

Generating a shared response to child and family needs through the Common Assessment Framework – an introduction to practice'

This open lecture will outline key messages from research into implementing a common assessment framework (CAF) to be used by professionals involved with children who need to share concerns at the earliest point. The early identification of need is a key objective of the Children Act 2004 (s25) and hence the introduction of a CAF to deliver swift multi-agency working, better information sharing and to eliminate repeat assessments, is now part of a more collaborative future envisaged for children's services. The CAF is now being introduced by local authorities in Wales and England. The session will identify, through recent research in Wales and England the way the CAF is designed around key categories of child development, parenting and environmental issues. The presentation will provide examples of a common assessment framework and discuss related training issues.