What is a child protection conference?

A child protection conference is a meeting which takes place when people are worried that you may be hurt either physically, emotionally, sexually or by neglect. The people at the conference talk about why people are worried about you and your safety. They then make a plan of what can be done to keep you safe by work with you and your family

An advocate is a professional who will meet with you before the conference to understand what is going well for you, what you are worried about and what do you want to happen. He/she will then either attend the conference with you or on behalf of you to make sure your voice is heard.

An advocate will…

- Meet you in a safe place away from home
- Complete forms with you to discover your thoughts, feelings and wishes
- Attend the child protection conference either on your behalf or with you
- Make sure your voice is heard at the conference
- Meet with you after the conference to feedback what was discussed and agreed

How can they help me?

- Increased self confidence
- Someone independent you can trust to talk to
- A feeling of having a voice
- Input on decisions that affect you
- Helping ensure that your thoughts and feelings are heard

Is advocacy confidential?

Yes, advocates cannot share information you give unless you give them permission to share it, what you discuss with your advocate is confidential.

Advocates do have to raise concerns about you hurting yourself or if someone is threatening or hurting you. They also must pass on information that might stop somebody else from getting hurt, including if you tell them that you are going to hurt somebody. Finally, they have to share any information that might help to prevent a crime from happening, or that would help catch somebody who had committed a crime.

In these situations, the advocate might have to tell other people, for example the Police or a Social Worker. They will always try to tell you first if they tell people outside Junction 21 unless it is an emergency and there isn't time.

How do I get an advocate?

- Speak to your parent, carer, social worker, child protection chair or an appropriate adult about a referral. you need to be 8+
- Meet an Advocate somewhere you are comfortable, dependant on COVID safety this can be face to face or via MS Teams
- Support is tailored to your needs

Who to contact if you have questions

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