

## What is Family Common Assessment Framework (FCAF)

For some years services and agencies across the city have used the child Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to identify needs of individual vulnerable children. This has not routinely taken account of wider family problems which lie at the root of those experienced by individual children or adult members.

The FCAF assesses all family members and improves the identification of and support to families experiencing problems. As a result of this assessment coordinated packages of support for the whole family can be put in place to help improve outcomes for children and families.

This replaces the CAF as the assessment to complete where potential additional needs are identified. The FCAF does not replace specialist assessments but could form the foundation of such assessments.

## Where can I find the FCAF?

You can download a copy of the FCAF to complete from the FCAF webpage.

An FCAF can be completed by hand or electronically.

## Further information

Further information including a list of frequently asked questions can be found online.

If you have questions about the FCAF that are not answered on the webpage you can email [familyCAF@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:familyCAF@sheffield.gov.uk)

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/familycaf](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/familycaf)

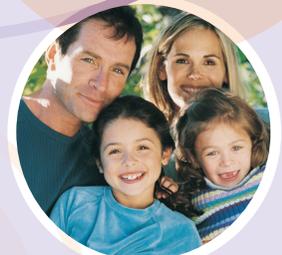
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Children, Young People and Families  
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# Family Common Assessment Framework (FCAF)

## Information for Workers



## Benefits of whole family assessments include

- Strengthening engagement with the whole family in assessing needs and therefore providing a more comprehensive and streamlined approach to whole family assessment.
- Identifying additional needs that may have previously stopped a family from engaging with support or making progress.
- Identifying additional needs that may help indicate gaps in current support services.
- A more accurate assessment of need by undertaking a more thorough assessment process.
- Encouraging early intervention leading to potential cost savings before a situation reaches a crisis.
- Responding to the need to work in a more integrated way across child and adult services.
- Aiming to reduce duplications of work for service providers by improving joint assessments



- Taking a whole family approach to supporting families with multiple needs will help services in meeting their local priorities and objectives.
- Encouraging the use of an assessment tool by adult services/agencies that have not historically used such a tool.
- Moving away from single agency driven referrals and support towards responding collectively to multi-agency information.
- Reinforcing and encouraging the use of a holistic assessment with families.

## Who this affects

Any worker across children and adult services can and should initiate an FCAF where potential additional needs are identified. Therefore, the implementation of FCAF will affect many workers across the city.

For example from, Schools, Health services including Health Visitors, Midwives and GPs, Housing, Early Years and Childcare services, Police, MAST and Social Care, Community Youth Teams (this is not an exhaustive list).



## Training

A programme of training is available for workers. The first stage of this training is a short E-Learning module to raise awareness of FCAF. This is available for anyone who wants to know more about this assessment. Following the E-Learning module is training targeted at workers that may complete an assessment with a family.

It is strongly recommended that workers complete both parts of the training programme prior to undertaking an assessment with a family.

Information on how to access the training can be found online at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/familycaf](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/familycaf) or through your FCAF champion(s) in your service area. Details of FCAF champion(s) are available at this web address also.

If you have not yet received training in completing an FCAF but have identified the need to undertake an assessment and require support in doing so, you can contact:

