

The Safeguarding Children Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF) Evaluation

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The Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF)

The SAAF is:

- a Structured Decision Making tool designed to enhance and facilitate the quality of decision making by professionals in child protection cases
- 'only family assessment tool that includes assessment of the possibilities of future change and how success or otherwise might be gauged' Barlow et al (2012) *Systematic Review of Models of Significant Harm*
- subject of Randomised Control Trial funded by Department for Education in England and being carried out by Queen's University, Belfast, Bristol University and Colebrooke Centre, London. Report in 2016/17.

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Seven Stages in Assessment, Analysis and Planning Interventions

- Stage 1** Identification of harm and initial safeguarding
- Stage 2** Gather assessment information on child's developmental needs, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors
- Stage 3** Establishing the nature and level of harm and harmful effects
- Stage 4** Analyse the patterns of harm and protection
- Stage 5** **Child Protection Decision Making and Care Planning: The Safeguarding Analysis**
- Stage 6** Developing a plan of intervention
- Stage 7** Identifying outcomes and measures for intervention

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Assessment Framework (AF)
A map of relevant data to be collected

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Stage 4: Analysis of patterns of ham and protection - Impact

In general:

- the more dimensions of domains that show difficulty;
- the more frequently those difficulties are manifest;
- the longer the difficulties have existed;
- the less the difficulties are modifiable;

then the greater the severity of the problem

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Stage 5: Child Protection Decision Making and Care Planning using the SAAF: the Safeguarding Analysis
Bentovim et al 2009

Predicting the likely future health and development of the child if they either:

- continue to live at home; or
- a return to their home is being contemplated

depends on the:

- level of impairment or likely future impairments of the child's health and development
- likely outlook for the child if nothing changes
- the modifiability of parenting (i.e. the capacity of parents to change)


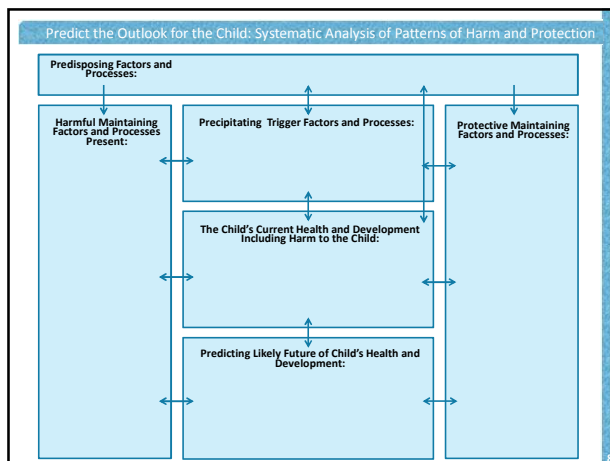
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Stage 5: Child Protection Decision Making using the SAAF: Profile of harm and impairment of the child's health and development

To make an assessment of the profile of harm and impairment of the child's health and development the SAAF uses descriptors and rating scales to consider:

- **Child's Developmental Needs**
 - Severity of harm and impact on the child
- **Parenting capacity**
 - Severity of parenting difficulties
- **Family and Environmental Factors**
 - Severity of individual and family difficulties
 - Severity of environmental difficulties
- **Parenting, Protection and Therapy Required by the Child**

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Stage 5: Child Protection Decision Making using the SAAF: Prospects for successful intervention
Bentovim et al 1987 & Jones 1991, 1998

There is a poor prognosis for change where:

- Child subject of serious abuse
- Continuing parental denial of abuse/impairment
- Considerable family difficulties with few strengths
- Severe parental pathology, personality disorder or level of addiction which implies changes cannot be made in child's timeframe
- Resources unavailable to intervene given severity of situation
- Parents who refuse/don't cooperate with help

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Stage 5: Child Protection Decision Making using the SAAF: Prospects for successful intervention

To analyse the prospects for successful intervention the SAAF uses descriptors and rating scales to consider:

- Nature of harm suffered and the child or young person's wishes and feelings
- Parental child-centredness
- Modifiability i.e. parents level of motivation and capacity for change
- Parent's ability to co-operate with professionals and agencies

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Recap on aims and objectives

- **Primary** To determine whether complex assessments undertaken by social workers using SAAF would result in children being less likely to experience maltreatment or re-abuse.
- **Secondary** To determine :
 - the extent to which SAAF improves the quality of social work assessments
 - the acceptability of SAAF
 - how it was implemented and to what extent this differed from intended implementation practice

RCT Design – planned and 'de facto'

- 6 LAs recruited and teams randomised
- Experimental Group Staff to attend training and use 3 summary SAAF grids and the systemic analysis
- 4 LAs persisted
- **Primary outcome measures:**
 - children who become subject to a 2nd CPP
 - reassessments or referrals as a result of concerns linked to the original (perceived risk of) maltreatment

- Examined factors influencing implementation
 - Actual and perceived characteristics of SAAF
 - Staff capacity
 - Resources for implementation
 - Support systems for implementation
 - Embedding SAAF in the delivery system
 - Leadership and wider systems
- 2 waves of interviews + online survey

SAAF
Implementation
Study

■ ?

SAAF
Implementation
Study

The Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework
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