

Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent Process

This dissent process is for professionals only and should not be confused with the rights of parents and children to complain about the service they have received from the Local Authority or any other agency working with their family. The dissent process is separate from the DCSB's [Escalation Policy and Process](#), which forms part of the local safeguarding children procedures.

It is imperative that agencies work together to safeguard children. However there may be occasions where an agency representative has concerns about the outcome of a Child Protection Conference. These must be raised within the conference meeting, where you will be given the opportunity to explore your thoughts and opinions based on the information that you have in respect of the family and what you have heard during the meeting. If, after you have heard all the information you remain concerned about the outcome, it is important that you make your views known openly.

All professionals should be clear about the distinction between personally disagreeing with the outcome of a Child Protection Conference and making a professional judgement to uphold that decision and formally dissenting; this is the process by which you ask for your view to be formally recorded in the minutes and taken further, in line with the formal dissent process and possible progress to the escalation process.

Dissent Process

Child Protection Conferences are convened when professionals have concerns for children who are living within their families and it is agreed that the children may be at risk of significant harm if their situation does not improve. Both professionals and families, including children where appropriate, attend Child Protection conferences.

The Child Protection Manager who chairs the conference will ensure that all who attend have the opportunity to share their views and discuss what is going well for the child and what is causing concern.

The purpose of the Child Protection Conference is to devise a Child Protection Plan which identifies actions which will improve the child and family's situation in order to protect the children from harm.

The Child Protection Manager will also ensure conference members understand the dissent process and will empower professionals to dissent if they do not agree with the decision that has been made.

There may be occasions during a Child Protection Conference when after hearing all the information shared at Conference professionals do not agree with the outcome of the meeting and feel that threshold has or has not been met for a child or children to be subject to a Protection Plan.

It is important that all dissents are properly considered and there is a transparent process within which concerns can be escalated. All dissents will be recorded formally within the Decisions Outcome and Recommendations forms and the Child Protection minutes.

All professionals who have dissented at a Child Protection Conference will need to discuss their reasons with their line manager / safeguarding leads, prior to formal written dissents being reviewed.

The reasons for the dissent must be put in writing and sent to the Head of Service Children's Quality Assurance in Derby City as soon as possible but no later than 10 working days from the Child Protection Conference. See Appendix 2: Dissent Form.

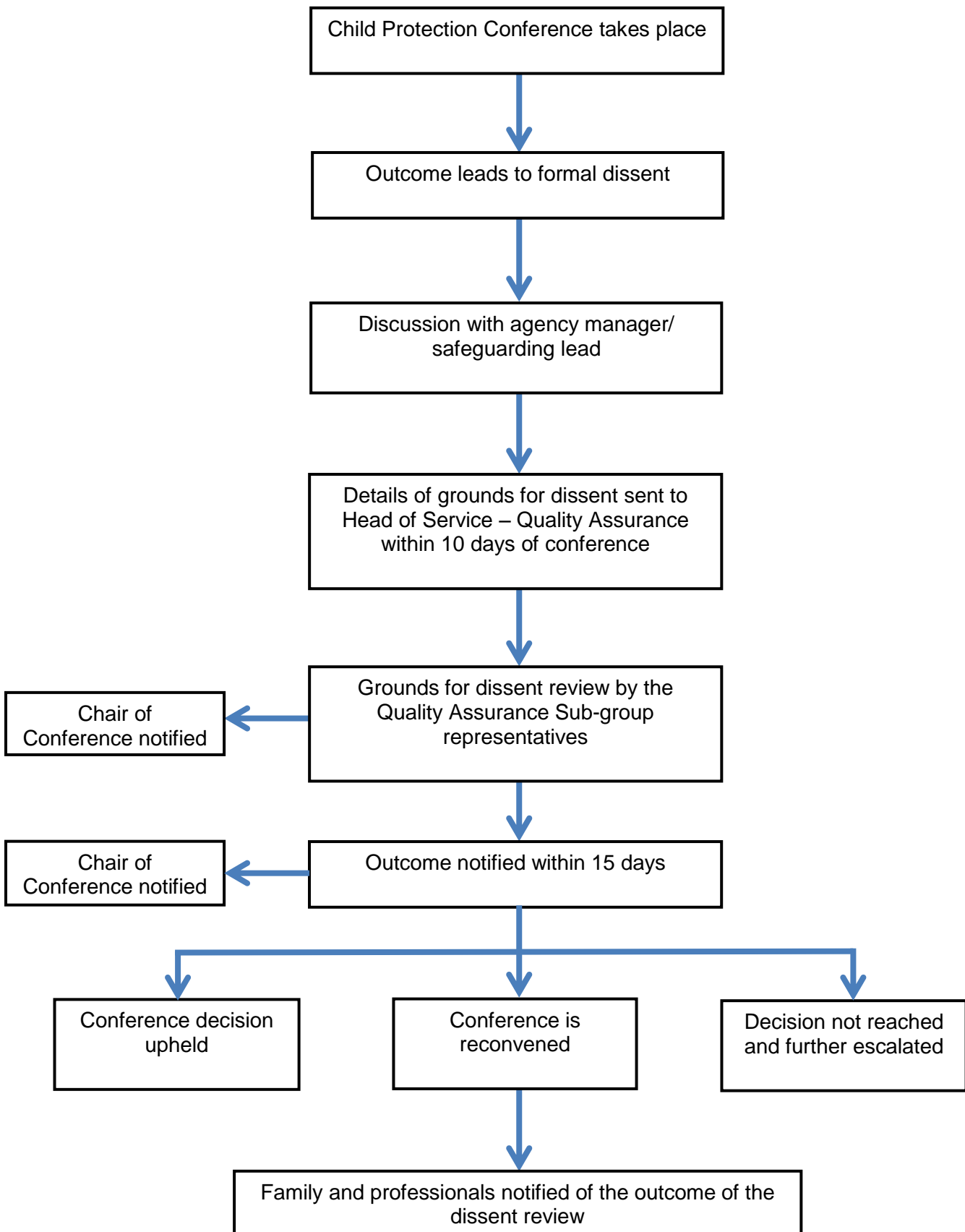
The referral will then be passed onto nominated representatives of the Quality Assurance Sub Group, which includes representatives from a range of agencies, where a decision will be made to either confirm the Conference outcome or to request the Conference be reconvened.

You will receive a response in writing no later than 15 working days of the Sub Group considering the referral.

Version Control

Policy to be read in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures					
Version	Author/s	Updated by	Signed off by	Date	Review Date
1.	Multi Agency Task & Finish Group co-ordinated by Head of Service – Quality Assurance	-	DSCBs Policy and Procedures Group	January 2018	January 2021

Appendix 1: Dissent Process Flowchart



Appendix 2: Dissent Form

Name of Professional:	Role:
Agency:	
Agency address:	
Telephone number and email address:	
Name and contact details of professional's manager:	
Name of Child or Children:	Date of Child Protection Conference:
DOB:	
Ethnic Origin:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was the child made subject to a Child Protection Conference? 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you discussed this dissent with your line manager? 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for Dissent:	
Signature:	Date: