

What is Child Protection?

Part five of the Children Act 1989 sets out what local authorities should do to protect children at risk of harm. When children's social care are concerned that the child or children are at risk of significant harm they will complete a section 47 report and request an initial child protection conference.

Child protection is part of the Local Authorities safeguarding process.

The Process will assess if the child or children are likely to suffer significant harm, under which category of harm and whether the harm is due to the care they are receiving from parents.

Child protection enquiries can also be made in respect of an unborn child.

There are 4 categories of harm:

- 1.Neglect
- 2.Physical abuse
- 3.Emotional abuse
- 4.Sexual abuse

Duty of a social worker

Complete Section 47 report and share this with parents.

Arrange an initial Core Group 10 days after the conference. After this, Core Group's will be held every 4 weeks.

Complete statutory visits, which will be planned and unplanned and happen every 4 weeks.

Parents rights

Right to have reports at least 48 hours before the conference

Note – we cannot share police report with parents prior to the conference taking place.

Right to postpone conference.

Right to meet with the conference chair prior to a meeting.

Right for reasonable adjustments to be put in place.

What will happen at Child Protection

Parents will receive a copy of the children and families assessment explaining the LA's concerns and what the recommendations will be.

Parents will receive a plan of what the LA expects to ensure the child or children are safe.

The plan will explain what actions are to be taken by both parents and professionals, what support will be offered and timescales for completing actions.

This process is voluntary BUT.....

A Child Protection plan is voluntary. This means that you do not have to work with the plan if you do not want to. But, if you choose to not work with the plan, children's services may take things further.

You can contact an advocate on 01925 246888