
Age Assessments

An Holistic Child Centered Approach



holistic age assessments the development

ADCS Age Assessment Strategic Oversight Group and Joint Working Sub Group

The group was established by the Association of Directors of Children's Services and included members of the

- Department for Education,
- Department of Health,
- Office of the Children's Commissioner for England,
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health,
- UNHCR
- Home Office,
- British Red Cross,
- National Policing,
- Refugee Children's Consortium and
- Refugee Council.

Feedback was provided by;

- Children and Young people seeking asylum
- British Association of Social Workers Coram Children's Legal Centre,
- Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support, Freedom from Torture, NSPCC, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and a host of social workers around the UK.

guiding principles

- *“Age assessments should only be carried out where there is significant reason to doubt that the claimant is a child. Age assessments should not be a routine part of a local authority’s assessment of unaccompanied or trafficked children”.*
- Age assessments are there to assess age in order to ensure children services are able to provide age appropriate support to a child
- The age assessment process follows the framework for child centered social care assessment
- Children’s Services (child protective services) best placed to engage with and assess children
- Age assessment process follows the framework for child centered social care assessment

why child centred?

Children seen and treated as children first

The needs of originations secondary

Early identification of the needs of a child or young adult

Acknowledge risk and reduce harm

No use of invasive medical techniques

The use of existing child welfare and safeguarding partnerships in the best interests of children

a harmonised approach and model for the future

UK Children's Safeguarding legislation and the Convention of the rights of the child harmonised in practice

UNCRC reflected:

Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

Article 4 (Protection of rights):

Article 6 (Survival and development)

Article 7 (Registration, name, nationality, care)

Article 8 (Preservation of identity)

Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child)

Article 13 (Freedom of expression)

Article 22 (Refugee children)

Article 28: (Right to education)

Article 34 (Sexual exploitation)

Article 36 (Other forms of exploitation)

best interests of a child and roles and responsibilities partnerships

[Convention on the Rights of the Child.](#)

Article 3 (Best interests of the child): **The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them.** All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

[Working together to safeguard children March 2015](#)

A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The principles and parameters of a good assessment are child centred. Where there is a conflict of interest, decisions should be made in the child's best interests;

[The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review](#)

This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education

The "best interests of the child" is central to the Act and is referenced 15 times within care planning, placement and case reviews

End