



What's in it for you and your child?

- Early planning to support the development of babies, children and young people
- An assessment that identifies strengths and solutions with your family
- An assessment that can be used across different services, so you shouldn't need to keep giving the same information to different people
- Better co-ordination of services by different services/teams
- A Lead Professional is the main contact for you and your son/daughter



## Common Assessment Information for parents and carers

This leaflet has been created to help you understand the Common Assessment Framework.



If you need further information please contact:

Worker's name .....

Service/Team .....

Phone number .....

.....

You can also contact the Change for Children and Young People Co-ordinator on 01942 828844.

This leaflet is also available in other languages, on audio tape or CD and in large print. Contact us at Wigan Safeguarding Children Board, Wigan Council, 7 Worsley Terraces, Standishgate, Wigan, WN1 1XW or on the above telephone number. Children and Young People's Services promotes equality and celebrates diversity.

## Common Assessment Information for parents and carers



# What is a Common Assessment?

**All babies, children and young people deserve the best start in life. To make sure this happens, some children and their families need extra help.**

The purpose of a Common Assessment is to help identify children's needs and family's strengths. It is done with parents to agree what additional services a child and family might need. Any agency working with babies, children and young people can complete this assessment with you – this should lead to children's needs being identified earlier. It will also improve planning of services and reduce the need for families to provide the same information to different people.

**A common assessment cannot guarantee services will be provided - some services will need to make decisions based on a family's particular situation.**

When might an assessment be done on my son/daughter?

The needs of most children will be met by professionals with whom they are already in contact. However, a teacher, a health visitor or a worker from another service might be concerned that a child has additional needs that are not being met. This professional will be the one to talk to you about a common assessment.

Parents / carers or young people will need to think about whether this is the right action for them. A common assessment will only be done where you and your son/daughter give permission (consent). You will also be asked about sharing information with other professionals, either as part of the assessment process or when the assessment is complete.



What happens next?

A professional who is carrying out the assessment will meet you and your child to ask some questions and complete the assessment. When it's finished, you will be given your own copy.

The assessment should lead to a plan and perhaps to a meeting with other professionals involved with you and your child, to decide on the actions that need to be taken.

This meeting will also agree who will be the Lead Professional if two or more services are involved. This will probably be the worker you have most contact with - it is their job to ensure the agreed plan is carried out and progress is reviewed. They are the person to contact if you have any questions.

