**Understanding Assessments**

**Information for children and young people**

**What is an assessment?**

An **assessment** is when a **social worker** asks you questions to find out what might be worrying you. The assessment helps you to talk about what help you may need to sort out your problems.

**What will happen in an assessment?**

The social worker will meet you and talk to you on your own if you are happy to do this. If not, they will arrange for someone you trust to be there when they talk to you. They will also talk to any other children living in your house.

What is happening in your life is important and the social worker will listen to you and take your views seriously. The social worker might ask you about:

■ who you live with

■ what your religion is, if you have one

■ your race and culture

■ who you and your family think are important in your life

■ what good things are happening in your life

■ what things have made you feel uncomfortable or unhappy

■ how you are getting on at school

■ if you have any difficulties with your health

The social worker will also talk to other people who know you, for example your teacher or doctor. If you are old enough to understand, the social worker will tell you what everyone thinks.

After the social worker has spoken to everyone, a plan will be made which will list the ways you and your family can be helped.

**What can you do?**

You should talk to the social worker as best you can, as this will help us to help you.

**What will the social worker do?**

We know that with a little bit of help, most families can sort out their own problems. The social worker will try to help your family do this.

Most parents want to do the best for their children. The social worker will talk to your parents to understand how to help you and your family.

After a plan has been made with you and your family, the social worker will try to arrange help as quickly as possible. However, sometimes this may take a little while and your family may have to wait.

**How long will an assessment take?**

The social worker will do an assessment which takes up to a maximum of 45 days to finish. Sometimes, this can be shorter, between 10 and 25 days. You will be told how long the assessment will take.

**Do you have questions?**

If you have any questions, please don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask. Asking questions helps the social worker to help you.

Your social worker will listen to you and talk to you about any of your questions.

It is important that you have information which is helpful to you. Please ask your social worker about anything in this factsheet that you don’t understand.

You can call us on 01432 260665 if you need to speak to someone.

This information can be made available on request in other formats, including large print, Braille, audio and other languages.