**What is the change?**

The case conference process includes the following multi agency meetings:

An initial adult support and protection case conference, where need and risk are discussed, and protection planning agreed (where appropriate).

Core groups are held every 4 weeks, to monitor the effectiveness of the protection plan.

An adult support and protection review case conference is held 3 monthly, where the previously agreed protection plan is monitored and reviewed to determine whether the adult continues to be at risk of harm and to take action as appropriate.



Council Officers have a duty (under ASP legislation) to consider support services including advocacy. Staff must ensure that adults at risk are aware of the advocacy role and how to access it. It is also crucial that all professionals understand the advocacy role.

The three principles that underpin independent advocacy are:

* Loyal to the people it supports and stands by their views and wishes.
* Ensures people’s voices are listened to and their views considered.
* Stands up to injustice, discrimination and disempowerment.

An Adult Support and Protection Case Conference is chaired by a Fieldwork Manager or Operations Manager from Social Work. The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the meeting is person centred and that everyone has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to discussions. The Chair is also responsible for ensuring that risk, need and protection planning (where appropriate) is discussed and agreed by the multi-agency partners.

**A useful resource regarding Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences can be found by accessing the following link:**

[Multi-agency adult support and protection conferences (case conferences) | Iriss Courses](https://courses.iriss.org.uk/group/4)

When is a Case Conference held?

* Within 20 working days of receipt of ASP referral
* Following an investigation
* Or after 3 repeat referrals within a 6-month period
* Or when urgent action is required

Case Conferences should:

* be multi-agency in attendance.
* share information (where appropriate).
* consider urgent protective measures (i.e. Protection Order).
* make decisions about how to support and protect an adult deemed to be at risk of harm.

Research has consistently found that collaborative working, and a multiplicity of perspectives improve decision-making and planning in adult safeguarding. It is vitally important that multi agency partners contribute consistently to the decision making process to ensure risk is mitigated and adults remain supported and protected.

**06**

The adult who is at risk of harm should be invited to attend the case conference and contribute (unless it is considered not to be in their best interests).

The case conference should empower the person at the centre to express their views. This includes:

* Being trauma informed.
* Listening to them.
* Supporting them to share what they choose.
* Providing clear and honest explanations about the risks, even sensitive ones.
* Being mindful about the use of language to ensure the process is inclusive.

**Adult Support and Protection Case Conference**

**07**

An Adult Support and Protection case conference is a multi-agency forum, held to share information, assess risk and need and agree decisions about how to support and protect an adult deemed to be at risk of harm.

Multi agency partners have a duty to share information to inform the risk assessment and should strive to attend case conferences and/or submit a report of their involvement with the adult.

**01**

**02**

**03**

**07**

**05**

**04**

**01**

**02**

**03**

**04**

**05**

**06**