

## **What do I do if I disagree with the details of the child protection plan?**

Not surprisingly, it is sometimes the case that not all members of the group will agree about what to do for the best. If you feel that your views have not been listened to, you can:

- Ask the core group itself to think about the way you feel and look for other options.
- Speak to the social worker, or another member of the group away from the meeting, in looking for a better way forward.
- Request a legal representative accompany you in the future to speak on your behalf. (Remember to discuss this with the social worker first).

## **What do I do if I want to complain?**

If you still feel that you are not being treated fairly, you can discuss this with the social worker or their team manager. If after discussions with the social worker and manager you are not satisfied you can ask the social worker for a complaints leaflet or you can get one from any children's services office. Or you can contact the Complaints Manager for further information:

Lisa Elkington-Bourne  
Complaints Services Manager  
Children & Young People's Services  
Civic Offices  
Telford Town Centre  
TELFORD  
TF3 4LE

**This information can be made available in another language or format on request**

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# **Child Protection Core Groups**

**Information for Parents and Carers**

## What is a core group?

A Core Group is a group of people identified during the child protection conference as having an important role to play with your child and family. The group normally includes people who are in close contact with you and your child. It will always involve the social worker and will include other people such as health visitors or teachers.

You will normally be invited to be part of the group.

A Core Group is a Team Around the Child (TAC) with a special responsibility for keeping children safe.

## What does a core group do?

A core group works on a plan for making positive changes to keep your child safe from harm. The details will be written down in a document called a child protection plan.

### What might be in the child protection plan?

- ◆ How your child's health and development will be monitored.
- ◆ What services will be put in place.
- ◆ Any particular actions you or your family need to take
- ◆ Dates and times you will see professionals.

Progress on the plan will be reported to child protection reviews. This will help the meeting to decide whether your child continues to need a protection plan and whether any other actions need to be taken to keep them safe.

## How often does a core group meet?

A core group meets as often as members think is necessary. The first meeting will take place within ten days of the child protection conference.

Meetings will then be between four and six weeks apart until such time as your child no longer needs a protection plan

## Can I bring someone with me to the meeting?

You are able to bring someone with you, if you feel you need support. You should speak to the social worker to help you decide who this might be as the information discussed will be confidential. You will know that sometimes a legal representative comes to the conference. This is not usually appropriate or necessary for the core group meeting but discuss with the social worker if you would like to invite a solicitor.

## What should I do before the meeting?

Try to think of things that may need to change for your child, or your family, that will help protect them from harm. It may help you to write down your ideas to take to your first meeting.

## What can I expect to happen at the meeting and what will I have to do?

The person who chairs the meeting will introduce you to the other people, most of whom you should know. They will explain how the meeting will work, what it hopes to achieve and how you can contribute to putting the plan together. You can put forward your own ideas and your reasons for them. Other members of the core group should be prepared to listen and give their reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with you.