

### **What if I don't agree with the plan?**

Hopefully you will have actually been involved in making the plan, however if you have not or you are unhappy with it in any way, in the first instance you should speak with your social worker and tell them what you are unhappy with and explain why. This will be discussed at the next core group, which hopefully you will attend to discuss if the plan can be changed.

### **What do I do if I am unhappy with the actions of the core group or any member of that group?**

If for any reason family member has a complaint about the core group this should be raised with social worker in the first instance. If you still cannot resolve the problem you can make a complaint through Children Complaints and information access service. Ask the Social Worker for a Comments, Compliments and Complaints leaflet or contact:

#### **Children Complaints and Information Access Service**

If you would like to receive this information in another language or in another format such as large print, Braille or on audio tape please contact Information Governance and complaints

Municipal Offices  
Town hall Square  
DN31 1HU

Tel 01472/ 326427

Res-customerservices@nelincs.gov.uk

## **Further Advice**

### **Family Rights Group – Advice Line**

Provides confidential advice for families whose children are involved with Children's Social Care.

Telephone: 0808 801 0366 (Freephone)

Monday-Friday 10.00am-3.30pm

e-mail [advice@frg.org.uk](mailto:advice@frg.org.uk)

Website [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk)

Write to:

Family Rights Group

The Print House

18 Ashwin Street

London, E8 3DL

for further information please visit our website

[www.nelsafeguardingboard.co.uk](http://www.nelsafeguardingboard.co.uk)

This leaflet is available from the Local

Safeguarding Children Board at

[www.nelsafeguardingboard.co.uk](http://www.nelsafeguardingboard.co.uk)

# **A Guide for Parents and Young People... Core Groups**

North East Lincolnshire

# **LSCB**

**Local Safeguarding  
Children Board**



## What is a core group?

A core group is made up of people involved with you and your family on a regular basis, for example health visitor, teacher, social worker and also usually includes important family members.

## What does a core group do?

The core group, including family members, agree what needs to change in the family to improve the situation for the children. This usually matches the concerns discussed at a Child Protection Conference, Child in Need meeting or at the end of an assessment.

The core group agree what everyone can do to help make the changes and agree a time when things should be achieved by.

The core group is also responsible for carrying out an assessment which identifies any further needs the children may have and the parent/carers ability to meet those needs.

## Who decides who should be in the core group?

In the situation it has been discussed at a Child Protection Conference or a Child in Need meeting, this is usually when it is decided who should be in the Core Group.

Members of the case conference or child in need meeting will decide who will decide who should be a member of the core group.

It should usually only include those people who are actively involved with the family and can help move the situation on.

## Isn't it just another meeting?

It is just another meeting but a very important one because this is where the detailed plans are made to attempt to change things for you and your family.

Your involvement in the core group is very important. It will allow you to work with the core group members to achieve change and work towards less or no social care involvement.

## What do I need to do?

- Make sure you get involved in the discussions, you are as important as everyone else in the room and you have the best knowledge about your family and your problems.

- Be honest with other people in the group, whether it's that you don't agree with something that has been said or whether things have become difficult again.
- If you feel a part of the plan would be difficult to achieve, then say so and explain why, so that different ways can be discussed.
- Make sure you attend the core groups; they are about your family. The situation cannot change if the family are not involved and don't work together with agencies.
- Tell the person chairing the group if the time, date or meeting place that has been arranged is not suitable for you. An alternative should be arranged.

## What happens after the core group?

You and the other core group members will be sent a plan of what has been agreed so that everyone knows what they should be doing and when they need to do it by.

If the child is subject to a Child Protection Plan then the core group will make recommendations to the next conference meeting.