

The end of the Child Protection Register: information for professionals

The Child Protection Register is being phased out from 01 April 2008

Why?

The government has decided that keeping a physical child protection register is no longer necessary as all information is now kept electronically. Children will no longer be on the child protection register but will be now called children who have a child protection plan. Child protection conferences will still be held at the same intervals. Children will have plans developed because they are deemed to have suffered a category of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect.

Although this is a semantic change, there will be a greater emphasis in conferences on the child protection plan and how it meets the child's needs.

What does this mean for me?

You will still be invited to child protection conferences and to be part of a core group as before. You will still be asked to provide a report for the conference as before and to participate in the decision making. Parents and sometimes children will be invited to child protection conferences as before.

What is the difference between a child in need plan and a child protection plan?

Child protection conferences are more formal meetings which have a dedicated minute taker. The police are routinely invited and expected to contribute information. The police and health and

education agencies will also be notified of all children who have a protection plan.

Child in need plans are made after a core assessment on children who receive services from Children's Social Care. The plan is reviewed at regular intervals by either a child protection coordinator, a child in need reviewer or a manager. The meeting reviews the services provided to the child and looks at whether or not those services are actually meeting the child's needs and improving the outcomes for that child. The meeting is not formally minuted and is recorded by whomever chairs the meeting. Only those professionals and agencies involved in the provision of services are aware of the child in need plan and the police are not notified about these children. The same issues of confidentiality apply to child in need meetings as to child protection conferences.

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