

# Common Assessment Framework – Information for Practitioners

Multi-agency & Integrated working



## What you'll learn:

- What the Common Assessment Framework is?
- The Lead Professional
- Implementation of the CAF and role of the Lead Professional
- Your next steps

## What is the Common Assessment Framework?

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key component of 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' – the new approach to working with children and young people aged 0 - 19 years. It also has a major role to play in Nottingham's focus on early intervention and prevention for children, young people and families.

The aims of Every Child Matters and The Children Act 2004 are for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution, and
- achieve economic well-being.

This means that staff working in all agencies that provide support to children, young people and families - from health settings to schools, from police to children's services and Connexions to voluntary sector groups - will be working together in new ways, sharing information and providing integrated support. The CAF should identify – at the earliest opportunity - children who have additional needs and provide them with a co-ordinated, multi-agency support plan to meet universal need, additional need, extensive need and protection . Consent from the family is required to begin a CAF. This ensures information is shared across agencies with the family's knowledge and that they are fully involved throughout the process.

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## The Lead Professional

The 'Lead Professional' (LP) is a role that is central to the successful implementation of the CAF. This person acts as the family's main contact and ensures that they are fully involved in the process and provided with a coordinated package of support. Full details about the role of the Lead Professional can be found at <http://www.nottinghamchildrenspartnership.co.uk/common-assessment-framework/what-is-the-role-of-the-lead-professional/>

## Implementation of the CAF and role of the Lead Professional

The Common Assessment Framework and all the supporting information is available at <http://www.nottinghamchildrenspartnership.co.uk/common-assessment-framework/where-do-i-start/> Practitioners are expected to use this resource to implement the CAF within their own setting. Materials include:

- The CAF Pre-Assessment Checklist;
- Consent Form;
- CAF Assessment Form; and
- Multi Agency Action Plan and Review Form

Other key documents supporting the CAF implementation are also available, including:

- The Nottingham City CAF Toolkit;
- Family Support Strategy.

## Your Next Steps:

- Attend the appropriate training session
- Discuss and agree where the CAF fits within your referral and assessment process