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| HOME CONDITIONS  ASSESSMENT TOOL |

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| *What does it do?* | *This is a home conditions tool to assess the impact on the children who live there. It considers 20 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness and home maintenance. It concludes with a decision about the level of concern, what actions need to be taken, what tasks need to be done and who needs to do them.* |
| *How do I use it?* | *The scale is scored from 0 – 3 for each item and includes an area to make notes or record evidence. Mark the description that best represents the conditions in the home and their impact on the child. If there are different age children, complete the assessment in relation to the most vulnerable child. For example, the impact will be greater depending on the age and ability of the child (e.g. a badly soiled floor will have a different impact on a child who is crawling compared to an older child). Particular home conditions may prompt task (e.g. clearing of rubbish from home) and a subsequent review would establish whether there has been any improvement.*  *The home conditions checklist is best completed with the family and other relevant professionals.*  *The Graded Care Profile is another assessment tool that can be used to assess neglect. It includes home conditions but also includes other areas to provide a more comprehensive assessment. This needs to be considered when looking at neglect cases.* |
| *Developed:* | *This has been developed by Bruce Thornton and Associates (*[*www.bruce-thornton.info*](http://www.bruce-thornton.info)*)* |
| *Original Source:* | *Adapted from Buckinghamshire County Council as developed with Bruce Thornton.* |
| *How Long?* | *About 45 minutes if completed with parents.* |
| *Further Guidance?* | *Yes* |
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| **Home Conditions Assessment Tool** | | | | | | |
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| Child’s name | |  | Date of Birth | |  | |
| Worker’s name | |  | Date Completed | |  | |
| Parent/ Carer name | |  | Reference Number | |  | |
| Name of agency | |  | | | | |
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| Please confirm whether the Home Conditions were assessed as part of an announced or unannounced visit. | | | | Announced | | □ |
| Unannounced | | □ |
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| Please confirm whether the Home Conditions was undertaken jointly with the parent (or family/carer etc.) | | | | With Family | | □ |
| Without Family | | □ |
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| *Guidance: The Home Conditions assessment is best completed jointly with the parents. This creates greater openness and a common understanding of the areas causing concern. Improvement can be tracked over time, giving families a clear record of their progress. Please consider each of the factors listed and select the statement that best describes the home conditions. Record in each ‘notes’ section a description of what you have seen and the impact on the child. When you have completed all the sections ‘flag’ those that need attention before the next visit. Photographic evidence can be provided with consent of parents/carers to track the progress of the family. This priorities any follow up actions required. If there is more than one child, complete the assessment in relation to the child which the home conditions affect the most.* | | | | | | |
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| **SCALE** | | | | | | |
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| **1** | Strong odour  (e.g. smell of mould, rotten food or urine) | | Issue does not exist | | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | | **Flag for attention:** | |  | |
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| **2** | Kitchen floor is dirty  e.g. Covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces) | | Issue does not exist | | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | | **Flag for attention:** | |  | |
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| **3** | Floor is dirty in other rooms  (e.g. covered in bits, crumbs, rubbish, animal faeces) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **4** | Structural order poor – presents a hazard.  (e.g. obviously in need of attention, stained or damaged walls, broken doors or windows) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **5** | Kitchen sink, draining board, worker surfaces, cooker, fridge or cupboard door are dirty  (e.g. ingrained dirt, rotting food, animal faeces) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **6** | Cooking implements, cutlery or crockery dirty (e.g. showing ingrained dirt and/or these items remain unwashed until they are needed again. | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **7** | Toilet, bath or basin dirty  (e.g. stained, broken or showing ingrained dirty, blocked unusable, unhygienic state, access to personal care items) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **8** | Beds, Furnishings or furniture dirty.  (e.g. broken or stained, cot/ bedding unwashed, urine & faeces, rotten milk/food) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **9** | Outside area’s  (e.g. uncared for, strewn with rubbish, containing dangerous items, broken bottles or prams) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **10** | There is a lack of food or food is inadequate.  (e.g. little or no food in the cupboards) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **11** | Bedding is unsuitable.  (e.g. no beds, mattresses or appropriate bed clothes on the children’s beds) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **12** | Rodents or rodent damage to the property. | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **13** | House hazardous to children.  (e.g. broken electrical sockets, no smoke alarms, lack of safety gates or fire guards) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **14** | Basic services unavailable in the house.  (e.g. water, electricity, gas or heating). | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **15** | House is cluttered  (e.g. extreme clutter or hoarding, bin bags or clothing or toys left everywhere, lack of space to play, fire safety) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **16** | Hazardous pets present in the house.  (e.g. aggressive or threating animals or numbers of animals in the house) | Issue does not exist | □ | 0 |
| Exists to some extent | □ | 1 |
| Noticeable has some impact | □ | 2 |
| Very apparent/serious impact | □ | 3 |
| **Notes:** | | **Flag for attention:** |  | |
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| **Total score** | | |  | |
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| **Number of items where score is 3** | | |  | |
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| **Please list the number of flagged items requiring attention** | | |  | |
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| **Summary of findings:** | | | | |
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| **Tasks for the Family / Agency** | | | | | |
| Family/ Agency to work on the following flagged items/ tasks before the next visit (Please clarify items numbers and tasks below) | | | | | □ |
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| **Further Action arising from this assessment** | | | | | |
| Choose one or more of the following options: | | | | | |
| ⇨ Child Protection concerns, discuss with team leader or Senior if agreed report to family connect 385385 | | | | | □ |
| ⇨ Undertake single agency work with the family | | | | | □ |
| ⇨ Undertake joint work with this family with other agencies | | | | | □ |
| ⇨ Consider referral to environmental health or Thrive (if appropriate) | | | | | □ |
| ⇨ No further action | | | | | □ |
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| Arrange a further visit to monitor progress | | | Planned visit | | □ |
| Unplanned visit | | □ |
| Frequency: | | | | | |
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| **Consent** | | | | | |
| ***For sharing information or referral to another agency the consent of the child/parent is usually required. Please confirm whether the consent of the child/parent has been obtained.*** | | | | | |
| ⇨ I have obtained consent to share information/ refer to another agency. | | | | | □ |
| ⇨ I do not have consent to share information/ refer with another agency but have Child Protection concerns and obtaining consent may harm the child. | | | | | □ |
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| Parent(s) signature |  | | | | |
| Worker’s signature |  | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| Comments of manager | | | | | |
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| Manager’s signature |  | Date: | |  | |
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