

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

AGENDA

Introductions and apologies - *Chairperson*

Social work report to include:

- Family structure
- Reasons for the conference

Agencies reports and family views

Discussion - *All*

Summary - *Chairperson*

Agencies views to consider

- Is the criteria met for a Child Protection Plan?
- Is the child at continuing risk of significant harm? (see criteria overleaf)

Decision and recommendations - *Chairperson*

Date of next conference

This conference is held under the Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. It is expected that everyone will treat another with respect. Threatening behaviour or offensive language (such as racist, homophobic, sexist, ageist or irreligious comments) will not be acceptable and will be challenged.

All information should be treated in the strictest confidence

Advice on the Complaints Procedure can be found within the information booklet, 'Child Protection Conferences' (September 2000)

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION/CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

The criteria for registration/child protection plan is contained within Section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989 'that the child concerned is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm' including impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another.

When registration occurs or child protection plan is required, the category used (of the four below) will indicate to those consulting the Child Protection Register/Social Care system (ICS) the primary presenting concerns.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of or deliberately causes ill health to a child who they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using such terms as factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative (eg rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

NEGLECT

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect child from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

Reasons for deregistration/discontinuing the Child Protection Plan

It is judged that the child is no longer at continuing risk of significant harm requiring safeguarding by means of a child protection plan as:

- i. The risk of harm has been reduced by action taken through the child protection plan
- ii. The child and family's circumstances have changed
- iii. Re-assessment of the child and family indicates that a child protection plan is not necessary