



APPEALS PROCEDURE

This procedure outlines actions that will take place in relation to appeals against:

- **DECISIONS MADE AT CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES**
- **OPERATION OF CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES**

This procedure outlines:

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

When an appeal can be made

There are three circumstances in which an appeal can be made under this procedure:

1. That the conference has not been run properly and in accordance with Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children procedures
2. That the decision to make a child subject to a child protection plan does not meet the threshold criteria
3. That the decision not to make a child subject to a child protection plan breaches the threshold criteria

This procedure can only be used for adjudicating on one or more of the above issues. Any disagreement or complaint about aspects of the case management or the ongoing delivery of services following conference will be directed to the particular agency concerned and will be investigated under their Complaints Procedure

Who can use this procedure

- Children/young people, parents, carers and/or advocates (if they are representing and attending conference with, or on behalf of a person in the above category)
- Any professional working with the family

How to access this procedure

Anyone wishing to challenge the decision of a case conference under one or more of the above criteria should put the request in writing to:

Service leader, Review and Quality
3rd Floor, 10 Duke Street
BLACKBURN
BB2 1DH

Or email: cpunit@blackburn.gov.uk

All professionals should seek the approval of their direct line manager prior submitting the appeal.

The challenge must be received within 10 working days following the day of conference and must explicitly demonstrate how:

- The threshold for child protection has been met but the conference decision was not to place on a plan
- The threshold for child protection has not been met but the child has been made subject to a plan
- The conference has not been run properly and in accordance with Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children procedures

How an appeal will be dealt with

On receipt of a request to appeal the decision the Service Leader, Review and Quality will organise and chair a panel to hear the appeal:

1. The panel will include senior representatives from health, police, Children's Social Care and voluntary sector. There will be a minimum of three representatives at each panel meeting.
2. Prior to the panel meeting, all representatives will consider all reports and information presented at conference which will include the conference minutes
3. The appellant will have the opportunity to present their objections and evidence how they believe the threshold has/has not been met
4. The appellant may bring a representative for support but not to participate
5. The purpose of the panel is to consider all information available and either uphold or overturn the decision of the conference

Outcome of the Appeal

The appellant will be notified of the panel's decision within five working days by the Service Leader, Review and Quality.

If the appeal is upheld:

- Child does not meet the threshold and should not be subject to a child protection plan
- Child meets the threshold and should be subject to a child protection plan
- The conference was not run properly and in accordance with Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children procedures

The Service Leader, Review and Quality will notify the conference chair, Children's Social Care manager and associated partners of the outcome and ensure records reflect the change of decisions.

Minutes of the panel meeting will be circulated to all involved in the original conference and all partners will be asked to amend their records to reflect the decision of the panel

If the appeal is not upheld:

- The child meets the threshold and remains subject to a child protection plan
- The child does not meet the threshold and does not need to be subject to a child protection plan
- The conference was run properly and in accordance with Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Children procedures

The Service Leader, Review and Quality will contact the Conference chair, Children's Social Care manager and associated partners and inform them of the outcome of the appeal.

The decision of the appeals panel is final and not subject to further appeal.