

# Introducing the Early Support Assessment

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Webinar

<https://www.wiltshirescb.org.uk/esa/>



Wiltshire  
**Safeguarding  
Vulnerable**  
People Partnership

- Launching the new Early Support Assessment - replacement for the CAF in Wiltshire
- Why change?
- Process to get here
- What the partnership hopes this will do
- Introduce the form and the process for use
- FAQs
- Next steps



What we are  
covering today

# Working agreement

- Turn cameras on
- Use 'hand raise' button to ask questions
- Use 'chat' function for questions and if you need to leave the session
- Listen, talk and discuss in a way that respects each individual
- Everyone has a responsibility and a right to contribute
- Please explain any jargon, technical language

**“Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later” (Working Together 2018)**

Effective early help means that we


- identify children and families who would benefit from early help
- undertake an assessment of the need for early help
- provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to improve the outcomes for the child

Research clearly evidences that early support can:

- Be more effective and enable more sustainable change
- Save money and resources


An early support assessment enables:

- Holistic, strengths based approach
- Shared language
- Framework for information sharing
- and evidence progress



Why is early support important?

- Numbers of registered CAFs have been steadily declining – and are now significantly lower than they should be based on numbers of social care cases
- Poor quality CAFs or lack of is a recurrent theme in Wiltshire serious case reviews, local learning reviews and audit activity
- Ability to assure ourselves about this part of the system is limited - scrutiny and oversight across agencies is inconsistent
- Multiple factors in play
  - Historic highs
  - Training gap
  - Lack of services?
- Confidence has been lost in the process & the assessment paperwork



Why are we  
replacing the  
CAF?

How has the  
Early  
Support  
Assessment  
been  
developed?

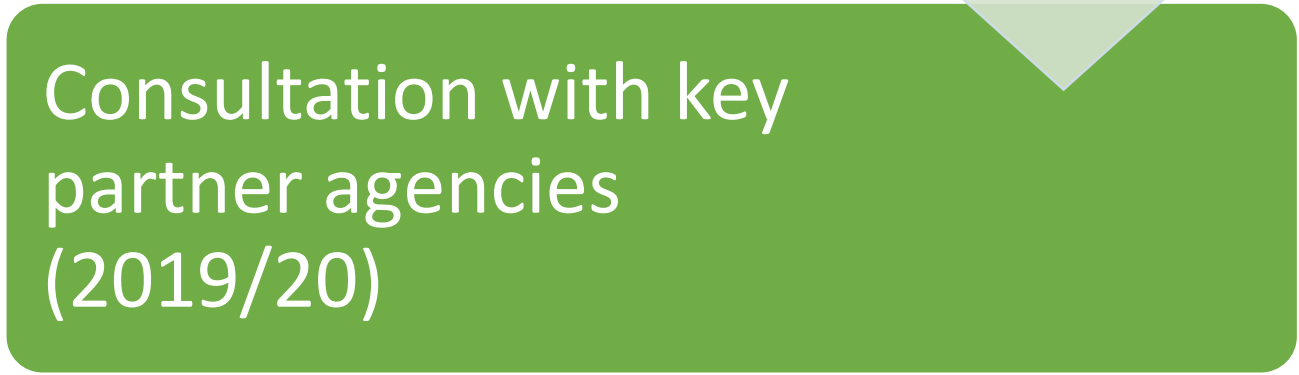
Oversighted by Front  
Doors & Local Pathways  
FACT Subgroup



Early Support  
Roadshows (2019)



Consultation with key  
partner agencies  
(2019/20)




The change supports the FACT principles

## **1. Resilient communities with equal opportunity to thrive**

We want all our children and young people to reach their full potential and especially those who are disadvantaged through poverty or vulnerability. We will support families in overcoming difficulties in being able to care for their children and each other. Where it isn't safe for children to live in their immediate or wider family we will ensure they settle quickly into a welcoming, stable and permanent home.

## **2. Help when you need it**

We will provide support early to prevent families' difficulties getting worse; we'll listen and take action the moment families say they need help.



What are we  
hoping to  
achieve?

### **3. We are Better Together**


As a partnership, we will spend wisely and within budget. We'll do this by getting rid of duplication in our work, simplifying how we do things and work more closely together across the partnership.

### **4. More time to be with Families**

We will spend as much time as we can directly with children and their families as we know that's what families want and it improves the chances of making things better. We'll also help families make connections in their local communities so there is more support available from friends and neighbours.

### **5. Investing in our Staff**

We will ensure we are an effective confident workforce who know what to do to help and how to do it well.




What are we  
hoping to  
achieve?



Support offered to families and children earlier to prevent escalation to Family Key Worker or Social Work assessment

How will we know?

- In the longer term fewer referrals to MASH where there has been no documented early support offered
- More registered Early Support Assessments
- More Team Around the Family meetings



What are we hoping to achieve?



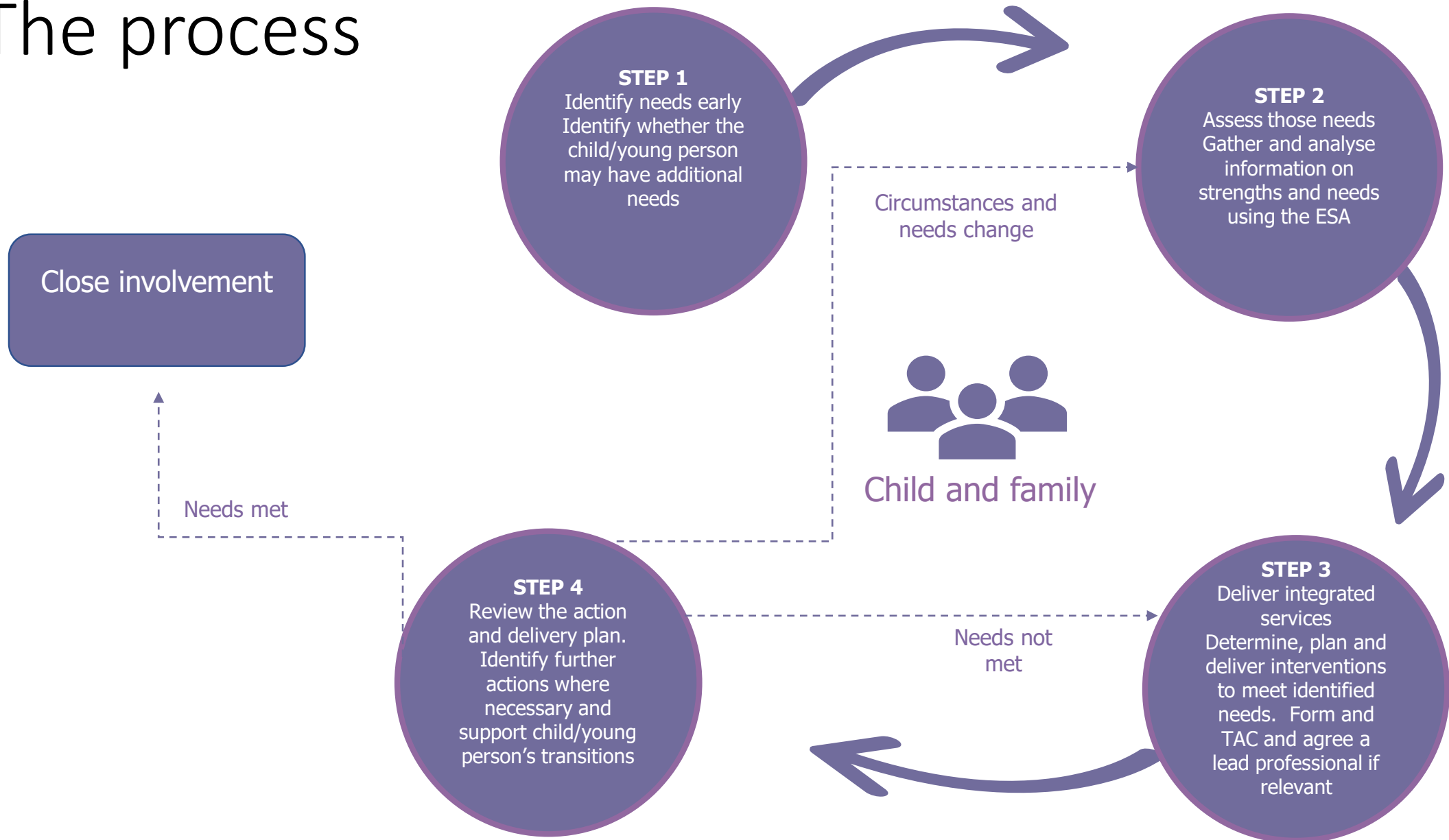
Questions

- Sections 1 – 5 – focuses on demographics and reason for assessment
- Section 6 – The Assessment
  - Taking a Five to thrive approach
- Section 7 – Summary



The form

# The process



## Frequently asked questions?

1. I'm a nursery key worker/ youth worker/ teacher – if I have safeguarding concerns shouldn't I just refer to social care?
2. Can I still use the DART?
3. Do I need to get signed consent?
4. What do I do if no other agencies will come to my meeting?

## Next steps

Update on DART

Children's Portal

Further training

Multi Agency Forums



Questions

Thank you for  
attending

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Form and review paperwork  
available at

[www.wiltshirescb.org.uk/esa](http://www.wiltshirescb.org.uk/esa)

Slides and FAQs will follow after  
the webinars

