

## Core Groups:

Information for Children and Young People

### How often do Core Groups meet?

The Core Group will meet within ten working days of the Initial Child Protection Case Conference. Core Groups will then be held no less than every four weeks until you are no longer subject to a Child Protection Plan.

The Core Group will be responsible for making a recommendation as to whether you should remain on or come off a Child Protection Plan. This will depend on whether or not the Core Group has been working well to make progress on the Child Protection Plan. The decision will be made at the Review Child Protection Conference.

### What if I am not happy with the meeting?

If you are not happy with the meeting, you should talk to your social worker, the Child Protection Conference Chair or the Children's Services Complaints Officer. NYAS can also offer you support.



### Further advice & information

If you have any queries or require further information, you can contact your social worker or a Conference Chair through one of the following numbers:

#### Cumbria Children's Services

<b>Carlisle and Eden</b>	<b>01228 227002</b>
<b>Allerdale and Copeland</b>	<b>01900 706325</b>
<b>Barrow and South Lakeland</b>	<b>01229 407904</b>

To make a complaint, you can contact the Children's Services Complaints Officer on **01228 221161**.

### Other useful numbers

**ChildLine** is a confidential service for children and young people up to the age of nineteen. You can contact a ChildLine counsellor on **0800 1111** or visit **www.childline.org.uk**

**NYAS** provide children and young people with information about their rights and can provide assistance to help them use formal complaints procedures. NYAS can be contacted on **0808 808 1001** or visit **www.nyas.net**

**CUMBRIA LSCB**  
CUMBRIA LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

# Core Groups

## Information for Children and Young People



## What is a Core Group?

**A core group is a group of people who have a key part to play with you and your family.**

At an Initial Child Protection Conference, the conference attendees will share information about you and your family. They will then decide whether they feel that you are safe or if they feel that you may come to harm.

If they feel that you are not safe, a child protection plan is started and core group meetings will need to be held.

The core group members will have been identified during the Initial Child Protection Case Conference although other people may join the core group as and when appropriate.

## Who will be in the Core Group?

The Core Group is usually made up of a small group of people who work directly with you and your family. This could include your teacher and school nurse but also other people involved with your family, for example a health visitor. It will always include your social worker.

You will be invited to attend the Core Group and you can go if you want. If you do not want to go, you should try and let the meeting know how you feel and what you would like to happen.

## What does a Core Group do?

A Core Group is about the people involved with your Child Protection Plan working together to ensure that you are kept safe and well.

The Core Group needs to meet to discuss your plan and identify any actions that need to take place in order make positive changes to keep you safe. The changes that are needed will help create the Child Protection Plan. Every member of the Core Group must work together to bring about the changes as detailed in the Child Protection Plan.

## What is a Child Protection Plan?

The Child Protection Plan sets out what needs to be done by the Core Group in order to keep you safe. The plan will include things like:

- Things your parent or carer, or even yourself, needs to do to keep you safe
- Who will be involved with your family
- When and where you will see professionals
- What professionals need to do and when they need to do it by

The progress of the plan will be discussed at each core group and at future Review Child Protection Case Conferences. This will enable a decision to be made as to whether you need to continue to have a child protection plan.

