



Child Protection Conferences & Core Groups

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I have to attend if I receive an invite?**

It is important to attend if you are able so that you can share information about the child/ren with partner agencies. If you are unable to attend you can send a colleague on your behalf to share your information.
- **Do I have to provide a report?**

Yes. It is important to complete all of the relevant details to enable the Chair to have all of the information about the child/ren. Submitting a report is even more important if you are unable to attend.
- **What do I need to include in the report?**

You should include information that is relevant. This can include information on other children in the family even if you only care for one. Ensure you are clear about the impact your concerns are having on the child/ren.
- **Do I have to share my report with the parents?**

Yes. It is really important to share this information so that there are no surprises in the Conference. This should ideally be done face to face but if this is not possible you can telephone them to share your report.
- **How long does a conference last?**

A conference can last anything up to three hours but usually shorter than this. Core Groups normally take about 1 hour.
- **Can I choose not to make a decision as to whether or not a child should become part of a child protection plan?**

No. you are expected to contribute to the decision making process. You will need to listen to all of the professionals around the table and take into account everything you have heard so that you can make an informed decision.
- **What if I disagree with the decision for a child protection plan or child in need?**

You will have the opportunity to put your views across at the meeting. If you disagree with the final decision you can "dissent". This is a formal process that requires you to formally record your disagreement with the decision that has been made. The Chair can explain this to you.
- **Do I need to attend every Core Group meeting?**

If you are able to attend, it is important that you contribute to ensuring the plan is being kept to and progress is being made.
- **What if I disagree with a safeguarding decision made by another professional?**

Firstly discuss this with the other person and ask them to explain their reasons for making that decision. If you still disagree with the decision made, speak to your line manager who will speak to their line manager. For full details on how to escalate concerns and professional disagreements read the Escalation Policy [here](#).