



MULTI AGENCY CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING AUDIT PACK

CHILD IN NEED - GRADING GUIDANCE



MULTI-AGENCY CHILD IN NEED AUDIT TOOL – GRADING GUIDANCE

Area of Analysis	Outstanding = 1	Good = 2	Adequate = 3	Inadequate = 4
Early Intervention Work	If every area of analysis on a case is consistently good or better, the case can be judged outstanding overall.	Previous involvement informed by a comprehensive Common Assessment Framework (CAF), coordinated by a lead professional, working as part of a 'team around a child'. Highly effective early intervention services had been put in place. Previous involvement highly effective in promoting child's welfare and keeping child safe. Safeguarding/child protection concerns appropriately identified, acted on promptly and in line with guidance and good practice.	CAF had been undertaken. Agencies providing services shared information. Some early intervention services had been put in place and were having some impact. Previous involvement was keeping child safe and having some impact on promoting child's welfare. Safeguarding/child protection concerns appropriately identified and acted on in line with guidance.	No CAF in place. Little or no communication between agencies working with child. Little or no early intervention services in place. Previous involvement was not having sufficient impact on promoting child's welfare and/or may not have been keeping them sufficiently safe. Safeguarding/child protection concerns were not appropriately identified, or not in a timely way and/or actions were not taken in line with guidance.
Referral		Referral showed clear understanding of when appropriate to refer to social care. Referral made or followed up in writing using locally agreed format containing all relevant information.	Referral to social care appropriate. Referral made or followed up in writing and contained most information.	Referral to social care should have been made earlier (delay may have caused risk to child), or it was not necessary to refer to social care. Referral had some gaps in information.
Response to Referral		Referral acted on promptly and appropriately. Referrer/Lead Professional (LP) fully involved.	Referral acted on within timescales. Referrer/LP informed of outcomes.	Some delay in responding to referral, or referral not responded to adequately. Referrer/LP not kept informed.
Assessment		Up-to-date, comprehensive, child-centred assessment in place including child's views. Assessment takes account of any risks to child. Appropriate to work with child on Child In Need (CIN) /S17* basis (rather than Child Protection (CP), or no need for social care involvement).	Recent assessment in place. Assessment takes account of any risks to child. Appropriate not to work with child on a CP basis. However, role for social care on S17/CIN basis may not be clear.	Assessment not evident, or out-of-date. Risk to child not specifically addressed in assessment. Not appropriate to work with child on S17/CIN basis (should either be CP or no identified need for social care involvement).
Planning and Implementing Plan		The plan has child-centred, SMART objectives. Well planned transition from previous lead professional to social worker as new LP.	Plan in place. Social worker 'picked up the baton' as new LP. Professionals hold network meetings.	Gaps in plan, or plan out-of-date. Little or no transition planning.

Continued on next page.

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Planning and Implementing Plan (cont'd)	If every area of analysis on a case is consistently good or better, the case can be judged outstanding overall.	'Team around a child' approach highly effective. Plan being implemented effectively, with appropriate services, partnership working with parent(s) and agencies carrying out their role in the plan and all agency duties in line with good practice.	Plan being implemented, with some appropriate services, but package could be more creative. Parent(s) accept agency involvement. Agencies carry out their role in plan, but timescales sometimes slip. Agencies carry out their own agency duties.	Poor communication, gaps in network meetings, not working effectively as a "team around a child". Plan not being implemented effectively. Gaps in service provision. Lack of partnership working with parent(s). Some gaps in agencies carrying out their role within plan and/or their agency duties.
Review		The plan is reviewed regularly, progress and impact assessed and amended, including engagement with parent(s). Plan is having a positive impact on safeguarding the child and promoting their welfare. Risk to the child, and the appropriateness of working on a CIN and not CP basis, is regularly reassessed.	The plan is reviewed and updated. Plan is having some impact on safeguarding the child and promoting their welfare. Clear risks to the child are identified, but reassessment of previous or new risks could be more methodically reassessed as part of the review of progress.	The plan is not, or not regularly, reviewed. Opportunity to safeguard child and promote their welfare is not being grasped. Risk to the child is not regularly reassessed.
Being Healthy outcome		Child's health needs were met well.	Child's health needs were met.	Health needs of child not fully considered, or child's health needs not adequately met.
Staying Safe outcome		The child was safeguarded and their welfare promoted well.	There was some impact on safeguarding the child and promoting child's welfare.	Insufficient attention was paid to the need to safeguard the child, or the child was not kept adequately safe, or more could have done to promote their welfare.
Enjoy and Achieve outcome		The child was assisted to achieve well and follow leisure opportunities.	Some impact was made on the child's ability to enjoy and achieve.	Little impact was made on the child's progress in enjoying and achieving.
Making a Positive Contribution outcome		The child was able to make a positive contribution.	Some encouragement was given to the child to make a positive contribution.	Little impact was made on the child's involvement in making a positive contribution.
Economic well-being outcome		There has been a good impact on the child's ability to achieve economic well-being.	Some actions taken impacted on the child's economic well-being.	Little impact was made on the child's economic well-being.

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Management Oversight and Recording		The front- line worker is appropriately supported and directed. All records up-to-date and fit for purpose. Evidence of quality assurance activity on records.	The front- line worker receives some support and direction. All records mainly up-to-date and fit for purpose. Evidence of quality assurance activity on records.	The front- line worker does not receive sufficient support and direction. Gaps in records, or not up-to-date, or fit for purpose. Lack of evidence of quality assurance activity on records.
Overall Judgement	The case can only be judged as outstanding overall if every area of analysis has been judged good or better.	The case should be judged as good if at least 75% of the features above are evident, providing the child has been effectively safeguarded and their welfare promoted throughout the work.	The case should be judged as adequate if at least 75% of the features above are evident (or better), providing the child has been safeguarded and their welfare generally promoted throughout the work. However, any significant failings will render the case inadequate.	If 25% or more of the features above are evident, or if there is a significant failure which has impacted on the safety of the child, the case should be considered inadequate.

- * S17 – Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on Local Authorities to provide a range of services in order to:
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and
 - So far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs



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