

Appendix 6.1

The Person Posing A Risk To Children Assessment Framework (PPRTC Assessment Framework)

Introduction and guidance notes

A Home Office Review of Schedule 1 in 2004 identified that the term *Schedule 1 Offender* is ill defined and to a certain extent unhelpful since it defines people by their offending history rather than any risks they may pose. The Home Office has therefore concluded the term *Schedule 1 Offender* should be replaced with 'Risk to Children' (RTC). This clearly indicates that the person has been identified as presenting a risk, or potential risk, to children

This tool is designed to provide a framework for assessing the risk posed by such individuals, who may or may not be convicted. For convenience they are referred to as PPR (Person Posing Risk/potential risk to children) throughout this document

It is intended for use as a framework for discussion with the PPR and other members of the household, (not a form to be completed) when social workers become aware of such an individual living in a household with children, or having contact with a household with children.

The headings below can be used as appropriate for individual sections of a written report containing factual information and an analysis of that information. The information is obtained by a series of planned interviews, by associated observation of the household interaction, and by information from other agencies. The bullet points in the following framework are intended as a checklist guide to the areas to be covered and the framework should not be used as a form to be completed.

The task is to assess the degree of risk and consider whether it is acceptable/manageable in the light of other factors. However, Service Managers must bear in mind the PPRTC assessment takes several weeks. They are responsible for deciding whether there is an evident high risk requiring immediate action to safeguard children, in addition to, or instead of, the commissioning of such an assessment.

When planning the PPRTC assessment social work managers should consider whether the worker conducting the assessment should be independent - i.e. not directly involved in working with the family in question.

The PPRTC assessment should be conducted openly with the individual concerned, the children, and all the other members of the household. As the risk assessment will normally require a series of discussions over a period of weeks, an assessment plan should be drawn up and shared with the PPR. When the report is completed, the PPR is entitled to receive a copy of the sections that refer to him.

On completion of the information gathering, interviews and observations, the written assessment is then compiled for submission to the Service Manager, who will decide whether the children are sufficiently safeguarded for the plan to be endorsed.

It is important for those undertaking PPRTC assessments to bear in mind the importance of the following factors:

- Consulting other professionals who know the family
- Obtaining clear information about offences, cautions, allegations, and findings of fact
- Awareness of the process of the assessment – the development of relationships with the interviewer, attitude to authority
- Observations of family interactions
- Any changes in attitude/response depending on who is present at interviews
- Cultural factors

The PPRTC Assessment Framework

Section 1 Introduction

- Name, date of birth any alias of PPR, current address
- Name, date of birth, address of child
- Reason for the assessment eg, request for contact with a child, wishes to live in household with a child
- Agencies contacted during the assessment of the PPR:
Police, Prison, Probation, CYPS, Housing, G.P, Community Mental Health, Other (please state)
- Frequency of contact with the PPR
- Agencies contacted during the assessment of the child and their family
G.P, H.V, Nursery, E.W.O, School, Community Mental Health, Community Paediatrician, Dentist, YOT, Police, School Nurse, Other
(Please state)
- Has the child been seen alone (if age appropriate)
- Frequency of contact with the child and family

Section 2 The PPR behaviours of concern

- Details of offences, suspected offences against children, convictions, cautions, findings of fact, allegations, generalised concerns
- Details of any current orders in force, e.g. Probation Order, Registered Sex Offender, Notification Order, Sex Offenders Prevention Order, Risk of Sexual Harm Order, License
- What information is known about other families that the PPR has been involved with
- Number, ages, gender and characteristics of victims, and their relationship to PPR
- Evidence of planning and or involvement with other PPR's
- Offences against adults
- Has the PPR shared concerning information/images with other PPR's, eg, shared photographs, made videos, via the internet
- If there are concerns that the PPR has been involved in non-contact offences, for example, accessing images on the internet, have the risks been increased by his use of more than one computer, his dishonesty in respect of his access to computers, etc

Personal responsibility for the behaviour of concern:

- Does the PPR blame the victim, partner, external factors, personal history, substance misuse etc
- What degree of personal responsibility is shown
- Can the PPR see things from the victim's point of view

Attitude to victims:

- What is the PPR's view of the victims
- What is the PPR's opinion about what it was about that child/those children that led to the offences?

Openness:

- Does the PPR engage and co-operate with the assessment and volunteer information
- Does the information given check out against police/probation information
- What information have they provided to the child's main carer. Is this accurate

Therapeutic input:

- Has the PPR taken part in any treatment programme since the offences
- Give details of this and his level of level of compliance/ co-operation/involvement
- If not, would PPR be willing to participate
- Has there been any risk assessments already completed in respect of the PPR. If so, what were the details/recommendations of these? How relevant do you feel the recommendations of these assessments are in relation to this risk assessment

Section 3 Family and environmental factors of the PPR

Factors that may impact of the PPR's behaviour:

(Please refer to the Core Assessment Framework)

- Mental illness/learning disability
- Physical disability
- Poor experience of being parented, childhood abuse, living outside the family unit or care history

- History of violence
- Past or current involvement in drug misuse
- Past or current alcohol abuse

Family history, relationships and well being:

- PPR's description of his family history, past and current relationships with extended family
- Experience at school, including relationships, attainment, value of education
- Historical involvement in criminal behaviour/antisocial behaviour
- Historical and current employment status
- Impact of any problems experienced by other family members, for eg, illness, bereavement or loss
- What friends and social contacts does he have
- How does the PPR describe himself. What is his self- image and self-esteem
- How stable is his lifestyle
- What hobbies and pastimes does he have

Section 4 The Child and their family

- Name and age of the child the PPR intends to have/has contact with
- Are they known to CYPS. If so why
- Details of who they live with and their wider family network
- The PPR's status/relationship to the child
- Any welfare or developmental issues in respect of the child vulnerability/capacity to protect themselves
- The level of involvement by the PPR with the child – frequency, where taking place, who else present, purpose of contact etc.
- The wishes and feelings of the child in relation to contact with this person (If the child is preverbal state what you think the child would want)
- Include a view about whether you think the child's views are freely given or whether they may be under pressure, e.g. from mother wanting a relationship with the PPR

Information about the main carer of the child:

- Name, date of birth

- Are they known to CYPS If so, why
- What is your assessment of their parenting capacity to protect from harm. (Please refer to the dimensions of the core assessment framework)
- Are there any factors which impact on the parents/'carer's capacity to protect from harm, for example, physical/mental illness, disability, poor experience of being parented, care history, childhood abuse, history of violence, alcohol, substance misuse. Please refer to the dimensions of the core assessment framework
- Relationship to the PPR, length of contact
- Attitude to PPR's previous offences/history
- Consideration and practical arrangements for safeguarding the child
- Social support network of the main carer
- Social support network of the child within the family
- Social support network of the child outside of the family, including professional contacts

Section 5 Support and monitoring systems

- Describe the proposed support and monitoring arrangements for this family i.e. the child, the PPR, and the non-abusing parent; include frequency of proposed professional contact
- Give details of the process that will be used for sharing relevant information with other professionals involved with the family

Section 6 Analysis

- Risk factors
- Protective factors
- Detailed recommendations based on balancing the risk factors against the protective factors

Section 7

- Name and contact details of social worker completing the assessment
- Signed and dated
- Comments/endorsement by social work manager
- Signed and dated

Section 8 Decision of Service Manager

- Decision
- Comments
- Any further information needed
- Monitoring/ reviewing arrangements

Section 9

- Name and contact details of Service Manager

- Signed and dated

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N.B. For additional information and in order to weigh the significance of risk factors and protective factors, staff assessing PPRs should refer to:

- Risk Assessment and Risk Management Code of Practice and Guidelines – Trevor Owen 1999
- Schedule 1 PPRs – Offences against Children – Guidance and Definitions – Trevor Owen July 2005
- Department of Health (2000) Framework for the Assessment of Children In Need and their Families. London: The Stationary Office

Available from the Child Protection Unit Children and Young Peoples Directorate