Framework for practice and maps

Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice

The development of a new framework for practice is a key milestone in a reformed child and family support system in Queensland. The Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice provides a transparent strengths-based, safety-oriented approach to work undertaken by Child Safety through all phases of the child protection process. The Framework and its supporting resources:

- defines the parameters and focus of work undertaken by Child Safety
- places a greater emphasis on working collaboratively with children, families and carers during assessment, safety planning and case planning processes
- identifies and supports the development of safety networks around children, their families and carers
- strengthens partnerships with agencies
- promotes enduring safety and positive change in the lives of children and families in contact with Child Safety.

Outlined in the Foundational elements document, the framework integrates Child Safety’s best hopes and vision for children, young people and families, together with key values, principles, knowledge and practice skills. The supporting Practice tools and processes document summarises creative tools, skills and processes required to engage with a child and family while maintaining a sharp focus on a child’s safety, belonging and wellbeing.

The Collaborative assessment and planning framework is a key component of the framework for practice. It is used in partnership with children, young people, their family and networks to undertake a balanced and comprehensive assessment of harm, risk and safety, and to collaboratively identify goals and action steps to build future safety, belonging and wellbeing for a child.

Five practice tip sheets provide information to support the application of the collaborative assessment and planning framework:

- Harm statements
- Protection and belonging and Strengths and resources statements
- Worry statements
- Action steps and non-negotiables
- Goal statements.

The six practice maps are a visual representation of the phases and tasks of child protection intervention relevant to the adoption of the framework.
**Practice maps**

The following six practice maps are a visual representation of the phases and tasks of child protection intervention.

- Child protection phases
- Intake phase
- Investigation and assessment phase
- Ongoing intervention – Support service case
- Ongoing intervention – Child in need of protection
- Standard of care reviews and harm reports

**Legend**

Each map contains a legend that identifies the elements represented in each map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map element</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Folder icon]</td>
<td>Tasks are activities undertaken at defined points in a phase. An example of a task in the intake phase is gathering information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Document icon]</td>
<td>A decision point within a phase. An example of a decision would be ‘Is this matter a notification? - ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Folder with documents icon]</td>
<td>Documentation of the tasks and decisions that are completed within a phase. An example of documentation at intake is a child concern report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Arrow icon]</td>
<td>An action or outcome from a decision point that may lead to another phase. An example is when a notification is recorded and the response is to proceed to the investigation and assessment phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Checkmark icon]</td>
<td>A structured decision making tool, that guides decision-making. An example is the screening criteria tool.</td>
</tr>
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Child protection phases

Intake
- receive information and child protection concerns
- inform the person providing the information about the role of the department and other relevant service providers
- screen the information to decide the appropriate departmental response and
- determine the appropriate timeframe for responding to a notification.

Investigation and assessment
- commence the investigation and assessment within the designated timeframe
- assess the safety of the child to determine any immediate harm indicators
- assess the harm/risk of harm
- assess the level of future risk of harm, determine whether a child is in need of protection and determine the appropriate type of ongoing intervention.

Ongoing intervention
- case manage intervention with the child and family
- identify and assess the child and parental strengths and needs
- undertake participatory and inclusive case planning
- coordinate and support the implementation of the case plan
- review and evaluate the progress made towards the case plan goal and outcomes until case closure
- develop, implement and review support plans for support service cases.
Investigation and assessment phase
Ongoing intervention – Support service cases

Assess

INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT
Gather and assess information
Explore service options

Documentation
Case notes

Review

Implement

IMPLEMENT
Gather and assess information
Review progress
Close case?

Documentation
Support plan
Case notes

Response
Ongoing intervention
Close

Plan

ASSESS
Prepare
Develop support plan
Distribute support plan to child and family, young person or pregnant woman

Documentation
Support plan

Response
Implement support plan

Planning
Implement Support plan
Undertake case work
Monitor and record progress

Documentation
Case notes
Ongoing intervention – Child in need of protection

(excluding long-term guardianship orders to any party).
Standard of care reviews and harm reports