

Paperwork help

SHORTER RECORD 2

needs

Second, from the information in the column to the right, summarise your judgement about the needs of the child and the family, noting any contrary views.

▶ living situation

and social relationships

and antisocial behaviour

and psychological health

▶ education and employment

Please tick one of the nine categories. The information is necessary for the Department of Health Children in Need data collection census

- abuse or neglect
- socially unacceptable behaviour
- family under acute distress

circumstances

First, summarise the circumstances of the child and other family members in this column. Note any contrary views and any issues relating to parental needs and/or capacity.

Use this column first to record key information about the child's and family's situation.

Be sure to note dates and sources of information against all the facts and judgements you write down. An accurate record of Important dates and events in the child's life is the key to making a good assessment.

Not all the facts will fit smoothly together. Record disagreements and, when making a professional judgement between different points of view, make the reasons for it clear.

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- family dysfunction
- parental illness/disability
- absent parenting
- child's disability
- low income
- other

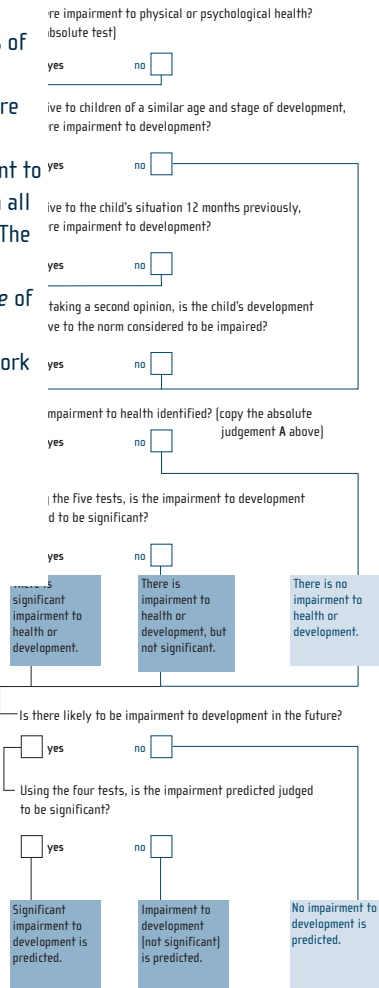
Paperwork help

SHORTER RECORD 3

thresholds

The Common Language uses the word threshold to capture the seriousness of the child's situation.

Threshold judgements are all about identifying indications of impairment to a child's development in all areas of her or his life. The assessment takes into account the *significance* of any impairment, as explained in the Paperwork Threshold tool.



judgements always benefit from discussion with a colleague or peer.

outcomes

Under each heading choose an appropriate period in which the child's needs can be addressed. Say what outcomes can realistically be achieved by the end of this period.

- ▶ living situation _____
- ▶ family and social relationships _____
- ▶ social and antisocial behaviour _____
- ▶ physical and psychological health _____
- ▶ education and employment _____

Fold the page back so that you can set this column against your judgement about the child's needs described in **Column 2**. Set out what can realistically be achieved within a time period (a week, a month, several months) given the child's circumstances. Take each need in turn.

Your views will not always accord with those of family members, the child, or other professionals. But consultation with them all is vital (as is recording whom you spoke to and who has seen the assessment). In the end, it is your judgement (and its justification to others) that counts. It can help to record your reasoning.

Trust your own judgement but do not be afraid to talk it through with colleagues and to take their view of the situation into account, too.

