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This booklet is for children and young people, so you can tell us the things that are going well in your family and what needs to change to make things better and keep you safe and well.

My name is...

.....

Hello

My name is Tracy Brawley and I am the Child Protection Team Manager, this means that I am the manager of the professionals who lead the meetings called Child Protection Conferences.

This booklet is for you, it tells you what a child protection conference meeting is, why we have them and who will be there. The most important thing is that the meeting is all about you, your family and what we all need to do to help keep you safe and well.

If you would like to come to the conference, all you need to do is let your social worker know and we will arrange for the person who leads the meeting to contact you. This person is called the child protection chair, they will meet with you and explain how it all works. It would also be really helpful if you wrote down your views, wishes and feelings in this booklet and brought it with you to conference.

Sometimes children and young people don't want to be at the conference, or it happens when you are in school. If you can't be there, it's really important that we know what your views, wishes and feelings are so all the adults working with you and your family hear what you think is going well in your life and what things you would like to see change. If there is something you want everyone at the conference to hear, you can use this booklet to tell us.

If you would like some help to answer the questions, or you would prefer just to speak to someone, you can ask your social worker, your teacher or the child protection chair. If you enter your contact details below and give this to your social worker, your child protection chair will contact you directly.

Telephone number:

Email address:

What time of day is the best time to contact you?

How would you like us to contact you (Phone or text)?

*We look forward to hearing from you.
Kind Regards*



**Tracy Brawley
Team Manager.
Safeguarding Children's Team**



Child Protection Conferences - A Guide for Children and Young People

What is a Child Protection Conference?

The conference is a meeting that is arranged by your Social worker when people who work with you and your family are worried about you. These people, you and your parents or carers are invited to a meeting called a Child Protection Conference, to talk about what is happening in your life and what needs to be done to make sure you are protected from harm and kept safe and well.

Who will be at the conference?

Your parents or carers will be asked to be there and maybe another member of your family. Important people in your life who work with you and your family will also be asked to come, this will include people you know, like your social worker, teacher and perhaps someone from health, like a school nurse or doctor. There will also be people you may not have met before, maybe from the police or a solicitor. The person who leads the conference is called the 'Chair' and another person will take notes of what everybody says in the conference.

Can I come to the conference?

Young people aged over 10 years old are invited, as long as the adults involved agree it is okay. It might be that you come for all of the conference, which can last between one and two hours, or just for some of it. Your social worker will talk to you about this. You are important so you will be encouraged to attend, but you do not have to come if you don't want to. Whatever is decided about this, talk to your social worker about your views, and, or write your wishes and feelings down in this booklet. If you wish to, you can speak privately with someone called an 'advocate' who will help you say what you want to say, or could come to the conference on your behalf. If you would like an advocate, ask your social worker about this. If you do come to the conference, the Chair will meet with you before, to talk you through what happens and you can ask any questions you might have.

Will people listen to what I have to say?

The conference is all about you, so it is really important that everyone knows what you think, even if they cannot always do what you want. If you tell your social worker or teacher your views, or write them down in this booklet, they will make sure it is shared with everyone at the conference and will consider what you have said when planning how to best help you and your family.

What will the conference do?

In the conference, information will be shared about you, your family, what is good in your life and what is worrying people. If things are happening that people think may harm you, the conference will look at ways to help. The conference will decide whether or not people think you may be unsafe in the future and what everyone needs to do to stop you from coming to any harm. The people at the conference, such as social worker, teacher, police and a health worker will decide whether or not you need to have a child protection plan to help keep you safe and well.

What is a Child Protection Plan?

A child protection plan is made when people at a conference have decided they need to keep a child safe from harm. If your conference decides you need a child protection plan, the people in your life who work with you (like your teacher and social worker) will work together, with you and your family to make sure that the plan keeps you safe and well. These people will regularly come together in a meeting called a 'core group', where they will talk about your protection plan, what's changing and making sure everybody is doing what they should, to keep you safe and well.

Does the conference decide I will be taken away from my parents/carers?

No, this is something that many children worry about. The conference is only there to decide about what needs to happen to keep you safe and well at home with your family. If you are worried about this, or you have any other questions, don't be afraid to ask, talk to your social worker they are there to help and explain things.



What would you like people to know, at your child protection conference...?



1. Why do you think a social worker is visiting you and your family?

2. How do you feel about the social worker visiting you?

3. Tell us some of the good things about your family and what has been going well since you last saw your social worker.

4. What would you like to change to make things better?

5. Is there anything you are worried about, that you would like people at the conference to know?

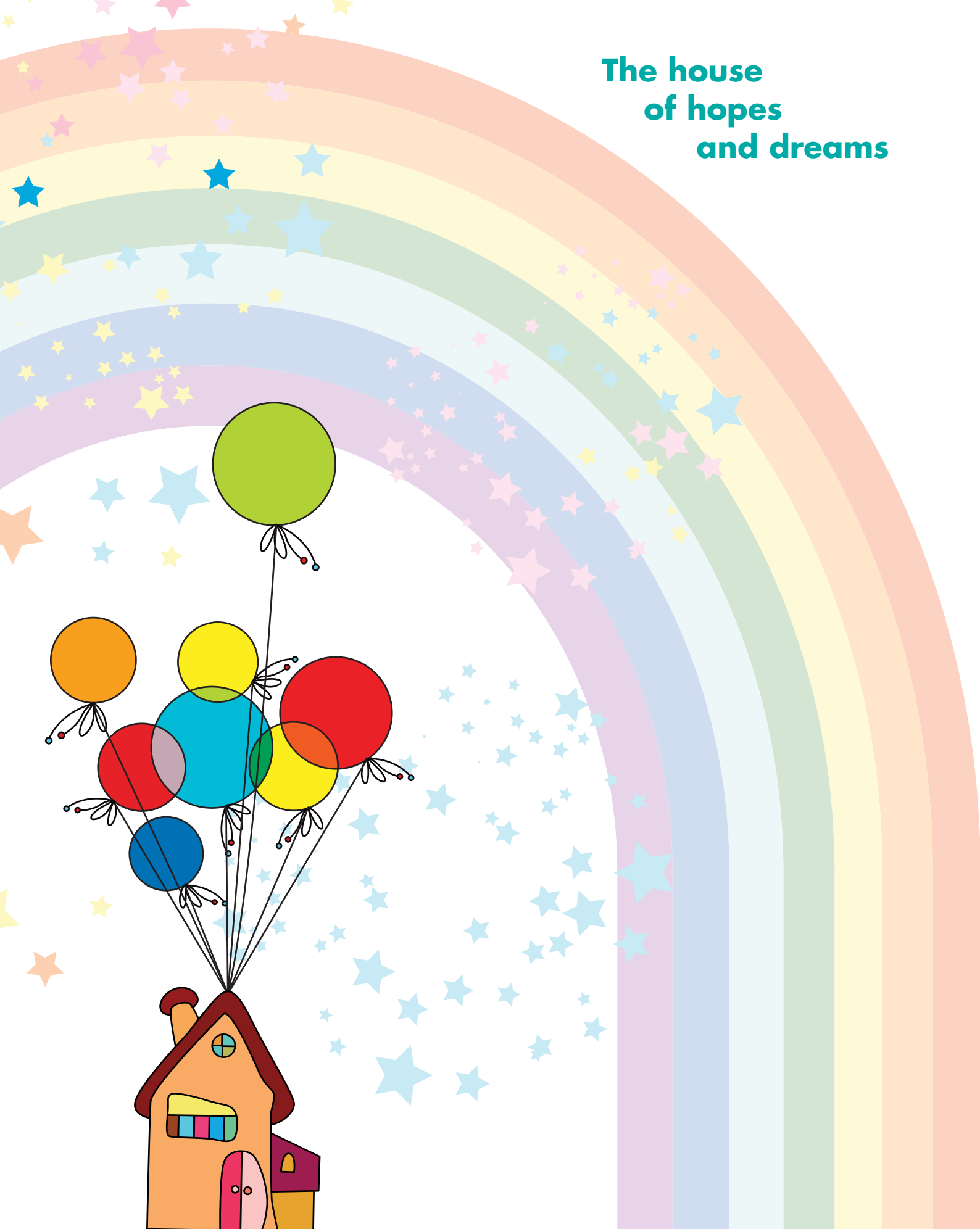
The house where good things happen



The house of worries and fears



The house of hopes and dreams



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