



Child Protection Self Audit Tool

This self-audit tool has been developed as a way of measuring where your organisation is in relation to meeting the standards on making children safe, and where you need to improve.

When working in partnership with others, you have a responsibility to make sure that children are kept safe by the partner organisation. Most partners working with children will already be concerned for child protection and may have good policies and procedures in place. However you must review these policies and procedures and as needed provide ongoing training and monitoring. You should consider amending partnership agreements to reflect a commitment to child protection and to putting protection measures in place in line with these standards and review the partner's own child protection policy.

The checkpoint questions below are designed to draw out the minimum requirements that all agencies committed to protecting children should be striving to meet. However, depending on the nature of your organisation's work with children and the context, environment and conditions you work in, some of the checkpoints may seem more relevant than others.

There are six statements/standards within each area. Read each statement and decide whether each statement is:

- A: in place
- B: partially done
- C: not in place

Tick the A, B or C box as appropriate.

CHILD PROTECTION SELF AUDIT

Children And The Organisation		A	B	C
1	The organisation, and its local partners, are very clear about its responsibility to protect children, and makes this known to all who come into contact with them.			
2	The way staff and local partners behave towards children suggests that they are committed to protecting children from abuse.			
3	There is good awareness of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) or other children's rights instruments and this is seen as a basis for child protection in the organisation.			
4	Managers and senior staff ensure that children are listened to and consulted and that their rights are met.			
5	The organisation and its local partners make it clear that all children have equal rights to protection.			
6	The organisation and its local partners manage children's behaviour in ways which are non-violent and do not degrade or humiliate children.			

Policies And Procedures That Help Keep Children Safe		A	B	C
1	The organisation and its local partners have a written child protection policy or some clear arrangements to make sure that children are kept safe from harm.			
2	The policy or arrangements are approved and endorsed by the relevant management body (eg, senior management board, executive, committee).			
3	The policy or arrangements have to be followed by everyone.			
4	There are clear child protection procedures in place that provide step-by-step guidance on what action to take if there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare.			
5	There is a named child protection person/s with clearly defined role and responsibilities.			
6	The child protection procedures also take account of local circumstances.			

Preventing Harm To Children		A	B	C
1	There are policies and procedures or agreed ways of recruiting staff and for assessing their suitability to work with children, including where possible police and reference checks.			
2	There are written guidelines for behaviour or some way of describing to staff and local partners what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable especially when it comes to contact with children.			
3	The consequences of breaking the guidelines on behaviour are clear and linked to organisational disciplinary procedures.			
4	Guidance exists on appropriate use of information technology such as the internet, websites, digital cameras etc to ensure that children are not put at risk.			
5	Where there is direct responsibility for running/providing activities, including residential care, children are adequately supervised and protected at all times.			
6	There are well-publicised ways in which staff can raise concerns, confidentially if necessary, about unacceptable behaviour by other staff or representatives.			

Implementation And Training		A	B	C
1	There is clear guidance to staff, local partners and other organisations (including funding organisations) on how children will be kept safe.			
2	Child protection must be applied in ways that are culturally sensitive but without condoning acts that are harmful to children.			
3	There is a written plan showing what steps will be taken to keep children safe.			
4	All members of staff and volunteers in the organisation and its local partners have training on child protection which includes an introduction to the organisations' child protection policy and procedures where these exist.			
5	All members of staff and local partners are provided with opportunities to learn about how to recognise and respond to concerns about child abuse.			
6	Work has been undertaken with all local partners to agree good practice expectations based on these standards.			

Information And Communication		A	B	C
1	Children are made aware of their right to be safe from abuse.			
2	Everyone in the organisation and the local partners know which named staff member has special responsibilities for keeping children safe and how to contact them.			
3	Contact details are readily available for local child protection resources, safe places, national authorities and emergency medical help.			
4	Children are provided with information on where to go to for help and advice in relation to abuse, harassment and bullying.			
5	Contacts are established at a national and/or local level with the relevant child protection/welfare agencies as appropriate.			
6	Staff members with special responsibilities for keeping children safe have access to specialist advice, support and information.			

Monitoring and Review		A	B	C
1	Arrangements are in place to monitor compliance with child protection measures put in place by the organisation.			
2	Steps are taken to regularly ask children and parents/carers their views on policies and practices aimed at keeping children safe the effectiveness of these.			
3	The organisation uses the experience of operating child protection to influence policy and practice development.			
4	All incidents, allegations of abuse and complaints are recorded and monitored.			
5	Policies and practices are reviewed at regular intervals, ideally at least every three years.			
6	Children and parents/carers are consulted as part of these reviews of safeguarding policies and practices.			

Audit tool adapted from “Keeping the Children Safe”:

<http://keepingchildrensafe.org.uk/toolkit2>