

**Family Number:**

### Risk Assessment for Home-Visiting Guide & Template

**To be completed for all families to ensure the safety of both families and volunteers/staff** (part of Family File)

- **Please read and familiarise yourself with the work that is assigned to you.**
- **Please review this assessment at each family review and when circumstances change and update as necessary.**

The key point to remember is that risk assessment is **dynamic**. This means that risks change over time as family circumstances change. They can lessen, increase, or remain the same. To keep staff and volunteers' safe and protect children and adults at risk from harm, it is important that the risk assessment is reviewed not only when circumstances change but also at each service review meeting with the family and updated where necessary.

This template is a recording tool and serves as a guide. Although we strongly recommended that you cover all parts of the template at the initial visit, you may not have to ask all the questions directly of the family. You may already know some of the answers through the information that you have received in the referral or covered with the family when you are completing the initial home visit template. It is okay to use this information in the risk assessment if it is up to date. This will avoid duplicating questions that may be of a sensitive nature and trigger past trauma for the family. By not duplicating questions you also demonstrate that you have listened to what the family have told you in other conversations.

#### **Principles of risk assessment**

The main aim of the risk assessment is to ensure the health and safety of the employee or volunteer when visiting the family home. If risks are identified, actions to reduce harm must be identified, recorded, and taken. In some circumstances, the risks may be too high for home visiting to safely take place.

- You should make families aware of who will have access to the information recorded and why they need to access it.
- The risk assessment should not be seen in isolation from your responsibilities to protect children and adults at risk in the family. The answers you are given to some questions may trigger health and safety concerns for the employee and volunteer, but they may also trigger safeguarding concerns for children and other members of the family. If that is the case, you should follow your Home-Starts safeguarding procedures.
- You will not always be able to fully understand risks at the initial visit. Other information may come to light as you build the relationship with the family. We know for example, that parents tend to underestimate their children's awareness of (for example seeing or hearing) past domestic abuse when asked directly. You may not get a fully accurate answer to those types of questions at the initial visit when the family does not know you.
- Risk assessments must be kept updated to remain useful and the most recent risk assessment should be easily accessible to staff and volunteers.
- You should consider using some form of 'flag' for families where there are significant risks so that all employees and volunteers who deliver a service to that family are alerted.

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Areas to be Considered	Initial Visit	Review	Review	Review	Review
<b>Date of Visit/Reviews:</b>					
Does the family have a preferred visiting day/time? AM/PM					
Will you need to visit out of office hours?					
Who is expected to be in the home when the volunteer visits?					
Are any visitors likely to be present or other family members, on occasions?					
What is the best way to communicate with the family about visits? Email address, if available:					
Which rooms will the volunteer be using? Are there any health and safety hazards?					
Are there any environmental health issues regarding the property?					
Are there any pets? If so, what are they and where are they kept? Have they ever bitten anyone and would it be ok to put them in a different room if necessary? Are they classified as 'dangerous' in UK law? There is guidance on @Home.					
Does anyone in the household smoke or vape? If yes where?					
Does any member of the household use (other than prescribed) and/or deal drugs? If so, what?					

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Does any member of the household drink alcohol excessively?					
Does the family have any visitors who abuse drugs or alcohol?					
Does any member of the household have behavioural issues which could cause harm to a volunteer such as violent or aggressive behaviour? If YES, do we know what triggers this behaviour?					
Is any family member subject to domestic abuse or have they been in the past? If YES, please see additional risk assessment questions at the end of this template?					
Does a family member(s) have previous convictions?					
Does a family member(s) have criminal associates?					
Does any family member(s) have physical health problems?					
Are there any physical health conditions that may cause unmanaged symptoms (such as diabetic hypos or epileptic fits)?					
Does any family member(s) have mental health problems?					
Has any family member(s) caused harm to themselves or others? If YES, do we know any triggers for this behaviour?					
Does the parent(s) have learning disabilities, which could make them vulnerable to exploitation?					
Are any members of the family neuro divergent? What is their preferred way of communication? ADHD Foundation, the Neuro Diversity Charity: Early Years <a href="#">resources</a>					
Are any of children on a Child Protection plans or Children in Need plans? If YES, do you have access to and understand the risks identified in the plan?					
<b>Areas to be considered</b>					
Home Environment: Cleanliness					

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Equipment to be used. Products to be used. H&S – trailing wires etc					
Is the home easy to find, with good access and well lit? Is it on a public transport route?					
Is the neighbourhood safe?					
Is their safe parking outside or near to the home?					
Is there good mobile phone signal reception in the home? Outside the home?					
Will the volunteer be looking after the children in the home? If so which child(ren) and where? <b><u>Only with parent present.</u></b>					
How does the family engage with other agencies?					
Is there a possibility the volunteer would be threatened by a member of the family?					
Will the volunteer be travelling with the family? If so, how?					
Will the volunteer be taking children in their car?					
Does the family have appropriate car seats, if relevant?					
Any other potential risks?					
Have there been any changes since the last risk assessment?					

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<b>What is the overall level of risk to lone working in the family home (LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH)?</b>					
<b>Agreed Actions with Management Oversight (Please specify actions that need to be followed to support safety):</b>					
<b>Name of person completing risk assessment and date:</b>					
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>					
<b>Areas to be Considered</b>	<b>Initial Visit</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>
Is it safe for staff to visit the family in the home?					
Is the survivor receiving support from any agency specialising in supporting survivors of domestic abuse?					
Is it safe for a volunteer to support the family in the home?					
Is the perpetrator likely to be in the home when the volunteer is due to visit?					
Is the survivor in contact with the perpetrator?					
Does the perpetrator know about the Home-Start support?					
Is it safe to leave documents and literature about Home-Start with the family?					
Is abuse taking place now or in the past?					

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What is the nature of the abuse?					
Are there any restrictions placed on the perpetrator about contacting the survivor and/or the children?					
Have the children been in the same room when the abuse takes place?					
Have the children been involved in the abuse?					
Have the children heard the abuse or seen injuries?					
Has the behaviour of the children changed?					
Is Home-Start support a safety issue for the family?					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a referral been made to children's social care?</li> <li>• Is children's social care involved?</li> <li>• Do you need to make a referral to social care?*</li> </ul> <p>*Being exposed to domestic abuse is child abuse and must be raised as a safeguarding concern.</p>					