

### Stage 5: Child Protection Decision Making: The Safeguarding Analysis

- Profile of harm and impairment of the child's health and development
- Predict the likely outlook for child: the risks of re-abuse or likelihood of future harm (the systemic analysis)
- Determine the prospects for successful intervention
- Summary of safeguarding analysis

Stage 5 is concerned with predicting the likely future health and development of the child if they either continue to live at home or a return to their is being contemplated. This depends on the:

- **level of impairments or likely future impairments of the child's health and development**
- **likely outlook for the child if nothing changes**
- **modifiability of parenting (i.e. the capacity of parents to change)**

The modifiability of parenting is influenced by the:

- **Child-centredness of parents/carers**
  - o their ability to recognise harm to child (impairments of the child's health and development)
  - o their ability to recognise factors and processes leading to impairment of the child's health and development
- **Cooperation by the parents/carers**
  - o whether they acknowledge their part in processes leading to impairment of the child's health and development
  - o the readiness of parents to work with professionals
- **Consideration of past history**
  - o history of factors and processes in all the domains - *child's developmental needs, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors*
  - o in particular, evidence of severe or repeated incidents of harm; severe impairments of parental mental health or capacity to form satisfactory relationships
  - o parents' understanding and acknowledgment of impact of history of factors and processes
  - o history of previous involvement with agencies and professionals
- **Resources available to work with the child and family**

Stage 5 comprises three instruments and a summary. The instruments consider both 'static' and 'dynamic factors'. They are:

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The terms 'parent' and 'child' are used in all the following tables and grids because of the need for brevity. We do however mean 'parent or carer' and 'child or young person'.