Holistic assessment

Holistic assessment addresses three main areas that impact children and young people’s potential to achieve these outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

Some examples of holistic assessments are the
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
- Social services initial assessment (IA)

Undertaking a common assessment

When undertaking a common assessment with a child or young person and their family, make sure they understand the information you are recording on eCAF, and what is going to happen.

- You should consider each of the elements and explore strengths as well as the areas around your immediate concern, so as to look behind the presenting issues and come up with a more holistic view.
- You do not need to comment on every element; include only what is relevant and base your comments on evidence, not just opinion.

These are some of the questions practitioners have been asking while conducting CAF assessments.

Note: To accompany eCAF there is a guide to definitions which gives a general description of signs to look for in relation to each of the CAF elements in each of the three domains. These elements have been developed by combining the underlying model of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families with the main elements used in other assessment frameworks. The full definitions guide is available online www.richmond.gov.uk/caf_forms_and_guidance

Involvement

Once the CAF has been completed you will have a clearer picture of the agencies that you will need to involve and that you may work with as the Team Around the Child (TAC).

Outcomes for children and young people

Parents

Families

Community

Development of the baby, child or young person

Family and environmental factors

Family history, functioning and wellbeing

Wider family

Housing, employment and financial considerations

Social and community elements and resources

“Think about a really good time you enjoyed with your family. What was it, and what made it so special for you?”

“Other than your family, who is important to you in your life?”

“Is there enough money, from work and any benefits, to meet your family’s needs?”

“What is the best thing about living where you do? The worst?”

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