

Meanings of different Social Services meetings

- Your Advocate will talk to you before a meeting to find out what you want to say, in case you don't want to talk yourself.
- Your Advocate can talk to you after the meeting about what's gone on.

What is a Strategy Meeting?



A Strategy Meeting is for Social Workers and other professionals to plan what they are going to do next about a case. Parents and advocates are not invited.

What is a **Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC)**



This is an important meeting. A Child Protection Case Conference is held when Social Services think a baby or a child might be in some sort of danger at home.

The person in charge of the meeting is the **Independent Reviewing Officer** – the **IRO** for short.

- The child's social worker goes to the Conference.
- Parents usually go. Your advocate can go.
- People from other agencies go.
- There might be a doctor or a nurse there, the police, a teacher or a health visitor. There might be a grandparent. It depends on the particular family.
- The **IRO** explains why they are having the meeting.
- Everyone says who they are.
- Everybody takes their turn to say what they think. Parents can have their say.
- But people should not talk over other people.
- When everybody has had their say the **IRO** will ask each professional if they think the child should go on the **Child Protection Register**.

- Only the professional people can vote. Advocates can't vote, because the Advocate is there to say what the parent thinks.
- If most people think NO – the child's name does not go on the **Register**. But the family might get offered some kind of support.
- If most people think YES – the child's name goes on the **Register**. There are different reasons. They call these categories. They are:

Neglect: Neglect can mean lots of things. It can mean not being fed properly, or not being kept clean and warm. It can be poor home conditions.

It can mean leaving children on their own, or not giving them enough attention, or not protecting them properly.

Neglect isn't always on purpose. Some parents don't understand they aren't looking after their child well enough. Sometimes they are very stressed and just can't cope well enough.

Abuse is the other reason for a child going on the Register.

There are 3 sorts:

1 - Physical abuse: Hitting, slapping, kicking, burning, biting, for example.

2 - Emotional abuse: Telling a child it is bad or worthless. Making it unhappy by saying unkind things. Playing "mind games" with its feelings.

Fighting and arguing in front of the child.

3 - Sexual abuse: Having sex with a child. Touching a child in a sexual way, or asking a child to touch someone else like that. Showing a child sexual pictures or films, or making a child watch sexual acts.

If the child's name goes on the Register, what happens?

- Social Services will make a plan to keep the child safe. This is called the **Child Protection Plan**.
- The child's family has to agree to stick to the **Child Protection Plan**.

- Social Services might offer the parents some support. They will expect the parents to accept, it and work with them.
- Sometimes a child might have to go into foster care, or live with someone else, so Social Services feel sure it is safe.
- This might be for a short time or for a long time.

After the first conference, a **Review Conference** is held 3 months later, then every 6months after that.

At the end people vote again, and the child's name either stays on the **Register** or gets taken off.

Even if everything is going really well, people might still vote for the child to stay on the **Register**. This can be very disappointing. It is often because Social Services want to be sure that changes are going to last.

If your child is on the Register, it is really important to do everything Social Services say. Take any help they offer.

This is the best way to get your child off the Register.

What is a **Core Group Meeting**?



If your child is on **the Child Protection Register**, **Core Group Meetings** will be held every month.

- The social worker is in charge of the meeting.
- Family and professional people in the child's life will be invited to the meeting.
- Everybody can have a say, but you can't talk over other people.

Core Group Meetings are to check how the Child Protection Plan is working and to make changes to it, if changes will help the child.

If the **Core Group** thinks the Child Protection Plan is not working, they might hold the **Child Protection Case Conference Review** early.

At the end of the **Core Group Meeting**, they will fix a date for the next one.

What is a LAC Review?



LAC stands for **Looked-After Child**.

This means the child is in care arranged by Social Services.

A **LAC Review** is the child's special meeting. The child is at the centre of it.

- People who are important in the child's life are invited.
- Usually parents can come. The child's social worker will come.
- Someone from school might be there, a health visitor, or a Guardian. It depends what's going on for that child.
- The child can go to the **LAC Review** if he or she wants to.
- They are held at the best place for the child.
- Children can say where they would like the meetings to be.
- The child might have an advocate who will help them have their say, and to understand. Your own advocate can go if you want.
- Even babies have **LAC Reviews**.
- If the baby has a Guardian the Guardian can speak up for the baby.

The first **LAC Review** is held within a month of the child being in care. The next one is held 3 months later, then every 6 months.

An **Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)** is in charge of the meeting.

Everyone gets a turn to have their say. No one should talk over other people.

The meeting checks that the **Care Plan** is being followed.

People will listen to the child's wishes and feelings. They might make plans to support them with their hobbies, or to go to college.

If the child is unhappy with something they will try to sort it out.

At the end of the meeting the date of the next one is fixed.

What is a CIN Review?

CIN stands for **Child In Need**.

Sometimes Social services think a child doesn't need to be on the Child Protection Register.

But they think the child needs extra support, to grow and develop properly, or if it is disabled.

That child is called a **Child In Need**.

If your child is a **Child In Need**, there will be regular meetings to check the plan to support it is working.

Parents and the child can go. Advocates can go. The meetings are held where it's best for the child. This might be at home, in school, or somewhere else.

You can have your say about helping your child.

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