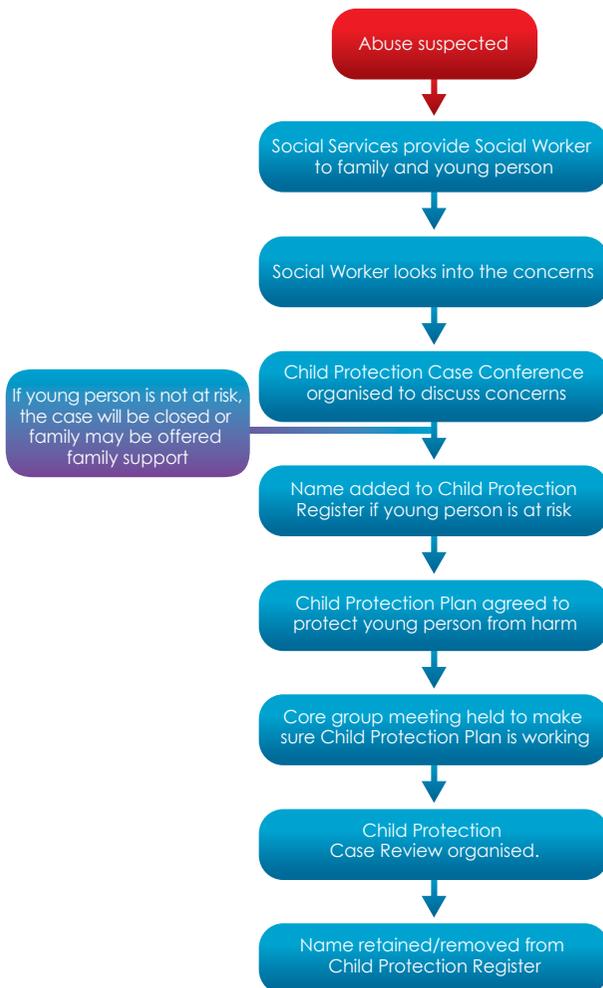


Why should you go to your Child Protection Case Conference?

Attending a Child Protection Case Conference or a core group meeting can be difficult but it's important that young people attend. These meetings are about YOU and it's important that you are there to give your point of view, and to take part in meetings where decisions are being made about you. You can ask someone you trust to attend with you for support to put your views across.

Here's a summary of the child protection process:



Contacts

BELFAST HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Central contact point 028 9050 7000
Out of hours 028 9056 5444

NORTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Central contact point 0300 1234 333
Out of hours 028 9446 8833

SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Central contact point 0300 1000 300
Out of hours 028 9056 5444

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Central contact point 0800 783 7745
Out of hours 028 3833 4444

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Central contact point 028 7131 4090
Out of hours 028 7134 5171

Central numbers can be used 9am-5pm. Out of hours can be used after 5pm, weekends and bank holidays.

If you need further information please contact your local Trust



This leaflet was designed by children from **VOYPIC**
VOYPIC is an organisation which works with care experienced children. To contact VOYPIC phone:
028 9024 4888

Young Person's Guide To Child Protection Over 12s



What does child protection mean?

Protecting children and keeping them safe is everyone's business. It is the job of Social Services to make sure you have all the help you need to keep you free from harm.

Why might you need to be kept safe?

Young people need to be kept safe from danger. This danger could come from other people harming the young person or the young person engaging in risky behaviour. There are different types of harm:

- Physical abuse – hurting or injuring a child or causing pain on purpose
- Sexual abuse – forcing or threatening a child to take part in sexual activities or making them watch or listen to sexual activity
- Emotional abuse – making children feel unloved, worthless or humiliating them
- Neglect – not caring for a child properly; not providing warmth, clothes, food, education, toys, medicine and love

What happens if a young person is thought to be at risk of harm?

- Someone will contact Social Services to say they are worried. This might be a friend, teacher, doctor, neighbours, family, a stranger or you
- Social Services will look into these concerns
- Social Services will provide a Social Worker to assess if you are at risk and take action to help
- If Social Services think you are at risk, they will organise a meeting called a Child Protection Case Conference

What is a Social Worker?

A Social Worker's job is to help and protect you from danger. The Social Worker will work with you and your family to get you the help you need to stay out of danger. It is important that you share what happened to you with your Social Worker so that professionals understand your story better.

What is a Child Protection Case Conference?

This is a meeting organised by Social Services to talk about why they are worried about you and how they can keep you safe. Everything at the meeting is kept private or on a need to know basis.

Who might be at the meeting?

You and your parents will be invited to the meeting. The Social Worker and their manager will also be there. Other professionals who are likely to be invited are:

- Teacher/Year Head
- Doctor
- Health visitor
- Police

What is the Child Protection Register?

The Child Protection Register is a list of names of young people who are thought to be at risk of abuse. The list is confidential and the purpose of it is to make sure that young people are protected. Young people can be placed on the child protection register under the different categories of abuse - physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. The abuse experienced can be:

- Potential - there is a possibility the young person might be abused
- Suspected - think abuse has happened but there is not enough evidence
- Confirmed - there is evidence that the young person has been abused

If the case conference decides that the young person is not at risk his or her name will not be placed on the Child Protection Register. Other family support services may be offered to help young person and their family.

What happens after the Child Protection Case Conference?

After the meeting the Social Worker will organise another meeting called a core group meeting. This meeting will look at the plan put in place to protect the young person and make sure people know what they have to do. This plan is called a Child Protection Plan and will list things that the young person, parents and the Social Worker can do to protect the young person.

Three months after the first case conference Social Services will hold a review meeting. This will look at what has happened in the past three months and decide if the young person's name needs to be kept on the register. After this, review meetings will be held every six months until the young person's name is removed from the Child Protection Register.

