

Tips for undertaking a good assessment

In Hounslow, the CFAN can be used by practitioners as an assessment tool to work with a parent(s) and/or a child to gather information. The CFAN is not intended to replace specialist detailed assessment tools used in individual services, e.g. clinical health assessments or specialist learning assessments.

This information is used to build a picture of what is currently happening in their lives; including where there are strengths and what the concerns are. This assessment helps the practitioner to analyse current needs, develop an action plan and set goals that can be used at TAC meetings to review if progress is being made. The assessment can be shared with other services and can be used as a tool for referral into other services when required.

10 tips on how to undertake a good assessment with families:

- Work in collaboration with families.
- Recognise both strengths and difficulties.
- Consider the issues a family is currently facing, including their history and the support they have available to them. Look at what has worked previously for the families.
- Focus on reducing the risks to children and improving their outcomes.
- Consider how parents'/carers' are able to respond to the needs of their children and their capacity to change.
- Capture the views of children and young people and use these to form assessments and plans. Use the child's own words wherever possible.
- Be transparent so the family is clear on what is happening and why.
- Include information about the child's development so that progress can be monitored.
- Involve all professionals who are working with the family.
- Ensure assessments are written clearly and concisely avoiding professional jargon.