CAF Update - 3rd Sector Assembly
Background to Integrated Working

Lord Laming’s enquiry in 2003 into the tragic death of Victoria Climbié identified fault lines in the system:

- Interventions only when the family’s situation got critical
- Support sequential & intermittent
- Poor communication between agencies
- Little integration of services
- Weak supervision & accountability
“...early intervention, using the CAF process is cost effective with potential savings of between £5000 and over £100,000 being reported.”

Overview & Scrutiny 2011

“Schools that did use CAF fully also saw benefits for pupils, such as improved attendance, behaviour and willingness to learn.”

CYP Now report on LARC 2 April 10

“(In Birmingham)...there is a clear process for the delivery of CAF and a robust central CAF team”

OFSTED 2010
Supporting the Key Priorities

For the next 3 years Birmingham will focus on:

- Protecting Children from Harm
- Improving engagement in learning and achievement in education
- Reducing health inequalities

CAF will:

- Improve the quality of information shared between agencies by making it more evidence-based
- Help embed a common language about the needs of children and young people
- Reduce the number of different assessment processes which children and young people need to undergo
- Recognise that assessment is a continuing process not a one-off event
Promoting Children’s Wellbeing in Birmingham

Common Assessment Framework

Level 2
Targeted support
Single practitioner
Lead Practitioner not required

Level 3
Integrated support
Lead worker takes on Lead Practitioner functions

Level 4
Referral for Statutory Assessment

Pre-CAF Checklist & consider CAF Assessment
Universal services for all children and young people

Information sharing between practitioners

Children with additional needs
Child's Developmental Needs
Parenting Capacity
Family & Environmental Factors

CHILD Safeguard & Promoting welfare

Go straight to level 4 as soon as risk of significant harm suspected

N = Needs met
T = Transition
I = Identification and Action

www.birmingham.gov.uk/caf
Children’s Services have Changed

- Universal Screening Framework (USF)
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
- Specialist Assessment Frameworks (SAF)

Children with complex needs

Children with additional needs

Children whose needs can be met in universal settings

Traded Services
Assessment & Eligibility

Need to identify child/family needs through an assessment prior to delivery of services.

Be clear:
- what is a legal duty to provide
- what would be good to provide

Promote equal access & opportunity

Decision making should be fair & transparent

R v Islington LB 2009
Eligibility Criteria

Standard assessment can be used by all agencies working with children/young people

- Child/young person focused
- 9mths to 19yrs (25yrs with disabilities or care leavers)
- Based on consent
- Holistic: multi-agency response
- Link to statutory assessments
15 working days

Pre Assessment Checklist
Identify need

CAF
Complete assessment with Child/Family
Gain consent for information sharing

Integrated Support Plan
Meeting with practitioners and family
Lead Practitioner allocated

Maximum 6 months

Review
Meeting with practitioners and family
Review progress

Evaluation
Family & Lead Practitioner evaluation of CAF process
Threshold Guidance

- Try to recognise all factors relevant to the child’s needs, parenting capacity and environmental factors - see the family as a whole

- Use it as a guide not a prescription

- Take advice from your line manager or your agency’s safeguarding advisor

- Where possible share your concerns with families

- Liaise with other professionals involved
Jon-Paul Mac is a 15 year old boy whose father was arrested two months ago and charged with supplying class A drugs. He is currently on remand at HMP Birmingham. Jon-Paul was at home when his father was arrested.

Jon-Paul has recently moved to a new house with Mum and older Brother in a different area of the city which means he needs to catch two buses to attend school.

Since his father was arrested Jon-Paul has missed school on several occasions, when asked about this at a Barnados PSHE day, he is very defensive and says he is needed at home but things will be better soon.
The huge implications of family situation on Jon Paul’s health and well being need to be considered.

Children of prisoners have:
- **Three times** the risk of **mental health problems** compared to their peers,
- **Three times** the risk of **anti-social/delinquent behaviour**
- More likely to be subject to bullying
- Increased potential for Financial difficulties

Those involved with Jon-Paul would have to consider:
- Is he at risk of, or already engaged in criminal activity himself?
- Is he taking on caring roles within the home,
- What is the impact on his emotional health?

A CAF or ONSET assessment may be appropriate to support Jon Paul
# Pre-assessment Checklist

**Identifying details of child or young person**

- **Name:**
- **Address:**
- **DOB:**

**Parent/Carer**

- **Name:**

**Does the child or young person appear to be...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Priorities</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>NOT SURE</th>
<th>Evidence/Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Engagement in Learning &amp; Achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce Health Inequalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protect from Significant Harm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning and Developing?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Having a positive impact on others?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free from the Impact of Poverty?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe from Harm?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you answered "no", what additional services are needed for the child or young person or their parent(s), carer(s) or family?

- Please note if the family speak a community language and an interpreter is required.

- Can you provide the additional services needed?
- If you answered "no" or "not sure", or if it is not clear what support is needed, would an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework help?
- Who will do this assessment?

**Name of Practitioner:**
- I will
- Another practitioner

**Telephone:**
**Email:**
**Agency:**

**Date completed:** / /
A child has sufficient understanding if they can:

- Understand the questions being asked of them
- Have a reasonable understanding of
  - What information might be shared
  - The reasons for sharing information
  - Understand the implication of sharing/not sharing the information
- Appreciate and consider alternative courses of action
- Weigh up one aspect of a situation against another
- Express a clear personal view on the matter
- Keep a reasonable consistency in their views
- Is not under undue pressure to consent

A young person aged 16-17, or a child under 16 who has the capacity to understand and make their own decisions, may give consent to sharing information.
• Consent from one parent with parental responsibility is sufficient for information to be shared

• If one parent consents and the other does not, the position of the resident parent takes priority

• Legal advice can be sought in the event of very difficult issues
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Action</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Referral made to CSC: Intervention not required</strong></td>
<td>- CSC will recommend a CAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Referral made to CSC: Intervention is required</strong></td>
<td>- Existing CAF paperwork can supplement CSC Initial Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial Assessment completed: Intervention not required</strong></td>
<td>- Initial Assessment (IA) can be used in place of the CAF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Consent should be obtained by the Children’s Social Care Worker to circulate the IA.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- CSC would not be required to attend the ISP meeting</td>
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<td><strong>CSC Plan: Intervention no longer required</strong></td>
<td>- CSC to arrange an ISP meeting at least 3 weeks before the planned end of the Specialist involvement......</td>
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<td>- CIN/CP plan used as the lead assessment. CAF paperwork used thereafter</td>
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<td>- Lead Professional transfer date to be negotiated &amp; agreed</td>
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Impact of Interventions

Evaluation Summary: All Quarters (CAF)

April ‘06 – December ‘11
Role Definition

- Family Champion
- Family Advocate
- Family Lead Professional