SCODA Assessment Framework

Framework for assessing problem drug use and impact on parenting

This assessment framework has been adapted and expanded from guidelines produced by the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (SCODA 1997)

**Child assessment is undertaken for**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Child Name   | Child DOB  | Child Address   |
|   |   |   |

**Family composition**

* Maternal Family
* Paternal Family

**Reason for assessment**

* Drug use
* Contact proposed or taking place with child

**Agencies contacted**

* List agencies

**Frequency of contact**

* What contact is the PPRC proposing to have with the child?
* What contact is the PPRC already having with the child? Supervised?

**Section 2**

**Basic Care Needs**

**Basic Care/Development**

Discuss the child’s current basic care

* Who do they live with?
* How are they developing?

**Consistency of childcare**

* Do substances impact the consistency of care and contact?
* Give Overview of circumstances for child. Is the child always being left with a safe adult?
* Are there non-drug using adults in the family readily accessible to the child who can provide appropriate care and support when necessary**?**
* Who is providing safe care?

**Analysis**

* Are concerns acknowledged?
* Have the drugs have an impact on the care of the child?
* Are other factors playing a part in the substance misuse?

**Section 3**

**Describing parental drug use**

**Category of drug use**

* What drugs are used?
* Method of use? Smoke, Inject, Snort?

**Does the user move between these types of drug use at different times?**

* What does use look like?

**Does the parent misuse alcohol?**

* Make comment is their evidence?

**How reliable is current information about the parent's drug use?**

* Is it factual?
* Is the parent concealing use?
* What is our evidence?

**Is there a drug free parent, supportive partner or relative?**

* Yes/No who is it?

**Is the quality of parenting or childcare different when a parent is using drugs and when not using?**

* Make comment, what is the impact on the child?
* What are your observations of the parent when using as opposed to not using?

**Does the parent have any mental health problems alongside drug use? If so, how are mental health problems affected by the parent's drug use? Are mental health problems directly related to drug use?**

* Make comment on relationship between mental health and the drug use.
* How is the mental health managed?

**Where are the children when their parents are procuring drugs or getting supervised methadone? Are they left alone? Are they taken to unsuitable places where they might be at risk, such as street meeting places, flats, needle exchanges, adult clinics?**

* Make comment on who the child is with when use is occurring.

**Health risks**

**Where in the household do parents store drugs?**

* Are they locked away?
* Are they stored at home?
* Could the child access them?

**What precautions do parents take to prevent their children getting hold of their drugs? Are these adequate?**

* What is the safety plan?
* Do parents acknowledge the risk of children being exposed to drugs?

**What do parents know about the risks of children ingesting methadone and other harmful drugs?**

* What are parents saying?
* Do they understand medical implications?

**Are they in touch with local agencies that can advise on such issues such as needle exchanges, substitute prescribing programmes, detoxification and rehabilitation facilities? If they are in touch with agencies, how regular is the contact?**

* Work being completed with drug agencies?

**Family and social supports**

**Do the parents primarily associate with other problem drug users, non-drug users or both?**

* Are there risky relationships?
* Are children exposed to other substance users within parental social relationships?

**Are relatives aware of parent(s) drug use? Are they supportive of the parent(s)/ the child?**

* Wider family knowledge of the use and their view?

**Will parents accept help from relatives, friends or professional agencies?**

* Yes/No what does this look like?

**Parents perception of the situation**

**Do the parents see their drug use as harmful to themselves or to their children?  And Is there evidence that the parents place their own needs and procurement of drugs before the care and welfare of their children?**

* Are parents acknowledging their substance misuse?
* What is the view of their use on their health? Do they want to stop using substances?
* Is there evidence that parents are prioritising the needs of their child over drug use?

**Section 4 Analysis**

* How often is the drug use?
* Have the children been exposed to harm because of the use?
* Is the use having an impact on the care of the child?
* How are parents addressing the substance misuse
* Is there safety for the child when the parent is using?
* What are the continued risks?
* What is our recommendation and safety planning?