



**APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR THE OPERATION OF CHILD
PROTECTION CONFERENCES AND DECISIONS ABOUT
CHILDREN BEING MADE THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD
PROTECTION PLAN**

MAY 2007

APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR THE OPERATION OF CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES AND DECISIONS ABOUT CHILDREN BEING MADE THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

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 Lancashire Safeguarding Children 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 case 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.

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 address it to the Directorate for Children and Young People, County Hall, PO Box 61 PRESTON Lancashire PR1 8BR 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 Custodian 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 he understands the basis on which the appeal is being made.
- III. In all appeals, the Custodian will interview other members of the case conference to clarify certain issues.
- IV. In all appeals, the Custodian will consult with at least one other member of the LSCB.
- V. If necessary the Custodian will arrange for the complainant to be interviewed by an agency colleague who is outside the case management process of this particular case.

5. Outcome of an appeal

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

If the appeal is upheld, the Custodian 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. The Custodian will, in addition, offer advice to the conference in reconsidering their previous decisions.

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

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 Custodian within 21 days of the Child Protection Conference taking place.
- II. The Custodian will investigate the appeal and write back to the appellant within 28 days.

References: Working Together to Safeguard Children, a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. HM Government 2006

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Procedures, Chapter 5, and Appendix N