

Please use this space for any comments you may wish to make about the child protection process.

Who to talk to and how to contact them

Use these numbers to get any more information you may need:

SOCIAL WORK

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INVERNESS

01463 703456

*Or your local Area Social Work Office
see phone book for number
Out of Hours **08457 697284***

POLICE

*Northern Constabulary have specially
trained police officers in all areas.*

POLICE HQ

01463 715555

*Or your local Police Station
and ask to speak to the
Local Child Protection Officer*

**Health Visitors may be contacted
through your local Surgery.**

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What does Child Protection mean to your family?



Information for Parents,
Carers and Children
who may be involved
in a case conference

produced by
Highland Child
Protection Committee
Working Together to Protect
Children in the Highlands

What is happening?

There have been concerns raised about your child. It may be that your child is being hurt in some way and you need help to stop or prevent it.

There are lots of different ways to get help, and quite a few people who could be involved.

Who is involved?

What might happen?

Some of the people involved may be social workers, health workers (Health Visitor, Doctor, School Nurse), police officers, and teachers (if your child is at school).

They will ask you and your child about any worries you may have, your family life, life at school and any other questions that might be important. Information sharing is important to make sure the right things are done for you and your child.

There will be meetings about what is happening. The most important one is called a 'Case Conference'.

What happens at a case conference?

Can I go?

It is important that you go to the case conference. You have a right to be there - the people there will be talking about your family and how they can help.

The person who starts the meeting and asks people to speak is known as the Chair. It is their job to make sure everyone has their say, **especially you**. The chair will introduce you to everyone and ask them to introduce themselves to you.

The case conference will discuss your child and

decide if your child is being hurt or harmed in anyway, and if this is likely to continue. If it is then they will decide how they can all work together to help your child and you to make things better.

The people already working with you will be there, and there will be others who know your child. A decision will be taken by the people at the Conference whether your child's name should be placed on the Child Protection Register.

There are five categories under which your child could be registered. There are Physical Injury, Physical Neglect, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse or Non-organic Failure to Thrive.

What happens next?

If your child has not been put on the Child Protection Register (CPR) your social worker will continue to see you and help you with any problems.

If your child has been put on the CPR then everyone at the meeting will work on what is called a 'Child Protection Plan'.

This is a way of getting everyone working together with you and your family so that things can change for you all.

If all goes well and everyone works together it may be that your child could be removed from the CPR at a future meeting.

Your child's name being put on the CPR does **not** mean that they may be removed from you.

The decision to remove children from home is made by a Sheriff after he/she has looked at all the facts. You will be kept informed of everything that is going on that affects your family. If you have any questions about any of this your social worker should be able to help you.