the back page and bring it to the conference.

What can you expect from us?

We want to work in partnership with you and your family. As a parent/ carer, you should expect to:

- Be listened to
- Be treated with respect
- Be kept informed and involved in decisions
- Get all the help and support that has been offered to you within the agreed timescales
- Receive a reliable service, with professionals doing what they say they will
- Receive copies of all reports
- Get a copy of the conference minutes within 20 working days of the conference

If you don't feel we are meeting these standards, you should let us know.

Complaints

If you disagree with a conference decision about whether a child is made subject to a Child Protection Plan (and under what category of concern) or you have concerns about how the conference has been held, you can lodge your complaint by contacting the **Customer Care Team** on **020 7361 3000**.



Form for parents / carers to complete and take to the conference

Thinking about these questions and making some notes will help you to contribute to the Child Protection Conference

Why are people worried about my children?

What things do people need to know more about?

What things work well in my family?

Are my children safe?

What things do I need to know more about?

What things need to change and who can help us make those changes?