



# Dissenting to the decision of a Child Protection Case Conference to make/not make or end a Child Protection Plan

## 1. Statutory and non-statutory organisations

These procedures are for representatives from statutory and non-statutory organisations to use when they wish to formally dissent to the decision made by the Child Protection Case Conference.

If agency representatives have a concern about the process or management of the Conference this should be resolved through the [Escalation Policy](#).

When there is disagreement regarding whether the threshold for significant harm is met or not met and this is raised during the conference the Conference chair will attempt to facilitate the conference to reach a consensus by referring to the threshold for significant harm and considering this in the light of information shared in conference and the child's assessed needs. If a consensus cannot be reached the Conference Chair will make the decision based upon information shared at conference using their knowledge, skills and experience.

If an agency representative does not agree with the decision, the Conference Chair will ask them for their reasons for dissenting and these will be formally recorded in the notes of the CP Conferences dissent. The Conference Chair will refer this dissent to the Service Manager for Child Protection who will review the notes of the conference, reason for dissent and make a decision as to whether the dissent is upheld or not. Whilst the dissent is being resolved the decision of the conference stands and plans made should be progressed.

The Service Manager for Child Protection may seek advice from Head of Service for Children's Quality Assurance. They may request additional information from the dissenting worker and from the Conference Chair, but will always seek to make a decision within 10 working days of the conference. The Service Manager will write a letter detailing the decision to the relevant agencies and will send a copy to the CSCP.

If the dissent is upheld, the Head of Service for Children's Quality Assurance will review the case and may request for the conference to be re-convened to reconsider information shared at conference and any new information.

The reconvened conference should be held within 15 working days of the decision. The dissenting agency, conference chair and parents will be informed of the decision and a copy of the reasons for the decision placed on the child's file. If the worker who dissented is unhappy with the decision of the Head of Service for Children's Quality Assurance should refer to their agency's nominated Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership representative to support escalation through the CSCP's [Escalation Policy](#).

## 2. Parents and carers

Parents, carers or a may make a complaint in respect of one or more of the following aspects of the conference:

- the process of the conference;
- the outcome, in terms of and/or the category of primary concern at the time the child became the subject of a child protection plan;
- a decision for the child to become, to continue or not to become, the subject of a child protection plan.

All parties must be made aware that this complaints process cannot change the decisions made by the conference and that while it is proceeding, the decision made at the conference continues to stand. The outcome of a complaint will be either that a conference is re-convened under a different chair, that a review conference is brought forward, or that the original decision stands. Complaints about an individual agency, its performance and provision (or non-provision) of services should be responded to in accordance with that agency's complaints handling processes. Further guidance can be found here: [CSCP-Complaints-Procedures-July-2021.pdf](#). If the concern relates to the practice of an agency /organisation this should be referred to that agency's complaints procedure.

Further information on thresholds and Child Protection Case Conferences can be found here: [Safeguarding Children & Thresholds - Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership — CSCP](#)

**Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership**

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