

## In summary, the four categories are;

**Neglect** – Failure to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter, failure to ensure that the child or children have access to appropriate medical care or treatment, failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, which could include failure to protect your child from witnessing domestic abuse.

**Physical abuse** – This is where a parent, carer or other adult deliberately cause injuries on a child or children.

**Emotional Abuse** – this is where a parent or carer fails to show a child sufficient love or attention or repeatedly threatens, taunts or makes fun of them. It could also include a child being frightened by how an adult may be behaving or seeing another person being hurt.

**Sexual Abuse** – This is where an adult or older child involves a child in sexual activity where the child does not or cannot consent because of their age or understanding. This can include downloading or viewing child pornography but also showing any form of pornography to your child or children. This category may be used if the worries about your child are around Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Child Protection Conference can only make a decision as to whether your child or children are at risk of significant harm. If the decision is to have a Child Protection Plan then you will have regular Core Groups which are smaller meetings where you and key professionals meet to make sure that the plan is working. A date will also be set for the Review Child Protection Conference where the plan will be reviewed by all the professionals and the Child Protection Advisor.

If the decision is that your child or children are not at risk of significant harm then professionals may ask to continue to work with you under a Child and Family Plan.

If you are unhappy with the decision of the conference you should speak to the Child Protection Advisor after the meeting. If you are still not happy they can send you out details of the formal complaints procedure.

## Child Protection Conferences

# information for parents

## Child Protection Conferences: information for parents

### **A Child Protection Conference will be held if we are very worried about the safety of your child or children.**

Child Protection Conferences are formal meetings and information will be shared from other agencies who are present or who may send in a report. This can be information from agencies such as school nurse or health visitor, GP, Police and schools. If you have another agency working with you such as a Mental Health Team then they will be invited to attend and share information.

The meeting will be chaired by a Child Protection Advisor. They will meet with you before the meeting starts and ensure that you understand what is going to happen and to answer any questions you may have. In the meeting they will make sure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and will make the final decision.

You will be invited to attend the meeting and you will be able to share your views and tell professionals what you think is going well and helps to keep your child or children safe. You may want to share what you are worried about so that we can identify the right support to help.

Professionals will share in the meeting what they are worried about and what is working well. Sometimes we will ask you to leave the room for a professional only discussion to be held which happens when there is information that cannot be shared with you at this time.

Once information is shared a Safety Plan will be put together which includes things that you, other family members and professionals are agreeing to do that will increase your child or children's safety. The Safety Plan will clearly show what needs to be done, who will do it and by when.

The conference will then make a decision about whether there is evidence of significant harm or if harm is likely if nothing changes. The Child Protection Advisor will ask professionals to scale the child or children's safety with 10 being the child or children are safe and 0 being that we are very worried and there is no safety. Professionals will share their view about whether the Safety Plan should be a Child Protection Plan.

If the decision is for a Child Protection Plan, the Child Protection Advisor will then confirm what Category of Harm will be used.

