

## Core Groups: Information for Parents and Carers

### 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 your child is no longer subject to a Child Protection Plan.

The Core Group will be responsible for making a recommendation as to whether your child remains on or comes 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 child's social worker, the Child Protection Conference Chair or the Children's Services Complaints Officer.

### 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

Carlisle and Eden	01228 227002
Allerdale and Copeland	01900 706325
Barrow and South Lakeland	01229 407904

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



# Core Groups

## Information for Parents and Carers



## What is a Core Group?

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

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

If they feel that they 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 or your child. This could include teachers, health visitors, drug and alcohol workers but it will always include your child's social worker.

As a general rule, as a parent or carer you will be part of the core group. If this is not the case, the reasons why you are not in the core group will be discussed with you before the first meeting.

Depending on the age of your child and if they have sufficient understanding, they may additionally be part of the core group.

## What does a Core Group do?

A core group is about you and the professionals who are involved with your child and family working together to protect your child.

The main function of the Core Group is to meet to discuss your child's Child Protection Plan and identify any actions that need to take place in order to make positive changes to keep your child safe from harm. The changes that are needed will help create and develop the Child Protection Plan. It is the responsibility of every member of the core group to 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 reduce the risk of harm to your child and keep your child safe. The plan will include things like:

- Things that you need to do to keep your child 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 your child needs to continue to have a child protection plan.

