

## Framework for recording the condition of a home:

Working together to help children, young people and families to thrive



This tool is designed to assist practitioners to identify the home conditions that children and their families are experiencing – it should be undertaken with parents to establish areas where improvements are required and areas where a good standard is being achieved, so that a clear baseline of a child’s environment can be evidenced and tracked over time. As you view the home circle the descriptors that most closely fits what you see and note possible impact on children and their family,

For children with disability who have equipment/adaptations for disabled child? Consider the following:

- Being used and in good repair.
- Being used but looking unclean/unhygienic.
- Being used and in poor repair/ill fitting.
- Not being used.

Photographs can be helpful to identify when a good standard is met or to record where improvements are required/record of no change.  
**For CSC: The undertaking of a conditions of home should be recorded on LCS/EHM and noted on chronology and uploaded to Documents.**

For concerns with Hoarding – use the [Clutter Image Rating](#) to assess level of hoarding

Date:

Family:

Name of Worker:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Living area/ room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walls in good condition.</li><li>• Carpeted or otherwise covered floor (such as vinyl or wood). Suitable for age of children in the home</li><li>• Warm</li><li>• Clean</li><li>• Evidence of toys for age of children.</li><li>• Child safety features apparent – stairgate – child locks</li><li>• Safe lighting and enough ventilation.</li><li>• Blinds/curtains for the windows.</li><li>• If animals in the house – they are cared for and have space</li><li>• Space for child play</li><li>• Clean space to eat</li><li>• <b>Alcohol and substance out of child reach in locked box</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decor in reasonable condition</li><li>• Adequate floor covering for age of children.</li><li>• Warm enough</li><li>• Too much or not enough or no suitable furniture</li><li>• Place to eat</li><li>• Clean washing or ironing on the chairs and/or tables.</li><li>• Some child safety features</li><li>• If animals present - animal food or litter trays in child's space</li><li>• Some evidence of cleaning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broken/non-existent carpeting and floor</li><li>• Some peeling paper/ paint on walls</li><li>• Clutter/hording which blocks exits</li><li>• Too much or not enough or no suitable furniture</li><li>• No eating area for the child/ren</li><li>• Few safety features</li><li>• Feels cold at times</li><li>• Few toys or toys unsuitable for age of the child/ren</li><li>• Evidence of significant animal hairs on furniture &amp; floor –</li><li>• Animal food and /or litter tray in the room – overflowing.</li><li>• Some dirty clothes on the floor or surfaces</li><li>• Disordered</li><li>• Smells stale (cigarette/cannabis) or smells strongly of animals</li><li>• Evidence of stale food.</li><li>• Many animals in the house with equipment</li></ul>	<p><b>As level 3 and/or:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dangerous cupboards and/or furniture</li><li>• Animal excrement on floors.</li><li>• Stale or mouldy food evident on floors and/or surfaces</li><li>• Broken chairs, broken/ missing doors, furniture too limited for all family to sit in the room.</li><li>• No table or other surface for eating</li><li>• No toys for age of child toys, no space for play</li><li>• Broken windows, curtains rarely opened, stale smell of animals and humans, possibly including smell of urine from bedrooms or bathroom</li><li>• Animals and their needs dominate the household</li><li>• Child can access adult materials – video games/adult pornography</li><li>• Child can access drug and alcohol substances or paraphernalia – over flowing</li></ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty/partially full wine/cans of alcohol left out</li> </ul>	<p>ashtrays – strong smell of cannabis and cigarette smoke – especially of concern if children are asthmatic</p>
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<b>Kitchen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cupboards in good condition</li> <li>• Clean sink, floors and surfaces.</li> <li>• Fridge is clean</li> <li>• All food is in date, stored appropriately and suitable for the age of the children</li> <li>• Waste bins are clean and not over filled</li> <li>• Formula milk is stored appropriately</li> <li>• Animal feed bowls and litter trays are clean and do not smell</li> <li>• Bottle sterilising equipment is clean and visible where needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decoration is old but of adequate condition</li> <li>• Surfaces and sink are cluttered but plates and pans are clean or about to be washed</li> <li>• Surfaces have some fresh stains or food remains but are generally clean</li> <li>• The fridge has spillages, but food is suitable for the age of the children and stored well</li> <li>• Cupboards are old with some broken hinges but serviceable</li> <li>• Formula milk is stored appropriately</li> <li>• Rubbish bins are full and smell stale</li> <li>• Animal feed bowls and litter trays are stale and there is some smell to them</li> <li>• Sterilising equipment is clean and visible where needed</li> <li>• There is a working washing machine and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decoration is old and in need of repair, with peeling paper or flaking paint</li> <li>• Cupboards are in poor repair with damage to doors or missing doors</li> <li>• There is little evidence of food preparation; used formula milk bottles are to be seen unwashed and unemptied</li> <li>• Animal feed bowls &amp; litter trays are stale/smell</li> <li>• Rubbish bins and animal litter trays are overflowing, with an obvious stale smell</li> <li>• Surfaces are cluttered and have old as well as fresh stains and spillage on them.</li> <li>• The sink is dirty and cluttered</li> <li>• There is little evidence of food and limited availability of food suitable for the child/ren.</li> <li>• The fridge is dirty – spillage and items out of date/rotten</li> <li>• Where needed, sterilising equipment is dirty or non-existent or the parent is seen using it inappropriately e.g.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The kitchen is in very poor repair with inadequate cooking facilities</li> <li>• The fridge has visible dirt/mould or doesn't work.</li> <li>• Windows/doors may be broken</li> <li>• There is no sign of food for the children</li> <li>• The cupboards are broken.</li> <li>• There is a pungent smell of old rubbish and/or animal food and excreta and the floor is dirty stained with mud and other matter</li> <li>• There is animal excrement in the litter trays/on the floor.</li> <li>• Decaying/stale/mouldy food is visible on the surfaces</li> <li>• Surfaces are covered by other matter such as papers and/r equipment e.g. working tools or machinery</li> <li>• The washing machine is broken</li> <li>• There are piles of dirty clothes on the floor/ on the surfaces</li> </ul>
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		signs of washing taking place e.g. clothes arranged for washing	without washing hands after changing the baby's nappy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floors are soiled with mud or other substances (name them if possible)</li> </ul>	
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<b>Bedroom (S) Child</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decorated and warm – feel like a child’s room</li> <li>Ordered and well ventilate.</li> <li>Beds with clean mattresses and bedding.</li> <li>Child safety features apparent.</li> <li>Curtains or blinds at the windows</li> <li>Clothing stored in wardrobes, cupboards and/or drawers</li> <li>Toys for children are appropriate for their age.</li> <li>Place to study/learn</li> <li>If sharing child has own space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old décor but reasonable</li> <li>Curtains/blinds at the window – privacy</li> <li>Bedrooms are warm and well ventilated</li> <li>Beds may be old but suitable for the child’s age with clean mattresses and bedding.</li> <li>Children have night wear</li> <li>Some safety features are present and; toys are suitable for age of child.</li> <li>The room may have clothes/toys on the floor/surfaces, but these are clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walls may have peeling paper/paint with some evidence of damp or mould.</li> <li>The rooms have heating at sometimes during the day/night – can be cold.</li> <li>The room is poorly ventilated. Windows may be in poor repair/broken. It may not be possible to open them</li> <li>Curtains/blinds may be in poor condition – no privacy, non-existent or rarely opened to ventilate the room. The room smells stale</li> <li>Beds may be broken.</li> <li>Mattresses and bedding are on the beds, but these are dirty, stale smell of sweat and/or urine</li> <li>There may be evidence of animals, such as animal hair on the floor, or animal cages may be present in in the room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a chaotic and disorganised environment with dirty clothes on the floors</li> <li>There are no beds; there may be mattresses on the floor.</li> <li>Bedding is limited; there may be coats or other materials to act as bedding, which is dirty and smelling of sweat and urine</li> <li>There is no storage, or this may be overflowing with disordered clothing, toys, or other objects</li> <li>There is evidence of animals using the room, animal hair, animal faeces/urine</li> <li>The room is poorly ventilated with inadequate window covering – broken windows</li> <li>The room may be too hot or cold, with inadequate heating source</li> </ul>
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<b>Bathroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean surfaces and floors;</li> <li>• Hot and cold water available.</li> <li>• Cleaning and medication/razors products stored safely with child locks on cupboards.</li> <li>• Towels present are clean Evidence of toothbrushes/toothpaste for all family members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old decor but reasonable</li> <li>• Hot and cold water available.</li> <li>• Cleaning and other products stored safely with child locks on cupboards.</li> <li>• Old but clean toilet.</li> <li>• Floor and surfaces, bath and sink show some stains and need to be cleaned.</li> <li>• Towels are worn but clean.</li> <li>• Evidence of toothbrushes and toothpaste for all family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walls have peeling paint or paper.</li> <li>• Mould evident on walls.</li> <li>• Serviceable but soiled toilet, or serviceable toilet but broken toilet seat.</li> <li>• Dirty bath and sink (describe dirt if possible).</li> <li>• Limited hot water, cold water available.</li> <li>• Limited child safety features.</li> <li>• Towels are dirty/damp and few.</li> <li>• Old toothbrushes and limited/no availability of toothpaste for children or others.</li> <li>• Evidence that animals use the bathroom for sleeping or other purposes, e.g. litter trays, excrement on floor.</li> <li>• Stale smell of refuse or animal excrement.</li> <li>• Damage to cupboards or other equipment, e.g. doors hanging off or non-existent.</li> </ul>	<p>As level 3 and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No evidence of child safety features.</li> <li>• No evidence of toothbrushes or toothpaste for the children.</li> <li>• No towels or dirty/damp towels.</li> <li>• Floor soiled with stains of identifiable human excreta.</li> <li>• Animal excrement present on floor or in bath/sink.</li> <li>• Broken toilet or bath or sink.</li> <li>• No water supply.</li> <li>• Strong smell of animal/human excrement.</li> <li>• Broken cupboards or other equipment.</li> <li>• Bathroom unusable by humans.</li> <li>• Medication and razors in the bathroom accessible for children left out for children</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medication and razors in the bathroom accessible for children</li> </ul>	
<b>Garden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden is well maintained with garden equipment/products safely stored.</li> <li>Ponds and water butts are covered, and child safety features are apparent.</li> <li>If animals are present, there is no sign of animal faeces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden is somewhat untidy; there may be motor bikes/cars under maintenance but there is evidence of child safety features as in Grade 1.</li> <li>There are places for children to play.</li> <li>Animals are present and there is evidence of animal faeces, but this is cleaned away promptly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The garden is overgrown.</li> <li>Cars and/or other mechanical equipment are present in various states of repair.</li> <li>There may be furniture in the garden such as sofas/armchairs.</li> <li>Broken glass or other hazards are evident.</li> <li>There is some play space for the children.</li> <li>Several animals are evident as in Grade 2.</li> <li>There are few child safety features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hazards as described in level 3 or the family have not responded to advice to improve the situation.</li> <li>Garden completely overgrown and difficult to access.</li> <li>Old, broken animal cages/evidence of animal faeces on grass or paths</li> <li>Animals dominate the household.</li> <li>Broken glass or other hazards accessible to children.</li> <li>Access to the house is limited.</li> <li>Doors to the house are difficult to open or broken.</li> <li>There is no space for the children to play.</li> <li>There are no child safety features</li> </ul>

**Nature of Housing: Owned, Private Tenancy or Social Housing – name of Landlord/Agency:**

Brief overview of the families current housing circumstances:

- Any issues around overcrowding. What is being done to try and address this?
- Issues that are related to landlords' responsibilities and what has been done so far to address these concerns
- Structural issues that are out of families control; and impact on children such as damp, inadequate heating/ventilation
- Identify any gaps in housing benefit and rent due to cost being over the local housing allowance that may impact on family's finances.
- Home unsuitable for disabled child.

**What information have you obtained and what does it tell you in terms of next steps/actions for children:**

**Possible options:**

- Conversation with health visitor or school
- Discussion with MASH
- Discussion with LCSS
- Completing a further assessment such as Strengths and Needs
- Reconvene TAF/Core group or strategy meeting
- Conversation with health visitor or school
- Supervision
- Joint home visit – discuss with parent/carer use home conditions tool ( [insert link](#) ) if home a concern