



## Child Protection Conferences and Care and Support Protection Plans

### Information for Young People (Age 11-18 years)

#### Why are people worried about me?

People get worried if they think children and young people are not safe or if they are being harmed in any way or are at risk of being harmed.

#### What is a Child Protection Conference?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting of people who will talk about how best to keep you safe and well. It is important for them to know what you think and what you want to happen.

#### Who goes to Child Protection Conferences?

Your parents or the people who look after you and your social worker, teacher, school nurse or youth worker. Other people who may not have met you or your family may also be there. Your social worker will explain who they are and what they do. The police usually attend all Child Protection Conferences to give useful information. There will be someone there to take notes called minutes. Everyone who is there gets a copy of these through the post.

#### Can I go?

Your social worker will speak to you to discuss and agree if it is a good idea for you to attend the meeting. It is important people know how you feel about what is happening in your life. You may want to go to the meeting but feel a bit worried or upset. If so, talk to your social worker, your teacher or another adult who you trust. Whether you attend or not you can have someone

called an advocate present who can help you say what you want or speak for you. You will also be able to have an interpreter if you need one. Before you go it may help to write down what you would like to say or fill in the consultation form with this leaflet. Your social worker will help you with this if you want them to.

#### Do I have to go?

You do not have to go if you do not want to but, the people who are there need to know what you are worried about and what you would like to change. So, you could fill in the consultation form, tell your advocate or email the chairperson. Your social worker can provide you with all the information you need to do this.

#### What happens at the Conference?

If you attend you will meet the person in charge of the meeting before it starts. This person is called the chairperson and they will explain how the meeting will be arranged and listen to any concerns you may have. When the meeting starts you will be introduced to the other people. They will talk about any worries they have about you or your family and will hear what you think about these worries. The meeting will decide if you and your family are safe. If they decide you are not safe they can plan how to help you and your family. This is called a Care and Support Protection Plan. All the people involved in your life, including your parents will work on certain bits of the plan to try to make things better or safer for you. Sometimes those who attend the meeting may decide you are safe but you and your family still need some extra help and support. This will be discussed and agreed in the meeting with you if you attend and your family and a plan will be put in place. This is called a Care and Support Plan.

**REMEMBER all the people at the meetings will look at ways of keeping you safe and happy at home.** Young people are only moved away from home occasionally.

If this has to happen then it is best done with the agreement of your parents. Sometimes parents can't agree about this and the social worker will have to get the permission of a court. If the people at the meeting think a crime has been committed against you they will ask the police to investigate.

#### What happens after the Conference?

Your social worker will talk to you about what happens next and answer any questions you may have. If it's agreed a Care and Support Protection plan needs to be put in place the people involved will meet regularly to look at how the plan is working and to check that you are happy, safe and well. This is called a Core Group. Within three months, a Child Protection Review Conference will be held to decide whether or not you still need a Care and Support Protection Plan. The review meetings will continue until it is decided you no longer need a Care and Support Protection Plan.

#### What if I'm still worried?

During the time your social worker is involved with you and your family they will have to see you on your own. They will make sure you understand what is happening and answer your questions. They will also make sure you get the chance to talk about how you feel and what you would like to happen.

#### Complaints

If you are unhappy about the decisions taken at the meeting or about the help you and your family have been given first talk to your social worker. If you are still not happy your social worker or advocate can support you to make a complaint.

#### Independent Help & Advice

TPG Advocacy Service can be contacted at any time who can provide you with further help, support and advice if you want this. They can be contacted on 0808 168 2599 or by email at [midandwestwales@tgpcymru.org.uk](mailto:midandwestwales@tgpcymru.org.uk)