

All children meeting any **one** of the following criteria will undergo a CAF assessment

1. Where **ongoing** targeted (Tier 2) support or intervention is needed, ie when a parent or assessment and discussion with professional/s and parents.
2. Where there are concerns (at least at Tier 2 level, see 'Windscreen' diagram) about outcomes for the child across at least two of the Every Child Matters outcomes (health, safety, enjoying and achieving, positive contribution and economic well-being).
3. Even where there is concern under only one Every Child Matters outcome area, if the underlying causes of poor outcomes are unclear, or where current interventions strategies are clearly not working to improve outcomes.
4. The needs are likely to lead to a range of agencies having to become involved.

If it is unclear whether or not a CAF is necessary, there should always be a discussion, for example at a TAC meeting (MAM, care plan meeting, telephone conversation, etc) to decide on the best way forward.

Parents or carers (or young people of the age and understanding to make their own decisions) must consent to the CAF being carried out.

The CAF should not be used where there are concerns about significant harm under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. The established and published Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures should be used. Details at

<http://www.sloughchildrenstrust.org.uk/practitioners/safeguarding.aspx>

See also the national guidance 'What to do if you think a child is being abused' (DfES 2007)

