**SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT**

**HANDOUT**

**Analysing Risk for Children**

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| **High Concern** | **Low Concern** |
| Current injury / harm is severe pattern of harm which is continuing / escalatingParent indicating repeat behaviour likelyAccess to vulnerable personsDiagnosis of untreatable mental health and substance misuseA history of interpersonal conflict and violence – power and control issues, poor negotiation and lack of autonomyRecent separation or recurrent reconciliationsUncontrolled contact between perpetrator and childThe parent unwilling or unable to protect the childrenHigh levels of trauma in parents, childhood not recognised as a problemPrevious child protection concerns with no significant changes effected or sustainedParents not accepting their behaviour is a concern and are unwilling to work with practitionersChildren too young to be able to take any action to protect themselves and require rapid parental changeChild presenting as fearful of parents or other household memberChildren engaging in self-harm, substance misuse, dangerous sexual behaviour or other ‘at risk’ behavioursParent is young – under 21 yearsEvidence of social isolation and lack of social supportsResident in violent, unsupportive neighbourhoodParent experiencing high levels of stressPhysical and social environment chaotic, hazardous and unsafeFamily remaining unpredictable and potential for change limited | No history of significant trauma or abuseRecognition of the problemPerpetrator demonstrating remorse/ empathyPerpetrator accepting responsibility for their behaviourChildren able to protect themselves if the need arisesHealthy peer relationshipsNo documented school problemsNo history of behavioural / emotional problemsParental mental health and / or substance problem responsive to treatmentParent with empathy for the childParental competence and capacity in key areas of parentingRisk reactive to circumstances (eg loss) and parents / carers display capacity to make improvement and changeFamily with access to social support / networks and access to child care facilitiesDifficulties, illness or disabilities on the part of the adult carers temporaryStressors within normal range of day-todayCircumstances and carers display capacity to cope |
| **High Strength** | **Low Strength** |
| Parents demonstrating good protective attitudes and behavioursFamily with clear, positive boundaries in placeFamily demonstrating good communicationsFamily demonstrating ability to positively process emotional issuesFamily positive about receiving helpYoung person living in supportive environmentNetwork of support and supervision available to young personYoung person with positive plans and goalsYoung person with positive relationship with school / workYoung person with experienced consistent positive careYoung person with at least one emotional confidantYoung person with good problem solving and negotiation skillsFamily being adaptive and developed new coping strategies when stressedParent / carer demonstrating empathy and responds appropriately to cues of othersFamily taking responsibility for their own behaviourAble to manage frustration and unfavourable events – displaying good self-regulation when confronted with stress or difficultyResolving conflicts and make decisions that support stability and recovery (assertive, tolerant, forgiving, cooperative; able to negotiate and compromise)Thinking and communicating effectively (rational cognitive processing; adequate verbal skills; able to focus on the tasks requiring attention) | Parents and young person appearing not to care what happensYoung person with poor communication skillsYoung person with no support/ is rejected by parents / carersYoung person excluded from schoolFamily / young person appear isolatedAbsence of supportive / structured living environmentParents / carers unwilling / unable to superviseFamily enmeshed in unhealthy social networksFamily with high levels of stressHistory of unresolved significant abuse in familyFamily unable to understand the consequences of their behaviourFamily refusing to engage or only engage conditionally with servicesLack of available resources to meet identified needs resources (familial and professional)Family seem vulnerable in the face of perceived external threatFamily displaying low self-esteemFamily / child with negative expectations and goalsFamily isolated and lacking in supports |