

# CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

## INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children under the age of 18.

**Article 12 - Respect for Children's Views**, states:

Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

### What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that is held if people are worried about your safety or there are concerns about how you are being treated by the people caring for you.

### Who will be there?

- You and your family (if you want to be involved).
- An Independent Reviewing Officer - this person will run the meeting.
- Your social worker.
- Your advocate (if you want them to be there).
- A teacher or someone else from school.
- A health visitor or school nurse might be part of the meeting.
- Police who specialise in Child Protection and GPs may be involved.
- Any other professional who is working with you.

### Your views

It is really important that your views are heard and people know how you feel about what is happening in your life. Your Social Worker will ask you about your views and will record them in their report and you will be offered an advocate.

If you have an advocate, they can help you plan for the conference, and they can take part in the conference on your behalf if this is what you would like. Even if you don't want to speak during the conference, you can still listen to the whole meeting if you want to.

There might be times when the Reviewing Officer decides it is best if you don't go to all or part of your meeting. If you don't want to go, you will still find out what was decided. Your social worker or the reviewing officer will arrange to see you to talk about what happened.

### Advocacy

If you want someone to go to the meeting with you and help you to say things you can ask for an advocate. An advocate can:

- Help you express your views
- Help you work out what you want to say and how to say it
- Put your views forward for you or help you speak up for yourself
- Help you prepare for your Child Protection meeting

**If you decide not to go to your meeting an advocate can attend and share your views for you.**



# SPEAK UP

York's Children's Rights and Advocacy Service

# TOP TIPS

## FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Speak to your Social Worker so they can write your wishes and feelings in their report.
- Write a letter to the Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Write down what you want the meeting to know for your Social Worker to take to the meeting with them.
- You can be creative in how you want to share your views and can create pictures, make videos or presentations to share your feelings.
- Have an advocate to go to the meeting for you.
- Listen to what people have to say [at the meeting] before you say something and take time to think about what you are going to say.
- Look at someone or something else when someone is speaking if it helps.
- Try and get an advocate to talk to as it can help you.
- Before the meeting write down notes about what you want to say as this can help you remember.
- Don't worry you will have someone there to help you speak.
- Advocacy helps me feel organised and I know what I need to say.
- You're the boss, they help you feel listened to.

### After the meeting


If you would like to talk to someone about the decisions that were made at the conference, you can talk to your social worker or advocate. You could also ask for a written copy of the Child Protection Plan if this is something you would like.

If you don't agree with decisions made at the conference you have a right to complain, this is something your advocate can support you with.

### How do I ask for an advocate?

You can speak to your social worker, or contact Speak Up using the details below. Speak Up is the name of the advocacy service.

 Call us: 07769 725174     Text us: 07769 725174

 Email us: [speakup@york.gov.uk](mailto:speakup@york.gov.uk)

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