

# Governors' Information Bulletin

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CALDERDALE MULTI-AGENCY ASSESSMENT SERVICE

## The right services at the right times from the right agencies

### Schools and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The CAF is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It can be used by practitioners across children's services in England.

The CAF will promote more effective, earlier identification of additional needs, particularly in universal services. It is intended to provide a simple process for a holistic assessment of a child's needs and strengths, taking account of the role of parents, carers and environmental factors on their development.

Practitioners will then be better placed to agree, with the child and family, about what support is appropriate

### Why do schools need to use the Common Assessment Framework?

- To give teachers and school staff working with children and young people a holistic tool for identifying a child's needs before they reach crisis point and a shared language for discussing and addressing them.
- To ensure important needs are not overlooked, to reduce the scale of assessments some children undergo and provide a universal way of recording information for practitioners to share.
- To provide a common structure to record information and facilitate information sharing between practitioners
- To provide evidence to facilitate requests to involve other agencies, reducing unnecessary referrals and enabling specialist services to support schools supporting children/young people and their families.

- To help schools provide evidence for School Profile, Self Evaluation Form, OFSTED inspection and Extended Services core offer (swift and easy referral).
- To support successful transition between key stages/managed moves

How many children or young people in your school have additional needs which will impact on their learning? How many of these could benefit from a CAF being undertaken?

**There is support for you and your school – Calderdale Multi-agency Assessment service (CMAS).**

**If you would like to invite us to your school or school cluster or any other meetings please contact us:**

**Calderdale Multi-agency Assessment Service (CMAS)  
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Mixenden Road  
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