

**WEST LOTHIAN CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE
INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES ATTENDING CHILD PROTECTION PLANNING MEETINGS**

What is a CP Planning Meeting?

If there are concerns that your child is at risk of significant harm a Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM) is arranged. This is a multi-agency meeting that shares information, considers risks, the strengths that already exist in your family, whether there are already things in place that reduce the risk and whether your child's name should be placed on the Child Protection Register and what (if any) support is required from professionals to help make your child safer.

CPPMs can happen before a child is born and up to the age of 18.

What happens at a CPPM?

Professionals provide reports for the meeting. You will get a copy of the reports and, if you want, you can write your own report for the meeting. All information, other than Restricted Access Information (RAI) will be available to you. Restricted information cannot be shared with you – it might be information about an ongoing police investigation or personal information about one parent that the other parent doesn't know or isn't allowed to know - like a child's address if parents don't live together.

Information is shared and there is a discussion. You, and your child, if they attend the meeting, will be asked for your views. A decision will be made about whether your child's name is placed on the Child Protection Register.

The most important part of the meeting is about making a plan to support you and your child. The plan should be very clear about who is doing what, what is expected of you and what it is hoped the plan will achieve. It is important that you are part of this planning and speak up about the things you think would be helpful to you and your child.

A core group is identified at the meeting. You will be a member of the core group. The core group meets regularly to make sure progress is being made and to review and change the plan if necessary. If your child's name is placed on the register there will be a review planning meeting after 6 months (3 months if the child was unborn when their name went on the register). At this meeting the progress of the plan will be discussed and a decision taken about whether your child's name should come off the register. If their name does come off the register you may still get multi-agency support.

What is the Child Protection Register (CPR)?

All local authorities keep a CPR – a list of all children (including unborn) who have a multi-agency CP Plan. It has no legal status but lets agencies your child comes into contact with know that there have been concerns about their safety and that there is a multi-agency CP Plan.

You cannot appeal against the decision to put your child's name on the register. If you have a complaint or a concern about an individual professional you should follow their agency's complaints procedure.

Multi-agency working

Professionals recognise that attending these meetings can be stressful for everyone involved. The aim is to work with you and your child to make sure that, wherever possible, your child is cared for safely at home.