People Working Together to Keep Me Safe

A guide for children aged 7 to 11

★ This booklet is for you
It explains what adults mean when they talk about child protection. You can read it on your own or with someone you trust. You can stop, ask questions or come back to it later.

Why are adults talking about keeping me safe?

Some grown-ups are worried about something happening in your life. It is their job to find out more and help keep you safe.

♥ This is important
You have not done anything wrong. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of adults.

Who is my social worker?

A social worker is a grown-up whose job is to get to know you and your family, listen to what life is like for you and help people work together to keep you safe.

The people you might meet:

- **Social worker** — talks with children and families and helps people work together to keep children safe.
- **Child Protection Chair** — leads the meeting and helps everyone listen and make decisions.
- **Advocate** — someone independent who can help you say what you think and make sure adults hear you.

What might my social worker ask me?

- What do you like about your life?
- Who are the important people to you?
- What is going well?
- Is anything worrying, frightening or upsetting you?
- What would you like to be different?
- Who helps you when things are difficult?



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✓ There are no 'right' answers.

You can say what you really think. You can also say 'I don't know', 'I don't understand' or 'I don't want to talk about that yet'.

What is a Child Protection Conference?

Sometimes adults need a meeting to think together about how to keep a child safe. This is called a Child Protection Conference. The Child Protection Chair is the person who helps everyone take turns, listen and stay focused on you.

Want to see what a Child Protection Conference is like?

Scan the QR code to watch Cheshire East's short animation about Child Protection Conferences, made with children and young people.

Watch

- **What are we worried about?**
  - What might be making life unsafe or difficult?
- **What is working well?**
  - What is already helping you?
- **What do YOU think?**
  - What matters to you and what would you like adults to know?
- **What needs to happen?**
  - What needs to change?
- **Who can help?**
  - Which people can help make things better?
- **How will we know?**
  - What would feel different if things were getting better?

Do I have to sit in the meeting?

No. Some children want to join some of their meeting and some do not. You can talk with your social worker about the best way for you to have your say.

Ways I can have my say

- Talk to my social worker
- Draw a picture
- Write something down
- Record a message
- Meet the Child Protection Chair
- Ask someone I trust to help me explain

What is a Child Protection Plan?

If the adults at the conference think a plan is needed, it will explain what people are worried about, what is already helping, what needs to change, who will help and how everyone will know things are getting better.

What happens after the meeting?

Adults will explain what they have decided and what happens next. They might decide that a Child Protection Plan is needed, that your family needs some other help, or that a Child Protection Plan is not needed. You can ask: “What happens next?” if you are not sure.

★ Remember

Adults should explain your plan in a way you understand. You can ask questions. You can say when you agree and when you don't.



My page

Something I want adults to know:

_____

_____

Something I want to ask:

_____

_____

People I can talk to:

My social worker: _____
Someone I trust: _____
My Child Protection Chair: _____



Who can I talk to?

? Your social worker or Child Protection Chair

You can ask questions, say if you do not understand, and tell them if you do not feel listened to.

Independent advocacy - Coram Voice

Need help telling adults what you think? An advocate is someone whose job is to listen to you and help adults hear your views. You can scan the QR code with a trusted adult to find out more.

Freephone: 0808 800 5792

Text or WhatsApp: 07758 670369

Email: help@coramvoice.org.uk

Advocacy

If you are unhappy with Children's Services

You can talk to your social worker, their manager or the Child Protection Chair. You can also contact Children's Social Care Complaints.
Telephone: 0300 123 5038
Email: socialcarecomplaintsmanager@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Complaints

Need to talk to someone outside Children's Services?

Childline is free and available 24 hours a day.
Call: 0800 1111

Childline

! If a child is in immediate danger

Call 999. For an urgent social care concern outside normal working hours, call 0300 123 5022.

If you need this information in another language or format, or want help understanding it, tell your social worker or Child Protection Chair.

