

Child Protection Plan for longer than two years. By that stage the work undertaken with the family usually means that the child is no longer at risk. In a small number of cases where there is no improvement, it may be necessary for the court to become involved.

### Can I complain about the Child Protection Plan?

If you are unhappy about any aspect of the Core Group and/or the Child Protection plan, you can discuss this with the Independent Conference Chairperson or your social worker. If you are still not happy, you can complain about the contents of the Child Protection Plan or the way in which the Core Groups are carried out by using the Medway Council Complaints procedures and your social worker can help you do this. Details about how you can make a complaint can be found on the Council website or by calling **01634 333333**.

Any complaints about other agencies or professionals involved in the Core Group or Child Protection plan (for example about their conduct, performance or the provision or non-provision of services) should be made using the organisations' own complaints procedures.

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## Child Protection Plans and Core Groups



Information for Parents and Carers

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Medway Safeguarding  
Children Board

## What is a Child Protection plan?

A Child Protection Plan is drawn up at the Child Protection Conference. The Plan is a written record for parents/carers and professionals which sets out:

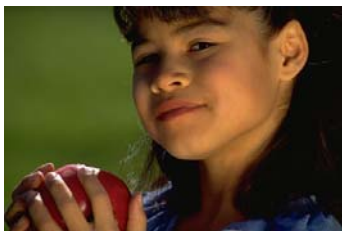
- who the key worker is – usually the social worker,
- what work needs to be done to reduce the concern,
- what needs your child has and how we can help to meet them,
- what needs you as a parent have and in what ways we can help,
- what the concerns for your child are and why the work needs to happen,
- timescales by when the work should happen, and
- specific responsibilities of who should do the work.

## Working with children that have Child Protection Plans

If your child is made the subject of a Child Protection Plan, it means that the network of agencies considers your child to be at risk of significant harm in one or more of the following four categories:

- physical abuse,
- sexual abuse,
- emotional abuse, and
- neglect.

If a child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan, a social worker can make announced and unannounced visits to check on the home circumstances.



Remember, we want to keep families close, and ideally together, so we will explore all the options about how to achieve this with you. However, there are some exceptional circumstances which may mean that it is recommended that a child be away from their family for a period of time whilst issues are addressed.

## How is the Plan made?

If, at the Initial Conference, it was agreed that your child is at risk of harm and that action needs to be taken to protect your child, an outline Child Protection Plan will be agreed and a Core Group identified. The Core Group should meet with you within two weeks of the Conference to agree a detailed Child Protection Plan. The group will then meet at 6 week intervals in order to review it. The plan must consider the wishes and feelings of your child/ren.

## What is a Core Group?

A Core Group is made up of all of the professionals who need to work with you. It is likely to include the parents/carers, the social worker, a teacher from school or a nursery nurse, a health visitor or school

nurse and any other professional who is in regular contact with your family. It may be appropriate for the children about whom the Plan is made to be included depending on their age and level of understanding.

## Do I need to attend Core Group meetings?

It is vital that you attend because without your involvement we cannot achieve change that will keep your child safe and improve their chances in life. We also know that you can make an important contribution in helping the professionals understand your family situation.

## How long will my child have a Child Protection Plan for?

There will be a review conference three months after the initial conference, where the Protection Plan is looked at and decisions reached regarding whether or not the plan needs to continue. It is unusual for Child Protection plans to cease after such a short period, but it does provide an opportunity to review progress. If it does continue, it will be reviewed again every six months at Review Child Protection Conferences. It is unusual for a child to require a

