Your Child Protection Plan

Working together to make everyday life safer for your child

Why have I received this leaflet?

At your child's Child Protection Conference, it was decided that your child needs a Child Protection Plan. You may agree with some of the worries and disagree with others. We want you to understand why the plan is in place, what needs to happen, what help you can expect and how you and your child will be involved.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

A Child Protection Plan is put in place when a Child Protection Conference decides that a child is at continuing risk of significant harm. It brings together what your family, wider support network and professionals will do to help make your child safer.

- **What are we worried about?**
  - The worries that would affect your child's safety.
- **What is working well?**
  - Strengths, relationships and safety we can build on.
- **What needs to happen?**
  - The changes needed for your child to be safer.
- **Who will do what?**
  - What family, friends, and professionals have agreed to do.
- **How will we know?**
  - What will be different in your child's everyday life when things improve?

Your child's experience

A good plan is not simply about adults completing tasks. It should make a real difference to your child's everyday life. Your social worker will continue to spend time with your child and understand what feels better, what remains difficult and whether the support is actually helping.

What is the Core Group?

The Core Group is the smaller group of family members and professionals responsible for putting the Child Protection Plan into action. It usually includes parents or carers, the social worker and key people working with your child or family. Other family members or people in your support network may be involved where this would help.



People who care about your child matter

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, family friends and other trusted adults can often be part of the safety and support around a child. The plan should consider who in your family or wider network can safely help, not only what services can provide.

At Core Group meetings we will ask:

- What's changed?
- What's better?
- What are we still worried about?
- Are we doing what we agreed?
- Is the help making a difference?
- What needs to happen next?

What is expected of parents and carers?

Please:

- Work with us as openly as you can
- Attend meetings wherever possible
- Tell us when something important changes
- Complete the actions you have agreed
- Tell us if something in the plan is not working
- Help identify family members and other people who can support your child
- Keep sharing your views, including when you disagree

What should I expect from professionals?

Professionals should:

- Treat you and your child with dignity and respect
- Be honest and clear about worries
- Listen to you and your child
- Provide the help they have agreed
- Complete actions within agreed timescales
- Keep you informed and explain decisions
- Recognise progress and change their approach when something is not working

Working together goes both ways.

Everyone involved in the plan, including professionals, parents, carers and family members, is accountable for what they have agreed to do.



Can the plan change?

Yes. The plan should respond to what is actually happening in your child's life. Progress should be recognised. If something is not working, we should understand why and consider what needs to change. If new worries emerge, these should be discussed openly.

How long will the plan last?

The plan should remain in place only while it is needed to help keep your child safe. Progress will be reviewed through visits from your social worker, Core Group meetings and Review Child Protection Conferences.

Who can support me?

You do not have to manage meetings and plans alone. You can ask whether a family member, friend or support worker can help you prepare for meetings or support you to take part. Speak to your social worker or Child Protection Chair if you need help understanding the process.

Child Protection Conferences explained

Your child's plan will be reviewed at Review Child Protection Conferences. Cheshire East's short animation, made with children and young people, explains what a Child Protection Conference is like. You may find it helpful to watch it with your child before a review.

Watch the animation



Who can I talk to?

Questions about your conference or plan

Child Protection Chairs
01606 288040
Safeguardingchildprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Independent advocacy - Coram Voice

An advocate can help a child or young person understand their rights, share their views and be heard. Scan the QR code to find out more about advocacy and how to ask for support.
Freephone: 0808 800 5792
Text or WhatsApp: 07758 670369
Email: help@coramvoice.org.uk

Advocacy

If you need this information in another language or format, or need help understanding it, please

If you are unhappy with Children's Services

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

Complaints

tell your social worker or Child Protection Chair.

! If a child is in immediate danger

Call 999. For an urgent social care concern outside normal working hours, call 0300 123 5022 (Option 3).

Your key contacts

Social worker: _____
Phone number: _____
Next meeting / review date: _____

