**Trainer notes – Module: Section 3b – Children and young people –** **Child protection conference**

* PowerPoint for module
* Everyone should have the Wales Safeguarding Procedures App on phone or tablet to refer to throughout the module

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| Slide | Notes  |
| 1 | Children and young people at risk of harm Decision making and initial child protection conferences The initial child protection conference<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html> |
| 2 | Trainer note:This slide is optional – it summarises the process covered in the previous module. |
| 3 | The initial child protection conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html>The initial child protection conference follows [Section 47 enquiries](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html#tooltip) where there are [concerns] of continuing risk of [harm] to a child/ren.The conference brings together family members (and the child where appropriate), with the supporters, [advocates](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html#tooltip) and [practitioners](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html#tooltip) most involved with the child and family, to make decisions about the child’s future safety, well-being and development.Timing of the initial child protection conference<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html>The chair of the conference should be satisfied, however, that sufficient information is likely to be available, in order for the conference to make an informed judgement about continuing risk of harm to the child. In exceptional circumstances the chair may wish to postpone the conference, but in doing so must be satisfied that the child is protected, and the conference is rearranged as soon as is possible. |
| 4 | Attendance<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html>Trainer to explain:A minimum of three agencies or practitioner groupings that have had direct contact with a child will normally need to be present before a conference can proceed. In addition, other attendees who do not have direct knowledge of the child may be invited by virtue of their practitioner expertise or responsibility for services.Quoracy for the child protection conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html>See also:Pointers for Practice: Practitioners Attending Child Protection Conferences – Key Messages<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p11.html>Pointers for Practice: Child Protection and The Unborn Child<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p5.html>Pointers for Practice: Managing Conferences for Sibling Groups <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p8.html> |
| 5 | Involving children in the conference<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html>Trainer to stress:To secure child-centred practice, the voice of the child should always be heard at the conference. This means understanding their daily lived experience, their wishes and feelings.It is important that practitioners recognise that attendance alone at a conference is not participation or giving the child a voice.Pointers for Practice: Giving Children and Young People a Voice in The Conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p6.html>Pointers for Practice: Managing Conferences for Sibling Groups<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p8.html> |
| 6 | Involving children in the conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html?highlight=advocacy>There are several ways in which the child can be given a voice at the conference:* the active offer of [advocacy](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html?highlight=advocacy#tooltip) from a statutory [Independent Professional Advocate (IPA)](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html?highlight=advocacy#tooltip). Both looked after children and those subject of child protection enquiries leading to an initial child protection conference, are entitled to this offer. The advocate may attend with the child and/or on their behalf ([Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 10, CoP](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents))
* attendance at the conference, provided the child has the capacity to benefit from their attendance.
* preparing a contribution for presentation at conference. The child should be given help with this, if needed. This may be an appropriate approach if the experience of attending in person is likely to be harmful to the child because of their age, understanding or disclosures of information.

A method should be chosen, in collaboration with the child, which enables the child to have a positive experience. |
| 7 | (Before) The role of the chair and social worker<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html?highlight=advocacy>**After the conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html>Pointers for Practice: Giving Children and Young People a Voice in The Conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p6.html>Pointers for Practice: Managing Conferences for Sibling Groups <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p8.html> |
| 8 | Follow-up visit by social worker<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p5.html> |
| 9 | Involving parents in the child protection conference<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p6.html>**Determining whether it is in the child’s best interests for a parent to attend a child protection conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p6.html>In rare circumstances a parent or caregiver will not be invited to attend a child protection conference.Any practitioner can request the exclusion of a parent/caregiver from the conference.**N.B.** requests to not include parents in the conference must be linked to issues pertaining to risk to child, or others and cannot be used as a mechanism for not sharing information or fear of damaging ongoing working relationships with parents/caregivers. |
| 10 | **Preparing the parent/caregiver to participate in the conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p6.html>Pointers for Practice: Preparing Parent/s For Child Protection Conferences<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p9.html> |
| 11 | **The initial child protection conference / Practitioner tasks** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html>Trainer to point out:If as a practitioner attending conference you do not feel able to undertake this role you should discuss this with your DSP **before** attending. If your DSP is not available, request to speak to the chair or safeguarding coordinator for advice |
| 12 | Pointers for Practice: Practitioners Attending Child Protection Conferences – Key Messages<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p11.html> |
| 13 | Trainer note: The section on preparing reports for conference (<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p7.html>) details specific information required from different agencies:* health practitioners, including CAMHS
* GPs
* education and school practitioners
* police
* National Probation Service and community rehabilitation companies (CRCs)
* adult services
* representatives of other agencies.

**Preparing reports for conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p7.html>Pointers for Practice: Preparing a Social Work Report for Conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p12.html>Pointers for Practice: Genograms and Eco-Maps <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3p.p15.html>Pointers for Practice: Preparing a Social Work Report for Conference Invisible Children <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p7.html> |
| 14 | **The initial child protection conference: process / Chairing the child protection conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p8.html> |
| 15 | **Duration of conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p4.html> |
| 16 | **The agenda** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p8.html>Pointers for Practice: Translating the Agenda into a Child-Centred Conference Process <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p10.html> |
| 17 | **The decision-making process at an initial child protection conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p9.html>The practitioner participants at the conference should determine, based on the evidence available:* whether the child is at continuing risk of significant harm

**and*** requires a multi-agency intervention delivered through a formal care and support protection plan and registration on the child protection register.

In such cases the test should be that either:* the child can be shown to have suffered ill-treatment or impairment of health or development as a result of physical, emotional, psychological, financial or sexual abuse or neglect, and practitioners’ judgement is that further ill-treatment or impairment is likely

**or*** practitioners’ judgement, substantiated by the findings of enquiries in this individual case or by drawing on research evidence, is that the child is likely to suffer ill-treatment or the impairment of well-being or development as a result of physical, emotional, psychological, financial or sexual abuse or neglect.
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| 18 | **The decision-making process at an initial child protection conference / Reaching a decision**<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p9.html> |
| 19 | **The decision-making process at an initial child protection conference / Reaching a decision**<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p9.html>Pointers for Practice: Subjective Decision-Making <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p4.html?highlight=Decision-Making>Pointers for Practice: Decision-Making about Registration and The Need for A Plan<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p14.html?highlight=Decision-Making>Pointers for Practice: Analysis and Decision-Making<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3p.p16.html?highlight=Decision-Making> |
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| 21 | **The decision-making process at an initial child protection conference**<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p9.html>**Conference decision 1: Child not at continuing risk of harm but may have needs for care and support**If this decision is agreed by all partners, the parents should be encouraged to continue with the wellbeing assessment under [Part 3 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents) to determine what care and support might best help to promote the child’s well-being.**Conference decision 2: The child is experiencing or at risk of harm is registered and made subject of a care and support protection plan**A [care and support protection plan](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p9.html#tooltip) should follow the requirements set out under [Part 4 Section 54 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) 2014 Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents). |
| 22 | **Confidentiality and the sharing of information at child protection conferences** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p8.html?highlight=confidentiality>Circumstances when information must be disclosed |
| 23 | **The Child Protection Register** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p10.html>Pointers for Practice: Decision-Making about Registration and The Need for A Plan<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p14.html> |
| 24 | **The outline care and support protection plan** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p11.html>Pointers for Practice: Preparing Outline Plans <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p15.html>**Within five working days** a copy of the outline plan and a summary of decisions made at the initial child protection conference, which includes the date of the next conference, should be circulated to those invited and present at the conference and members of the core group.Optional:**The social worker: (care and support protection plan co-ordinator)** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p12.html>Each child, whose name is placed on the child protection register, should have a named social worker who carries the [practitioner](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p12.html#tooltip) responsibility for the case. The chair at the initial conference must ensure that the social worker with responsibility is identified. The social worker is always a social worker registered with Social Care Wales and working on behalf of [social services](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p12.html#tooltip) with appropriate qualifications, training and experience.The social worker should make every effort to ensure that the child and their family have a clear understanding of the planned outcomes, that they accept the plan and are willing to work to it.The social worker in their role as [care and support protection plan co-ordinator](https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p12.html#tooltip) **must** ensure that they co-ordinate the preparation, completion, review, delivery and revision of the plan. |
| 25 | **Other tasks for the initial child protection conference**<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p13.html>**Post conference** <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c3pt2/c3pt2.p14.html>Pointers for Practice: Engaging the Family Post Conference <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c3pt2p.p16.html> |