**SAFeh Guidance**

**Questions to support practitioners**

This is NOT a script of questions to use with families just some prompts to help you consider whether you know enough information TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF A YOUNG PERSON.

Remember to assess proportionately to the needs, asking about only what appears relevant or unknown to you. You do NOT need to know the answer to all of the questions, but you should be sure that you have no outstanding concerns after the assessment.

It is critical that you are able to get a clear perspective from the parents about their experiences and concerns, as well as capturing the “Voice of the Child” themselves to check their perspective on what is happening.

The key is to be able to **evidence**;

**What is working well?**

**What are we worried about?**

**What needs to happen?**

**Children and Young peoples development**

1. **Health and physical development**

Are the children healthy? *Skin conditions, ongoing ailments, dental hygiene*

Do they have a lot of absences from educational establishment?

Do they have a healthy lifestyle?- *sleep, diet, exercise, weight, leisure activities, substance misuse, smoking etc*

Are they developing as expected? *Developmental milestones*

Are there any concerns about sexual health, drugs or alcohol?

1. **Education and Learning**

Have they learned and developed as expected up to now?

Are they able to communicate effectively with others?

Can they play appropriately?

Do they attend educational settings regularly and punctually?

Do they appear to be enjoying their experiences at an educational setting?

Are they achieving and learning as expected?

Any learning or special educational needs?

Has YP gained appropriate qualifications?

1. **Emotional and Behavioural development**

Do they appear emotionally and mentally healthy? *Self-harm, depression, anxiety*

Do they appear to feel safe?

Do they separate easily from parents/carers or other adults?

Are they over-reliant on adults for support?

Are they being bullied? OR do they bully others?

How do they behave in educational setting?

1. **Identity and self-image**

Are they confident in a variety of situations?

Can they cope with change?

Are they able to cope with daily challenges?

Can they make appropriate choices?

Any signs of experiencing discrimination?

YP ready to engage in FE?

YP have appropriate ambitions and aspirations?

YP at risk of NEET?

1. **Family and social relationships**

Do they have secure relationships with parent/carers?

Are they well cared for?

Do they have positive relationships with others?

Do they have an appropriate circle of friends?

Do they participate in any social or community activities?

1. **Social presentation**

How do they appear to others? *Clothed, hygiene, social ability*

Is their behaviour socially appropriate in a variety of situations?

Do they have appropriate standards about what is socially acceptable?

1. **Self-care skills**

Are they appropriately independent for their age or stage of development?

Do they have an appropriate understanding of risk?

Are they able to keep themselves safe?

Do they have an understanding about what is socially acceptable?

**Parental Strengths and Challenges**

1. **Basic care**

Do the children appear to be well cared for? *Fed, clothed, nurtured etc*

Are physical needs met?

Are there any indications of neglect?

One or two carers?

Whose job is it to look after the children/YP?

1. **Ensuring safety**

Is there risk of them running away from home?

Protection from accidental injury?

Any indications of non-accidental injuries?

1. **Emotional warmth**

Are emotional needs met?

Are there any signs of Domestic Abuse?

1. **Stimulation**

Do parent’s/carers participate in learning activities? *Play with, take out, take to groups*

Do parents facilitate learning? *Read with, provide learning materials*

1. **Guidance and boundaries**

Are there consistent and appropriate boundaries and routines?

What does the daily family routine look like?

What do the parents/carers do for the children/YP?

1. **Stability of home and care**

What are their experiences regarding significant changes? *care, movement between parents and carers, house moves, school moves*

Who makes decisions? *Discipline, money,*

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

1. **Family functioning**

Any indication or concerns about unmanaged physical health issues?

Any indication or concerns about unmanaged mental health issues?

Any indication or concerns about substance misuse? *Drugs, alcohol*

Do parents/carers feel able to parent effectively?

Are parents/carers able to meet basic care needs?

Are parents/carers able to meet emotional needs?

Is there a high turnover of adult carers?

Are the parents/carers able to support each other in parenting?

Can parents/carers resolve any conflicts appropriately?

How does the parents/carers relationship impact upon the children/YP?

1. **Family History**

What is the family structure?

How does the family function?

What are the parents/carers experiences of being parented?

Are there any unresolved issues from past traumas?

Any evidence or accounts of anti-social or criminal behaviour?

1. **Wider family**

How supportive or communicative are they?

What practical and/or emotional support do they provide?

Are they able to be protective?

1. **Housing**

Does the child live in an adequate home? *Clean, furnished, secure, overcrowded*

1. **Employment**

Do any of the parents/carers work?

Does it support family life?

1. **Income**

Is the family on benefits?

Do the parents/carers have a low income?

Are the family able to budget and meet all essential needs?

Are the children’s needs prioritised?

1. **Family’s social integration**

Does the family meet with friends regularly?

Are the friends local or at a distance?

Do the parents/carers have supportive friends?

Do the children/young people have positive relationships in the community?

1. **Community resources**.

Access to appropriate transport?

Do the family use community resources available? *Shops, Leisure, social groups*

If there are any other relevant details that need to be recorded, please ensure that you include them in the SAFeh assessment. Remember to also get consent from the family to submit the final copy.

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April 2016