



Staying Safe Staying Protected

Guide to the Child Protection
Process for Children in the
Vale of Glamorgan



Hello, my name is Glyn and I am 8 years old.

This is a story about my best friend Sophie.



I wrote this story to help other children understand what might be happening to them right now.

Sophie was feeling very sad. She was so sad she decided to tell her teacher what was happening to her at home.



Sophie felt really nervous about telling her teacher and asked me to come along with her. Her teacher told her not to worry and that she was very brave for coming to talk to her. She explained to Sophie that she would speak to someone on the telephone straight away and they would be able to help her.

Not long after, a nice lady called Beverley came to talk to Sophie. Beverley was a social worker and her job was to ask Sophie some questions and make sure she was safe in her home.



Sophie felt very nervous again but was able to answer all the questions Beverley asked her. Beverley listened to what she had to say and explained to Sophie what was going to happen next. She told Sophie that she could stay at home with her mum while she asked other people some different questions.

Sophie was worried that her friends would find out what had happened to her.



Beverley explained that she would only be speaking to the people who needed to be spoken to, like her teacher, parents and perhaps her doctor.

Beverley told Sophie that she was going to arrange a meeting called a 'Child Protection Conference'. There would be lots of important people at this meeting who would decide how best to keep Sophie safe. Some of her family would also be invited. Sophie asked if she would be allowed to go. Beverley thought this was a good idea and told Sophie that she could bring someone with her to support her if she wanted to. This made Sophie feel a lot better.



Sophie wanted to know what the important people would talk about in the meeting and what would happen when it finished. Beverley explained that the meeting would decide if she is safe and what sort of help she might need to make sure she stayed safe.

The meeting could decide that nothing else needs to happen. It might decide that Sophie and her family should have more help so that she stays safe. Nothing would happen without Sophie and her family being told.

Sophie told me that she is going to her meeting with her mum and Beverley next Tuesday and is feeling much better because she told someone how she felt and they listened - now she's telling ME not to worry!



And remember if there's anything that you don't understand, ask your social worker or someone that you trust. You can also get some help by telephoning one of the numbers below.

Childline Phone : 0800 1111

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline : 0808 800 5000

Text phone: 0800 056 0566

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Social Services Department

Daytime: 01446 725202

During weekends and at night: 02920 448360

Children's Complaints Officer: 0800 731 2816