

Redbridge's Common Assessment Framework

Welcome to a new way of helping families

A message for parents and carers

When your child needs extra support, we want to find the best way forward as soon as possible. This leaflet explains a new way of everyone working together which puts your family at the centre of decisions made about your child

What is the Common Assessment Framework?

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a new way of working with children and young people. It is a simple way of gathering information and recording it in an organised way. It involves:

- Listening to you and your child to find your child's needs and what is working well in your child's life.
- Actions will be agreed with you and your child to make sure your child and family get the right sort of help early.
- The CAF is voluntary – you and your child can choose to be involved.

How will the CAF help my family?

The CAF exists to help you to support your child. It can lead to a quick solution of help. The CAF will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with your child, such as teachers, health visitors, family support workers, work together to support your child.
- Your child receives the right support at an early stage before their needs increase.
- As the CAF is a shared document, you and your child will not have to repeat the same story to different workers.

Want to know more?

If you would like more information about the CAF process or need help and support please contact:

CAF team 020 8708 3150
email: CAFadmin@redbridge.gov.uk

How does it work?

If you agree, a worker you feel comfortable with will ask you and your child some questions to find out what help and support you might need. Older children may feel able to discuss their situation on their own with the worker. The next steps are:

1. The information is recorded on a simple form.
2. You and your child agree what is put on the form, and you will be given a copy of it.
3. Based on the information you and your child provide, all those who can help your child will work together to provide the support your child needs.

Who is lead professional?

If a number of people are providing support to your child a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting will be co-ordinated where an action plan is developed and a 'lead professional' will be appointed in agreement with you and your child. The lead professional will:

- Keep you informed, listen to your views and support you.
- Help to co-ordinate all services supporting your child.