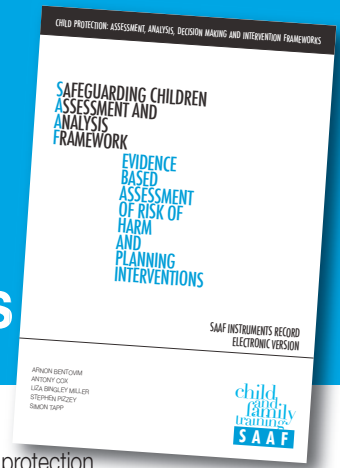


# Hope for Children and Families Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources for Practitioners and their Managers



## What are the Hope for Children and Families (HfCF) Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources?

The HfCF assessment, analysis and decision making resources were developed by *Child and Family Training* and colleagues, for practitioners (and their managers) in all areas of children's services, including Early Help, Children in Need, Child Protection and Adoption and Fostering who work with children and families to support and enhance the quality of assessments, analysis, decision making and planning for children, providing help and measuring outcomes following interventions.

The assessment, analysis and decision making resources:

- help practitioners at all levels in the children's workforce (qualified and unqualified) assess children and young people's well-being and safety
- provide an accessible set of evidence-based approaches and resources
- enable practitioners, children, young people and families to work together during the assessment process – identifying strengths and difficulties
- bring clarity to assessments, enabling them to be completed in a timely manner and generating clear plans of work with identifiable and measurable outcomes
- evidence successful change and improved well-being and safety of children and young people
- inform decisions and recommendations where harm or the risk of harm continues despite planned interventions
- help practitioners make plans for permanency and assess and support adoptive parents, foster carers and kinship carers.

## What type of situations can the HfCF Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources be used in?

The resources are structured around the following stages:

- initial identification of need and/or harm
- gathering information during assessment. This includes:
  - exploring the child's experience, at home, school and elsewhere
  - parenting assessments
  - complex assessments of children and families
  - assessing the attachment style of parents and prospective carers
- establishing the nature and level of strengths and impairments of the child's health and development

- analysis of patterns of harm and protection
- predicting the outlook for the child if nothing in their family circumstances changes and assessing the prospects for intervention
- developing a plan of intervention and help consistent with the child's developmental timeframe
- identification of desired/planned outcomes for the child and how to measure change.

## What do the resources include?

The HfCF assessment, analysis and decision making resources are available as part of a change programme which includes a series of training courses provided by C&FT or by Agency Based Trainers trained by C&FT. The training courses include:

- tools, instruments and assessment resources for use by practitioners
- practice techniques (interview, observation and recording skills)
- user guides for practitioners
- trainers guides to support training
- on line access to the resources and post training support.

## Why might using the HfCF Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources be helpful?

The assessment, analysis and decision making resources are consistent with the Children Act 1989 and compatible with the requirements of Working Together (2013), the practice expectations set out in the Ofsted framework for the inspection of Local Authority services for children and the Public Law Outline (2014).

They enable practitioners at all levels of the children's workforce to:

- identify clearly a child's needs and any risk of harm
- identify strengths and difficulties in parenting, family functioning and history and wider environmental factors
- make plans for intervention and help that include identified and measurable outcomes
- provide evidence based assessments for courts in public and private law proceedings
- prepare reports for adoption and fostering panels.

## For further information please contact:

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