



Health Professionals Attendance at Initial Child Protection Conferences and Review Child Protection Conferences for unborn babies & children under 5 years old

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Document Author:	Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
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1. Introduction

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership want to ensure that children are kept safe and services are able to meet the demands of increased pressures around safeguarding, it has become vital that the appropriate professionals are involved with a family at the right time. This includes children who are subject to child protection plans.

The Quality Assurance Unit within children's social care regularly review attendance levels and reports submitted within time scales for all children subject to a child protection plan. The data clearly evidences that despite health attendance at ICPC being good, health attendance at RCPCs is not as consistent.

The child's allocated Social Worker will identify the relevant professionals to invite to or agencies should attend conferences, which have direct contact with the child or family (see appendix 1 for full CP standards).

All relevant health professionals involved with any member of the household will be invited where they can provide safeguarding information. The representative should ideally be known to the family and be able to advocate for the child's health needs within the conferences and core groups. If this cannot happen then the health representative should be the most appropriate health professional to ensure effective working with the family to meet any outstanding health needs of the child and increase the likelihood of effective outcomes. In most cases for children aged two and under, the named Health Visitor will be the most appropriate health professional, however not in every case.

2. Procedures

These are the current practice procedures to ensure that unborn babies and children aged under 5 living in Swindon, who are made subject to a Child Protection plan are allocated the most appropriate health professional to meet their individual needs;

- Unborn babies brought to an Initial Child Protection Conference or who have a Review Child Protection Conference will be attended at a minimum by a Midwife and where appropriate, a Health Visitor.
- All children brought to an Initial Child Protection Conference that are under school age will have a Health Visitor attend their Initial Child Protection Conference.
- All children subject to a Child Protection Plan aged under two years will have a safeguarding health assessment completed by their named Health Visitor on a minimum of a six monthly basis. This will be for as long as they are subject to a Child Protection Plan, and up to their second birthday, when the health needs assessment will be completed annually.
- All children aged two and under who are brought to conference will have a Health Visitor attend the Initial Child Protection Conference. Should the child be made subject to a Child Protection Plan, the most appropriate health professional will be identified to act as the health representative at the Review Child Protection Conference. This will be evidenced by the safeguarding health assessment and the individual needs of the child. *Please see page 4 for agencies that can act as a health representative for children subject to a Child Protection Plan.*
- As above, all children aged two to five years old who are brought to an Initial Child Protection Conference will be represented by the Health Visitor who will complete an annual health assessment. However, if the child is attending school, it may be appropriate for the School Nurse to attend rather than the Health Visitor; this will be decided by the Public Health Nursing Service.

3. Agencies who can act as a Health Representative for children subject to a Child Protection Plan.

This is not an exhaustive list of health representatives. It is also important to note that health agencies do not all share the same databases and therefore, the information a single health professional can provide may be limited.

Health Representatives		
Health Visiting and or / School Nursing	Family Nurse Partnership	GP/Practice Safeguarding Lead
Speech and Language	Occupational Therapies	Children's Outreach Nursing/ Paediatric Specialist nurses (Diabetes Oncology, cystic fibrosis, epilepsy or generic)
Disability Nurses	Perinatal mental health	Infant feeding Specialist
Continence Nurses	Community Paediatrics	CAMHS
BeU Swindon (Mental Health)	Physiotherapy	Children continuing care team
Community Midwifery for all unborn baby conferences. N/B Maternity would not attend a Review Child Protection Conference once a baby is discharged from their care.	Adult Mental Health (when older children are about to transition to Adult Mental Health services or when parents have a Mental Health concern which is impacting on safeguarding)	Paediatric Dieticians
<p>Primary Care The GP surgery is invited to and asked for information for all Child Protection Conferences. Where the GP surgery is invited to attend a conference, they will make best efforts to enable a clinician to attend the full conference. Where the GP is unable to attend the conference, they will try to dial in briefly to share their information and will liaise with the conference chair to organise a time for this to happen. Whether able to attend or not, the GP will share all relevant information on the GP specific Conference Report form, in advance of the conference. An offer will be made to the family by the GP surgery to share the child protection conference report with parents.</p>		

4. Appendix

[Multi-agency standards for safeguarding children](#)