 Assessment Tool

**Behaviour that Challenges**

This tool is to be used when working with families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities that present with behaviour that challenges due to unmet needs. It is designed to highlight the risk to parents and carers in these circumstances.

The tool will help you to identify context and explore risks related to Child to Parent Abuse and Violence (CPVA) and include specific considerations in relation to young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their relationships with parents to inform your professional judgement. It will also help you to identify suitable cases to be reviewed at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and inform referrals to Early Help, Children’s Social Care and Third sector support services.

**What do we mean when we say ‘behaviour that challenges’?**

Challenging behaviour, also known as behaviours which challenge, is defined as:

*“Culturally abnormal behaviour(s) of such intensity, frequency or duration that the physical safety of the person or others is placed in serious jeopardy, or behaviour which is likely to seriously limit or deny access to the use of ordinary community facilities.”*

**Why does challenging behaviour occur?**

Behaviour that challenges is most often, though not exclusively, exhibited by individuals with learning development disabilities and other additional needs through the lack of their needs being met. This can include children and young people with:

* *Autism*
* *ADHD*
* *Learning needs*
* *Down Syndrome*

**Using the Behaviour that Challenges Assessment Tool**

* Record information source (including multiple sources where applicable).
* Seek full information from a range of sources – unknown or incomplete responses impact the validity of the process.
* For parents/carers of children with additional needs or disabilities.
* Complete with the parent/carer to assess level of risk posed to them.
* Detailed responses help inform onward referrals.

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| **Parent/Carer & Child Relationships**  The term parent-child relationships refers to the unique and enduring bond between a parent/caregiver and the young person/child. To understand this relationship, we must look at ways that parents and children interact with one another physically, emotionally and socially. Children’s physical and emotional status, social and cognitive development, family dynamics should also be considered. |
| How would you describe your relationship with your child? |

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| **Child/Young Person’s Additional Needs**  Please detail any diagnosis or needs that they child/young person has. This includes children/young people awaiting assessment. |
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| **Behaviour that Challenges**  Behaviour that challenges is defined as behaviours that may occur when a child/young person with SEND/additional needs is not getting their needs met. Behaviour that challenges can present in a variety of ways including hitting, kicking, nipping and damaging property/throwing things.  In this section you need to detail the behaviour and the frequency of the behaviour. |
| Describe the behaviour that challenges and the frequency of its occurrence: |

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| **Managing Behaviour that challenges**  What happens when the child displays these behaviours? How does the parent/carer manage the behaviour? Can triggers be identified? |
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**Checklist of Risk**

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| **Please tick the box that best reflects the risk:** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Known** |
| **Frequency & Severity**  *Escalation in frequency or severity of violence and abuse can indicate an escalation in risk. It may be useful to identify what the worse incident has been in terms of seriousness.* |  |  |  |
| Have you ever felt afraid of your child? |  |  |  |
| Is the violent, abusive, aggressive behaviour happening more often? |  |  |  |
| Is the severity of violent, abusive, aggressive behaviour getting worse? |  |  |  |
| Has your child ever used weapons or objects to hurt you? |  |  |  |
| Is there an increased severity and higher threat of and intention to harm with the use of weapons (or general objects used as weapons)? |  |  |  |
| Has your child ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you have believed them? |  |  |  |
| **Sharing Concerns** |  |  |  |
| Have your ever felt able to share your concerns about your child’s behaviour with the Police? |  |  |  |
| Have your ever felt able to share your concerns about your child’s behaviour with a professional? |  |  |  |
| Have your ever felt able to share your concerns about your child’s behaviour with anyone else (e.g. family members)? |  |  |  |

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| **Moving Forward** | |
| If you had a magic wand, what would you change? | What could professionals do to support change? |
| Your wellbeing and resilience. How are you supported as a parent carer? | What could professionals do to support change? |

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| **Additional Services**  Indicate any other professional services (including voluntary services) that you have worked with and the outcome of this work: |
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| **Additional Sources of Information**  If there are any additional sources of information from others, please indicate: |
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