



Lancashire Appeals Procedure 2022

How to Appeal against a Child Protection Conference decision.

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Appeals procedure for the operation of Child Protection Conferences and decisions about children being made subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Any disagreements or concerns about the outcome of a Child Protection Conference should in the first instance be discussed with the IRO (Chair of the Meeting) and the allocated Social Worker or their Manager. If the concerns remain then this procedure should be followed.

This procedure outlines:

- i. The circumstances in which appeals about the management of child protection conferences and their decisions can be made.
- ii. How such appeals are to be resolved.
- iii. Who can appeal.
- iv. How other complaints about the management of child protection cases should be dealt with.

1. When an Appeal can be made

There are three circumstances in which an appeal under this Procedure can be made.

- i. That the child protection conference has not been run properly and in accordance with the Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) child protection procedures.
- ii. That the wrong decision has been made in relation to making your child subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- iii. That the plans made at a Child Protection conference are not in the best interests of the child/children.

This Procedure can only be used for adjudicating on one or more of the above circumstances. Any disagreement or complaint about other aspects of case management during the investigation of allegations of child abuse leading to

child protection conferences, or ongoing services following a conference will be directed to the particular agency concerned, to be investigated under their own Complaints Procedure.

The Procedure is therefore to be used for appealing about what happens inside a child protection conference.

2. Who can use this Procedure?

- i. Children/young people, parents, carers and advocates (if they are representing and attending the Conference with, or on behalf of a person in the above category) who are the subject of conferences.
- ii. Any professional who attends the conference.

3. How to Access this Procedure

Anyone who wishes to challenge the decisions of a case conference under one or more of the above criteria should put this request in writing and email: safeguardingconferencerequest@lancashire.gov.uk within 21 days of the conference taking place.

4. How an Appeal will be dealt with

On receipt of a request of the appeal, the Senior Manager for Safeguarding Inspection and Audit Services will:

- i. Review all of the individual written agency reports that were submitted to the Child Protection Conference together with the conference minutes.
- ii. Where necessary, contact the complainant to clarify that they understand the basis on which the appeal is being made.
- iii. In all appeals, the Manager may interview other members of the Child Protection Conference to clarify certain issues.

- iv. In all appeals, the Manager will consult with at least one other partner agency as sought through the Childrens Safeguarding Assurance Partnership.
- v. If necessary, the Senior Manager will arrange for the complainant to be interviewed by a professional who is outside the case management process of this particular case.

5. Outcome of an Appeal

Following the above, the Senior Manager will determine whether the appeal is upheld and write to the complainant with their decision within 28 days of the receipt of the complaint.

If the appeal is upheld, the Manager will request that the original Child Protection Conference is reconvened as quickly as possible to reconsider their decisions, and will inform the Chair of the original conference of the reasons why the appeal has been upheld. Where possible a new Chair of the meeting will be appointed.

If the appeal is not upheld, the Manager will write to the complainant, confirming that the original decision(s) will stand. They will ensure that Chair of the original Child Protection Conference and other conference attendees, are aware that an appeal has been made and has not been upheld and the reasons for this.

6. Summary of Time Scales

- i. An appeal under one or more of the criteria in this document has to be made in writing and received by the Safeguarding, Inspection and Audit service within 21 working days of the Child Protection Conference taking place.
- ii. The Manager will investigate the appeal and write back to the appellant within 28 working days.

References: *Working Together to Safeguard Children, a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. HM Government 2018.*

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Procedures, Chapter 3.5

Lancashire Appeals procedure to be reviewed in April 2025