

Cheshire West & Chester Council

child protection conference



A guide for children and young people



The Local Safeguarding
Children Board
Working to Keep West Cheshire's
Children and Young People Safe



Cheshire West
and Chester

What is a Child Protection Conference?

The conference is a meeting that is arranged by Social Care when people who work with you and your family are worried about you. The people at the meeting talk about what is happening in your life, with your family and what needs to be done to make sure you will be protected from harm.

Who will be at the conference?

All the adults who work with you and know you will be asked to come, to help the conference make the best decisions. There is a person, called the 'Chair', who leads the meeting and another person who takes notes.

Will people listen to what I have to say?

You are a very important person and your views will be shared with everyone at the meeting and it will be important they consider what you say when planning how to best help you. The conference is about you so it is important that everyone knows what you think - even if they cannot always do what you want.

What will the conference do?

Decide whether or not a Child Protection Plan needs to be put in place.

What is the Child Protection Plan?

A plan to keep children safe from harm.

Can the conference decide if I will be taken away from my parents/carers?

No - this is something that many children worry about when a conference is called. The conference decides what protection plan is needed to keep you safe and well and how everyone will work together to ensure this happens. A conference can only make a plan that looks at how to make your life safer and better for you.

Only a court can order that children no longer live with their parents and this would only be in very harmful situations; most children who have a Child Protection Plan stay at home with their parents/carers.

Do I have to go?

No you don't have to go but if you are over 11 years you may be invited if your social worker thinks it appropriate.