

# Milton Keynes Early Help Assessment Form - Guidance Notes for Professionals

## Introduction

The Early Help Assessment is replacing the common assessment framework in Milton Keynes and forms part of the new Milton Keynes Early Help Strategy 2019-2020.

The Early Help Assessment should be a tool in its own right and not simply a referral mechanism. It can be used by a single agency to assess needs and strengths. However the same information can support a contact to social work services in relation to a child in need or child in need of protection. Please refer to the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Board "Levels of Need" document for guidelines on thresholds for intervention in Milton Keynes.

## Guide to completing the sections

The Milton Keynes Early Help Assessment draws on elements of the Signs of Safety Assessment and Planning Framework™ used by Milton Keynes Children's Social Care.

The Signs of Safety approach puts families at the centre of the process and draws on what is already working well in the family and how these strengths can be used to empower families to find their own solutions.

### What is working well?

Families are experts in their own family life and will possess information relating to strengths and resources within their family situation that may be developed to achieve wellbeing and positive outcomes.

### What are we worried about?

What are the presenting issues that have triggered the assessment? Have parents reported that they are struggling with some aspects of their childcare or other problems at home? Have there been issues in the past that may be re-emerging?

### Danger statement

If nothing changes, what are your worries for a child or young person? If the concerns continue what could be the outcome for the child or their family?

### Safety goals

What do you need to see to be satisfied that the worries identified have been addressed?

## What needs to happen?

These are the agreed actions that need to be put in place by the family and any professionals involved to address the worries identified.

## What happens next?

The completed form should be shared with parent /carers and they will need to sign to consent to their information being stored and shared with other relevant agencies. A copy should be sent to [children@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:children@milton-keynes.gov.uk) for audit purposes.

## Suggested outcomes

- Single agency approach – providing advice and guidance on the presenting issues
- Team Around the Family – to co-ordinate agencies and support already involved with the family
- Signposting or referral to specialist or community support organisations
- Family are escalated to MASH – MARF to be completed and sent with EHA