

Agency Reports

It is expected that parents should have had the chance to have read all reports and assessments in plenty of time prior to the Conference, so new information is not shared within the meeting. Professionals should endeavor to share their own reports with parents (and the child where appropriate) at least 24 hours before an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) and 3 days before a Review Child Protection Conference (RCPC). This is important to help parents to begin to consider what should be included in the Plan in advance of the meeting.

If professionals have any queries about particularly sensitive information they should discuss this with their safeguarding lead or the Conference Chair.



For further information, please visit the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children's Board Website where you will also find the template of the Agency reports for Conferences:

www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk

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Safeguarding Service



CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES

A Guide for Professionals



**Wolverhampton
Children's
Safeguarding service**

Child Protection Case Conferences

- The Safeguarding Service is changing the way we conduct Initial and Review Child Protection Case Conferences.
- The aim is to ensure Conferences are more focused on establishing effective plans and increase participation of parents and children within the process.
- The Plan will be more realistic and achievable if families are better involved in the decision making.
- The model encourages participants to identify strengths and build on existing safety, but accurately assess risk.
- In order to increase parents' involvement, there is an emphasis on professionals being concise and using plain language.

- The main difference for partner agencies is that the Conference Chair requires all information ahead of the meeting. Professionals from all agencies are asked to send their reports to the Chair and share them with parents in advance.



Preparation for Conference

- There is a new Child Protection Conference Report Form, plus supporting guidance. This can be found @ www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk
- Professionals are asked to identify 'what are you worried about' and 'what is going well' for the family.
- The form should be sent to the Conference Chair, 24 hours prior to an Initial Conference and 3 days prior to a Review Conference.



Within Conference

- Visual aids will be used to display a summary of key information, using these headings: 'what's working well', what are we worried about', 'what needs to happen' and any 'grey areas or complicating factors'.
- Because reports will have been read in advance of the meeting, these will not be read out, but key information will be added to the overall summary.
- Threshold decisions of 'risk of significant harm' will be made once the details of the plan have been agreed.

Following Conference

- If a Child Protection Plan is agreed, professionals who are identified as Core Group members will discuss progress of the Plan at Core Group meetings, making changes as a multi-agency group as actions have been achieved or if new risks emerge.
- The Social Worker will update the plan and circulate following Core Groups
- Reports for a Review Conference should be sent to the Chair and shared with parents 3 days before the meeting.

