

Use of the CAF (Common Assessment Framework)

The CAF has a key role to play in delivering prevention and early intervention and in identifying support for children and young people early on, to prevent referral to a specialist service such as social care.

CAF is not used if the child or young person might be at significant risk of harm, if social care is already involved, or there is a crisis situation.

DO use a CAF

When a holistic assessment would be helpful

It is sent to the Early Intervention and Prevention team when

- there appear to be unmet needs which cannot be met by your service
- exclusion from school is a possibility if issues out of school are not addressed
- several services are required and a Team around the Child will facilitate this

Having identified that a child or young person is vulnerable the CAF is used to establish the strengths and needs of an individual child or young person. The assessment **must** be completed **with** the child / young person and/or their parents.

DON'T use a CAF

- The child / young person or family does not wish to be involved in the process
- When despite the issues in the family there is no significant impact on the child
- The support required is for the parents/carers
- There are multiple agencies already involved - If the support is not integrated convene a professionals' meeting. If this shows there are unmet needs then a CAF might be the right course of action
- There is only one service needed – make a direct referral
- A statutory agency is already taking the role of Lead Professional

Support through integrated processes is often focused on children and young people who are experiencing one or more of the factors at level 2 of the 4 level model of need, and these are having an adverse impact on the child or young person's well being and development. Some needs at level 3 could also trigger a CAF.

You should use your judgement about whether you think a child or young person has additional needs, and a CAF could be helpful.

For more information contact the Early Intervention and Prevention team on 01494 586363; or caf@buckscc.gov.uk