SOCIAL SERVICES

Attending a Child Protection Conference Information for Parents and Carers

Why do Child Protection enquiries need to be made?

- Someone, perhaps a relative, a member of the public or a professional, might have told the Police or the Council that they are worried about your child.

- Local Councils are legally obliged to investigate all concerns reported to them about a child. When the allegation suggests that a criminal offence has been committed, the Police and Council Social Services work together.

- To investigate the concerns Social Services will contact other agencies who have an involvement with your child(ren).

- You will be told as soon as possible about concerns for your child. Sometimes it is not possible to give full details immediately.

- Child Protection allegations arouse strong feelings; you may feel angry, upset, worried and confused when allegations are made about possible abuse to your child(ren).

- Social Workers from the Social Services Department and Police Officers, who have a duty to investigate, want to make the right decisions and your co-operation will help them to do this.

What happens next?

If it has been decided that there are child protection issues in relation to your child(ren), we will need to work with you to ensure that your child is safe. In order to discuss these concerns you have been invited to attend a Child Protection Conference.

What is the Conference for?

A Child Protection Conference is a meeting that you are invited to, with professionals who know your family e.g. Health Visitor, Doctor, Teacher etc., to share information and recommend the best way of keeping your child safe.

What will be discussed?

- What has happened and what has gone wrong.

- Information will be shared about any problems your family may be having, as well as the positive things you do.

What can be decided?

Whether your child(ren) need help and protection and whether or not their name should be included on the Child Protection Register.

A child's name can be included on the Child Protection Register under one or more of the following categories:

- **Physical Abuse** - this is when a child has been hurt in some way e.g. they have suffered an injury or there is a danger of this.
- **Sexual Abuse** - this is where a child has been involved in sexual activity or has been encouraged to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour e.g. watching pornography.
- **Emotional Abuse** - this is where a child has been subjected to persistent emotional ill-treatment.
- **Neglect** - this is where there is a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs.

The Conference will also recommend the best way of helping to keep your child(ren) safe from harm in the future and the type of support and help that can be offered to your family.

What can I expect?

- The meeting is chaired by an Independent Person who will make sure the meeting runs smoothly. You will be given the opportunity to meet the Chair 20 minutes before the Conference and share any concerns you may have.

- During the meeting everyone will be given the opportunity to share the information they have about your family and you will be given the opportunity to explain your point of view and comment on the information given by others.

Can the Conference decide to remove a child from home?

NO - If everyone is very worried about the safety of a child(ren) the meeting can recommend that the social worker looks at what is best for the child(ren), which could include removal. The Conference itself can't make that decision. A child can only be removed from their parents' care with their parent's permission or with an Order from the Court.

What decisions can a Child Protection Conference make?

The only decision the Conference can make is whether or not to place your child(ren)'s name on the Child Protection Register.

What is the Child Protection Register?

It is a confidential list of children living in the Vale of Glamorgan, for whom a decision has been made that they have:

- **Either**, already been harmed in some way.
- **Or**, there is serious concern that they are at risk of being harmed.
- **And**, that a formal plan agreed with the child and family is necessary to remove or reduce the risks to the child(ren). This is called a Child Protection Plan.

What can I do if I am unhappy with the Conference decision?

There is a procedure for dealing with complaints about the Child Protection Conference.

Who has the right to complain?

- Any parent, carer or person with parental responsibility.

- Any child considered to be of sufficient age and understanding who has attended a child protection conference.

- A person acting on behalf of either a parent or a child provided this is with their full knowledge and understanding.

What can I complain about?

- The process of the Conference

- The outcome in terms of the fact of and/or the category of initial or continuing registration.

- A decision to register or to de-register

The procedure does not cover:

- Complaints or representations relating to services that are delivered by individual agencies as a result of Conference recommendations.

- Complaints about an individual professional attending a Conference should be dealt with using the internal complaint procedure of that particular agency.

The Child Protection Conference Chairperson will deal with complaints in relation to the contents of the minutes.

How do I complain?

Parents/carers and/or children (or their representative) can make a complaint regarding the Conference process either verbally or in writing.
If you wish to make a verbal complaint please contact the Chair of the Conference on 01446 704697 If you wish to make a written complaint you can use the attached form.

It is helpful if any complaint is made as soon as possible following the conference.

Your child may wish to use the local independent advocacy service who may act on their behalf. Details are available on request.

Thank You.

Child Protection Conference Complaints Form
Please Print

Name	
Address and Telephone Number	
Date of Conference	
Name of Child	
Brief description of Complaint	
Signed	
Date	

Please send this form to:
The Independent Chair
Protection and Policy Team
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Docks Office
Barry
CF63 4RT

Name, address and telephone number:

Protection and Policy Team
Social Services Directorate Vale of Glamorgan Council
Dock Office
Subway Road
Barry
CF63 4RT
Tel: 01446 704697

The information may also be provided, by request, in other languages and in other formats (e.g. CD). Please contact the Centre above to make arrangements.
SS/23/OCT14

GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL

Mynychu Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant Gwybodaeth ar gyfer Rhieni a Gofalwyr

Pam bydd gweithwyr Amddiffyn Plant yn gwneud ymholiadau?

- Efallai fod perthynas, aelod o'r cyhoedd neu weithiwr proffesiynol yn pryderu am eich plentyn ac wedi dweud wrth yr Heddlu neu'r Cyngor.

- Dan y gyfraith, mae'n rhaid i Gynghorau Lleol wneud ymholiadau os oes ganddynt le i gredu bod plentyn mewn perygl. Os ydynt yn amau bod trosedd wedi'i gyflawni, bydd Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y Cyngor a'r Heddlu'n cydweithio.

- Er mwyn ymchwilio i'r honiadau, bydd y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn cysylltu ag asiantaethau eraill a fu'n ymwneud â'ch plentyn.

- Cewch wybod yr honiadau hyn cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl. Weithiau ni fydd yn bosibl rhoi'r holl fanylion ar unwaith.

- Bydd pobl yn ymateb yn gryf i honiadau o'r math hwn; mae'n bosibl y byddwch yn digio, yn cynhyrfu, yn drysu ac yn gofidio wrth glywed honiadau bod eich plentyn wedi cael ei gam-drin/cham-drin.

- Mae dyletswydd ar Weithwyr Cymdeithasol yr Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Swyddogion yr Heddlu i ymch wilio i'r mater a dod i'r penderfyniadau iawn. Gellwch eu helpu i wneud hynny drwy fod yn barod i gydweithio.

Beth sy'n digwydd nesaf?

Os yw'r swyddogion yn penderfynu bod sail i'r honiadau, bydd y rhaid i ni gydweithio â chi er mwyn diogelu eich plentyn. Cewch eich gwahodd i Gynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant er mwyn trafod yr honiadau.

Beth yw pwrpas y Gynhadledd?

Cyfarfod rhyngoch chi a'r gweithwyr proffesiynol sy'n adnabod eich teulu - e.e. Ymwelydd Iechyd, Meddyg, Athro ac ati - yw Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant. Ei phwrpas yw rhannu gwybodaeth a chynnig sut orau i gadw eich plentyn yn ddiogel.

Beth fydd yn cael ei drafod?

- Byddwn yn trafod yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd a'r hyn a aeth o'i le.

- Byddwn yn rhannu gwybodaeth am y problemau yn eich teu lu'n ogystal â'r cryfderau.

Beth allwn ni benderfynu?

Gallwn wneud penderfyniad i helpu ac amddiffyn plentyn a'i roi/rhoi ar y Gofrestr Amddiffyn Plant.

Gallwn roi enw plentyn ar y Gofrestr o dan un neu ragor o gategorïau sef:

- **Cam-drin Corfforol** - os yw'r plentyn wedi cael dolur neu anaf neu os oes perygl o hynny.
- **Cam-drin Rhywiol** - os yw'r plentyn wedi cael profiad o ryw neu os cafodd ei (h)annog i ymddwyn mewn ffordd rywiol anaddas drwy wylio pornograffi er enghraifft.
- **Cam-drin Emosiynol** - os yw teimladau'r plentyn yn cael eu drysu dro ar ôl tro.
- **Esgeuluso** - os yw anghenion corfforol a/neu seicolegol y plentyn yn cael eu hanwybyddu'n gyson.

Bydd y Gynhadledd hefyd yn awgrymu sut i gadw eich plant rhag niwed yn y dyfodol ac yn sôn am y math o gefnogaeth a chymorth sydd ar gael i'ch teulu.

Beth allwn ei ddisgwyl?

- Person annibynnol fydd yn cadeirio'r cyfarfod ac yn sicrhau bod popeth yn mynd yn ei flaen yn iawn. Cewch gyfle i gwrdd â'r Cadeirydd 20 munud cyn y Gynhadledd er mwyn sôn am eich pryderon.

- Yn ystod y cyfarfod, bydd pawb yn cael rhannu gwybodaeth am eich teulu, a chewch gyfle i esbonio eich safbwynt a gwneud sylwadau ar yr hyn sy'n cael ei ddweud.

A gaiff y Gynhadledd benderfynu symud fy mhlentyn?

NA CHAIFF - Os bydd pawb o'r farn bod y plentyn mewn perygl, gall y cyfarfod argymell bod y gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn penderfynu sut orau i weithredu. Hyd yn oed os ymddengys wedyn mai symud y plentyn fyddai orau, nid oes hawl i'r gynhadledd wneud y penderfyniad hwnnw. Mae'n rhaid cael caniatâd y rhieni neu orchymyn llys cyn symud plentyn o ofal ei rieni/rhieni.

Pa benderfyniadau y caiff Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant eu gwneud?

Mae'n gallu ychwanegu enw plentyn at y Gofrestr Amddiffyn Plant. Nid oes ganddi awdurdod ar wahân i hynny.

Beth yw'r Gofrestr Amddiffyn Plant?

Rhestr gyfrinachol o blant yn y Fro sydd ym marn y gwasanaethau:

- un ai, wedi cael eu brifo
- neu mewn cryn berygl o gael eu brifo
- ac y mae angen llunio cynllun ffurfiol ar eu cyfer er mwyn eu cadw'n ddiogel. Mae cynlluniau o'r math yma'n cael eu hadnabod fel Cynlluniau Amddiffyn Plant ac wedi'u cytuno â'r plentyn a'r teulu ym mhob achos.

Beth allaf ei wneud os byddaf yn anghytuno â phenderfyniad y Gynhadledd?

Mae trefn arbennig i'w chael os ydych am gyflwyno cwyn yn erbyn y Gynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant.

Pwy a gaiff gwyno?

- Unrhyw riant, gofalwr neu berson sy'n gweithredu fel rhiant.
- Unrhyw blentyn sydd wedi mynychu cynhadledd amddiffyn plant ac yn ôl pob golwg yn deall digon ac yn ddigon hen i leisio cwyn.
- Unrhyw berson sy'n gweithredu ar ran rhiant neu blentyn, a bwrw bod y rhiant neu'r plentyn hwnnw'n gwybod yn union beth sy'n digwydd.

Beth alla' i gwyno amdano?

- Trefn y Gynhadledd
- Canlyniad y Gynhadledd - sef penderfyniad i gofrestru plentyn am y tro cyntaf neu gadw plentyn ar y gofrestr a'r categori sydd wedi'i gynnig.
- Penderfyniad i gofrestru plentyn neu dynnu enw plentyn oddi ar y gofrestr.

Ni chewch gyflwyno:

- Cwynion na honiadau am wasanaethau a gawsoch oddi wrth asiantaethau unigol wrth ddilyn argymhellion y Gynhadledd.
- Cwynion am weithwyr proffesiynol yn y Gynhadledd. Bydd yn rhaid i chi ddefnyddio trefn fewnol yr asiantaeth berthna sol er mwyn gwneud hynny.

Bydd Cadeirydd y Gynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant yn ymdrin ag unrhyw gwynion sy'n ymwneud â chynnwys cofnodion y Gynhadledd.

Sut mae mynd ati i gwyno?

Mae hawl i rieni/gofalwyr a/neu blant (neu'u cynrychiolwyr) gyflwyno cwynion yn erbyn trefn y Gynhadledd. Os ydych am wneud hynny ar lafar, ffoniwch Gadeirydd y Gynhadledd ar 01446 704697. Os yw'n well gennych ysgrifennu eich cwyn, cewch ddefnyddio'r ffurflen amgaeëdig.

Byddem yn ddiolchgar petaech yn cyflwyno eich cwyn cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl ar ôl y gynhadledd.

Os ydych am drefnu i'r gwasanaeth eiriol annibynnol lleol weithredu ar ran eich plentyn. Cewch fanylion drwy holi.

Diolch o galon.

Ffurflen Gwynion ar gyfer Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant
Llythrennau breision

Enw	
Cyfeiriad a Rhif ffôn	
Dyddiad y Gynhadledd	
Enw'r Plentyn	
Crynodeb o'r gwyn	
Llofnod	
Dyddiad	

Anfonwch y ffurflen hon at:

Y Cadeirydd Annibynnol
Tîm Amddiffyn a Pholisi
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swyddfa'r Dociau
Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

Enw, cyfeiriad a rhif ffôn:

Tîm Amddiffyn a Pholisi
Cyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau Cymunedol
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swyddfa'r Doc
Heol yr Isffordd
Y Barri
CF63 4RT
Ffôn: 01446 704697

Mae'r wybodaeth hon ar gael mewn ieithoedd a fformatiau eraill (e.e. cryno ddisg) a fersiwn syml drwy holi. Ffoniwch y Ganolfan uchod.
SS/23/OCT14