

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES (CPC)

Background: CPCs are held where child protection enquiries show that a child/young person (CYP) has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm, where there are concerns about an unborn child and/ or where a child subject to a Child Protection Plan in another authority moves to Jersey. The Standards & Quality Team (SQT) in Children's Services chair CPCs & provide independent oversight of child protection plans.

Why it matters: CPCs are central to the effective inter-agency management of child protection. They bring together and analyse information from a range of professionals, the family, and the child (where appropriate). They consider the evidence from everyone at the CPC to decide whether a child or young person is at significant risk of harm currently or in the future and recommend what future action is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child, young person or unborn child.

Questions to consider: Do you understand your professional responsibilities before/during/after the conference? Have you shared your report with the family before the conference (in their first language)? Is your report child-focused – does it include the child's voice? Do you understand the threshold for significant harm?

What to do: Read the SPB's multi-agency procedures on CPC at [Child Protection Conferences \(proceduresonline.com\)](http://proceduresonline.com) and know your responsibilities. Attend the SPB's training on CPC in conjunction with the SQT. If you need advice on whether to share something, ask the CPC chair prior to the conference. Be mindful of language barriers, cultural differences/interpretations and cognitive delays or issues. Consider this when writing reports and discussing concerns with parents and their children. The report template is available at [Templates & Forms | Jersey Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)



Before a CPC: Professionals who will attend the CPC should have significant contributions to make arising from their professional knowledge & expertise of the CYP & family. They **must** submit a report to SQT at least 2 working days before an initial CPC and 4 days before a review CPC. The report **must** be shared with the family before conference (unless doing so increases the risk to CYP) and must include the voice of the CYP. It must detail the professional's involvement and whether they are able to attend the meeting or not.

In giving an opinion, professionals must not be swayed by considerations of their future working relationship with the family, or a belief that a child protection plan will provide more services to the family/CYP. A child protection plan is not used to monitor the family's progress – the threshold is whether there is, or is a risk of, significant harm to the CYP. The CPC will: develop an outline plan to safeguard and promote the welfare of the CYP; identify core group members responsible for implementing the child protection plan; set timescales for the completion of necessary work, referrals & assessments.

At the conference: The family, CYP (if appropriate) & professionals attend the CPC. The CPC chair asks professionals to share their information & and the likely impact on the CYP. Parents/carers & CYP are asked for views & the chair summarises information & asks each professional for their view on whether registration is needed & under which category (physical/sexual/ emotional/neglect). Each professional is asked to evidence their decision based on their own knowledge & what has been discussed at CPC. As a professional you cannot abstain from the decision-making process.