

Telford and Wrekin Children's Services

When to Update a Child & Family Assessment



When to Update a C & F Assessment Social Work Guidance

Title	When to Update a C & F Assessment
Purpose/scope	The purpose of updating a C & F Assessment is to consider changing need and or risk related to a specific child or young person.
Subject key words	When to update a C & F Assessment – Version 1
Council Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put our children and young people first. • Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults.
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Approver	Jo Britton Assistant Director: Child Protection and Family Support

When is an updating C & F Assessment Required?

Introduction

The maximum timescale for an assessments to conclude, such that it is possible to reach a decision on next steps, should be no longer than **45 working days from the point of referral**. If, in discussion with a child and their family and other professions, an assessment exceeds 45 working days, the social worker and professionals involved should record the reasons for exceeding the time limit.

Updating Assessments

The purpose of updating a C & F Assessment is to consider changing need and or risk related to a specific child or young person. The updating assessment will consider whether there are positive or negative changes in respect of the needs / risks identified in the initial or most recent assessment. The allocated social worker and their Line Manager must review where changes are apparent. IRO's should offer guidance / challenge as appropriate, when changes merit a review of the assessment.

C & F Assessments should be updated at the following points: -

1. A S47 enquiry is initiated
2. For Children in Need or subject to Supervision Orders assessments should be reviewed: -
 - a. Every 12 months or
 - b. When there are clear indications of significant change
3. For Children subject to Child Protection Planning assessments should be reviewed: -
 - a. Prior to the 9 month review and subsequently 6 monthly prior to each review.
 - b. Where there are clear indications of significant change
4. For Children in Care, assessments should be reviewed: -
 - a. Where there are significant changes e.g. a child coming into care, or leaving care before the age of 18. A child moving placement or changes to a care arrangement e.g. family moves or changes in the adults in the household.
 - b. Every 12 months prior to the subsequent LAC Review.

C & F Assessments are **not required only** in the following circumstance: -

1. A court report has been requested within Private Law (S7 or S37) proceedings. The assessment will be created and signed off by the Team Manager. A copy of the report submitted within the proceedings **must be attached to the assessment template** on Protocol once complete.