

Understanding Your Child Protection Plan

- A Guide for Parents and Carers

We know this might be a worrying time, and we want to help you understand what's happening and how we'll work together to keep your child safe and well.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

A Child Protection Plan is put in place when professionals are concerned that your child may be at risk of harm. The plan is there to help keep your child safe and to support your family in making positive changes.

We'll work with you and other professionals to make sure your child is safe, happy and well cared for.

What we ask from you

To help us support your child, we ask that you:

- **Keep us informed** if your child stays overnight somewhere else (like with friends or family).
- **Let us know** if you're planning a holiday or going away - especially if it's out of the area or the country.
- **Share details** about where you're going, who's going with you, and how long you'll be away.
- **Allow us to visit your home**, including the places where your child sleeps, eats and plays.
- **Tell us about any new adults or children** who move into your home or spend time there.
- **Let us know** if you and your child stay somewhere else, even temporarily.
- **Be open and honest with your social worker** - we're here to support, not to judge.
- **Attend your meetings** - these are important times to check how things are going and make sure the plan is working.

What we ask from you

We promise to:

- **Explain things clearly** and involve you in decisions about your child.
- **Visit regularly** and listen to your views.
- **Treat you with respect** and work with you to make things better for your family.



You're not alone

We know this can be a lot to handle. But you're not alone. We're here to help you every step of the way.

If you have any questions or worries, please speak to your **social worker** or your **Quality Assurance Reviewing Officer (QARO)**. They're here to help.

Parents' rights

A Child Protection Plan helps keep your child safe but doesn't take away your rights as a parent.

- You can still make decisions about your child's care and well-being.
- You'll need to make some changes to support your child's safety.
- You have the right to know why the plan is in place and what steps are being taken.
- You can attend meetings and bring someone to support you.
- Your personal information will be handled with care and respect.

Children's rights

In Dorset we ensure that children and young people receiving our services are involved in decisions about how we help them, where professionals listen to them and help children to have their rights and needs met.

For more information, please go to - **Get Help and Advice - Family Rights Group**