

## **Core Groups – Information for Young People**

This information sheet is also available in Welsh.

### **What is a Core Group**

At an Initial Child Protection Conference, those there will share information about your family circumstances and will then decide whether they feel that you are safe or whether they feel that you may come to harm.

If they feel you are not safe, a child protection plan is started and a Core Group meeting will need to be held.

A Core Group is made up of people who are involved with you and your family, like your health visitor, teacher, social worker and important family members. Everyone is there because they care about you. You can be involved in the meetings as much or as little as you want. Remember, you are the most important person involved in the Core Group.

### **What does a Core Group do?**

The Core Group are there to make sure the changes which were planned for you at the child protection meeting actually happen. They talk about what each member of the group needs to do to help make these changes, and when they will do it by. The Core Group puts all of this information into an agreed action plan so that everyone knows what is expected of them – this will be called the working child protection plan.

### **What if I don't agree with the Plan?**

Your child protection plan is reviewed at core group meetings, and your social worker will tell you if it is decided that anything needs to change to make things better for you. Hopefully you will have helped to make the plan. If you have not or you are unhappy with it in any way, you should speak with your social worker. You can tell them what you are not happy about and why. This will be discussed at the next core group meetings where they will talk about any changes they might make to the plan.

### **What do I need to do?**

The core group meetings are about you and your family. You can decide if you want to go to the meetings. If you do go, you will be listened to – what you think is important. If you like, you can write down what you would like to say and ask a professional or a member of your family to take it to the meeting. Or you can ask for an advocate to help you.

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## What is an advocate?

An advocate is someone who can go with you to meetings to help you say what you want and how you feel. If you don't want to go to the case conference, but you still want everyone there to hear what you think and feel, the advocate can go for you. If you would like an advocate to help you, please tell your Social Worker.

## How often will Core Group meetings happen?

The Core Group meetings happen about every 6 weeks, and there will be at least two meetings between the initial case conference and the first review. The first review happens three months after your name is put on the child protection register. The first core group meeting happens within 10 working days of your case conference.

## Who can I ask if I want to know more, or don't understand something?

If you want to ask anything else about Core Groups, you can ask any of these people:-

- Your family
- Health visitor
- Social worker
- Teacher

## Complaints

If you want to make a suggestion, compliment or complaint about any of the services provided by the Education & Children's Services you can contact the Complaints Officer in any of the following ways:-

Freephone number: 0800 032 1099

Email: [ssdcomments@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:ssdcomments@denbighshire.gov.uk)

Write to:- The Complaints Officer, Russell House, Churton Road, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 3DP

Web: [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/yourvoice](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/yourvoice)

This Information Sheet can be made available in alternative formats; large braille, audit tape or disk.