

The Child Protection Process

Information
for families



A concern has been raised to police and social work about your child's safety or welfare.

This leaflet explains what will happen now.

A child protection investigation will take place.

- A social worker and a police officer will contact you to ask your permission to interview your child.
- In circumstances where your permission has not been sought, the reasons will be explained to you.
- A social worker and a police officer will meet with your child and conduct a formal child protection interview in a way that is appropriate for their age and ability.
- A social worker and a police officer may speak to people who know you and your child, such as members of your family, your GP or health visitor, and your child's teacher.



- Where it has been alleged that your child has been physically injured or abused, they may also be examined by a doctor.

At all times the welfare of your child comes first.

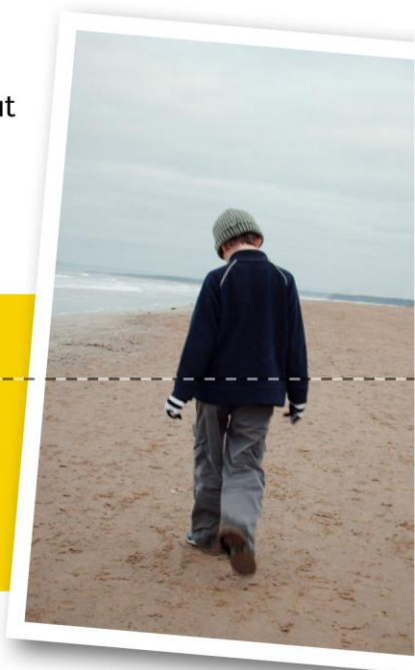
What will happen next?

Once the child protection investigation has been completed, you will be told what will happen next.

This could be:

- Notification that no further action is being taken because there is no evidence that your child is suffering or at risk of harm.
- An offer of support to your family.
- An invite to a formal meeting called a case conference. This will take place if professionals have serious concerns about the safety or welfare of your child.

Children have a right to grow up feeling safe, well cared for and protected.



- In a few exceptional cases, the risk to a child is believed to be so serious that their parents may be requested to allow them to stay temporarily with another family member, friend or carers approved by the local authority.

Your contact person is:



Name:

Telephone:

Out of hours:

01856 888000