

**Home Conditions Assessment**

This is a short assessment to be used by front line practitioners from all partner agencies in Herefordshire when there are concerns around home conditions that are likely to impact on children who live there. It considers 10 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness and décor. At the end of the assessment is a section to record a decision about how concerning the home conditions are and what actions need to be taken to resolve any concerns. The checklist should be completed jointly with the family where possible and children to provide different perspectives on the home conditions and their impact.

If concerns are identified, follow-up actions can be agreed with the family and improvements can be tracked over time by reviewing the checklist. It may be beneficial to complete a Graded Care Profile 2 Assessment to understand whether there are wider concerns about the care of the child(ren). Herefordshire Safeguarding Partnership has developed a series of resources and tools to help practitioners identify and respond to child neglect that can be found [HERE](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance/child-neglect-practitioner-resources)

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| **Child(ren)’s Name(s)** |  | **Child’s Date of Birth or EDD** |  |
| **Parent/Carer’s name(s)** |  | **Date of visit** |  |
| **Practitioner completing form** |  | **Agency** |  |
| **Was assessment completed during planned or unannounced visit?** |  | **Was assessment completed with or without family?** |  |

**Adapted from Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales, Department of Health, The Stationery Office**

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|  | **Area** | **issue not present** | **issue present to some extent** | **issue present to a significant extent** | **Notes** |
| 1 | Strong odour in home – such as rotting food, urine, mould, pets |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Kitchen is unclean – sink, draining board, worktops, cooker, fridge |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Floors are dirty – covered in food, animal urine and/or faeces, rubbish |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Bathroom unclean or cluttered – unsanitary toilet, bath, or basin dirty, broken, or not accessible due to clutter |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | A child not having an appropriate bed or clean bedding |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Excessive clutter/rubbish bags in home – hoarding or home cluttered to extent where access is limited, or child has no space to play. ([Use Clutter Image Rating Scale](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/clutter-rating-final-1.pdf) - 4 and above is a cause for concern) |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Decorative order of home in general is poor – such as broken doors and windows, stained or damaged walls |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Inadequate furnishings – such as no chairs or table, no curtains or floor covering, curtains always closed |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Risks to children – e.g. broken plug sockets, broken windows, no smoke alarms, hazardous items such as cleaning products, lighters, drug paraphernalia within children’s reach |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Garden uncared for/unsafe – very overgrown or containing rubbish, animal faeces, broken furniture etc |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Other |  |  |  |  |

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| **Outcome** | **Tick** |
| I am *not concerned* about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren) |  |
| I have *some concerns* about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren) |  |
| I am *very concerned* about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren) |  |

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| **Rationale (**what is your rationale for the outcome decision, e.g. what is working well, not so well? What is the impact on the child/ren and family in the home?) |
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| **Views of Parents/Carers/Children (**what are their views on the home conditions? What do they think is going well/not so well? What are the challenges  that prevent them from improving conditions? What do they think can help?) |
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|  | **Agreed Tasks** | **How will the task be completed?** | **Who will complete this?** | **When will it be completed?** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Other Actions Required:** | **Tick** |
| Arrange further assessment with family e.g. [Early Help Assessment](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/607/early-help-assessment---resources-for-practitioners-and-professionals) (in line with the [Right Help Right Time Threshold Guidance](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F06%2FRight-Help-Right-Time-Levels-of-Need_2_2024.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)) | 🢭 |
| Complete Graded Care Profile (GCP) 2 with the family and/or consider the [Child Neglect Screening Tool](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance/child-neglect-practitioner-resources) | 🢭 |
| Arrange further visit to monitor progress against agreed tasks | 🢭 |
| Refer to [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/professional-resources/childrens-policies-guidance/11-multi-agency-referral-reporting-concerns-marf)) | 🢭 |
| Refer to [Environmental health – Herefordshire Council](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/homepage/32/environmental-health) | 🢭 |
| Refer to [Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service](https://www.hwfire.org.uk/) | 🢭 |