



Manchester Common Assessment Framework

What is the Common Assessment?

The Common Assessment is a shared assessment tool for use across all Children's services and local areas in England. It aims to help early identification of need and promote co-ordinated service provision.

The green paper, Every Child Matters, proposed the introduction of a national Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as an important part of a strategy for helping children and young people to achieve the five priority outcomes of:

- **being healthy:** enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle;
- **staying safe:** being protected from harm and neglect;
- **enjoying and achieving:** getting the most out of life and developing the skills for adulthood;
- **making a positive contribution:** being involved with the community and society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour;
- **economic well-being:** not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

Who uses Common Assessment?

The common assessment should be used by everyone who works with children, young people and families, whether they are employed or volunteers, and working in the public, private or voluntary sector. The common assessment ensures continuity for a family as the assessment travels with the family.

What is the Manchester Common Assessment Framework?

On 11th May 2011 Professor Munro presented to government a review of Child Protection Services which delivered a range of recommendations that are likely to have significant implications for the way that child protection services are run at a local level.

Professor Munro suggested that local areas should have greater flexibility to make local decisions on revising the **Common Assessment Framework form** in order to reduce bureaucracy and empower practitioners.

A great deal of work has been undertaken in Manchester to develop a form that would be easier for practitioners to use and would make more sense for families. This has been piloted in some areas and has had positive feedback with some agencies accepting the form as a referral. **This is the Manchester Common Assessment Framework (MCAF).**

This new paperwork is about to be launched and MACC will work to support the voluntary sector in embedding MCAF. Manchester council have recruited three posts that will support the work of MCAF and MACC is working alongside these roles to provide support to the voluntary sector.

MCAF Champions

In order to support MCAF champions are being recruited to support the use of MCAF across the voluntary sector.

MCAF champions have already been recruited throughout other statutory services such as school and health.

To ensure MCAF is supported in the voluntary sector MACC would like to provide support to groups who are using MCAF. This could be through individual organisational support, a forum to bring together MCAF champions to discuss good practice or any other form of support that would be beneficial.

The MCAF champion would:

- Build capacity with colleagues and partners to complete MCAFs
- Offer advice and support on the MCAF process
- Be knowledgeable about the MCAF Supporting Tools and direct colleagues to them when appropriate

MCAF will be part of commissioning processes as it links so closely with early intervention with families and for a coordinated approach when working with families.

As soon as the new forms have been agreed they will be shared with the children, young people and families network. We will also be facilitating training for the voluntary sector around the MCAF.

If you would like to hear more information about MCAF and to discuss CAF champion role please contact:

Nicola Shanahan, MACC
nicola@macc.org.uk

Jennifer Richardson, Routes
jennifer@theBHA.org.uk