

FOI Reference Number: FOI/135/1920

Date: 23/07/2019

Request:

Freedom of Information Request from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) regarding assessments in cases of child abuse and neglect

To whomever it may concern,

Please can you answer the following questions:

1. Do practitioners in your local authority assessing abuse and neglect in children have a specified range of assessment tools to select from? **Yes/No**

If yes, are they:

- Commissioned from an external provider? **Yes/No**
 - Locally adapted from an externally developed model? **Yes/No**
 - Locally developed? **Yes/No**
 - Other (please state)
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2. Can you please answer the following question if your local authority commissions/uses any externally developed assessment tools for assessing abuse and neglect in children (e.g. Signs of Safety)? We have provided a table to aid in your recording the answers:
 - What is the name of the assessment tool?
 - Who is the assessment tool provider/developer?
 - What is the annual budget for the contract/licence (if the assessment is not freely available)?
 - How long have you used the assessment tool?
 - When is the contract/licence end date?

Name of assessment tool used	Name of provider/ developer	Annual budget for the contract/ licence	How long have you been using the assessment tool?	Contract/licence end date

3. Can you please answer the following questions if your local authority has locally adapted any externally developed assessment tools for use by your practitioners to assess abuse and neglect? We have provided a table to aid in recording the answers:

- What assessment tools have been adapted?
- Briefly describe the adaptations made to the assessment tool

Name of the assessment tool adapted	Brief description of the adaptation made to the assessment tool

4. Can you please answer the following questions if your local authority uses any assessment tools that have been developed locally to assess abuse and neglect in children (e.g. developed in house)? We have provided a table to aid in recording the answers:

- What is the name of the assessment tool?
- Please provide a brief description of the assessment tool

Name of your assessment tool	Brief description of the assessment tool

5. Does the local authority provide training for staff to use assessment tools for abuse and neglect? **Yes/No**

If **yes**, please answer the following questions:

- Which assessment tools do staff receive training to use?
- What format does this training take (e.g. via an external training provider, in house, e-learning)?
- Is refresher training available?

Name of the assessment tool	Format of training received	Is refresher training available?

Please can you provide this information inputted into this document in an electronic format.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 15/07/2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to assessments in cases of child abuse and neglect.

Please note that in Northern Ireland district councils are not responsible for the provision of social care. Please contact the Northern Health and Social Care Trust who should be able to help you with your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and

should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/135/1920 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.