**Research in Practice**

**Assessing risk of further child maltreatment: a research based approach in relation to [Insert the child’s name], DOB: [Insert the child’s date of birth], in relation to [Insert adult’s name and relation to child] and [Insert the adult’s title, full name and relationship to the child]**

Factors in ***italics*** are more strongly associated with increased risk: *prior maltreatment, neglect, developmental delay, very young child, learning disabilities, parent- child difficulties, parental conflict, personality disorder, lack of social, family support networks and significant mental ill health.*

Remember that domestic abuse, mental health problems and substance misuse interact to escalate harm.

Assessment to be reviewed at least every six months as significant harm increases with length of exposure (particularly in relation to domestic abuse and neglect).

**(Important note: Delete any rows of the table that you have not filled in.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factors** | **Future significant harm more likely** | **Future Significant harm less likely** | **Relevant chronology entries/Sources of Information** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Abuse** | **Severe physical abuse including burns/scalds** | **Less severe forms of abuse** |  |
| ***Neglect*** |  |  |
| **Severe growth failure** |  |  |
| **Multiple types of maltreatment** |  |  |
| **More than one affected child in household** |  |  |
| ***Previous maltreatment*** |  |  |
| **Sexual abuse with penetration or a long duration** |  |  |
| **Fabricated/induced illness** |  |  |
| **Sadistic abuse** |  |  |
| **Child** | ***Developmental delay with special needs*** | **Healthy child** |  |
|  | **Attributions (e.g. not blaming self in sexual abuse)** |  |
| **Child’s mental health problems** |  |  |
| ***Very young child requiring rapid parental change.*** | **Later age of onset** |  |
|  | **One good corrective relationship** |  |
| **Parent** | ***Personality disorder (anti-social, sadistic, aggressive)***  ***Paranoid psychosis***  ***Significant Parental Mental Health Problems*** | **Mental disorder responsive to treatment** |  |
| **Learning disabilities when *plus mental illness*** |  |  |
|  | **Non-abusive partner** |  |
| **Lack of compliance** | **Willingness to engage with services** |  |
| **Denial of Problem** | **Recognition of Problem** |  |
|  | **Responsibility taken** |  |
| **Substance abuse** |  |  |
| **Abuse in childhood – not recognised as a problem** | **Adaptation to childhood abuse** |  |
| **History of Violence or Sexual Assault** |  |  |
| **Parenting & Parent/Child Interaction** | **Disorganised attachment; severe insecure patterns of attachment** | **Secure attachment; less insecure attachment patterns** |  |
| **Lack of empathy for child** | **Empathy for child** |  |
| **Poor parenting competence** | **Parenting competence in some areas** |  |
| **Own needs before child’s** |  |  |
| ***Parent-child relationship difficulties*** |  |  |
| **Family** | ***Inter-parental conflict and violence*** | **Absence of domestic abuse** |  |
|  | **Non-abusive partner** |  |
| ***High stress*** | **Supportive extended family** |  |
| **Power problems: poor negotiation, autonomy and affect expression** | **Capacity to change** |  |
| **Children not visible to the outside world and continuing perpetrator access** |  |  |
| **Professional** | **Lack of resources** | **Resources available** |  |
| **Poorly skilled professionals** | **Partnership with parents** |  |
|  | **Outreach to family** |  |
|  | **Therapeutic relationship with child** |  |
| **Social Setting** | **Social isolation** | **Social support** |  |
| ***Lack of social and family support networks* and lone parenthood** | **More local child care facilities** |  |
| **Violent, unsupportive neighbourhood** | **Volunteer network** |  |
|  | **Involvement of legal or medical services** |  |

Source: Jones et al. (2006) adapted by Rebeca Brown and Ward (2012), further adapted by NSPCC in 2015 to reflect White et al. (2015).

**Risk Assessment completed by: Date:**