

May 2019

Dear Multi Agency Colleagues,

We are excited to share some developments that we are introducing in our Child Protection Conferences across Achieving for Children.

The conference chairs are practicing using electronic boards in conference to replace the flip chart paper and handwritten information. The conference chairs are completing these electronic boards during conference with a mix of typing and voice typing and there is a screen in the conference room so that you can see exactly what's being added. It is our intention that this electronic document will become the only written record of conference.

We hope that these changes will be fully effective by the end of June 2019, when Child Protection Conferences will also be audio recorded and note-takers will not be present.

Child protection conferences will be audio recorded using a commercial recording service accessed via a laptop and small speakerphone in the room. The recording will be held securely on the child/ren's Achieving for Children social care record and not reproduced for the conference attendees. If a child gains access to their records when they are older they will be able to listen to the conference and the discussions that took place to support their understanding. The audio recording may be subject to a confidential audit to ensure standards are being met and a summary of the conversation may be typed at the request of the Court or the Complaints Service. There are appropriate measures in place to capture confidential information and data protection issues have been fully addressed.

We hope that you share our confidence that this transparent recording and timely dissemination of the key information and the plan, will strengthen our ability to work together to safeguard children from significant harm.

We look forward to seeing you in conference soon.

Quality Assurance and Review Service, Achieving for Children