

Initial Child Protection Conference

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Chairman Introduction

Welcome and thank you for attending this scheduled Initial Child Protection Conference. Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Charlotte Montgomery my role is the Social Worker for the children, also, I will be chairing the meeting today.

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation Act 2018, the children will be referred to and identified as Tommy and the younger baby as Lola, During this process can I please reinforce that you do not reveal any other personal details from your assessment that has not been shared as professionals or share information outside of the conference (UK Government, 2025). Following the Munro Review (2011) this conference has been arranged within the correct timescale of 15 working days of the referral.

Throughout today's conference we will be working in accordance with The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (2025). This is a legal law document in Wales referring to the protection of the rights of a child. This conference has been arranged to gather multi-agencies and the family to develop a plan of action for intervention and exchange information on Tommy and Lola's safety, welfare, development, health and protection needs.

As the chair, I would like to inform you all that we have received apologies on behalf of the parents of Tommy and Lola as they will not be attending the conference today. They have not reported any new information to share and would like to be updated when the conference has been concluded, and they have also expressed that they would like to attend the next meeting.

I would like to start the conference by asking the professional attendees to introduce their roles in relation to the children and family. Please can you introduce yourselves

starting with Lauren Nursery Manager and safeguarding officer of little stars, Isla Health Visitor and Leila Police Officer .

I say, Lauren will you please share your report.

Nursery manager and Safeguarding Officer in little stars Lauren Report

Hello I am Lauren and the nursery manager and safeguarding officer of Little Stars. I am here to share observations and advocate for the Tommys welfare under the Children's Act 1989. In Wales, the Children's Act 1989 safeguarding sets out when multi-agencies should begin care proceedings if the child is at risk of harm. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 which came into place 2016, provides Wales with its own framework for social services. The framework enhances the importance of wellbeing promotion and the responsibilities with different agencies when working with children and families who are at risk of abuse, harm or neglect is suspected.

Data protection law allows practitioners to share sensitive information about the child when you suspect the child is at risk of harm (Information Commissioner's office, 2023).

Little Stars follow the framework of Social services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 ,for safeguarding children and adults at risk.

The Early years foundation stage framework (EYFS) emphasises the importance of the need for practitioners to monitor and support children's wellbeing using different tools/methods through observations.

What we need to ensure is that Tommy's wellbeing is good by monitoring his routine patterns, social interactions, emotional behaviour and physical signs and speech and communication. Through observations, there has been a significant change with Tommy's wellbeing, there have been numerous days where Tommy has been very quiet and down and not engaging with other children or members of staff, this is a concern as Tommy has always engaged with activities with peers. At mealtimes Tommy is eating everything and having extra. however, Tommy looks as if he has lost a little weight and is currently eating more in the nursery. This suggests he may

not be getting sufficient food at home.

Over the last couple of weeks after recording our concerns about Tommy, we decided it was best to monitor how Tommy is by watching his behaviour, emotions and physical actions, from drop off and pick up times whilst in the hands of his guardians due to the growing concern of his emotional behaviour.

What has concerned me most are Tommys signs of neglect, as his basic needs are not being met. Not being clean, able to bath, having dirty clothes on a regular basis, and poor oral hygiene. Under the UNCRC article 26 and Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory children must have their basic needs met, food, water, warmth, shelter, safety and love in order to thrive (Noltemeyer et al., 2012).Tommys wellbeing has changed, he does not want to engage with his friends or activities, however we have noticed Tommy wants to be on his own, from a happy boy who is always full of smiles, to now a very quiet shy boy. We have checked Tommy to see if there are any signs of physical abuse but due to wearing long sleeve tops, no marks or bruises are visible on the skin. liasing with Tommy's key worker, tommy has always had a good relationship and knows he can tell the key worker anything and that it is not his fault (Welcare, 2025).

These changes have occurred since mums' new boyfriend has been living in the house. Tommy and Lola have been in the middle of having unfamiliar people and more alcohol in the household. The new boyfriend has brought Tommy into nursery under the influence of alcohol. Police are aware of mum's new boyfriend due to the alcohol problem as he has been reported to police for drink driving with a child in the car. These changes have been recorded in the safeguarding records.

We have reached out with mum on many occasions regarding Tommy's behaviour at home and if mum needed any extra support at home, but mum seemed withdrawn and not her usual self. Article 18 states social programmes are provided to support the child and the carer (Unicef, 2025) We unaware if mum is receiving any support at home.

With regards to Tommy's little sister Lola this makes this matter more concerning and is mum meeting the needs for Lola. Under the UNCRC (1989) Article 24, children have the right to the best health care, clean environment and provided with healthy nutritious food and water. It appears that Tommy's and Lolas wellbeing, health and healthcare are not being provided at home.

To help and protect Tommy and Lolas health and wellbeing, after looking through Tommy's observation logs we have filled in a multi-agency referral form with parental consent and sent to the children's social services. This referral was made under Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 and articles 3 and 12, children have the right to be protected and their voices to be heard (UNCRC, 1989). The first point of contact for Tommy and Lolas safety, in Carmarthenshire, safeguarding responsibility is coordinated through a central referral team and the local operational group, who work closely with other professionals to oversee the safeguarding arrangements for Tommy and Lola (Carmarthenshire County council, 2023). As an early year's practitioner, we have a duty to keep children safe and their voices heard.

Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 as the safeguarding officer in the nursery I have a duty of care to Tommy to ensure his safety, health and wellbeing and have made this referral to the Central Referral Team Social Services.

We want to work with everyone to help Tommy and Lola get the help and protection they need. I am happy to answer questions.

I say, now we will move onto Isla's report - please share your report.

Health Visitor, Isla's report

Good morning, I am Isla and I am the health visitor to both Tommy, Lola and their caregivers and have been in this role since Tommy was born. My purpose being here in this conference is to discuss my experiences and concerns towards the care of

Tommy and Lola and their caregivers. I must emphasise the importance of using the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 that allows me and other professionals on how to store my confidential information safely and how I am able to share this sensitive information today within reason to follow The Children's Act 1989 and 2004 in order to follow my duty of care for the well-being and safeguarding of Tommy, Lola and their family. According to Smart Horizons (2022), Children's Act 2004 sets out legislations for us as workers to view and work together to protect and achieve positive outcomes.

As part of my role, i have a duty of care towards the children's rights, more specifically the United Nations Convention On The Rights Of the Child (UNCRC) where Save The Children UK (2025) demonstrate articles such as Article 6 the right to develop and freedom, Article 19 the protection of violence and Article 3 considering the best interest of the child. Alongside this, i also follow the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 such as according to Institute of Healthy Visting, (2022) supporting the prevention of situations and giving out the correct available help to those who need it. As part of this act, it clarifies the importance of working in multi agencies to help those in need to achieve well-being. It is part of role as a health visitor according to Family Information Service Carmarthenshire (2025) to assess the children's growth, development and support the caregivers with health issues, mental health including the children's home safety.

The first two and a half years of working with the family of Tommy and Lola, there were no noted safeguarding issues towards the care or the well-being of Tommy, Lola and their family. Considering the mother and father of the Tommy and Lola have split, there were no notes of concern from me or from either parent. In my opinion the children were well fed, developed, loved and cared for in a stable environment.

However, I have made a note in my 6 months assessment with Lola that I was concerned with the change of environment with the mother's new boyfriend. For example, i noticed the increase of empty alcohol cans and bottles within the home. I also noted of the change of the behaviour with the mother and children since the

boyfriend had come into the home. For example, i felt the mother was a bit withdrawn from me and my support throughout the home visit. During my assessment with Lola, I had noted that Lola was slightly underweight to the criteria and this was a bit of concern for me as Lola has always been averaging on weight. The nappy rashes from Lola were also a noted of concern as Lola looked quite sore. I also made the visit to the family when Tommy was 31 months old as a usual check-up. In this visit I was heavily concerned on the hygiene of Tommy and Lola. I had noticed their clothes were dirty, some were ripped and when weighing Tommy, I noticed Tommy himself was not the cleanest with a poor hygiene. Upon this visit, I felt that Tommy and Lola were slightly withdrawn from me and their mother which is unusual as they are usually happy playing children. Upon this visit I met the boyfriend whom I felt was very controlling over the mother. This is because he usually spoke over the mother and didn't give me more than two minutes alone with her. When I was alone with her, I tried to offer her the support and advice if she needed it however, she declined me. Following my level four safeguarding training and NSPCC (2025), these concerns showed me signs of neglect within the family home such as the poor hygiene from Tommy himself and the lack of weight gain and rashes from Lola. Also, the signs of change in behaviour of Tommy and Lola being withdrawn and shy with me and their mother. Also, the change of home environment such as the new boyfriend and the change in home state like the alcohol cans and bottles and the mess.

I have a duty of care towards the children and the family under my service, Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2023) claim that under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, as a professional worker under section 126-128 of the Act to report children, adults within reason who could be at risk of harm. With the notes i have, i reported my concerns to my manager who got in contact with the relevant people with my information. Under the UNCRC, UNICEF (2025) claims that Article 19 should be considered to protect the child from further neglect, harm or physical harm to their development and well-being. Such as identifying, recording, reporting and referrals.

Since reporting my concerns, it was brought to my attention on the reports with the police, this is where I considered on my next visit to the family home to bring up the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) or 'Clare's Law'. Home Office (2024) claims that Clare's Law allows the police to share certain information on someone who may have a past with abuse and violence.

In my opinion, these children are at risk of significant harm, and a plan should be put in place.

I say, now we move onto Leila's report - please share your report

Police Officer Leila Report

Good Morning I am Leila Prydderch and my role is a police officer. According to UK Government (2016), the police play a crucial role in safeguarding children from abuse and have a legal duty to ensure their safety and welfare is protected. Section 47 of the Children Act (1989) states that when there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm, the police must consider taking appropriate action.

A report was received approximately two months after the mother's boyfriend moved into the household. The call, made by a neighbour, around 9pm, described extremely loud shouting coming from the property, followed by the sound of children crying. Earlier that day, the family had been holding a barbecue in their garden, during which the two adults reportedly consumed an excessive amount of alcohol. As previously noted, the mother exhibits mood swings and erratic behaviour when under the influence of alcohol. According to Citizens Advice (2018), this type of conduct constitutes antisocial behaviour.

Upon receiving the report, the THRIVE model was applied in accordance with the Ministry of Defence Police Guidelines (2023). This framework assesses threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement. Given the presence of children and the potential risk to their safety, the incident was assessed as requiring immediate police attendance. I attended the scene in response to the report.

Our first step was to speak with the caller to obtain a clearer understanding of the situation. She explained that the argument between the mother and her boyfriend appeared to be verbal, although she could not confirm whether it had escalated to physical violence.

Following this initial account, we proceeded to make contact with the mother and her boyfriend. This was carried out in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which provides officers with the power of entry, search and arrest in circumstances where immediate safeguarding concerns are present. Upon our arrival, both individuals answered the door promptly, although there was a clear smell of alcohol coming from them.

They allowed us entry to the property for further enquiries, and an initial check of the home revealed nothing unusual or of immediate concern. Upon further inspection of the property, officers observed a significant number of unwashed dishes and recycling scattered throughout the kitchen area. These conditions suggest that the parents may be struggling to manage the household effectively. Such circumstances appear to be inconsistent with the Care Standards Act 2000, which requires parents to maintain an adequate standard of care for their children.

We informed them of their rights under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (2016), which states that individuals are not obliged to answer questions from law enforcement or during legal proceedings. Despite this, both parties chose to remain cooperative throughout the interaction. When asked about the argument that had occurred a few hours earlier, the mother and her partner stated that they had consumed more alcohol than intended and engaged in a minor disagreement regarding the dishes. When questioned about the reports from the neighbours who claimed they could hear the children crying during the altercation, both individuals denied this, asserting that the children had been asleep at the time.

In accordance with Section 39A of the Police Act 1996, officers documented all relevant information to ensure accurate record-keeping for this incident. These records will be retained securely within police systems in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, utilising appropriate security measures such as encryption, access controls, and clear data-management policies.

Following this incident, Tommy and Lola's aunt – who is the mother's sister – contacted the police, expressing concerns that further issues may be occurring within the family. She requested a Clare's Law disclosure regarding the mother's boyfriend. According to the Home Office (2024) on Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme guidance, Clare's Law has been implemented across all police forces in England and Wales since March 2014. Ali White in Welsh Women's Aid (2018) also note that the timescale for responding to disclosure requests has been reduced from 35 days to 28 days.

After the 28 day period had passed, and following a face-to-face meeting with the aunt, the disclosure relating to the mother's boyfriend was provided. In the disclosure relating to the mother's boyfriend, no information was identified that met the threshold for a Clare's Law disclosure.

Subsequently, the police conducted further background checks on his criminal history. During this process, they identified a previous incident of drink driving in which the children were present in the vehicle. Under UK law, drink driving is governed by Section 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. Following this, he received a driving disqualification – which he is still under going – of at least 12 months due to the risk posed to the safety of the children. This offence is regarded not only as a road traffic violation but also as a matter of child protection.

In relation to Tommy and Lola's safety and wellbeing, that remains the primary focus of this meeting, I have concerns that their needs are currently not being met, due to the condition and general standards of the home environment and the parents current coping abilities. According to Professional Academy (2022), this situation conflicts with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which highlights the importance of safety and security as a foundational requirement for a child's development. If these needs are not met, Tommy and Lola may not feel safe and may be unable to reach their full potential. Furthermore, UNICEF (2019) states under Article 27 that every child has the right to a safe and secure home environment that enables them to thrive. At present, I do not believe that this right is being fulfilled for Tommy and Lola.

I say, thank you all for sharing your information. Lastly, as the lead social worker for the children and family I will share my report.

Social Worker report

In line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 I have been in contact with the family since the referral entered the team, visiting the home, having discussions with the mother and her new boyfriend, who has been living at the family household for the last 6 months. The biological father of both children has a consistent relationship and regular weekend contact. The referral was made by the Nursery Manager with concerns regarding the welfare of Tommy as the new boyfriend is known to the local police services. From my visits so far, I have not witnessed any concerns with domestic violence, but these visits have been arranged in advance (Social Care Wales, 2017).

In line with NSPCC Learning (2025) there has been concern raised from conversations that the mother's boyfriend, who often has a good relationship with Tommy, has deteriorated in the past month due to stress. The mother's boyfriend suggested he has been going through difficult times recently and has taken his stress out on Tommy which has led to Tommy becoming isolated and feeling

withdrawn. The mother shared that she does not feel able to intervene and does not get involved with the behaviour of the boyfriend when the children are distressed or the boyfriend is disciplining the children. The biological father shared that he has civil communication with the mother and her boyfriend. He also shared that he has the main role of financially supporting the children and mother, while also supporting them emotionally through his weekend contact. As far as I am aware the boyfriend has very little input financially and emotionally in supporting the family although he is permanently living within the family household.

From the evidence gathered, the current situation with the family dynamic is seen to be difficult with two young children in the middle and this is alarming. From visiting the household, it can be a very busy environment for the children. There has been information shared by the father and boyfriend that the mother drinks alcohol on a regular basis. In relation to Article 27 within the UNCRC of sufficient standards of living for children (UNICEF, 2025), from my observations on visits there is seen to be evidence of alcohol bottles both outside and inside the property. Also, the mother often displays a depressive mood which can lead to erratic behaviours the longer I am at the property. Mother has agreed to be referred to drug and alcohol support services for the issues highlighted (Barod, 2021).

Separately, the father and boyfriend have both raised similar concerns around managing their relationships with the mother, describing that they find it difficult because the mother experiences mood swings and outbursts from potential abuse of alcohol. In Line with Public Health England (2016) the awareness of potential alcohol misuse by parents is strongly linked to domestic violence and abuse. This evidence provides concerns over the level of the mother's alcohol abuse, which could result in the children being exposed to immediate harm and have a negative impact on the family home.

Having had discussions with the mother, she explains that she has poor relationships with her family and feels the constant pressure of having two young children is hard for her. She shared that she finds it difficult to manage and maintain relationships because of a difficult childhood often leading to her drinking alcohol to help her with her stress. She also mentioned that the boyfriend often drinks with her leading to conflict between them both, however, he has not mentioned this during

conversations. In relation to Article 3 of the UNCRC (UNICEF, 2025) in the best interest of the child the mother has recently re-established contact with her auntie who now supports the family with childcare when needed. I have seen a change in the mother's behaviour since her auntie has been involved. This can only be a positive development in the mother's relationships as this is relieving pressure and allowing her to access the support services for her needs.

In relation to the Children Act 2004, considering the safer care of the children, two reports have been shared by the local police service for disturbance and domestic violence involving the mother and boyfriend. Also, previous record indicates there has been a report of the boyfriend having his driving licence banned due to drink drive. This has happened since the boyfriend moved into the household over the past 6 months.

This is very concerning. In relation to the principles of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, it is a worry that the children's needs are not being met, as I understand from the shared reports that the mother and boyfriend are intoxicated on a regular basis which is causing disagreements and communication struggles within the family. This has led to police intervention. I have worries over how much Tommy and Lola are witnessing on a day-to-day basis (Welsh Government, 2024).

After observing Tommy, it was witnessed that he is underweight for his age, and there is evidence of struggles in his around the clock care due to personal hygiene as he is often in dirty clothes. After observing Lola, it is witnessed that she is underweight according to her young age. In line with UNCRC Article 18 on parental responsibility and Article 19 protection from violence abuse and neglect, during the visit Lola showed signs of distress with aggressive crying while the mother did not seem to respond to her. This also extends to the mother not responding to Tommy when he is requiring her attention for basic needs (UNICEF, 2025).

In accordance with UNICEF (2025) Article 12 respect for the views of the child and Article 13 the freedom of expression of the UNCRC, on occasions during 1-1 visits with Tommy he has said to me that he has not had breakfast and sometimes goes to bed hungry which suggests he misses meals regularly. When attending nursery he

has set meals every day, however, when I am visiting at different times he was showing signs of hunger and the mother does not address this. It is seen that he looks smaller following my previous visits. To support the mother under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the team have provided food vouchers and access to a food bank (Welsh Government, 2015).

In relation to the Every Child Matters Act 2003 (Welsh Government, 2003), I have concerns about the escalation of the situation both children are experiencing and the potential of future neglect or emotional harm. This is due to the ongoing issues with alcohol, domestic violence and the basic needs of the children not being met.

It is evident that the family have come to a situation where there is a lack of structure, care and support within the household, this has provided the social work team with concerns over the children's care, wellbeing and welfare. In accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 Act, I would recommend that for this period the children should be put under a child protection plan to monitor the family process to allow professionals to provide care and support to the family in the meantime (Department for Education, 2025).

Chairman end part

Thank you for providing your separate reports, these details will be recorded and documented in readiness for the next meeting on the 25th February 2026 if all are in agreement. In the meantime, can all services carry out their aims in supporting the family as provided within our reports.

Can we all now present our individual self-reflection reports

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