

CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES

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- ▶ Multi-disciplinary / agency meeting
- ▶ Involves child / young person and their family
- ▶ Sharing of information relating to child protection concerns and a family's situation
- ▶ Plan to safeguard and prevent harm
- ▶ Promote safety and wellbeing



WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE?

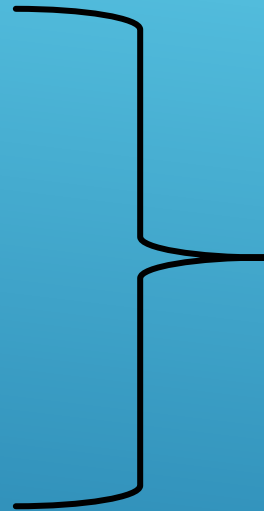
- ▶ Where a Child Protection Investigation assesses a child or young person to be at continuing risk of significant harm;
- ▶ Where a Child/young person is in regular contact with a person of concern and the child/young person may be at risk of significant harm
- ▶ Where a child/young person has abused another child/young person and there is evidence that the young person committing the abuse is at risk of significant harm or has been abused;
- ▶ When a child/young person moves into, or is born into, a household where a child/young person's name is currently on the Child Protection Register, has died or has been seriously injured as a result of suspected abuse;
- ▶ When consideration is being given to a child/young person's return to the community from a 'Looked After' placement or period in hospital and their name was on the Register immediately prior to being Looked After or admitted to hospital;
- ▶ Where a woman is pregnant and there is a need to consider serious potential risk to the unborn child and plan protective action prior to the birth
- ▶ When a child/young person from another Health and Social Care Trust (HSC Trust) / outside the jurisdiction who is subject to a Child Protection Plan moves into an HSC Trust area.

CRITERIA FOR CONVENING

- ▶ Should be convened between the 24th and 35th week of the pregnancy
- ▶ Where the expectant mother is living with / in contact with, a person known to have abused or neglected children;
- ▶ The expectant mother has abused or neglected children;
- ▶ The lifestyle) of the expectant mother or other potential carer is such that the child may be at risk following the birth;
- ▶ There are concerns about potential or actual parenting capacity.

PRE-BIRTH CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE

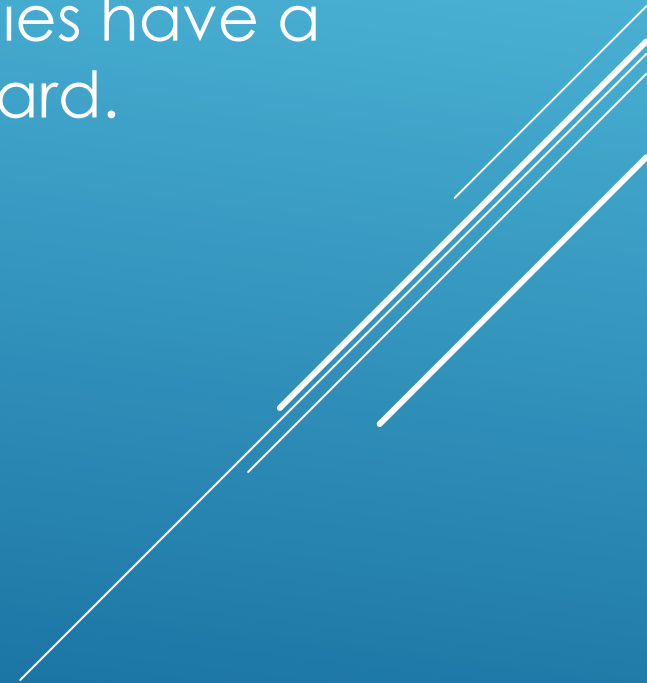
- ▶ Paramountcy
- ▶ Protection
- ▶ Parental Responsibility
- ▶ Partnership
- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Promotion



“Child protection is everyone’s business.”

All staff and volunteers who work with children and families have a responsibility to safeguard.

KEY PRINCIPLES



- ▶ Share and evaluate information;
- ▶ Assess risk of significant harm;
- ▶ Determine if name to be placed on the Child Protection Register and category of registration;
- ▶ Agree inter-agency Child Protection Plan;
- ▶ Consider provision of services as a Child in Need and/or family support services if name not placed on the Child Protection Register

FUNCTIONS OF CONFERENCE

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Detail of written reports
- ▶ Explanation of the Child Protection Case Conference process;
- ▶ Sharing of information relevant to the function of the conference;
- ▶ Analysis of the information shared;
- ▶ Conclusion;
- ▶ Decisions;
- ▶ Recommendations and action plan

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- ▶ Everyone has a contribution to make – holistic overview & approach
- ▶ Professional expertise
- ▶ Knowledge of child, family or associated adults
- ▶ Quorate required
- ▶ Sufficient information to inform decision making
- ▶ Shared accountability and responsibility



WHY ATTENDANCE AT CASE CONFERENCE IS IMPORTANT?

- ▶ Professional expertise
- ▶ Relevant history
- ▶ Management of conditions
- ▶ Trusted, accessible support
- ▶ Unique insight & awareness of family systems
- ▶ Monitoring and review



THE VALUE OF G.P CONTRIBUTION

- ▶ Parents/carers and children/young people, where appropriate, should attend whole of Child Protection Case Conference. However, there may be occasions when partial or total exclusion is necessary. E.g. where they pose a risk of serious harm to any other family member and/or other attendees at the meeting
- ▶ The decision to exclude a person from a Child Protection Case Conference rests with the Chairperson.
- ▶ Where a professional has concerns about sharing confidential information or discussing sensitive issues with parents present, this should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson prior to the Child Protection Case Conference.

EXCLUSION FROM A CASE CONFERENCE

- ▶ There is an expectation of strict confidentiality
- ▶ Information exchanged should not be disclosed or discussed outside the Child Protection Case Conference unless it is necessary in the interests and protection of the child/young person or others
- ▶ Minutes circulated

CONFIDENTIALITY

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- ▶ Any known issues or concerns
- ▶ Known strengths or resilience factors
- ▶ Child development
- ▶ Attendance at appointments
- ▶ Disability / illness
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Social Functioning
- ▶ Emotional and mental wellbeing
- ▶ Alcohol / drug / addiction issues
- ▶ Behaviour – including changes
- ▶ Compliance with advice / treatment regime
- ▶ Relevant lifestyle issues
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Other relevant information

INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF RELEVANCE FOR CASE CONFERENCE

- ▶ Home visits
- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Provide safeguarding advice / consultation to other practice staff
- ▶ Support with safeguarding referrals
- ▶ Attend case conferences
- ▶ Safety planning with patients
- ▶ Supporting patient and harnessing own support networks

HOW PRACTICE SWS IN PRIMARY CARE PROVIDE SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT?



- ▶ Safeguarding remains a priority
- ▶ Increased isolation Vs Connections
- ▶ Increased stressors Vs Building resilience
- ▶ Use of technology
- ▶ Community based support

ADAPTING AMIDST COVID-19



- ▶ **Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (Revised August 2017)**
- ▶ **Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**
- ▶ **United Nations Convention and the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

POLICY AND PROCEDURES