Early Help Assessment Tool

The EHAT process replaces the CAF (Common Assessment Framework)from September 2014 and is a process whereby practitioners can identify a child's or young person's needs early, assess those needs holistically, deliver coordinated services and review progress. The EHAT is designed to be used when

• a practitioner is worried about how well a child or young person is progressing (e.g. concerns about their health, development, welfare, behaviour, progress in learning or any other aspect of their wellbeing)

• a child or young person, or their parent/carer, raises a concern with a practitioner

• a child's or young person's needs are unclear, or broader than the practitioner's service can address.

The EHAT is an assessment to support early intervention and improve joint working and communication. It is designed to support the sharing of information. The process is supported by a standard form that is holistic and family centred. It is simple and practical and focusses on the family’s needs and strengths and is a joint process.

The process is entirely voluntary and informed consent is mandatory, so families do not have to engage and if they do they can choose what information they want to share. Children and families should not feel stigmatised by the EHAT; indeed they can ask for an EHAT to be initiated.

The EHAT process is not a 'referral' process but a 'request for services'.

The EHAT should be offered to children who have additional needs to those being met by universal services. Unless a child is presenting a need, it is unlikely the EHAT will be offered. The practitioner assesses needs using the EHAT. The EHAT is not a risk assessment. It is an early help assessment and should be used to improve outcomes and/or prevent escalation of concerns for a child.

The EHAT is designed for when:

• there are concerns about progress

• needs are unclear

• the support of more than one agency is needed.

If a child or young person reveals they are at risk, the practitioner should follow the local safeguarding process immediately:

**This policy is reviewed annually by Wavertree Christian Fellowship Nursery and Pre-school.**