## **Early Help Assessment Guidance**



This tool should be used as a prompt for discussing the situation the child/YP finds them in at the moment. Focus on positives as well as identifying areas of need.

## **Child development**

Health

Are there any specific health issues?

Is X registered with a doctor? Is X registered with a dentist?

Are immunisations up to date?

Does X eat a healthy/balanced diet?

Does X engage in physical activity?

Are there concerns regarding X's hearing, vision or motor

Is X the right height/weight for their age and stage? Are there any concerns regarding X's speech and communication skills?

#### Education

Does X ask questions to improve their understanding of something?

Does X enjoy going to school/college/training/work? Does X have a favourite lesson/activity/pastime?

Are there any attendance issues?

What does X want to do when they leave school/college/training?

## Emotional and behavioural

Is X fairly resilient or do they get upset easily?

Is X easily led by others?

Does X have any unusual phobias or fears?

Does X respect other people's property and things?

Has X ever been involved in offending or anti-social behaviour?

Does X think about their actions or are they impulsive? Is X involved with any inappropriate sexual behaviour? Is X involved with any risky behaviour?

## Identity

Can X identify significant people in their life?

Can X understand their place in their family?

Has X experienced any discrimination because of race, gender, sexuality, disability or religious beliefs?

## Relationships

Does X have a best friend?

Does X have other friends their own age?

Does X have caring responsibilities at home or elsewhere?

Has X ever been away from home and family?

Are there any negative influences that family are concerned about?

## Presentation

Does X present as being happy?

Is X dressed appropriate for age

Is X dressed appropriately for the weather?

Does X have appropriate school uniform?

Does X present as being well behaved at home?

Does X present as being well behaved at school?

## Abilities and skills

Does X try to work things out for themselves or do they often seek help with relatively simple problems?

Is X independent for their age?

Does X want more independence than their parents are willing to give because of their age or other concerns?

## **Family and Environment**

Who's Who

Who lives in the family home?

## Community

How do X and parent describe the area where they live?

Does X attend any extended school activities?

Does X volunteer?

## Social Integration

Does parent use any local facilities (library, Children's centre etc.)?

Does X use public transport or does parent tend to transport X where ever they want to go? (if appropriate) Do the family feel socially isolated?

#### Income

Have parents received any benefits/financial advice?

#### **Employment**

Are there any issues of unemployment?

#### Housing

How many people live in the house?

Does the house have adequate facilities?

Are there any payment concerns/arrears?

## Family Networking

Does X have a strong sense of family?

Other than close family, is there any wider family that X has contact with?

Does parent have support from extended family?

## Family history

Is there a history in any particular illness in the family? Are there any issues that might impact on X's wellbeing?

## Family functioning

Are there any mental health concerns in the family home?

## **Parenting Capacity**

#### Basic care

Is parent able to provide for X's need for food, warmth and shelter etc.?

Does parent take X for regular check-ups/ensure they attend medical appointments?

Does parent provide a healthy diet and ensure that X engages in physical activity appropriate to their age? Does parent respond appropriately to X's health needs?

#### Safety

Is X safe in the family home?

#### Warmth and Love

Does parent provide support to ensure X is happy and resilient?

Does parent make X feel part of the family? Does parent praise X for something they have done well? Who does X go to if they have a problem or are scared? How does parent manage any phobias and fears?

#### Stimulation

Is parent able to help X with homework?

Does parent get involved in play with X (if appropriate)?

Does parent get involved with school activities?

## Guidance and boundaries

Has parent attended any parenting programmes? Does parent model pro-social behaviours?

Is parent concerned about any aspect of X's behaviour? How does parent manage X's behaviour?

Are parent's aware of any inappropriate sexual or risky behaviour?

Does X accept parent's advice and guidance? Now or in the past?

Is X respectful towards parents/other members of the family?

## Stability and security

How many homes has X lived in? How many schools has X attended? Does parent encourage attendance at school/college/training?

#### Risk

### Concerns and strengths

Is the home clean?

Is the home safe?

Are there any dangers? (Home conditions, environmental, social and economic well-being)

Is X able to access education and the local community safely?

## Harm & severity

Is X at risk of any harm or danger, including self-harm? How does this affect X?

### Protection

What measures have parents put in place to protect X?

Causal or determining factors
Are there any barriers to change?

## Ability to change

Does X want change?

Does X engage with support services?

## Parental cooperation

Does parent/s engage with support services?

#### Motivation

Does parent believe that the Early Help Assessment will help X

Does parent believe that the Early Help Assessment will help the family?

## Impact on child now

If nothing changes now what will happen?

## Anticipated future impact

What will happen if nothing changes?

# Timelines

When do safety measures need to be implemented?