

Attendance of Legal Services Representative at Child Protection Conferences

The attendance of a legal advisor from the Local Authority to Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences is in their capacity as support/advisor to the Independent Chair. They are **not** there to advise on appropriate action by the local authority or to collect evidence for proceedings.

In receiving a request for a conference (or in preparing for the review) the Chair will consider whether such support is likely to be necessary and, if so, will arrange for legal services to be invited.

If the protection plan subsequently involves legal proceedings, the Safeguarding Advisory Service will supply the reports and minutes of the relevant conference(s) to legal services. They will provide these in response to a request from either legal services or the relevant social worker.

To ensure that legal services are aware of the children subject to Initial and Review Child Protection Conferences, a copy of the 'week at a glance' (WAAG) will be sent by the diary administrator to the legal services administrator. A member of the legal services team may then request an invitation or a copy of the subsequent minutes from the Independent Chair.