



Home Conditions: Assessment Tool



What does it do?

This is a short assessment of the home conditions and their impact on the children who live there. It considers 20 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness and home maintenance. It concludes with a decision about the level of concern, what actions need to be taken, what tasks need to be done and who needs to do them.

How do I use it?

The scale is scored from 0 – 10 for each item and there is an area to make notes or record evidence. Mark the description that best represents the conditions in the home and their impact on the child. If there are different age children, complete the assessment in relation to the most vulnerable child. For example, the impact will be greater depending on the age and ability of the child (e.g. a badly soiled floor will have a different impact on a child who is crawling compared to an older child). Particular home conditions may prompt a task (e.g. clearing of rubbish from home) and a subsequent review would establish whether there has been any improvement.

It is best completed in the home in partnership with the family and can be used with both parents and children to provide different perspectives on the home conditions and their impact. Scaling is used to support the Signs of Safety approach adopted by Worcestershire. For further information on Signs of Safety please visit: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/signsofsafety>

Remember, however, that a spotless and well-organised home does not preclude other forms of abuse or neglect, such as emotional neglect, physical or sexual abuse, and domestic violence.

Developed:

This has been adapted from a tool developed by Bruce Thornton (www.bruce-thornton.info) and Dafydd Paul and Nia Price (Gwynedd Children's Services).

Original source:

Adapted and developed from: Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales – The Stationary Office

How long?

About 45 minutes if completed with the parents.



Home Conditions: Assessment Tool

Child's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Age:	
Worker's Name:	
Date Completed:	
Parent/Carer Name:	
Reference Number:	
Name of Agency:	
Please confirm whether the Home Conditions were assessed as part of an announced or unannounced visit	Announced:
	Unannounced:
Please confirm whether the Home Conditions was undertaken jointly with the parent (or family/carers etc.)	Yes:
	No:

Guidance:

The Home Conditions assessment is best completed jointly with the parents. This creates greater openness and a common understanding of the areas that may cause concern. Improvement can be tracked over time, giving families a clear record of their progress. Please consider each of the 20 factors listed and select the statement that best describes the home conditions. You should record brief notes about why you've chosen that option. You may wish to flag the factor for immediate attention. This will help to prioritise any follow up actions that are required. If there is more than one child in the family, it is best to complete the assessment in relation to the child on which the home conditions affect the most.

Scale - please score each of the home conditions between 1 and 10 as detailed below

1) Strong odour

0 is a very strong smell of mould or rotten food or urine etc and 10 is no smell at all
5 would be there is a smell that needs some attention

😊	0	←————— Professionals —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Parents —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Young Person —————→	10	😊	Score:	
Notes					Flag for attention:	

2) Kitchen floor is dirty

0 is the floor is covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, dirt or animal faeces etc and 10 is the floor is very clean
5 would be there is some dirt and needs some attention

😊	0	←————— Professionals —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Parents —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Young Person —————→	10	😊	Score:	
Notes					Flag for attention:	

3) Floor is dirty in other rooms

0 is the floor is covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, dirt or animal faeces etc and 10 being the floors are clean
5 would be there is some dirt and needs some attention

😊	0	←————— Professionals —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Parents —————→	10	😊	Score:	
😊	0	←————— Young Person —————→	10	😊	Score:	
Notes					Flag for attention:	

4) General decorative order is poor

0 being stained or damaged walls, chipped or broken doors or windows or holes/kick marks and 10 being excellent decorative order

5 would be the decor is below adequate and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

5) Dirty Kitchen

0 being sink, draining board, work surface, cooker, fridge or cupboard doors are very dirty and 10 being the kitchen is very clean and tidy

5 would be the kitchen is untidy and a little unclean and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

6) Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery dirty

0 being they are showing ingrained dirt and/or these items remain unwashed until they are needed again and 10 being all items are very clean

5 would be few implements remain unwashed or a little dirty and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

7) Toilet, bath, shower or basin dirty

0 being they are stained, broken or showing ingrained dirt and 10 being the bathroom items are very clean
5 would be a little unclean and need some attention

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

8) Beds, furnishings or furniture dirty

0 being furniture is broken or stained and 10 being the furniture and furnishings are in good order and clean and tidy
5 would be a little unclean and need some attention

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

9) Parent's or children's clothing dirty

0 being clothes unwashed, smelling, the wrong size, holey and torn or hair dirty or matted and 10 being clothes fit well and are clean
5 would be clothes are a little unclean and need some attention

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

10) General appearance of house, garden or yard is poor

0 being the house/garden is uncared for, strewn with rubbish, containing dangerous or broken items and 10 being it is tidy and well cared for

5 would be house/garden is a little dirty and unsafe and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

11) There is a lack of food or food is inadequate

0 being there is none or little food in cupboards or home and 10 being there is plenty of food and cupboards are full

5 would be there is some food but not sufficient healthy options or basic food requirements

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

12) Inadequate seating, furnishing, curtains or floor covering

0 being there are no chairs or tables, no curtains or curtains always closed and 10 being appropriate seating and furnishing etc for the room

5 would be there are some furnishings but needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

13) Toys are not available for the children

0 being there is little evidence of toys or play items/equipment for the children appropriate for their age and 10 being there is an abundance of toys

5 would be there are some toys but not enough and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

14) Bedding is unsuitable

0 being there are no beds, mattresses or appropriate bed clothes on the children's beds and 10 being the bedroom fully meets the needs of the child.

5 would be there are beds/mattresses and bed clothes but they are a bit grubby or unsuitable and needs some attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

15) Unsuitable hygiene regarding drug paraphernalia

0 being exposed needles, other drug paraphernalia visible in the house and/or within children's reach and 10 being no drug paraphernalia in the home

5 would be there is some drug paraphernalia but not safely stored all the time

 0 ←———— Professionals —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Parents —————> 10 	Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————> 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

16) Rodents

0 being evidence of rodents or rodent damage to the property and 10 being no evidence at all
5 would be has been rodent damage and not fully repaired

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

17) House presents dangers to children

0 being broken electrical sockets, no smoke alarms, lack of safety gates, fireguards or dangerous items such as batteries lying around and 10 being no danger at all
5 would there are some minor issues that need attention that could be hazardous

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

18) Lack of basic services available in the house

0 being no water, electricity, gas or heating and 10 being all services available
5 would there are some are not working properly or waiting for attention

 0 ← Professionals → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Parents → 10 	Score:	
 0 ← Young Person → 10 	Score:	
Notes	Flag for attention:	

19) House is cluttered

0 being extreme clutter or hoarding, bin bags or clothing or toys left everywhere, lack of space to play and 10 being no clutter at all and lots of space for children to play
5 would there is some clutter that needs attention

 0 ←———— Professionals —————→ 10 	Score:		
 0 ←———— Parents —————→ 10 		Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————→ 10 		Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

20) Pets present a danger to children

0 being aggressive or threatening animals or numbers of animals in the house and 10 being pets are completely child friendly
5 would be there is some concern about the pets but it can be easily resolved

 0 ←———— Professionals —————→ 10 	Score:		
 0 ←———— Parents —————→ 10 		Score:	
 0 ←———— Young Person —————→ 10 		Score:	

Notes

Flag for attention:

Total Score:

Number of items where score is 6 or above:

Number of the flagged items requiring attention: (items rated 5 or below)

What are we worried about? (record areas that remain a concern)

What is working well?

What are the priorities for change?

Family to work on the following flagged items/tasks before the next visit.

(please clarify item numbers and tasks below)

Other Actions (Please list any actions to be taken following this assessment)

Arrange a further assessment with the family (e.g. Early Help Assessment)

Arrange a further visit to monitor progress

Planned Visit

Unplanned Visit

Refer to Children's Social Care

Consent (if you wish to share information with another agency)

To share information or refer to another agency, the consent of the child/parent is required, unless there are Child Protection concerns. See Levels of Need guidance for further information (http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7962/levels_of_need_guidance_formerly_threshold_guidance).

I have obtained consent to share information/refer to another agency.

I do not have consent to share information/refer to another agency

Comment on any consent issues:

Parent's Signature:

Worker's Signature: