

**Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan**

*This risk assessment should be completed where there is a conviction, a Finding of Fact or a pattern of behaviour which indicates that an adult may pose a risk to the child/ren.*

Guidance prompts in red and writing prompts in blue should be deleted prior to filing.

**Risk assessment in relation to:** Name of adult being assessed

**Relationship to child:** How is this adult related the child? E.g. mother’s partner

**SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1. **Author details**
   1. My name is <name>. I am a qualified social worker, having gained a <SW qualification> in <year>.
   2. I have been the allocated social worker for <child> since <date>
2. **Family composition**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Relationship to child** | **Date of birth** | **Gender** | **Address** |
|  | Child |  |  |  |
|  | Mother |  |  |  |
|  | Father |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Sources of information**
   1. In formulating my assessment and the analysis, I have consulted with ….……

Details of agencies or other professionals consulted as part of the assessment e.g. police, probation, housing, mental health services, schools, GP.

* 1. I have reviewed the following documents ……….

Details of documents reviewed as part of the assessment e.g. previous social care records for the child or adult and also any police reports, probation assessments, MARAC minutes, disclosures from other sources or services.

* 1. During the course of the assessment period I have met with X on X occasions ….

Details of what contact you have had with the adult you are assessing, the child/ren or any other family member as part of the assessment.

**SECTION TWO: REASON FOR ASSESSMENT**

1. **Summary background of the case**

Include a brief overview of the circumstances and background of the case for context. This does not need to include everything that has happened, as you will likely have already completed a Single Assessment or parenting assessment, as well as other reports which can be filed separately and you can refer to e.g. a case chronology.

1. **Specific concerns that have led to this risk assessment**

Make explicit why you are doing this assessment, for example what are the offences or allegations made in relation to the adult you are assessing and why are you worried about this in relation to the child/ren for example what does this mean for the child, how might these offences/allegations impact on the child/ren.

Include whether or not the court has directed the assessment, but this is not the only reason you would be writing the report (the main reason is the risk).

1. **Scope of the assessment**

Include here what you intend to answer as part of this assessment e.g. what level of risk the adult poses to the child and/or to the child’s parent (and the subsequent impact on the child); the parents’ ability to protect; whether or not it is safe for a child to have contact; and/or the adult’s capacity to change.

1. **Voice of the child**
   1. Child’s relationship with the person being assessed

For example, consider whether the child/ren has a positive, existing relationship with the adult being assessed.

* 1. Voice of the child

Remember the child’s voice is not just what the child/ren has verbally said to you, but an analysis of their needs and your observations of the child/ren. Include a brief overview of the child/ren’s wishes and feelings in respect of the adult being assessed, and detail whether the child/ren has any additional vulnerabilities either by virtue of their age, disability or previous trauma which would impact on their ability to protect themselves or seek help.

**SECTION THREE: RISK ASSESSMENT**

1. **Details of any offending behaviour (past or present)**
   1. Details of offences, suspected offences against children, convictions, cautions, findings of fact, allegations or general concerns relevant to the risk.

If there are few convictions but a number of non-convictions, consider that particularly with domestic or sexual abuse cases this does not necessarily mean it did not happen and therefore you will need to think critically and consider patterns of behaviour; on balance of probability does this person exhibit risky or abusive behaviours?

If the person being assessed has no prior offending history then you would use this section to outline the history of concerning behaviour e.g. if you are concerned about a history of allegations of domestic abuse, then you would detail that here.

* 1. Details of any current orders in place e.g. Probation, Registered Sex Offender, non-molestation orders.
  2. Is the individual known to MAPPA or MARAC?

1. **Attitude/insight into concerns**
   1. Consider the person’s view of their offences/behaviour. Have they been honest and open in the assessment or have they sought to minimise their behaviour?
   2. Do they accept that they have been abusive or do they seek to blame others or external factors like their childhood or the stress of social care involvement?
   3. Can the person see things from the victim’s point of view? Can they see things from the child’s point of view?
   4. What risk does the person feel that they pose to the child or relevant adult?

This section will inform your assessment of the person’s motivation and capacity to change.

1. **Social history and family background of person being assessed** 
   1. Profile of the adult and their relevant childhood experiences/history of being parented
   2. Relationship history of person being assessed

In this section you are exploring factors which are unlikely to change (i.e. static factors) for example the person’s childhood experiences, and considering whether this helps us to understand their current attitudes, beliefs and behaviour. You will also explore their history of relationships, e.g. if there is a pattern of behaviour or have things been different before.

**SECTION FOUR: RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

1. **Risk factors**

**Alcohol and other drug use**

* 1. Detail any current or historic drug or alcohol use and how this impacts on the person’s behaviour e.g. is this linked to their offending/abusive behaviour.

**Mental health**

* 1. Detail any mental health diagnoses or self-reported difficulties and how these impact on the person’s behaviour.
  2. Consider whether the person being assessed has multiple complex problems (e.g. what was previously known as ‘toxic trio’) as this may be harder to manage.

**Environmental factors**

* 1. Explore if there are other areas in the individual’s life which may increase or stabilise the risks e.g. finances, housing and employment. If there is instability, how does this impact on them, their relationship or other factors?

In this section explore any risk factors which could be affecting the person’s current level of risk for example the above headings. These are things which we may be able to change (i.e. dynamic risk factors).

1. **Wider family and friends support network**
   1. What is the person’s current contact with family and friends, is this supportive and safe?
   2. What is the person’s current friendship network? Is this positive or does it enable abusive/risky behaviour.
   3. What **evidence** do you have that the network accepts the risks to the child/ren (or that they do not)?
   4. Is the network protective? If you consider that they are protective, how do you know? i.e. what is your **evidence** that they have acted protectively?
   5. Is there a non-resident parent, if so what is their view of their child/ren’s situation? Are they informed and have they acted protectively?
2. **Professional support / services involved**
   1. Has the person being assessed previously taken part in any behaviour change or treatment programmes, and have these had any impact?
   2. What services is the person currently engaging with, and what is the likely impact of this?
   3. Have they previously breached any supervision requirements (e.g. non-molestation orders or notification requirements)?
   4. Are there any services involved with the child or their safe parent which would increase safety/reduce risk posed by the person being assessed?
3. **Other involved adult / the child’s parent** 
   1. Consider the ‘non-abusive’ or ‘safe’ parent or adult in this case in relation to the risks identified. For example, if the risk is domestic abuse, do they have a pattern of being in abusive or unhealthy relationships and are they able to identify this?
   2. Does the parent have any additional vulnerabilities that could impact on their protective capacity? e.g. learning disability, mental health difficulties, drug or alcohol dependence, history of trauma.
   3. Does the parent recognise the current identified risks in relation to the person being assessed?
   4. Is there any **evidence** to suggest they are protective e.g. have they protected the child/ren before?
   5. Are there any practical barriers to safety/security for the non-abusive parent? E.g. are they financially reliant upon the person posing a risk.
   6. Access to resources – what support does this parent have from friends, family or professionals?
   7. Have they worked with any support services before e.g. attended Freedom Programme

This section should explore the protective capacity of the non-abusive partner, in relation to the potential risk identified in this assessment. This will inform your analysis of the level of risk that the child is exposed to and what your next steps might be.

**SECTION FOUR: ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Likelihood of future harm**

In this section you will need to weigh up the level of risk posed by the person being assessed against the ability of the child/ren to protect themselves, and the non-abusive parent’s ability to protect the child. Ultimately you need to answer the question: ***Does this person pose a risk to this child/ren; and how can that be safely managed?***

Consider:

* 1. What are the risks you have identified in the assessment; describe what is likely to change and what is not.
  2. What protective factors have you identified, and how do these reduce the risk?
  3. What is the person’s motivation and ability to make/sustain change, are they willing and able to engage with professional support? What **evidence** do you have that they have been able to make changes or that they may be able to in the future? Consider their pattern of behaviour.
  4. What **evidence** is there that the non-abusive partner has been able to protect and prioritise the child/ren’s needs?
  5. What circumstances are likely to trigger or increase the risk posed by this person for example separation from partner or increase in drug/alcohol use.
  6. What would you need to see to indicate that the risk has reduced?
  7. What is the likely impact on the child if the risk doesn’t reduce?

1. **Proposed plan to safeguard the child/ren**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Desired outcome** | **Action** | **Who is responsible** | **Target date for completion** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **Conclusion and recommendations**

Balancing all of the information within your assessment, what is your assessment of the level of risk that this person poses to this child, and what (if anything) do you propose we can do to reduce this risk. Ensure that you answer the question you have posed in the ‘scope of the assessment’.

E.g. include what multi-agency support could be put in place for the family – what is needed urgently and what could come later (e.g. immediate safety vs. longer term change); what treatment or behaviour change programme could be offered to the person posing a risk; and what supervision or monitoring would be required to manage the risk. Include a contingency plan – what happens if these things don’t work or if the risk increases.

1. **Managers comments**
2. **Signatures**

Name (Social Worker):

Signature:

Date:

Name (Team Manager):

Signature:

Date: