



School Guidance – Child Protection Conferences during the School Holidays

October 2021

Social Care colleagues have been keen to feed back to us in education about how well schools are engaging with multi-agency processes, and the general quality of contribution across education. We thank you for your ongoing support with this.

The majority of schools and social care professionals have worked throughout the last 18 months and have navigated this pandemic, working together to safeguard our children. It's clear that the pandemic is taking its toll, with high levels of stress and huge workloads being commonplace. Education professionals value the school holidays as time to recharge their batteries and to have some important time away from the school environment.

Whilst Child Protection teams will do their best to ensure that Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) are not held during the holidays, we must appreciate that timescales are extremely tight, and this may mean the occasional conference being held during the summer holidays. We appreciate that many members of staff are not paid or available during the holidays, but that schools have a safeguarding duty to ensure that there is a member of staff on call during these times. It is not necessary for the lead member of staff to be present, but schools have a statutory safeguarding duty to send a representative to the meetings.

We understand that schools may have questions or queries about the above, and may also have general queries about ICPCs or RCPCs. We have therefore organised a drop-in FAQ session on Wednesday 1st December, 9:30-11 where Jo Jones, Principal Children's Rights Advocate, will be available to answer any questions. If you are unable to make it but have a question, please email Education Safeguarding Lead, Natasha Davey-Diop: natasha.davey-diop@cornwall.gov.uk

A Teams link will be sent out to all schools nearer the time for the session.

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

**Cornwall Council, County Hall
Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY**

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk

Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

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