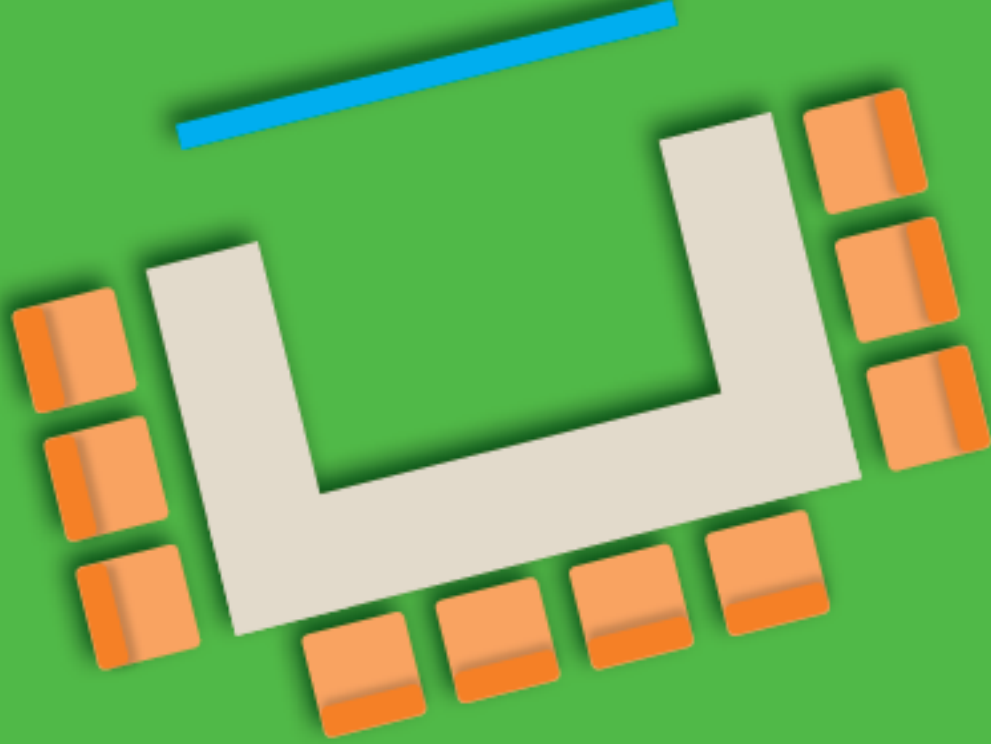


Child Protection Conference

Information for parents and families



www.hillingdon.gov.uk/lscb

The child's plan

The child's plan will be considered throughout the meeting and any agreed actions will be recorded at the time they are discussed. The plan will include details of what needs to happen to change the current situation to improve things for your child.

Decision making

After the discussion, a decision will be made about whether the risks to your child are significant enough that a Child Protection Plan is needed or if your child can be supported with a Child In Need Plan. You should leave the conference clear about what needs to happen and why things need to change.

What happens after the conference?

You will be sent a copy of the notes after the conference. If a Child Protection Plan is made you will be asked to attend regular meetings called Core Groups. At these meetings, you will look at the plan and discuss what progress has been made and what else still needs to be done.

A Review Child Protection Conference will be held after three months, and then at six-monthly intervals for as long as your child needs a Child Protection Plan.

Contact information

Your child's social worker is:

The contact number is:

If you would like to make a complaint, please contact the Independent Reviewing Service Manager or LSCB Business and Development Manager

Tel: 01895 556714

Email: qualityassurance@hillingsdon.gov.uk

What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting held between families and services when there is concern about the safety of a child within a family.

As a parent or family member, you are invited to attend the conference, and we encourage you to take an active part. You may also bring someone with you for support, such as a member of your family or a friend.

What is the purpose of the conference?

- Share information about your child's safety and wellbeing
- Assess whether your child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm of abuse or neglect
- Identify the strengths within your family
- Identify any support needed by your family and advise which professionals/services might be able to provide this
- Identify changes you may need to make to ensure the safety of your child
- Decide if your child needs to have a Child Protection Plan or a Child In Need Plan

Who else will be at the conference?

- An independent person, called a child protection advisor, who will chair the conference
- Someone to take notes
- A number of other people from services that have involvement with your family
- Sometimes, individuals from other agencies (who you may not have met before) are invited because of their particular expertise or background who may be able to provide help

What happens at the conference?

Before the conference starts, the child protection advisor will meet with you to discuss how the meeting will run and talk about the best way for you to contribute to the discussions. The child protection advisor 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, everyone will introduce themselves. Many of the people who attend will have already prepared a report setting out the facts as they know them.

The child protection advisor will then speak with the conference members, including you, to outline:

- what people consider the strength of the family to be
- what people are worried about
- what complicates things and if there are any grey areas
- what the safety factors are.

You will be asked to contribute to these discussions. The child protection advisor will write the important points on a wipe board, so everyone is able to remember what is said.

Safety scale

When all the information has been shared, the child protection advisor will ask everyone, including family members to make a judgment about the safety of the child in the family home and the potential risk of future harm.

A safety scale will be attached to the wall and all participants will be asked to write down, on a sticky note provided, where they would place the safety of the child.

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No safety; the child is suffering harm and needs to be away from the home

10

The child is safe and the family does not require additional support