



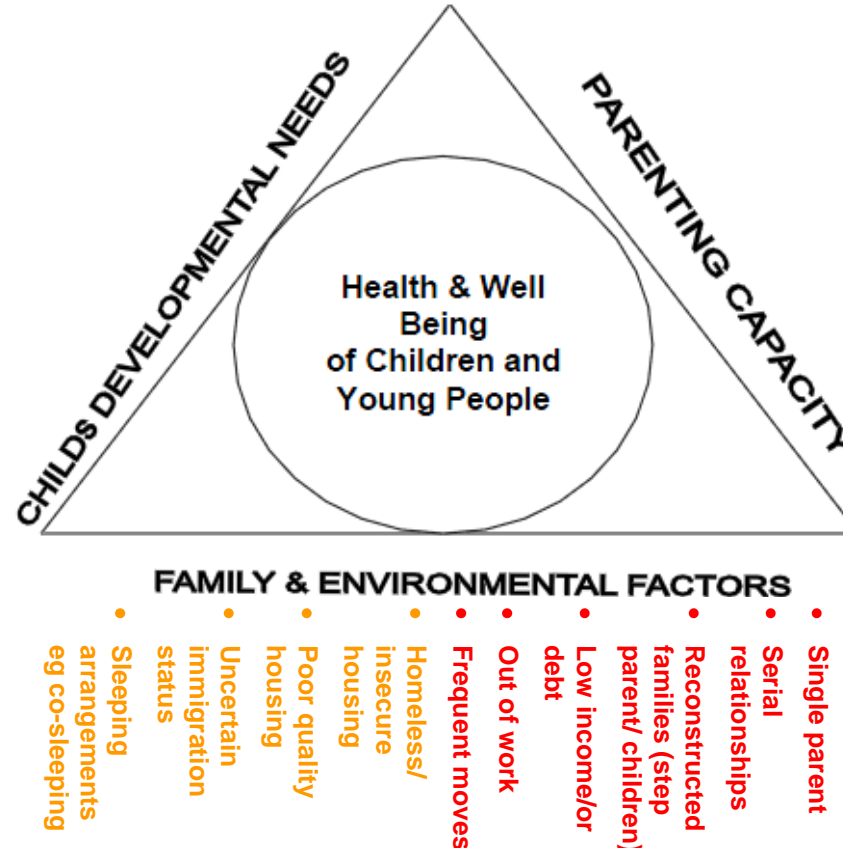
# RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

## Risk and Protective Factors for Younger Children

Professor Munro has highlighted the uncertainty that pervades the work of child protection and the challenges for professionals in assessing risk and estimating the dangers facing a child/young person. This guidance is designed to assist practitioners when undertaking an assessment (e.g. CAF, Initial/Core Assessment, SEN) to evaluate the risk and protective factors to achieve the best outcomes for the child. The following risk and protective factors are based on research and findings from Serious Case Reviews. The protective interventions have been shown to alleviate some of the predicted negative outcomes for children by building resilience. If the risk factors are present in a family, and there are no corresponding protective factors, the evidence tells us that a high percentage of these children will have poor life outcomes (offending/mental ill health/repeat abuse/neglect as parents). As children get older, the influence from peers and the wider community exerts an increasing impact, both positive and negative.

- **Irritable/sleepless child**
- **Child with additional needs/specific learning disabilities including ASD, Aspergers, or ADHD**
- **Child with communication difficulties**
- **Poor school attendance and attainment**
- **Low self-esteem/self harming**
- **Defiant/angry child**
- **Child affected by bereavement**

## RISK FACTORS



- **Mother under 20 years at first pregnancy**
- **Parent with history of poor school attendance and attainment**
- **Parent formerly "Looked After"**
- **Parent misuses substance or alcohol**
- **Parent with mental health difficulties**
- **Poor attendance at health appointments (GP, midwife, health visitor, clinic)**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Parent with learning difficulties**
- **Parent with physical disability**
- **Parent affected by bereavement**
- **Previous children permanently removed from parent's care**

Key code:

High evidence risk

Medium evidence risk

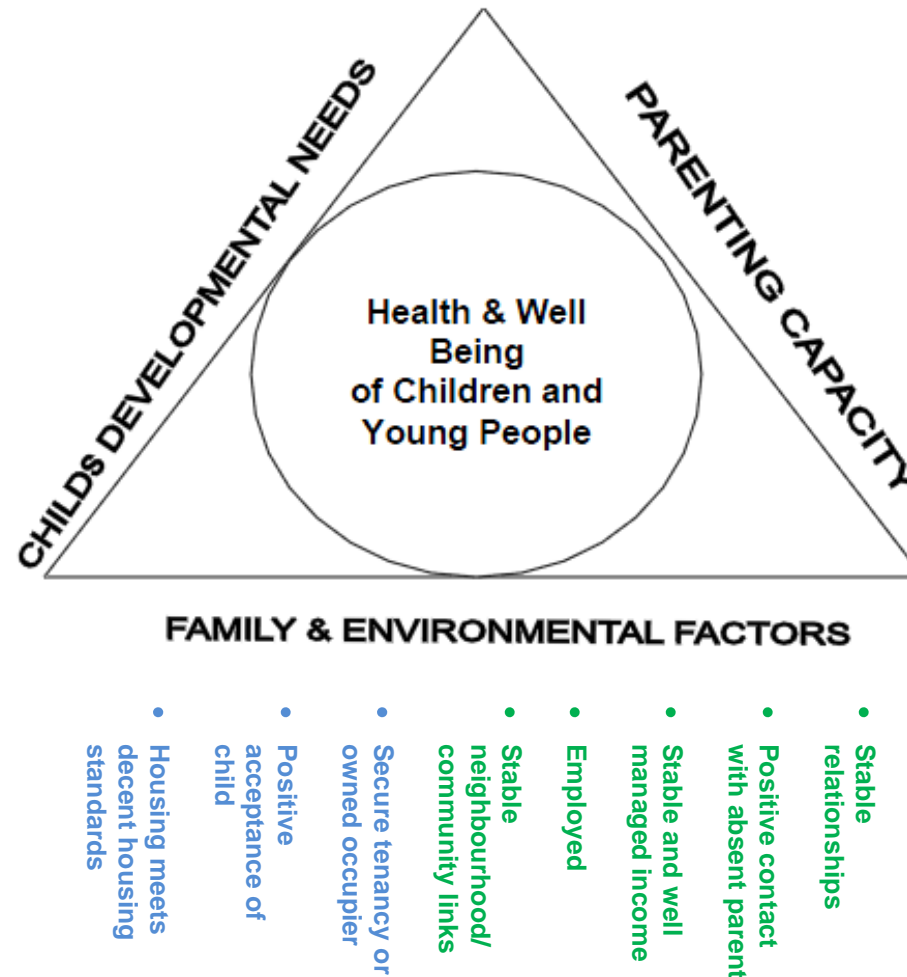


# PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Able bodied child with good health and positive development
- Calm child with positive attachment
- Good school attendance and attainment
- Child has secure relationships and able to express self verbally
- Good communication skills
- Calm and accepting child
- Acceptance of loss processes

Key code:

- High evidence
- Medium evidence



- "Older" mother
- Parent with good physical and mental health
- Controlled use of substances
- Positive attitude to education
- Family support
- Good attendance at health checks and other appointments
- Shared parental responsibility
- Parent with no additional needs
- Acceptance of loss processes
- Attending day care