

common assessment framework

Status of this initiative

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for children and young people is one of the elements in the delivery of integrated frontline services. This is outlined in the statutory guidance supporting interagency co-operation, and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (Act 2004). All local authorities and relevant partners have to take account of this guidance.

What is CAF?

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

Who is CAF for?

Children with additional needs.

What does the CAF consist of?

- A common process to enable practitioners to undertake a common assessment and then act upon the result.
- A standard form to record the assessment.
- A pre-assessment checklist which helps to decide who would benefit from a common assessment.

The assessment covers three domains: development of the child; parents and carers; and family and environment.

How does the CAF operate?

There are three main steps in completing a common assessment; Preparation, Discussion and Delivery.

CAF is designed to support families. The Nursery staff have good knowledge of the service, and are confident to support all Nursery users and their families.