# Risk Assessment Toolkit

Lancashire safeguarding children board
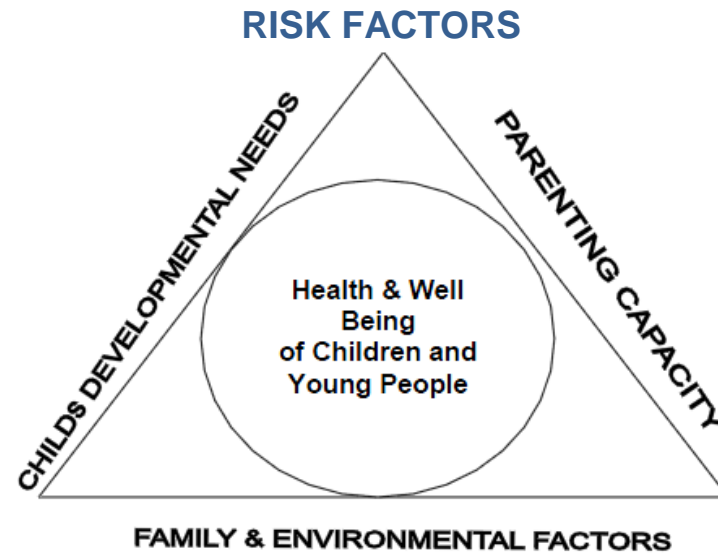
## Risk and Protective Factors for older children and young people

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.

**RISK FACTORS**

- **ADHD/hyperactivity**
- **Child with communication difficulties**
- **Defiant/angry child**
- **Early onset of coming to police attention**
- **Low intelligence**
- **Male**
- **Member of deviant peer group**
- **Peer rejected/child bullied**
- **Poor school attendance & attainment**
- **Child sexual exploitation/ absconding behaviour**

Key code: *Need to review as not same level of evidence*

🟥 High evidence risk

🟧 Medium evidence risk

CHILDs DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

PARENTING CAPACITY

Health & Well Being of Children and Young People

FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- **Parent with history of offending**
- **Parent with history of poor school attendance and attainment**
- **Parent misuses substance or alcohol**
- **Parent with mental health difficulties**
- **Family/parent conflict**
- **Poor supervision/interest in child's activities**
- **Large number of siblings**

- **Poor and high crime/drug abuse neighbourhood**
- **Frequent moves/no engagement in non deviant community activities**
- **Out of work**
- **Low income/or debt**

**PROTECTIVE FACTORS**

- **Calm child with positive attachment**
- **Good communication skills**
- **Female**
- **Positive peer relationships**
- Good self esteem and engagement with peers
- Good school attendance and attainment
- **Child has secure relationships and able to express self verbally**

CHILDS DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

PARENTING CAPACITY

Health & Well Being of Children and Young People
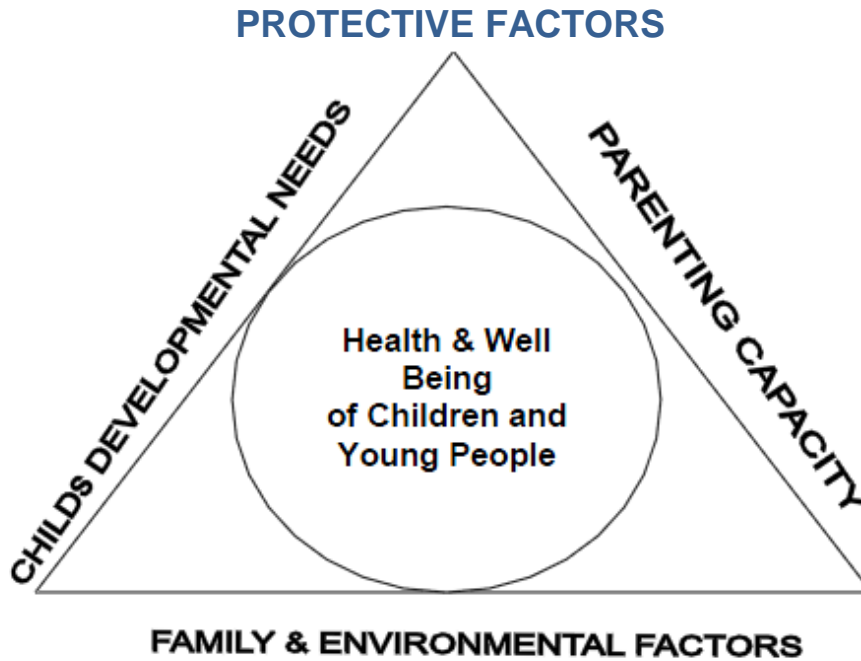
- **Parent with good physical and mental health**
- **Positive regard for the young person**
- **Good supervision of the young person**
- **Non offending parents**
- **Positive attitude to education**
- **Family support**

**FAMILY & ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

- **Citizenship**
- Positive acceptance of child
- **Stable neighbourhood /community links**
- **Good school with positive regard for young people**
- **Relationship with at least 1 trusted adult**
- **Meaningful activities**
- **Stable relationships**

Key code:

[green box] High evidence risk

[blue box] Medium evidence risk

Acknowledgment is given the Social Care Can Do Partners in developing the Risk Assessment Toolkit.