

Practice Note for Professionals: Dissenting at Child Protection Planning Meetings (CPPMs) and Care and Risk Management Meetings (CARM)

Understanding Disagreement in Child Protection Meetings

Information for Parents and Carers

Child Protection Planning Meetings and Care and Risk Management Meetings bring together professionals to make decisions about your child's safety and wellbeing. These meetings aim to agree on the best plan to support and protect your child.

What Does "Dissent" Mean?

Sometimes, a professional may **strongly disagree** with the decision made at a meeting. This is called **dissent**. It means they feel the decision could affect your child's safety or wellbeing and they cannot support it professionally.

Why Might Someone Dissent?

A professional might raise dissent if they are concerned about:

- The decision made about your child's protection plan
- The category of concern identified.
- Whether your child should be on the Child Protection Register

What Happens When Someone Dissents?

- The Chair of the meeting will ask if anyone wishes to dissent.
- If someone does, their reasons will be recorded in the meeting notes.
- The Chair will try to resolve the disagreement during the meeting.
- If it cannot be resolved, the professional must write to the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services within five working days.

What Does the Review Involve?

The Head of Service will:

- Look at the meeting notes, the protection plan, and the dissent letter.
- Review everything carefully, following national child protection guidance.
- Decide whether to:
 - Keep the original decision.
 - Suggest improvements to practice.
 - Change the category of concern.
 - Recommend a new meeting to look again at the decision.

What Happens During the Review?

- The decision made at the meeting will stay in place while the review is being carried out.
- You will be informed of the outcome by someone chosen by the reviewer.
- A written note of the decision will be shared with everyone involved and added to your child's records.