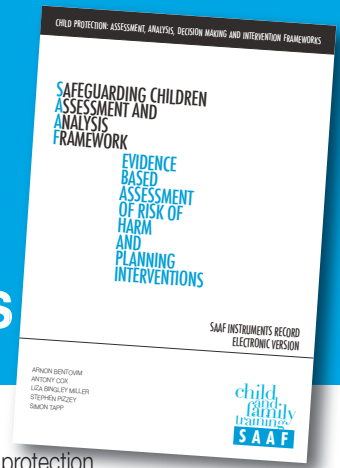


Hope for Children and Families Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources for Practitioners and their Managers



What are the Hope for Children and Families (HfCF) Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources?

The HfCF assessment, analysis and decision making resources were developed by *Child and Family Training* and colleagues, for practitioners (and their managers) in all areas of children's services, including Early Help, Children in Need, Child Protection and Adoption and Fostering who work with children and families to support and enhance the quality of assessments, analysis, decision making and planning for children, providing help and measuring outcomes following interventions.

The assessment, analysis and decision making resources:

- help practitioners at all levels in the children's workforce (qualified and unqualified) assess children and young people's well-being and safety
- provide an accessible set of evidence-based approaches and resources
- enable practitioners, children, young people and families to work together during the assessment process – identifying strengths and difficulties
- bring clarity to assessments, enabling them to be completed in a timely manner and generating clear plans of work with identifiable and measurable outcomes
- evidence successful change and improved well-being and safety of children and young people
- inform decisions and recommendations where harm or the risk of harm continues despite planned interventions
- help practitioners make plans for permanency and assess and support adoptive parents, foster carers and kinship carers.

What type of situations can the HfCF Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources be used in?

The resources are structured around the following stages:

- initial identification of need and/or harm
- gathering information during assessment. This includes:
 - exploring the child's experience, at home, school and elsewhere
 - parenting assessments
 - complex assessments of children and families
 - assessing the attachment style of parents and prospective carers
- establishing the nature and level of strengths and impairments of the child's health and development

- analysis of patterns of harm and protection
- predicting the outlook for the child if nothing in their family circumstances changes and assessing the prospects for intervention
- developing a plan of intervention and help consistent with the child's developmental timeframe
- identification of desired/planned outcomes for the child and how to measure change.

What do the resources include?

The HfCF assessment, analysis and decision making resources are available as part of a change programme which includes a series of training courses provided by C&FT or by Agency Based Trainers trained by C&FT. The training courses include:

- tools, instruments and assessment resources for use by practitioners
- practice techniques (interview, observation and recording skills)
- user guides for practitioners
- trainers guides to support training
- on line access to the resources and post training support.

Why might using the HfCF Assessment, Analysis and Decision Making Resources be helpful?

The assessment, analysis and decision making resources are consistent with the Children Act 1989 and compatible with the requirements of Working Together (2013), the practice expectations set out in the Ofsted framework for the inspection of Local Authority services for children and the Public Law Outline (2014).

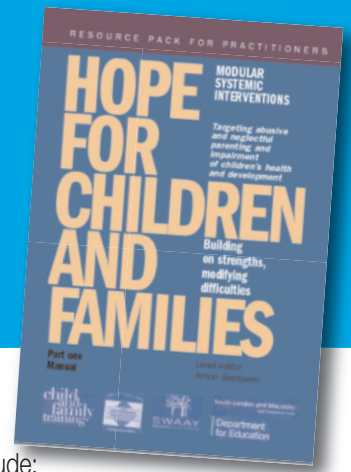
They enable practitioners at all levels of the children's workforce to:

- identify clearly a child's needs and any risk of harm
- identify strengths and difficulties in parenting, family functioning and history and wider environmental factors
- make plans for intervention and help that include identified and measurable outcomes
- provide evidence based assessments for courts in public and private law proceedings
- prepare reports for adoption and fostering panels.

For further information please contact:

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An Intervention Resource Pack for Practitioners



What is the Hope for Children and Families (HfCF) Intervention Resource Pack?

HfCF is a set of resources, developed by *Child and Family Training* and colleagues for staff who work with children and families to support and enhance the quality of direct work. It is designed to:

- Provide an accessible set of evidence-based approaches, resources and tools for direct work
- Empower practitioners, children, young people and families to work together – promoting strengths, addressing difficulties
- Prevent cases drifting, bringing structure to action plans and generating clear programmes of work
- Evidence successful change and improved well-being and safety of children and young people, or inform decisions and recommendations where harm or the risk of harm continues despite planned interventions.

What type of situations can the HfCF Intervention Resources be used in?

The resources are structured around the following practice themes:

- *Initial stages of work*: engagement and hope
- *Working with children and young people*: both general and specialist (problem-specific and disruptive behaviour)
- *Working with parents and carers*: promoting children and young people's health, development and well-being: understanding development; meeting children and young people's safety and physical needs and their emotional needs; positive parenting
- *Working with parents*: targeting abusive and neglectful parenting
- *Working with children and families*: promoting communication and managing conflict
- *Working with parents and carers to support children and young people who have been sexually abused and/or those children and young people responsible for harmful sexual behaviours.*

The HfCF Intervention Resources are compatible with the requirements of *Working Together* 2013, the practice expectations set out in the Ofsted framework for the inspection of Local Authority services for children and the *Public Law Outline* (2014).

What is in the resource?

The HfCF Intervention Resources, available in hard copy and on-line, include:

- *Practitioner briefings* (summarising theory and research, guidance and advice for intervention)
- *Modules* that can be linked together in a plan and programme of work (ideas, approaches, outline for direct work sessions, scripts, hints and tips for effective intervention)
- *Tools, instruments and direct work resources*

Why might using the HfCF Intervention Resources be helpful?

The *HfCF Intervention Resource Pack* is underpinned by an international literature review and work with expert practitioners, managers and researchers to identify 'what works'. It promotes an approach to practice based on the *common practice elements* that cut across many distinct specialist treatment protocols and specific clinical procedures and processes; and the *common factors* (such as personal and interpersonal components: alliance, client motivation, therapist/helper/practitioner relationship) significantly responsible for effective intervention outcomes.

How do the HfCF Resources link to other current initiatives in work with children and families?

They are being piloted as part of a two-year DfE-funded project addressing neglect and is part of *Child and Family Training's* on-going work to develop and promote evidence-based approaches to assessment, analysis and intervention with children, young people and families.

Who developed the HfCF Intervention Resources

Child and Family Training and its collaborators:

- The Lucy Faithful Foundation;
- South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust;
- SWAAY.

For further information please contact:

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