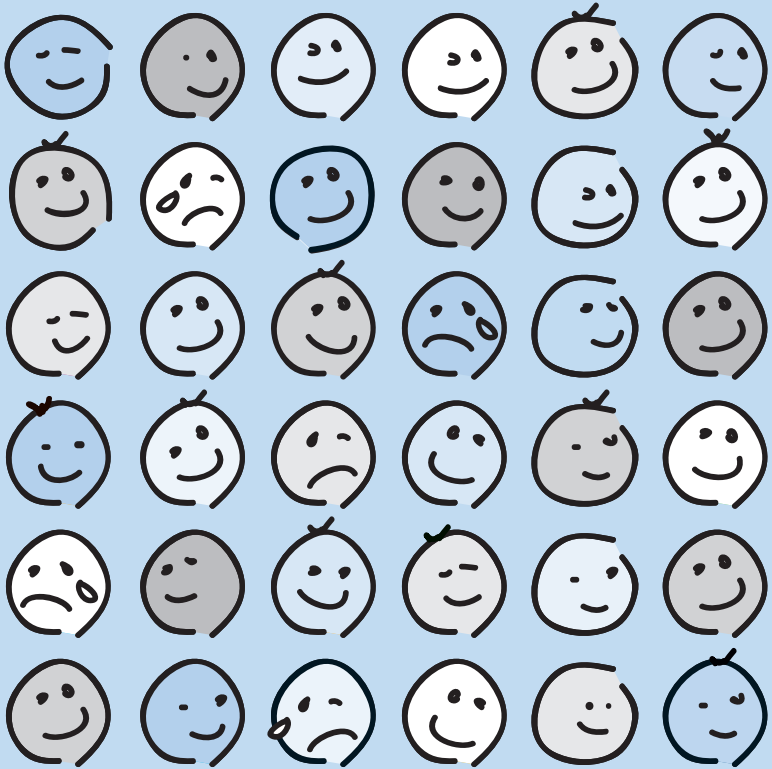


Child Protection Case Conference

Information Leaflet for Parents and Carers

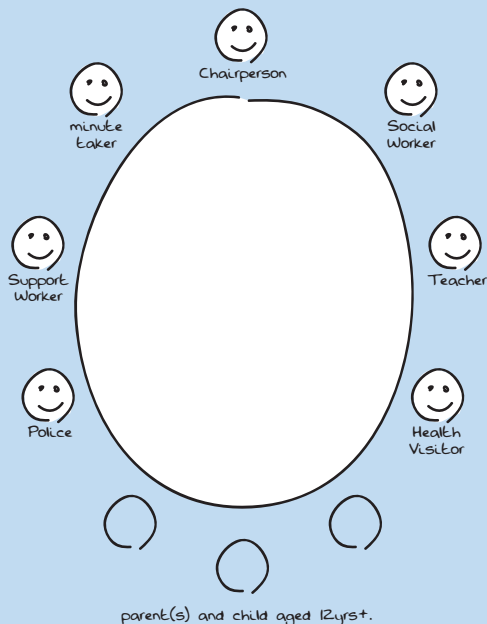


A Child Protection Case Conference shares information about your child and your family. This leaflet should answer questions which you may have about this meeting.




answer A conference is a meeting to bring together all of the people who are involved with your family to share information and talk about what is best for your child.

answer All those who know your family, are invited such as...



You and your child will be invited (depending on their age). You can bring someone along for support - like a friend or family member. The Children's Rights Service will be invited. They are independent. They help children express their views, feelings and wishes about decisions affecting them and safeguard their best interests.



What happens at the meeting?

answer Meetings are arranged for different reasons:


- following a child protection investigation
- before the birth of a baby
- If there are concerns that a child might have been harmed or be at risk of harm in the future

Everyone at the meeting, including you, will have an opportunity to take part and ask questions. All children living in your family will be discussed at the meeting and decisions may affect them too.

Different decisions can be reached, such as:

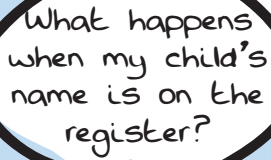
- no further action needs to be taken
- voluntary support to be offered
- delayed decision whilst further information is obtained, or further contact is made with your family, or an assessment is carried out (this involves gathering more detailed information about your family's circumstances)
- placing your child or children's name(s) on the Child Protection Register

answer Social Work Services keep a central register of all children including unborn babies living in their area who are thought to be at risk of future harm and in need of protection. The list is highly confidential and access to the list is strictly controlled.



What is the Child Protection Register?

If your child's name is placed on the Child Protection Register, we will keep a record of the main concerns and risks that may affect your child, for example physical abuse or neglect. We will also record any other factors which might affect your child, such as domestic abuse or drug/alcohol use. We will agree with you ways to reduce further risk of harm to your child.




What happens when my child's name is on the register?

answer A Child Protection Plan will be drawn up and all agencies involved will work together with you to support you and your family.

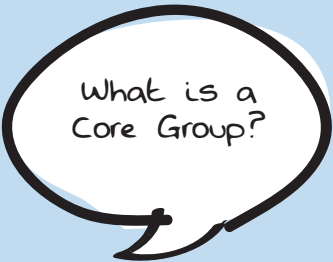
The progress that is made is discussed at a Review Case Conference and at core group meetings.

answer This plan contains actions agreed by everyone who attends the Case Conference, including parents. It sets out what needs to be done to reduce concerns. Together we can talk about your child's situation and understand how things are changing and improving. You will be given a copy of the Plan and a Social Worker usually will see you/your child weekly.



What is a Child Protection Plan?

The Core Group is responsible for putting the Plan into action.



What is a Core Group?

answer This is a small group of people who are involved with you and your family, such as Health Visitor, Teacher, Social Worker and Support Worker. At their first meeting the group will decide how often to meet. You will be invited to attend core groups. The plan will be discussed and updated if necessary.

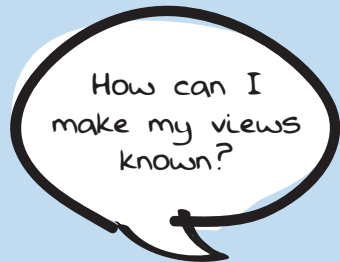


What is a Review Case Conference?

answer This is a meeting which is held 3 months after the first meeting. The Child Protection Plan is discussed and decisions are made about whether a child's name should remain on the Register or be removed depending on the progress of the Child Protection Plan.

If a child's name remains on the Register, the Child Protection Plan will be reviewed and any necessary changes are made. Review Case Conferences usually take place every 6 months unless anyone who attends meetings, including yourself, asks for a Review to take place sooner.

answer Attending the meeting offers the opportunity to express your views and these will be taken into account in reaching a decision. You will also be able to hear and comment on information shared by others at the meeting. You can put your views in writing before the meeting, if you feel this would be helpful.



How can I make my views known?

An allocated Social Worker will meet with you before the meeting to share their report and help you to prepare for the meeting. Other agencies do the same. You may feel that you need help to make your views known, or that you would benefit from an independent advocate. Your child's Social Worker will be able to help you with this.



What if I don't agree with the decision of the Conference?

answer All agencies need to consider your child's best interests. It is very important that everyone hears your views.

If you disagree with the decisions made, a note of this will be taken by the Minute Taker who takes a record of the information shared and the decisions reached.

You can appeal the decision to register or not register your child's name.

If you wish to appeal you should write to the Chair of the Child Protection Committee, within 21 working days of the meeting, stating clearly your reasons for appeal. You can ask for help to do this. The Chair will decide whether there are grounds for an appeal and if so, will arrange a meeting made up of members of the Falkirk Child Protection Committee to hear the appeal.



Do you have comments about the service you received?

answer Feedback about our services is always welcome. This helps us to make sure that our services are the best they can be for you in the future. If you are unhappy about the Case Conference process speak to the person who chairs the meeting, this way most problems can be dealt with quickly. If the matter still can't be resolved, you could make a formal complaint to:

contactcentre@falkirk.gov.uk

Tel.: 01324 506070

We can help you to make a formal complaint, if required.



contact details

**Chair of Falkirk Child Protection
Committee**

and Lead Officer Child Protection

Tel: 01324 590539

childprotectioncommittee@falkirk.gov.uk

Children's Rights Service

Tel: 01324 612308

falkirkchildrens@quarriers.org.uk

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, LARGE PRINT or audio, please contact your local Social Work office.

www.falkirk.gov.uk