

**The Person Posing a Risk to Children Assessment Tool**

# Introduction and guidance notes

This tool is for use by the local authority as relevant locally within Buckinghamshire. It does not replace other assessments but provides a framework for assessing the risk posed by individuals, who may or may not be convicted. For convenience they are referred to as PPR (Person Posing a Risk to Children) throughout this document.

A good indicator of future risk can be past behaviour and while this behaviour may not have resulted in a prosecution or conviction it is an indicator of increased risk and harm to children.

Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides a list of relevant offences to help practitioners identify those who may pose a risk to children. However, this is not an exhaustive list and there are other offences and behaviours not included in Schedule 15 that may indicate a person poses a risk to children. These may include specific offences regarding children such as those brought about by the Serious Crime Act 2015 that also need to be considered such as:

* Child cruelty including psychological suffering or injury as well as physical harm. (Section 66)
* Sexual communication with a child. (Section 67)
* Children as victims rather than consenting participants (Section 68)
* Possession of material that contains advice or guidance about abusing children sexually. (Section 69)
* Female genital mutilation offences (Sections 70 - 73)
* Repeated or continuous coercive or controlling behaviour perpetrated against an intimate partner or family member which has a serious effect on the victim. (Sections 76 and 77).

Therefore, where persons with known harmful behaviours come into contact with children, an assessment should be made of the risk posed. This includes PPRs both with and without convictions, cautions, and reprimands, as well as those where there has been a findings of fact or admissions of guilt in relation to violent offences or offences specifically against children.

While some behaviours will be significantly concerning or harmful on the basis of their immediate presentation, in assessing the behaviour and potential risks of an individual PPR, consideration should also be given as to whether there is any indication of an increase in prevalence or an escalation in seriousness if the behaviours of concern. This assessment is intended for use as a tool for discussion with the PPR and other members of the household, (not just a form to be completed) when social workers become aware of a PPR living in a household with children, or having contact with a household with children, or contact with children in the community.

The headings below should be used for individual sections of the written assessment outcome report containing factual information and an analysis of that information:

* Section 1: Case Detail
* Section 2: The PPR behaviours of concern
* Section 3: The PPR’s Family and Environmental Factors
* Section 4: The Child(ren) and their family
* Section 5: Support and Monitoring Systems
* Section 6: Analysis
* Section 7: Details of Social Worker completing assessment and Team Manager endorsement
* Section 8: Details and Decision of Head of Service

The information required to complete the tool should be obtained by:

* A series of planned interviews
* By associated observation of the household interaction
* By information from other agencies
* Scrutiny of historical records and other relevant information.

Information from the Police, Probation and other agencies should therefore be gathered and ‘pulled together’ in the assessment, and the outcome of the assessment should include what is taking place currently and the ‘next steps’ (actions) required to mitigate the risks. The conclusion is likely to involve multi-agency involvement in taking forward actions emerging from the assessment and therefore multi-agency ‘ownership’ of the risks.

In completing this assessment tool the task is to effectively assess the degree of risk and consider whether the child is safe and if further action is required. The person completing the assessment is responsible for deciding whether there is an evident high risk requiring immediate action to safeguard children that cannot wait for the outcome of the PPR assessment, in which case they should seek management advice immediately.

The assessment should be conducted openly with the individual concerned, the children, and all the other members of the household. As the risk assessment will normally require a series of discussions over a period of weeks, an assessment plan should be drawn up and shared with the PPR. When the report is completed, the PPR is entitled to receive a copy of the sections that refer to them.

On completion of the information gathering, interviews and observations, the written assessment is then compiled for submission to the Head of Service, who will consider whether the assessment is sufficiently robust and the plan in place ensures the children are sufficiently safeguarded before the plan is endorsed.

It is important for those undertaking assessments to bear in mind the importance of the following factors:

* Consulting other professionals who know the family
* Obtaining clear information about offences, cautions, allegations, and findings of fact
* Awareness of the process of the assessment – the development of relationships with the interviewer, attitude to authority
* Observations of family interactions
* Any changes in attitude/response depending on who is present at interviews
* Cultural factors.

# Section 1: Case Details

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name (PPR): |  | Date of birth (PPR): | |  |
| Any alias of PPR: |  | Current address (PPR): | |  |
| Name (Child): |  | Date of birth (Child): | |  |
| Current address (Child): |  |  | |  |
|  | | | **Insert details below** | |
| Reason for the assessment e.g. request for contact with a child, wishes to live in household with a child | | |  | |
| Agencies contacted during the assessment of the PPR:  Police, Prison, Probation, Children’s Services, Housing, G.P, Community Mental Health, Other (please state)   * Agencies and practitioners involved * Have they been contacted as part of the assessment – if not why? | | |  | |
| Frequency of contact with the PPR | | |  | |
| Agencies contacted during the assessment of the child and their family  G.P, H.V, Nursery, E.W.O, School, Community Mental Health, Community Paediatrician, Dentist, YOT, Police, School Nurse, Other (Please state) | | |  | |
| Has the child been seen alone (if age appropriate) | | |  | |
| Frequency of contact with the child and family | | |  | |
| Are there any issues relating to disclosure in completing the following sections? | | |  | |

# Section 2: The PPR behaviours of concern

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Insert details below** |
| Details of offences, suspected offences against children, convictions, cautions, findings of fact, allegations, generalised concerns  https://mappa.justice.gov.uk/connect.ti/mappa/view?objectId=7309236#7293652 |  |
| Details of any current orders in force, e.g. Probation Order, Registered Sex Offender, Notification Order, Sex Offenders Prevention Order, Risk of Sexual Harm Order, License (or any other Specific Issue or Prohibitive Steps Order) |  |
| What information is known about other families that the PPR has been involved with, and what was the outcome, are there any safeguarding issues identified? |  |
| What is known about the PPRs previous relationships and, history including where there and convictions, cautions, reprimands, charges or other concerns (and if charges were not brought or a conviction was not secured what was the reason for this?) |  |
| Number, ages, gender and characteristics of victims, and their relationship to PPR |  |
| Is there any evidence of planning and or involvement with other PPR’s? |  |
| Have they committed any offences against adults |  |
| Has the PPR shared concerning information/images with other PPR’s or children, e.g. shared photographs, made videos, via the internet or other digital media? |  |
| Has there been any known or suspected sexual communication with a child? |  |
| If there are concerns that the PPR has been involved in non-contact offences, for example, accessing images on the internet, have the risks been increased by their use of more than one computer or digital device, or their dishonesty in respect of their access to computers or other digital media, etc.? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Insert details below** |
| **Personal responsibility for the behaviour of concern:** | | |
| * Does the PPR blame the victim, partner, external factors, personal history, substance misuse etc.? | |  |
| * What degree of personal responsibility is shown by the PPR for their behaviour/offending? | |  |
| * Can the PPR see things from the victim’s point of view and do they any demonstrate genuine empathy towards their victim(s)? | |  |
| **Attitude to victims:** | | |
| * What is the PPR’s view of the victims and the impact their behaviour/offending had on the victim? | |  |
| * What is the PPR’s opinion about what it was about that child(ren) that led to the offences or behaviours of concern? | |  |
| **Openness:** | | |
| * Has the PPR engaged and co-operated with the assessment and volunteered open and accurate information? | |  |
| * Does the information given check out against police/probation information? | |  |
| * What information have they provided to the child’s main carer about their offending/behaviour? Is this accurate? | |  |
| **Therapeutic input:** | | |
| * Has the PPR taken part in any treatment programme since the offences behaviours of concern? | |  |
| * Give details of this and their level of level of compliance/ co-operation/involvement | |  |
| * If not, and it is considered appropriate at the current time would the PPR be willing to participate in any treatment programme in future? | |  |
| **Other Risk Assessments Completed/Ongoing** | | |
| * Has there been any risk assessments already completed in respect of the PPR? | |  |
| * If so, who by, what were the details/recommendations of these? | |  |
| * How relevant do you feel the recommendations of these assessments are in relation to this risk assessment?   (Need to be alert to the purposes and differences in outcomes of assessments by Children’s Services, Probation and Police) | |  |
| * Does any information above provided by the PPR concur with information held in other records or previous assessments? | |  |

# Section 3 Family and environmental factors of the PPR

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Factors that may impact on the PPR’s behaviour, physical functioning or understanding of harm:**  **(Please refer to the Single Assessment Framework)** | Insert details below |
| * Mental illness/learning disability |  |
| * Physical disability |  |
| * Poor experience of being parented, childhood abuse, living outside the family unit or care history |  |
| * History of violence or mistreatment of animals |  |
| * Past or current involvement in substance misuse |  |
| * Past or current alcohol abuse |  |
| Family history, relationships and wellbeing: | |
| What is the PPR’s description of their family history, past and current relationships with extended family and partners? |  |
| What was their experience at school, including relationships, attainment, and their view of the value of education? |  |
| Is there any historical involvement in criminal behaviour/antisocial behaviour? |  |
| What is their historical and current employment status? What are their career interests? |  |
| Is there any impact of any problems experienced by other family members, for e.g. illness, bereavement or loss? |  |
| What friends and social contacts do they have and what is the quality of these relationships? |  |
| How does the PPR describe themselves? How do they portray their own self- image and self-esteem? |  |
| How stable is their lifestyle now and in the past? |  |
| What hobbies and pastimes do they have or would like to have? |  |

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**Section 4: The Child and their family**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What are the name(s) and age(s) of the child(ren) the PPR intends to have/has contact with? | | |  | |
| Are they already known or previously known to Children’s Services? If so, what is the reason of their involvement? | | |  | |
| Who does the child(ren) they live with and what is their wider family network? | | |  | |
| What is the PPR’s status and relationship to the child? | | |  | |
| Are there any welfare or developmental issues in respect of the child(ren) in relation to their vulnerability/capacity to protect themselves | | |  | |
| What is the level of involvement by the PPR with the child(ren) – frequency, where it is taking place, who else is present, purpose of contact etc. | | |  | |
| What are the child(ren)’s stated views, wishes and feelings of the child in relation to contact with this person (If the child is preverbal state what you think the child would want) | | |  | |
| Include a view about whether you think the child’s views are freely given or whether they may be under pressure from any other person, e.g. from mother wanting a relationship with the PPR | | |  | |
| **Information about the main carer of the child:** | | | | |
| Name: |  | Date of birth: | |  |
| What are the carer and family’s stated views, wishes and feelings in relation to their child(ren) having contact with this person? | | |  | |
| Are they already known or previously known to Children’s Services? If so, what is the reason of their involvement? | | |  | |
| What is your assessment of their parenting capacity to protect from harm? (Please refer to the dimensions of the single assessment) | | |  | |
| Are there any factors which impact on the parents/’carer’s capacity to protect from harm, for example, physical/mental illness, disability, poor experience of being parented, care history, childhood abuse, history of violence, alcohol, substance misuse. | | |  | |
| What is their relationship to the PPR, length of contact? | | |  | |
| What is their attitude to the PPR’s previous offences/history | | |  | |
| Please describe your consideration of and practical arrangements for safeguarding the child? | | |  | |
| What is the social support network of the main carer? | | |  | |
| What is the social support network of the child within the family | | |  | |
| What is the social support network of the child outside of the family, including professional contacts | | |  | |

**Section 5: Support and monitoring systems**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What are the proposed support, safeguarding and monitoring arrangements for this family? Please consider and detail these for each of the following: |  |
| * The child |  |
| * The parents, other carers and extended family |  |
| * The PPR |  |
| * The frequency of proposed professional contact |  |
| Give details of the process that will be used for sharing relevant information with other professionals involved with the family and any issues for disclosure. |  |

**Section 6: Analysis**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **What is working well** | **What are we concerned about** | **What needs to change** |
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Dangers/What are we worried about? (Consider the risk of harm - who is the risk to; what is the level of risk; what is the risk; what would reduce the risk?) |
| Strengths/What’s working well?  Complicating Factors/what are the complicating factors?  Safety Scale: 1-10 (1 being least safe and 10 being most safe/what is the level of safety?  What needs to happen now? |
| Detailed recommendations based on balancing the dangers against the strengths and complicating factors.  What is the multi-agency plan?  How will this be monitored? (and who will monitor this? What is the multi-agency partnership role in this?) |

**Section 7: Details of Social Worker completing assessment and Team Manager Endorsement**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name and contact details of social worker completing the assessment: | | |  | |
| Signed: |  | Dated: | |  |
| Comments/endorsement by social work manager | | |  | |
| Manager Name and contact details: | | |  | |
| Signed: |  | Dated: | |  |

**Section 8: Details and Decision of Head of Service**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Decision |  |
| Comments |  |
| Any further information needed |  |
| Monitoring/ reviewing arrangements |  |

**Section 9**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name and contact details of Head of Service | | |  | |
| Signed: |  | Dated: | |  |

**Persons Posing a Risk to Children Assessment Flowchart**

**Person Posing a Risk to Children (PPR)**

Identified that a PPR seeking contact or residence with a child (or other reason). Strategy Meeting held (include LADO where appropriate)

**Person Posing a Risk to Children Assessment required**

Manager decision if the assessor should be the allocated social worker for the child or another social work practitioner

**Multi-agency meeting/Action plan**

Is drawn up to safeguard the child/ren

**Child and Family Assessment**

Is carried out as a separate piece of work but relevant information informs the PPR assessment and vice versa

**Plan and Review**

* Plan to address assessed needs following the Child and Family Assessment is developed and reviewed
* PPR Action plan is reviewed as part of the review for the child

**Assessment information gathered and analysed**

* Dangers, strengths and complicating factors are identified. Safety Scale completed.
* Social work practitioner analyses all the available information.
* Social worker makes recommendation on whether through an action plan the PPR could have contact or residence with the child/ren

**Assess the child and see them alone**

**Assess the main care giver(s)**

**Contact other agencies to share information**

**Assess PPR and explain the assessment plan**

**Obtain information about offences/behaviour of concern**

**Disclosure & Data Protection – applies throughout the process**

**Allocated social work practitioner develops an assessment plan – Risk Assessment**

**PPRTC Assessment**

Is uploaded to the PPR record And an alert flag is added to the Personal Details screen to state that a PPRTC Assessment is on file

**Follow up strategy discussion and review plan**

**Strategy Discussions**

Representation from staff who are sufficiently informed/ knowledgeable

**PPR is entitled to receive a copy of sections of the assessment that refer to them**