

1 Background

Learning from Practice Learning Reviews, Thematic Inspections and Multi-agency Audits frequently highlight missed opportunities as a consequence of poor quality assessments. Too many assessments do not include the views of children, and are found to be too focused on the adults' needs.

It is paramount that the child's lived experience is captured by all professionals.

2 Toolkit

The Halton Multi-agency Assessment Toolkit was developed to support those working with children and families to more easily and effectively identify specific needs/risks so that targeted interventions can follow.

The use of these as reflective tools used to inform supervision, assessment and direct work with children and their families.

3 Information

Working Together 2018 lists the following as features of a high quality assessment:

- They are child-centered and informed by the views of the child;
- Decisions are made in the best interests of the child;
- They are rooted in child development and Informed by evidence;
- They build on strengths as well as identifying difficulties;
- They ensure equality of opportunity and a respect for diversity including family; Structures, culture, religion and ethnic origin; **and They are a continuing process, not a single event.**

7 Important Links

Integrated Contact and Referral Team (iCART)-**referring to iCART**
[Contact and Referral Team | HALTON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP \(halton safeguarding.co.uk\)](#)

[iCART referral | HBC forms \(halton.me\)](#)

Halton Assessment Tool Kit [Halton Assessment Tool Kit and Screening Tools | HALTON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP \(halton safeguarding.co.uk\)](#)



4 Who should use this tool kit?

These tools are available for any services, schools or organisations who work with children & families in Halton.

All professionals need to be familiar with the tools provided & know when & how to use them. Managers should facilitate practitioner's attendance at relevant training events to support the use of these tools and seek assurance in supervision that they are completed where appropriate.

5 The tools MUST be used in the following;

- To support the commencement of a MAP (Multi Agency Plan) assessment.
- To step a case up to statutory services where a MAP is not having the desired outcomes for the child.
- To review progress of a MAP, CIN or Child Protection Plan to demonstrate the impact of an intervention & if the desired improvements are being achieved.
- When closing a case to demonstrate that needs are met or risk has reduced.

6 These tools are incredibly useful & by completing them, you are contributing towards a better quality assessment....

When an iCART referral is required, it is important to ensure that you provide sufficient, appropriate information to support with decision making. In order to assist with doing this, complete one or more of the assessment tools, when appropriate. Submitting an Assessment tool with your referral would be useful to assist with the Identification of level of need / allocation of appropriate support, & if not submitted on referral you may be asked to do so whilst the iCART screening is ongoing.

The tools can additionally be used wider, such as in team meetings, as part of group/individual supervision, or for own development.