Your child protection conference
A guide for children and young people aged seven and over
What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is a meeting to talk about what is happening in your life, with your family, and what needs to be done to make sure you are safe and happy.

Who will be there?

All of the adults who work with you and know you will be asked to come along to help make the best decisions.

There will be people you know and people you don’t.

- People who look after you. For example your mum, dad, grandparent or family friend.
- The chairperson – they will lead the meeting.
- A social worker – their job is to help protect you, both now and in the future.
- A teacher – their job is to tell people how you are getting on at school.
- A doctor, health visitor or school nurse – they will talk about your health.
- A police officer – their job is to give information and to discuss if anyone has hurt you.

Can I come to the meeting?

• Yes, if you want to – but you may not be able to stay for the whole meeting.
• Your views are important and you will usually be invited to the meeting. If you cannot come, we still want to know what you think and how you feel.
• You can use a computer with your social worker to help you say what you think and feel.

Will people listen to what I say?

The conference is about you, so it is important that everyone knows what you think – even if they cannot always do what you want. To help you get your views heard you can:

• be put in touch with your own advocate (who does not work for the social services) who will help you say what you think and feel
• meet and speak with the chairperson
• write things down and ask for someone to read it out in the meeting for you
• speak to your social worker about the main points you want to put across

If you do not want to attend the conference, you are still entitled to have an advocate to support you and speak up for you at the meeting.

What happens at the meeting?
Everyone will sit around the table and take turns to say what they think. They will decide if you are safe or not. If they think that you are not safe, they will decide what has to change. They will make a plan to help you become safe and happy.

If you have any more questions you want to ask, please contact your social worker.

What happens after the meeting?
The social worker and advocate will tell you what has happened and explain anything you do not understand. They will tell you about any other meetings that may have been scheduled.
Complaints
If you disagree with a conference decision about whether you are put on a Child Protection Plan, or what category it is, or you are unhappy about the way the conference was held, you can make a complaint by calling the Customer Care Team on 020 7361 3000. You can ask your social worker or another adult to help you do this if you want.