

What can I do if I am not happy with the conference?

You have the right to complain. People will listen.

You can talk to someone you trust who can help you to decide what to do. This could be your social worker, a teacher or your advocate. Your advocate can support you in making a complaint if you want them to.



Useful Phone Numbers/Websites

Your advocate will telephone you and your family a couple of weeks before the next conference and arrange to come and meet with you at home or at school.

If you need to speak to an advocate before then you can call our free helpline number on 0808 800 5792

We are looking forward to meeting you!

ChildLine: 0800 1111

A free 24 hour helpline (run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), www.childline.org.uk.

Surrey Children's Services have also written a booklet for children and young people who have a Child Protection meeting which you may find helpful too. Its called, 'Helping you - Listen to me'.

This will be sent to you with your invitation to conference.

Child Protection Conferences: A guide for children & young people



coram
Voice 
getting young voices heard

What is a Child Protection Conference?

This is a meeting organised by your Social Worker when people are worried about you and your family. They might think that your Mum, Dad or carer need extra help keeping you safe and happy.

What is the conference for?



Your Social Worker and other people who know or work with your family might come to the meeting, as well as people from your family like Mum and Dad. They will talk about their worries and make a plan of how to help keep you safe and happy.

Who will be at the conference?

Your Social Worker will tell you who will be there but usually there will be:

- Your Mum, Dad, carers or other people in your family
- Your Social Worker
- Other people who may know you or your family well, like teachers or the school nurse
- Other people who you might not know, such as the police
- If you want, you can have an 'Advocate', who can help you tell the adults at the meeting what you think and feel about it all – we call this your 'wishes and feelings'

Can I come to the conference?

Sometimes you can come to the Child Protection conference on your own or with your Advocate. You can talk to your Social Worker about going to part of the meeting or staying for all of it. Often, children decide not to go at all. If you don't want to go, this is okay. You can ask your Advocate to let the people in the meeting know what you think and to tell you afterwards about what people said about this.



How can I tell everyone what I think?

Your wishes and feelings are a **very important** part of the meeting. Your Advocate will talk to you about the meeting and ask you what you think and feel about it all. If you want, the Advocate can then say this to the people at the meeting so that all the adults will understand what you think and want to happen.

What happens next?

After the meeting, if you want to, the Advocate can talk with you about what people said about your wishes and feelings. The social worker will talk with you to help you understand what is going to happen next and answer any questions you might have. You can also ask to see the report written by the social worker and what it says about you and your family.

Who will know about what is said in the meeting?

The things that are said in the meeting are private and will only be shared with people who need to know so that they can keep you safe. An Advocate doesn't tell anyone anything if you don't want them to, unless they think that you or someone else might be in danger.

