

Dear colleagues

Following the recent government announcements in relation to the changes to the Covid-19 guidance and the lifting of restrictions which were put in place during the pandemic, we have reviewed the arrangements for child protection conferences and reviews for looked after children.

As many of you know, the arrangements for the above statutory meetings had to be reviewed and adapted, and the majority of meetings were initially held remotely.

These arrangements were not ideal for a variety of reasons, including IT issues, the lack of face to face interaction with families, young people and colleagues from other agencies which did have an impact on the quality of the meetings.

We have been implementing a phased approach to reinstating face to face meeting during the last few months with conference chairs, families and social workers attending meetings and the rest of the professional network joining the meeting via Teams

As of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022, we will be returning to face to face meetings and all professionals will be expected to attend child protection conferences at Charles Babbage House in person.

As it has always been the practice, all professionals/agencies are expected to complete conference reports and bring these with them and share them with families prior to the conference whenever possible. Copies of the reports will be circulated with the record of the conference. (report template attached)

There is also an expectation that everybody (families and professionals) will arrive at the venue 30 minutes before the start of the conference, which will provide the opportunity to read reports and prepare so conferences can start on time.

It is also expected that everyone will attend the whole meeting and contribute to the decision-making process and development of a plan. We will be asking families and agencies, during the conference, to record their views on which type of plan would be appropriate (form attached for information only).

We are pleased we are now able to reinstate these arrangements and look forward to your co-operation

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Anastasi', followed by a period.

Maria Anastasi  
Head of Safeguarding and Quality Service

