

A guide to...

Child Protection Conferences

Information for Parents and Carers

Signs of Safety Scaling at Child Protection Conference

Before the conference starts, the chairperson will meet with you to explain how the meeting will run and how you can contribute to the discussions. The professionals attending the conference who have contact with your child or yourself will have been asked to prepare a report.

The chairperson will speak with conference members including you to gather information about:

- + What is working well?
- + What people are worried about?
- + How people could help you keep your child/children safe?

When all the information has been shared the Chairperson will use a scaling to help assess how worried everyone, including yourself, is.

We use a scale of 0 -10 where 10 is good and 0 means we are very worried for the child's safety.

A decision is then made about whether your child should be placed on a Child Protection Plan.



Find out more online:
www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

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Child Protection Plans have categories that children have to be linked to, based on the biggest area of concern for them.

These categories are:

*Neglect. This is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, including failure to provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; failing to ensure adequate supervision; failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or provide suitable education. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

*Emotional Harm. This may be telling a child that they are worthless or unloved; it may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views or making fun of what they say or how they communicate; it may be having inappropriate expectations of children or limiting their learning/socialising; it may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another; serious bullying (including cyber bullying); causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

*Physical Harm. This may be hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates or deliberately induces illness in a child.

*Sexual Harm. This involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used.

Adapted from Working Together 2023.



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