



Child Protection Review Conferences

1. Purpose

The purpose of a child protection review conference is:

- To review whether the child is continuing to suffer, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, and review developmental progress against the child protection plan outcomes
- To consider whether the child protection plan should continue or should be changed

A child protection review conference is conducted as per the Initial Child Protection Conference Procedure. See [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)

2. Criteria for Discontinuing the Child Protection Plan

In order to consider discontinuing the child protection plan the child protection review meeting should be quorate (see [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#), Quorum section).

A child should no longer be the subject of a child protection plan if:

- It is judged that the child is no longer continuing to, or is likely to, suffer significant harm and therefore no longer requires safeguarding by means of a child protection plan
- The child and family have moved permanently to another local authority area. In such cases, the receiving local authority should convene a child protection conference within 15 working days of being notified of the move. Only after this event may the original local authority discontinue its child protection. Following the child protection conference in the other local authority area, the social worker should notify the child protection chair of the outcome of the conference. Only after this event may discontinuing the child protection plan take place in North East Lincolnshire (see [Arrangements for Children who are Subject to a Child Protection Plan Procedure](#) and [Children and Families Moving Across Local Authority Boundaries or Abroad Procedure](#))
- The child has reached the age of 18 years (to end the child protection plan, the local authority should have a review around the child's birthday, and this should be planned in advance), has died, or has permanently left the United Kingdom. For those children who are believed to have permanently left the country, the social worker must make all reasonable efforts to confirm the location of the child. Once confirmation is received a letter is sent by the child protection

conference chair, as a minimum to all agency representatives who were invited to attend the child protection conference that led to the child protection plan, advising that the child protection plan is to be ended. In the interim, whilst the child's location remains unknown, if the child protection review conference is due, it should still go ahead and the plan should continue. If the child's whereabouts are not confirmed within a reasonable period of time a deputy service director will need to make a decision about ending the plan

Children who become children in our care due to an interim Care Order being granted should not have dual plans unless in exceptional circumstances (see [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)). For children who become children in our care due to being accommodated under section 20, Children Act 1989, a decision will be made through a discussion between the service lead and child protection conference chair or via a combined review child protection conference and child in care review meeting.

3. Frequency

- Except in relation to 3 below, the first review child protection conference should be held within 91 days of the date of the initial conference
- Further reviews must be held at intervals of not more than 183 days, for as long as the child requires a child protection plan
- Where an unborn child has been identified as requiring a child protection plan at a pre-birth conference, the first review conference should be scheduled to take place within 1 month of the child's birth or within 91 days of the pre-birth conference whichever is the sooner
- An early review conference should be considered for example if the core group via the social worker requests an early review to consider ending the plan

4. Reports

Please see [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)

5. Attendance

Attendees should include the child, as appropriate given their age and understanding, their parents, carers and family network, child protection conference chair, core group members and any relevant other agencies. See [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)

6. Administration and Minutes

Attendees of the child protection conference will be informed of the date of the next conference, if the child remains subject of a child protection plan which will also be recorded in the minutes. Arrangements for convening the conference are the same as for an initial child protection conference (see [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)).

If a child protection conference decides that a child no longer requires a child protection plan, the parents/carers will be informed in person, if present at the meeting or in writing by the child protection conference chair.

The child protection conference chair will have the same decision-making powers at the review child protection conference as at the initial child protection conference. (see [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#)). If the child remains subject of a child protection plan consideration should be given to whether the category of harm still remains appropriate.

The child protection conference chair must ensure that all attendees at the conference are clear about the conclusions reached, the decision taken and recommendations made, and that the conference minutes accurately reflect the discussions, the decision and, if applicable, the reasons for the child protection conference chair exercising their decision-making powers.

Any dissenting views or disagreements with a conference decision will be recorded in the minutes. Please refer to [Initial Child Protection Conferences Procedure](#).

7. Enhanced Risk Analysis Meeting

An enhanced risk analysis meeting (ERAM) will be held after a child's second child protection review conference, if they remain subject of a child protection plan. This will correspond with the child having been subject of a child protection plan for approximately 12 months. See Appendix 1 for the ERAM Terms of Reference.

Appendix 1 - Enhanced Risk Analysis Meeting Terms of Reference

Purpose/role of the meeting:

The Enhanced Risk Analysis Meeting (ERAM) is a multi-agency reflective discussion in relation to the outcomes being achieved for a child in the context of child protection planning.

The meeting will be held for all children who reach 12 months of being subject to a child protection plan.

The meeting will be focused and bespoke for every child/family to explore their experiences and progression of the child protection planning utilising the Risk Analysis Framework to draw out the risk and protective factors that are potentially impacting on improving the child's safety, welfare and developmental outcomes.

The meeting will also identify any learning and areas for development.

The role of the meeting is to provide reflective oversight, learning opportunities, quality assurance, challenge and support, and inform decision making for the child and their family.

The meeting will agree decisions and recommendations about the further actions and resources needed to amplify the identified protective factors or reduce the risk factors to improve the child's safety and outcomes. The agreed decisions and recommendations will support the trajectory of the child no longer requiring child protection planning at the third review child protection conference.

Membership and arrangements:

The ERAM will be held when any child protection plan has reached a period of 12 months. The meeting will be chaired by the Deputy Service Director or Service Manager from the Independent Reviewing Service (IRS) or a Service Lead who is independent of the case management for the child.

The meeting will be arranged prior to the second review child protection conference.

The meeting should be attended by:

- Deputy Service Director or Service Manager, IRS or independent Service Lead
- Child Protection Conference Chair
- Practice Supervisor
- Social Worker
- All core group members
- Minute taker

The minutes for the meeting will be taken by a Business Support Officer and distributed within five working days to allow time to take the decisions and recommendations into the next planned Core Group meeting, to adapt and reflect upon any changes to the planning.

The ERAM will be recorded on the Children's Services case management recording system as a stand-alone record and shared with all attendees.

Responsibility of meeting attendees:

- To participate in the reflective discussion about the needs of the child/ren and family
- Responsible for ensuring that they have a good understanding of the current child protection plan and needs of the child and family
- To have a robust understanding of Working Together 2023 and the North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and procedures including Helping, Supporting and Protecting Children and Families in North East Lincolnshire threshold document 2024/28. This will support the attendees understanding of the appropriate application of levels of needs for the child and family
- To consider all risk and protective factors and what these mean for the child and the impact upon them
- To have a focus on what is being achieved and what needs to be achieved for the child protection plan to come to an end
- Reflect upon the child protection planning and ensure that the child protection plan addresses the known risk factors
- Review the child's developmental progress against the child protection plan outcomes with a focus on whether the concerns mean that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm
- To contribute to the reflective discussion about learning and areas for development in relation to practice with the child/family
- To discuss the agreed decisions and recommendations from the ERAM in case supervision as appropriate