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**FAMILY CONCERNS CHECKLIST**

This checklist has been developed for professionals who come into contact with families in the course of their work. The purpose of the checklist is to help to identify and clarify areas of “risk” within the whole family, but is not a formal risk screen or assessment. It should however assist you to articulate the areas of concern identified when sharing information with other agencies.

It has been based on the five outcomes for children:

* Be healthy
* Stay safe
* Enjoy and achieve
* Not be economically disadvantaged
* Make a positive contribution

**How to Use the Checklist**

The checklist should be used as a prompt to help you bring together your concerns about a family. The checklist has three columns which enables you to consider each area for the child, the parents/carers or another adult living in the home.

At the end of each section there is an opportunity for you to consider any other information along with any protective factors which may be in place.

A tick in a column *may* identify a vulnerable area and the comment box added at the end of each section allows for expansion and consideration as to whether this area of concern requires further action.

The 5 outcome areas covered by the checklist allow for a wide ranging assessment which may not be needed by all workers. It is therefore possible for you to only complete the section of the checklist that is most relevant to your area of work.

E.g. Schools may want to focus on the sections “Enjoy and Achieve and Making a Positive Contribution” where as Health agencies may wish to concentrate on the sections “Be Healthy and Stay Safe”.

It is however, useful to be aware of the content of all the areas as this may prompt the worker to consider areas of concern previously not considered.

The addition of the safeguarding flowchart is hoped to act as a reminder to workers of what to do if they have a safeguarding concern and the contact details of both child and adult Social Care offices and of the Police.

**What to do once the checklist has been completed**

This checklist is for your use and you are not required to submit it to any agency. You should use the checklist as a way of collating your concerns in one area and therefore informing any decisions you may take regarding action. The completed checklist could be used within a supervision session with your manager.

If the checklist reinforces your concerns you should then action this by contacting Social Care and sharing the information you hold. You should keep the completed checklist within the notes in your agency for future reference.

This checklist is not a risk assessment or an evaluation/assessment tool and does not replace such tools as the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or the Graded Care Profile.

**Family Concerns Checklist**

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| **Family Details** | | |
| **Surname** | **Forename** | **Date of Birth** |
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| **Name of worker:** |  | **Date:** |  |

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| 1. **Stay Safe** | **In**  **child** | **In**  **parent/carer** | **Other adult (specify relationship)** |
| **Maltreatment, neglect, violence, sexual exploitation** |  |  |  |
| Unaware of the risk posed by others |  |  |  |
| At risk of exploitation from others |  |  |  |
| History of domestic violence or neglect |  |  |  |
| Current evidence of domestic violence or neglect |  |  |  |
| **Bullying and discrimination** |  |  |  |
| History of running away from home or school |  |  |  |
| Currently running away from home or school |  |  |  |
| **Security and being cared for** |  |  |  |
| Inadequate child care provision provided by carer |  |  |  |
| Exposed to age inappropriate sexual material or influences |  |  |  |
| **Accidental injury and death** |  |  |  |
| Unsafe management of hazards |  |  |  |
| Lack of safety equipment, e.g. stair gates |  |  |  |
| Unsafe storage of hazardous substances e.g. medicines or bleach |  |  |  |
| Concerns about the suitability of pets and their care |  |  |  |
| Driving concerns e.g. whilst under the influence of substances |  |  |  |
| **Crime, antisocial behaviour in and out of school** |  |  |  |
| History of use of or access to weapons |  |  |  |
| Current use of or access to weapons |  |  |  |
| Police have attended the premises for any reason |  |  |  |
| Frequent parent/carer absence from home e.g. prison or hospital |  |  |  |
| **Any additional comments and/or protective factors** | | | |

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| 1. **Be Healthy** | **In**  **child** | **In**  **parent/carer** | **Other adult (specify relationship)** |
| **Physical Health** |  |  |  |
| Poor Diet |  |  |  |
| Obese |  |  |  |
| Poor physical appearance |  |  |  |
| Failure to meet milestones |  |  |  |
| Failure to receive immunisations |  |  |  |
| Physical illness or disability |  |  |  |
| Impairment or experiencing chronic pain |  |  |  |
| Self Harming or demonstrates injurious behaviours |  |  |  |
| Harmful use of alcohol |  |  |  |
| Failure to access appropriate healthcare when ill |  |  |  |
| Does not take prescribed medication as directed |  |  |  |
| **Parental relationship** |  |  |  |
| Lack of parental warmth |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate attachment or bonding |  |  |  |
| Disproportionate use of boundaries or discipline |  |  |  |
| Unable to express feelings and emotions |  |  |  |
| Unable to show empathy (seeing the others point of view) |  |  |  |
| Displays behavioural problems |  |  |  |
| Lack of daily structure and routine |  |  |  |
| Has an Educational Statement |  |  |  |
| **Emotional/Mental health** |  |  |  |
| Psychological concerns |  |  |  |
| Delusional ideas about children |  |  |  |
| Suicidal thoughts or ideas |  |  |  |
| Current depression |  |  |  |
| Past history of post natal depression |  |  |  |
| Agoraphobia |  |  |  |
| Poor engagement with services |  |  |  |
| History of abuse (all types) |  |  |  |
| Evidence of current abuse |  |  |  |
| Anniversary of loss or trauma |  |  |  |
| Recent traumatic life event or loss |  |  |  |
| **Sexual health** |  |  |  |
| Lack of access to contraception |  |  |  |
| Is pregnant |  |  |  |
| Underage sexual activity |  |  |  |
| Sexually transmitted diseases |  |  |  |
| **Any additional comments and/or protective factors** | | | |

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| **3. Enjoy And Achieve** | **In**  **child** | **In**  **parent/carer** | **Other adult (specify relationship)** |
| **Ready for school** |  |  |  |
| Poor access to playgroup |  |  |  |
| No previous or current contact with other children |  |  |  |
| **Achieving at school** |  |  |  |
| Requires additional support |  |  |  |
| Fails to complete homework |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate access to school materials and books |  |  |  |
| No access to school activities e.g. field trips or social events |  |  |  |
| Limited friendship and social groups |  |  |  |
| Victim of bullying |  |  |  |
| **Attend and enjoy school** |  |  |  |
| Difficulty getting to and from school |  |  |  |
| Inconsistently attending school |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate school clothing |  |  |  |
| Poor socialising with others and/or withdrawn |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate contact with staff e.g. confrontational or clingy |  |  |  |
| Failure to access arranged school dinners |  |  |  |
| Presents as tired |  |  |  |
| Arrives at school hungry |  |  |  |
| Frequently fails to have packed lunch provided |  |  |  |
| Parents fails to attend school meetings e.g. parents evening |  |  |  |
| Is volatile and displays extremes of emotion |  |  |  |
| Frequently preoccupied/poor concentration |  |  |  |
| **Achieve personal/social development and enjoy recreation** |  |  |  |
| Poor access to sport and social activities e.g. swimming or scouts |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate behaviour with leaders or other adults |  |  |  |
| **Any additional comments and/or protective factors** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **4. Make a positive contribution** | **In**  **child** | **In**  **parent/carer** | **Other adult (specify relationship)** |
| **Engage in decision making** |  |  |  |
| Unable to deal with school administration |  |  |  |
| Unable to deal with work life administration |  |  |  |
| Unable to pay bills |  |  |  |
| **Develop positive relationships choosing not to discriminate** |  |  |  |
| Has poor social networks, limited friends and appears isolated |  |  |  |
| Experiencing domestic violence currently |  |  |  |
| History of past domestic violence |  |  |  |
| **Engage in law abiding behaviour in and out of school** |  |  |  |
| Perpetrator of bullying |  |  |  |
| Has a lack of friendship groups |  |  |  |
| Behaviour is/has lead to police or YOT involvement |  |  |  |
| Does not understand right or wrong (appropriate to their age) |  |  |  |
| Does not understand the consequences of their behaviour |  |  |  |
| **Any additional comments and/or protective factors** | | | |

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| **5. Not be economically disadvantaged** | **In**  **child** | **In**  **parent/carer** | **Other adult (specify relationship)** |
| **Engage in further education** |  |  |  |
| Not accessing further education |  |  |  |
| Evidence of missed opportunity for achievement |  |  |  |
| **Ready for work** |  |  |  |
| Not attending work or training for work |  |  |  |
| **Access to transport and material goods** |  |  |  |
| Physically unable to travel |  |  |  |
| **Live in decent homes** |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate living accommodation |  |  |  |
| Difficulty accessing social care or housing staff for help |  |  |  |
| Financial difficulties |  |  |  |
| Unable to access benefits |  |  |  |
| Unable to pay bills |  |  |  |
| Unable to provide appropriate clothing |  |  |  |
| Displays criminal behaviour |  |  |  |
| Unable to meet cost of physical core needs including dental/medical |  |  |  |
| Shoplifting, theft, fraud, prostitution |  |  |  |
| **Any additional comments and/or protective factors** | | | |



**Reporting a concern about a child**

**Immediate risk to a child**

**Suspicion or concern about the abuse or neglect of a child**

**Discuss with your manager**

**Consult with or refer to the designated lead person for safeguarding your issues/concerns**

**Refer to the relevant area Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or the Police**

**Remember:**

**If you have a suspicion or concern about child abuse you should always take some consult, seek advice and take action**

**REPORT YOUR CONCERN:**

**Bournemouth MASH: 01202 458102**

**Dorset MASH: 01202 228866**

**Poole MASH: 01202 735046**

**Out of Hours Service: 01202 657279**

**Police Non-Emergency: 101**

**Police Emergency: 999**