

When to complete a Common Assessment Framework – some initial guidance

Current position

Since 2003, the policy of Connexions Nottinghamshire has been to complete an assessment using the APIR assessment tool for every young people with a priority group one individual circumstance – see Table One below.

Table One – Priority Group One Individual Circumstances

PG1 - Care Leaver
PG1 - Child at risk of harm or subject of a child protection plan
PG1 - Child looked after
PG1 - Cultural Barriers
PG1 - Drugs, Alcohol or other substance misuse preventing engagement in learning
PG1 - EWO Referral
PG1 - Has LEA Statement
PG1 - Has School Action Plus
PG1 - In Custody/Left Custody
PG1 - Long term illness
PG1 - No Fixed Abode/Hostel/Bed & Breakfast
PG1 - Non English Speaker
PG1 - Not on Sch Roll
PG1 - On a PRU Roll
PG1 - Operations Managers Discretion
PG1 - Permanent Exclusion
PG1 - Pregnant
PG1 - Provision Plus - Not attending School, though funded by school
PG1 - Refugee/Asylum Seeker
PG1 - Young Carer
PG1 - Young Offender/YOS Referral
PG1 - Young Parent

Proposed position – as from the 1st April 2008

Action Note 219 on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) from the DfES states the following with regard to Connexions and the Common Assessment Framework:

What this means for Youth Support Services/ Connexions

The dimensions of the CAF are broadly similar to those of the APIR's assessment, but the CAF provides an opportunity for an holistic, in-depth assessment which can be used as the starting point for a more specialist assessment if one is required. Increasingly, the CAF will be the standard used by local services for children and young people. To establish the CAF fully within youth support services and Connexions, the DfES has decided that the Assessment ('A') element of the APIR should be replaced by the

CAF. It will be for individual services using the APIR to decide locally with their partners the exact timeframe within which this change takes place.

Following the guidance in Action Note 219 and the developing picture in the City and County, it is proposed that Connexions Nottinghamshire will undertake the completion of the Common Assessment Framework (including the CAF documentation) in the following circumstances:

- A.** Where a young person has one of the following priority group one individual circumstances then a CAF must be completed unless access is given to Connexions to an existing assessment (e.g. YOS's or YOT's Asset assessment or Social Care & Health's Pathway Plans)

Table Two - Priority Group One Individual Circumstances Requiring a CAF to be completed

PG1 - Care Leaver
PG1 - Child at risk of harm or subject of a child protection plan
PG1 - Child looked after
PG1 - Drugs, Alcohol or other substance misuse preventing engagement in learning
PG1 - EWO Referral
PG1 - Has LEA Statement
PG1 - Has School Action Plus
PG1 - In Custody/Left Custody
PG1 - Young Offender/YOS Referral

Or

- B.** Where a partner is already working / supporting the young person – apart from a learning provider if applicable

Or

- C.** Where the Connexions Personal Adviser wants to involve a partner - apart from a learning provider if applicable

For all other young people with another priority group one individual circumstance an assessment would be undertaken using the headings from the Common Assessment Framework documentation. All exiting APIR assessment documentation, including the existing APIR wheel, will be changed to incorporate the CAF headings.

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NB To be reviewed in January 2008 – due to the developing agenda regarding Integrated Services