



Safeguarding Module

Assessing Risks

Topics to be Covered

- Factors which may Increase Risk
 - Where Risk Came from
 - Single Assessment Process
 - How to Assess if a Child is at Risk of Harm or Abuse
 - How to Recognise a Risky situation
 - Parental Risk Factors
 - Summery
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Factors that may Increase the risk of Abuse and Neglect

- Inadequate parenting skills
- Parents with mental health issues
- Parents with low IQ
- Parents with disabilities
- The area the child lives in
- Parents with addictions
- Single parent families/ financial issues
- Predatory adults
- Inadequate supervisions
- Parents who place their needs onto the child
- Parents with no support network
- Families who do not interact with Social Educational and Health Services

Where Risks Came From

- The parents background, skills, attitude and circumstances
- The parents family and friends
- Inadequate supervision from parents, carers and Service Providers
- Predators working in Child Related Services
- Parents, carers, Service providers not understanding the risks of online abuse are and how to deal with it
- Unaware of predator approaching the child
- Not educating the child on abuse and harm
- Trafficking or Radicalism

Single Assessment Process

The Single Assessment is a detailed assessment covering the critical aspects of a child's needs after identifying the potential risk of abuse. This determines, whether the child is 'in need ' then sets out a framework to protect the child.

The SAF ensures that everyone involved in the child's needs are prevents any failings in the child's care.

The people involved in the SEF will be :

- The parents
- The child's wider family
- All professional Services surrounding the child

A SAF takes place after a referral which Social Services arrange, this includes:

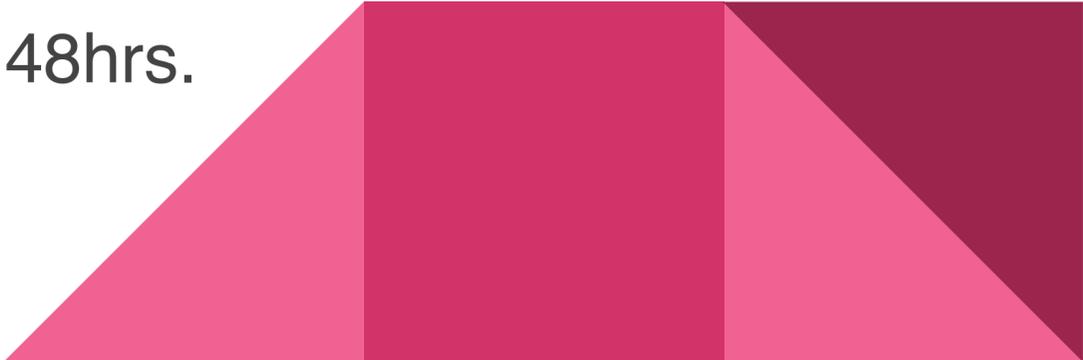
- A protection Plan
- It determines if a child needs immediate or urgent protection

Single Assessment Process

The Assessment recognises :

- The nature of the concern and the impact on the child
- The level of risk on the child
- Why and how the concerns have been raised
- If there is a concern of risk or abuse
- An overview of the needs of the child and the family
- The impact of the family and community
- The urgency of the action
- If there is sexual exploitation or trafficking issues
- Any indications of such and or slavery
- Any exposure of Radicalisation or Extremism

All single Assessments should be completed under legislation within 48hrs.



How to Access if a Child is at Risk or Harm or Not

If you have a concern about a child you must report it and let the experts determine the risk.

There may be some situations, where you will need to inform Social Services that a child is in immediate risk of Harm or Abuse, which may be difficult to determine and you may need to think carefully about the following:

- If the child has disclosed that someone in the household is the abuser
- If the child is involved in trafficking, sexual exploitation and may harm the child or family
- A vulnerable parent, the child requires medication.
- Will the child be safe if they return home, the parents state of mind

How to Recognise a Risky Situation

Here are some things to consider:

- Does the child stay later at school and afraid to return home for no reason
- Observe the interactions between the child and their parents
- Any limited movement and injury, frequent or more than once
- Do you notice strangers hanging about, shops, parks or schools and children going to meet them



Parental Risk Factors

There are two main issues that imposes risk to child abuse or neglect, which are mental Health or Substance Misuse.

If a parent has Mental Health issues, they can either not be able to tend to their child's needs or enhance the risk of abuse from predators. This could be made worse if the parent is a single parent.

- If one parent has poorly the healthy parent may neglect the child under pressure of tending to the other parent and the child may have some household responsibilities passed on to them.
- If there are weaknesses in the family it may expose the child to predators
- Parent with mental health issues may harm the child
- In all of the cases there must be a Plan in place to support the parent and the child.

Parent Substance Misuse

The risks posed by the parent who misuses, substances can range from:

- Exposes the child to drug and alcohol
- Inadequate supervision
- Enhances the risk of predators
- A parent may abuse the child when they otherwise wouldn't



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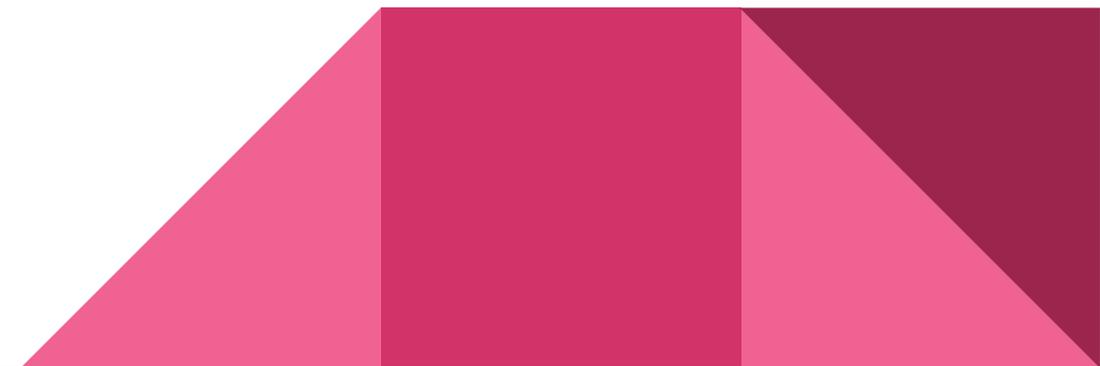
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Useful Links & Services



www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

The Childline logo consists of the word "childline" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

www.childline.org.uk



www.mind.org.uk



www.unicef.org

The Samaritans logo consists of the word "SAMARITANS" in a white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid green rectangular background.

www.samaritans.org

