



Checklist No 4: *Early Observations of Parents and Carers*⁴

Who can use this Checklist and when can it be used?

All practitioners and managers in all services/agencies can use this Checklist to reflect further on any worries or concerns they may have witnessed or identified from recent contact with and/or observations of parents/carers. This is a self-reflective Checklist which can be completed with or without the parent/carer.

Name of Child or Young Person					Age		Date of Birth	
No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Notes			
1	<i>Change in presentation - appearance and emotionally?</i>							
2	<i>Failing to keep appointments?</i>							
3	<i>Unusual events eg police involved?</i>							
4	<i>Short temper - use of harsh language?</i>							
5	<i>Missing cues from children?</i>							
6	<i>A&E admission or accidents?</i>							

(continued over)

⁴ Source: Developed (with kind permission) from Fife CPC's *Practitioner's Guide: Early Response Children Affected by Parental Submission Misuse (CAPSM)*.

(continued)

No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Notes
7	<i>Employment issues eg Mondays off?</i>				
8	<i>Intoxication?</i>				
9	<i>Change in partner?</i>				
10	<i>Non-attachment?</i>				
11	<i>Late presentation in pregnancy and/or poor attendance?</i>				
12	<i>Poor attendance?</i>				
13	<i>Attending clinics, school and/or meetings smelling of alcohol?</i>				
14	<i>Associating with bad characters eg known drug users?</i>				
15	<i>Families have no boundaries?</i>				
16	<i>Criminality - eg shoplifting?</i>				
17	<i>Professionals can't get access to house?</i>				

(continued over)

(continued)

No	Question	Yes	No	Not Sure	Notes
18	<i>Routines slipping or lacking?</i>				
19	<i>Parents not knowing where children are?</i>				
20	<i>Always asking for money for basics?</i>				

What is the information telling me?

Using this Checklist, analyse the information gathered and ask yourself the key question, **“what is this information telling me?”**.

Consider the information gathered and identify the key risk factors for the child or young person or the parent/carer and their wider world. The Checklist will highlight the specific areas of concern/need/risk (your evidence) and should give you an overview of what you consider to be the key issues.

Now form a view as to the level of concern/need/risk for the child or young person or the parent/carer, taking account of the interaction between the child or young person or the parent/carer and their wider world.

What is the information telling you about the level of concern/need/risk?

What is the information telling me about the level of concern/need/risk? (Consider frequency, duration, severity, single or accumulative in nature - significance of factors in reaching a conclusion about the level of concern/need/risk).

What am I going to do next?

Date Completed		Completed By		Line Manager	
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