

Westmorland and Furness
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Home Conditions Assessment Tool

This short assessment tool is designed to help practitioners identify and reflect on potentially worrying home conditions that may impact a child's wellbeing. It contributes to wider assessments completed by the relevant agency, supporting a holistic understanding of the child's lived experience.

When to use this tool

It can be used alongside the 'Day in My Life tool' where home conditions are of particular concern.

How to use this tool

The Home Conditions Assessment is most effective when completed in partnership with parents and carers. Working together in this way promotes openness and helps build a shared understanding of any areas of concern. It supports meaningful dialogue about the home environment and enables practitioners to assess how living conditions may be affecting the child. This collaborative approach also encourages families to take the lead in developing plans to address and improve home conditions.

Date of completion:

Name(s) and age(s) of children:

Practitioner undertaking assessment

Name:

Team:

Service:

Level of Intervention:

Universal Services

External Family Help

Targeted Family Help

Childrens Social Care

Type of home visit conducted to complete this tool

Announced

Unannounced

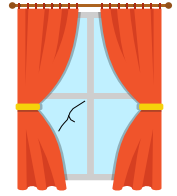
Who did you complete the tool with?

For each of the areas below, think about:

- What you've noticed
- How parents feel about it—whether they're concerned or have an explanation
- What this might mean for the child- what's the impact on them

Living Space

(Furniture broken, no seating, floor space cluttered and/or dirty, evidence of hoarding, general decorative order poor – obviously in need of attention (e.g. badly stained wallpaper, broken windows/doors, surfaces not been dusted for a considerable period of time)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Odour

(Noticeable smells in the home, such as smoke, damp or mould, food that's gone off, pet odours, or urine)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Kitchen

(Floor soiled covered in bits/crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces, kitchen sink/ draining board, work surfaces or cupboard doors are dirty and have not been washed for a considerable period of time, cooking implements, cutlery or crockery showing ingrained dirt and or items remain unwashed until they are needed again)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Bathroom

(The toilet, bath, shower, sink and floor are clean showing no ingrained dirt, there are items available to look after yourself such as toothbrushes/toothpaste, toilet roll, soap, shampoo and towels are clean/available)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Sleeping arrangements

(The child has a bed and mattress that suits their age and needs, with clean, dry bedding in place. The bed is in good condition, there are no signs of locks or bolts on the outside of the bedroom door, and there is a handle on the inside that enables the child to open their bedroom door)

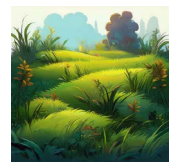


Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Garden

(Garden is a safe place for the children to play, it's not overgrown, there are no dangerous items, broken toys or rubbish)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Care of child

(Baby essentials like sterilising equipment, formula milk, and nappies are available. There are toys in the home, although some may be broken or not quite suitable for the child's age or stage of development. Children have space and freedom to play, and they're being supervised in a way that's appropriate for their age)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Appearance

(Adults and children's clothes are clean, fit them well, there is evidence that they are showering/bathing regularly, no evidence of dirty nails/skin, there hair is washed and brushed- no evidence of head lice)

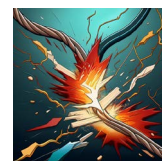


Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Health and Safety

(Hazards in the home such as; aggressive/dangerous pets, no safety gates, no fire alarms, broken electrical equipment drug paraphernalia in reach of the child, rodent infestation or damage)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Utilities

(Does the family have access to heating, electricity, hot water)



Describe observations, parents' views, and likely impact on the child(ren) living in the home:

Describe area of concern identified:

Parent/carer views

Things parents or carers feel should be focused on first

1.

2.

3.

4.

Things the worker feels should be focused on first (if different from what parents or carers feel is most important)

1.

2.

3.

4.

Agreed next steps

(Next steps should be developed collaboratively with the parent or carer, including consideration of referrals to appropriate services for additional support or where safeguarding concerns are identified.)

Action	When	By who

Consent

Parents give permission for relevant information to be shared with appropriate agencies to support the child and family.

Yes No

Information will only be shared or referrals made with the consent of the child or parent, unless there are safeguarding concerns and seeking consent could place the child at risk.

Adapted and developed from: [The-Family-Pack-of-Questionnaires-and-Scales.pdf](#)