Department for Education

Children in need census 2027 to 2028

Guide for local authorities

Version 1.0 October 2026

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Legislation

The data in this census are collected under section 83 of the Children Act 1989.

Contact details

If you require help or further information, please contact the Data Operations Service Desk using the data collections service request form.

Other children in need census documents

More information on the children in need census, including the technical specification and validation rules, is available in the Children in need census: guide to submitting data.

Data protection and data sharing

Data from which it is possible to identify children, parents and staff (in any medium, including within a management information system (MIS)) is personal data.

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) put in place certain safeguards regarding the use of personal data by organisations, including the Department for Education (DfE) and local authorities. Both give rights to those (known as data subjects) about whom data is processed, such as children, their parents / carers and staff. This includes (amongst other information that DfE is obliged to provide) the right to know:

- the types of data being held;
- why it is being held;
- to whom it may be communicated

As data processors and controllers in their own right, it is important that local authorities process all data (not just that collected for the purposes of the Children in Need census) in accordance with the full requirements of the UK GDPR. Further information on the UK GDPR can be found in the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) overview of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Legal duties under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018: privacy notices

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how you will process their personal data is a key element of UK GDPR and the DPA 2018. The most common way to provide such information is through a privacy notice. Please refer to the ICO website for further guidance on privacy notices.

DfE provides suggested wording for privacy notices that local authorities may wish to use. However, where the suggested wording is used, the local authority must **review and amend** the wording to reflect local business needs and circumstances. This is especially important, as the local authority will process data that is not solely for use within DfE data collections.

It is recommended that the privacy notice is made available to data subjects via the internet as well as handed out in paper form or placed on an accessible noticeboard. Privacy notices do not need to be issued on an annual basis as long as new children or young people, parents and staff are made aware of the notices, and they are readily available electronically or in paper format.

Legal duties under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018: data security

Providers and local authorities have a (legal) duty under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 to ensure that any personal data they process is handled and stored securely. Further information on data security is available from the Information Commissioner's Office.

Where personal data is not properly safeguarded, it could compromise the safety of individuals and damage your organisation's reputation. Your responsibility as a data controller extends to those who have access to your organisation's data where they are working on your behalf; for example, where external IT suppliers can remotely access your organisation's information. The 'Guide to data protection' page provides further guidance and advice.

It is **vital** that all staff with access to personal data understand the importance of:

- protecting personal data
- being familiar with your security policy
- putting security procedures into practice

As such, you should provide appropriate initial and refresher training for your staff.

Version history

Version	Comments	Date
1.0	Baseline version. • Rollover of dates • Children receiving targeted early help (TEH) delivered through the family help pathway are now within scope of the census • Rename 'CIN details' module to 'Episode details' • Rename 'CIN closure date' to 'Closure date' • Collect 'Level of Support' (TEH or CIN) at referral, initial assessment and the date of any change in level of support after initial assessment to track movement within Family Help • Amendments to Source of Referral code set:	October 2026

	- Amend codes 5C and 5D to include ‘Universal services and community based early help’ - Amendments to Reason for Closure code set: - Amend closure code RC7 to include child no longer in need of Family Help services - Amend code RC9 to include ‘Universal services and community based early help’ - Addition of code RC10 – ‘Targeted early help services ended following withdrawal of consent’ - Amending the Assessment Factor list drawing from the existing assessment factors and supporting families framework as well as amending the list in other places in line with policy, evidence, and legislative changes, and re-naming to ‘Factors’ - Replacing Primary Need with a more expansive, non-hierarchical set of options in the form of ‘Factor Groups’, which group the longer list of Factors - Adding ‘extra-familial harm’ and ‘domestic abuse’ to the child protection plan categories of abuse	

1. Introduction

1.1. Summary of main changes for 2027 to 2028

For the 2027 to 2028 CIN census the following changes have been made:

- Rename ‘CIN details’ module to ‘Episode details’
- Rename ‘CIN closure date’ to ‘Closure date’
- Collect ‘Level of Support’ (TEH or CIN) at referral, initial assessment and the date of any change in level of support after initial assessment to track movement within Family Help
- Amendments to Source of Referral code set:
    - Amend codes 5C and 5D to include ‘Universal services and community based early help’
- Amendments to Reason for Closure code set:
    - Amend closure code RC7 to include child no longer in need of Family Help services
    - Amend code RC9 to include ‘Universal services and community based early help’
    - Addition of code RC10 – ‘Targeted early help services ended following withdrawal of consent’
- Amending the Assessment Factor list drawing from the existing assessment factors and supporting families framework, as well as amending the list in other places in line with policy, evidence, and legislative changes, and re-naming to ‘Factors’
- To note, the domestic abuse factors have been revised to better capture children’s experiences of domestic abuse. Where concerns relate to domestic abuse between a child’s parents, carers or relatives, they should be recorded under the ‘child victim of domestic abuse (section 3 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definition) and concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy’ factor. Concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy should also be recorded under this factor. Appendix B4 provides further information about the domestic abuse factors.
- Replacing Primary Need with ‘Factor Groups’ which are a more expansive, non-hierarchical set of options and group the longer list of Factors
- Adding ‘extra-familial harm’, ‘domestic abuse’ and ‘other’ to the child protection plan categories of abuse and removing ‘multiple/not recommended’.

1.2. Background

This is the latest collection of the revised children in need (CIN) census, collecting data over the full financial year, from 1 April to 31 March. The scope of the census has been extended to cover children receiving targeted early help. Further details are included in Section 1.3.1.

The 2027 to 2028 census covers the financial year **1 April 2027** to **31 March 2028**. Census data will be submitted by local authorities to the Department for Education (DfE) between **1 April 2028** and **31 July 2028**.

If a local authority fails to submit its data by **31 July 2028**, it will not be included in the DfE published statistics and may not be used by Ofsted as part of their inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children.

1.3. Scope

1.3.1. Children who are referred to children's social care services

The census covers all children who are referred to children's social care services, even if no further action is taken.

In line with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, local areas are moving to a single, integrated 'family help' pathway, which brings together targeted early help (TEH) and children in need (CIN) support into a more seamless offer for families. Family Help is being implemented through the Families First Partnership Programme. The changes introduced to the 2027 to 2028 CIN census support the transition into Family Help and will help ensure national data continues to provide an accurate picture of children receiving help, support and protection.

As a result, the scope of this census has been extended. Children receiving targeted early help (TEH) delivered through the family help pathway are now within scope of the census.

This includes children who receive support across the full continuum of help, support and protection, including:

- children receiving family help, including both targeted early help (non-statutory) and child in need (delivered under section 17 of the Children Act 1989)
  services;
- children who are the subject of a child protection plan (section 47 of the Children Act 1989); and

- children looked after.

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired without the provision of services, or the child is disabled.

The purpose of an assessment is to gather information and evidence about a child's developmental needs and the parents' capacity to meet these needs within the context of the wider family and community. This information should be used to inform decisions about the help needed by the child.

The census includes all vulnerable children, including: unborn children; babies; older children; young carers; disabled children; and those who are in secure settings. Please note whilst most children in scope will be aged under 18, your return should include young people aged 18 or over who are still receiving care and accommodation or post-care support from children's services.

1.3.2. Children who were referred but with no further action

Include all children who were referred to children's social care services even if no further action was taken. The information required is limited given that local authorities will not have spent a lot of time responding to the referral regarding these children (see section 4.4).

1.3.3. Cases that were open between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2028

The census includes cases that were open before and during any part of the year from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028: a case may have opened before 1 April 2027, but it must have been open at some point between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2028 to be counted. The census also includes any cases that are referred and opened between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2028.

Local authorities should maintain records of all cases of children in family help (targeted early help and child in need) and child protection that were open during the collection period. Open refers to children's cases where the local authority which assessed the child as requiring support took some sort of action during the collection period or, as at 31 March 2028, was planning to take action. These are cases for which the local authority is committed to taking an initiative, irrespective of any new information that comes to light that the local authority will act upon.

Taking an initiative means any of the following:

- active case work (assessment, planning, intervention and review);
- making regular payments where the case remains open to children's social care services;
- where funding for on-going services such as respite care has been agreed;
- maintaining a child with care and accommodation;
- a commitment to review the case at a predetermined date;
- maintaining the child's name on a register that ensures the child and family received targeted information or other special consideration.

Such cases may include:

- young people aged 18 or over who are still receiving care and accommodation or post-care support (leaving care services) from children's social care services;
- unborn children if there are concerns about their safety or welfare.

Please do not include cases where a child is receiving a regular payment but there is no actual or expected further input from children's social care services such as reviews, assessments or receipt of other services.

The census should include all children who children's social care services assess as requiring support and as a result incur financial costs, including:

- provision via adult's social care service teams;
- nursery provision where this is paid for by children's social care services and not reimbursed from anywhere else;
- contracted out provision where the service is provided by an organisation funded by children's social care services. This means that local authorities will need to require contracted organisations to provide them with information regarding children who receive contracted out services.

1.3.4. Children awaiting services, children that are the subject of statutory orders and privately fostered children

Local authorities should also include in their census return those children assessed as requiring support, but who are waiting for a service. By definition, these are open cases.

Children who are the subject of statutory orders and living with their parents are open cases because a social worker should be visiting, and statutory reviews must take place.

Children requiring support who are also privately fostered should be included. However, being privately fostered does not automatically mean the child requires

support. To be included, the privately fostered child must have been assessed to require support and requiring children's social care services in addition to receiving the required statutory visits because they are privately fostered. If a privately fostered child is only receiving the required statutory visits from children's social care services, then the child is not included in the census.

1.3.5. Disabled children

Disabled children living with their parents and for whom it has been planned and agreed that they will have a series of short-term placements are open cases, because funding has been agreed and the arrangement will need to be reviewed.

Only disabled children who have been assessed as requiring children's social care services should be included in the collection, not those disabled children who receive mail outs (for example newsletters) only. If the disability register is shared with other agencies or does not imply any activity on behalf of children's social care services, then these children's cases should not be included in the collection purely on the basis of their names being on the register. The key issue for the census is whether the presence of the child's name on the register triggers any activity by children's social care services.

1.3.6. Children from another local authority

A local authority (the service authority) may provide a service to a child on behalf of another authority (the assessing local authority). In this instance, the assessing authority would have carried out the assessment of the child which determined them to require support.

The assessing local authority has responsibility for the child and, therefore, it has responsibility for reporting the child in the census.

The service authority should not also report the child in the census, otherwise the child will be counted twice. It is recognised that the service authority may be spending significant resources on providing a service to a child for whom it is not responsible. Although information on this resource is not collected in the census, it will be captured in financial terms in the annual section 251 return.

1.3.7. Adopted children

The only children going through adoption who should automatically be included in the census are those who have been adopted from care.

Step-parent adoptions are not in the scope of the census. Although a referral may be opened for a step-parent/relative adoption, this does not automatically mean that the

child requires support. Of course, a child who is adopted by a step-parent or relative may require support for some other reason, in which case they would be included in the census.

Children who have had an adoption order granted who are in receipt of post adoption service (not just payments) where there is a risk of breakdown, or behavioural support required should be included in the census. Children receiving adoption allowances only should not be included in the census. For the census, post adoption support does not cover payments made, in accordance with the Adoption Allowance Regulations 1991, to a family after an adoption order has been made. Children in receipt of these payments alone, on a case closed to children's social care services, should not be returned in the census.

1.3.8. Formerly looked after children

Formerly looked after children receiving follow-up support from children's social care services should be recorded in the census. Local authorities have a proactive duty to offer support until the young person's 21st birthday and these cases should be recorded as ongoing episodes for that purpose. After that point the young person may engage with support from children's social care until their 25th birthday and such an instance may be recorded as a new episode.

1.4. Rationale

The census is the only national source of data on children referred to children's social care services, those that are the subject of child protection plans (CPPs), and children who are being supported by targeted early help. These are a vulnerable group of children for whom both central and local government have a responsibility. Reviews, such as Professor Munro's review of child protection, the National Audit on Group-Based Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, have highlighted the importance of good quality performance information, including nationally collected data as part of helping to map children's journeys, and understand the impact of services on their lives. In addition, the state is required to collect information on vulnerable children to fulfil its international obligations under the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The census is a child-level data collection. This means the DfE can track and analyse the journeys of individual children and explore how these vary according to their characteristics and needs. This information can help local authorities when planning and commissioning services and also central government when developing and monitoring its policies. It helps us to answer questions, such as are younger children more likely to become the subject of a child protection plan. Data collection

also shapes practice, both through how the collection of data itself is built into the day to day and strategic working of social care, and in how the system responds to what the data tells us once it is collected.

DfE can add value to these data by linking them to other data sources such as the national pupil database (NPD) and the children looked after data collection. Linking to the children looked after data allows, for example, the analysis of the proportion of looked after children who are disabled and analysis of the original reasons for the child being identified as requiring support. Over time, linking to the NPD allows the analysis of the effectiveness of services on pupil outcomes, which will lead to better commissioning of services in the future. It will allow us to identify attainment of children requiring support and the progression between key stages following the receipt of services. It will also allow exploration of other relationships with absence, exclusions and characteristics (such as free school meal (FSM) eligibility, looked after and special educational need (SEN) status) and to build a more complete local and national picture of the children requiring support population.

1.5. Benefits of the census to local authorities

Data collected at a national level is of value to local authorities and others as part of a wider system of improvement and accountability. Collecting and holding information centrally, as with the census data, enables valuable local comparisons to be made that would otherwise be very difficult without the structure of a centrally defined data collection. It enables local authorities to have a more robust and richer data source when linked to other central data collections.

A fully completed census allows local authorities to better understand variations in social care activity and practice and benchmark themselves against national averages and their peers. Local authorities can draw from this nationally held data and use comparative information from other local authorities to evaluate the effectiveness of their local services to drive commissioning, as well as to improve working practices and improve the outcomes of some their most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Furthermore, the census can encourage local authorities to construct robust systems for collecting information on and monitoring disabled children and other children requiring support.

This will help local authorities ensure that they meet their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA).

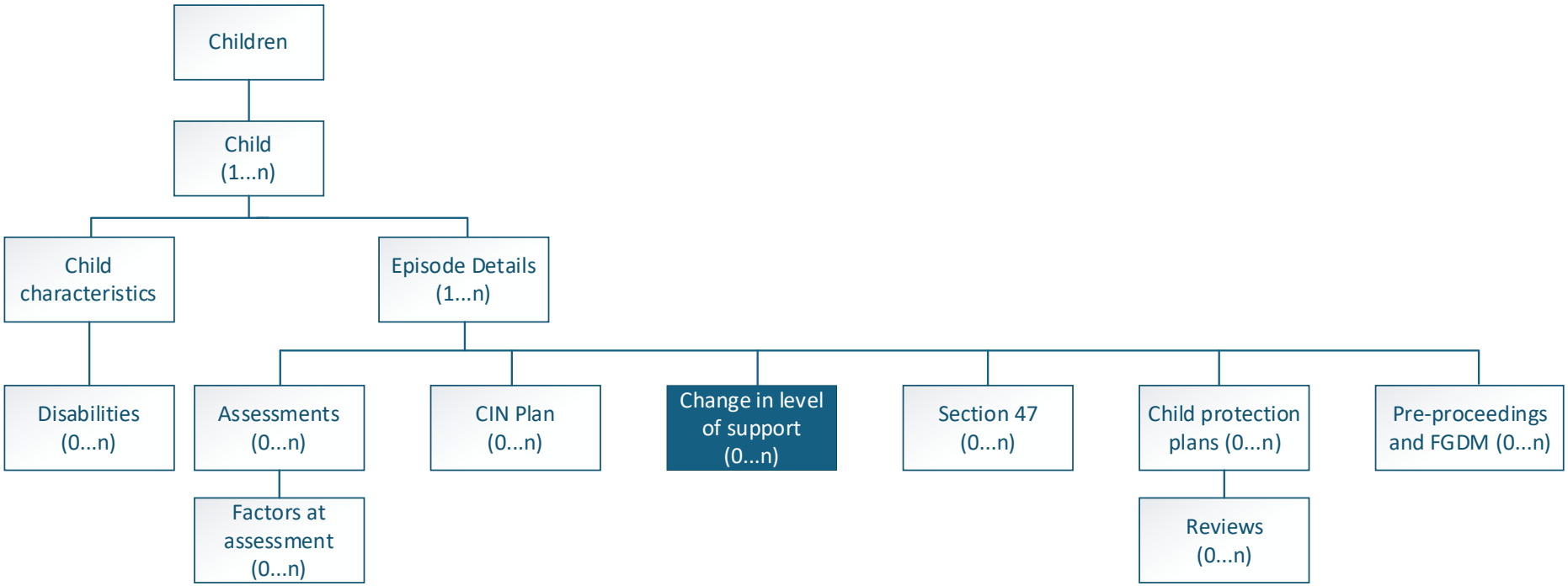
Information from the census, when used alongside local authorities own locally held information, such as that described within the Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Framework, can be used to help understand and provide context for

discussion and debate about the effectiveness of services and an understanding of what is working and where there may be problems to resolve.

1.6. Data structure

The number of instances of each module per child is shown in the children in need 2027 to 2028 logical data model:

Figure 1: Children in need census 2027 to 2028 structure



Children in need census data modules

There are nine modules of data in this census, each with its own set of data items:

1. Child identifiers
    - 1.1. ‘LA child ID’
    - 1.2. Unique pupil number (UPN)
    - 1.3. Pupil’s former unique pupil number
    - 1.4. UPN unknown reason (optional)
    - 1.5. Date of birth
    - 1.6. Expected date of birth
    - 1.7. Sex
    - 1.8. Date of death
2. Child characteristics
    - 2.1. Child ethnicity
    - 2.2. Type of disability
3. Episode details
    - 3.1. Referral date
    - 3.2. Presenting level of support
    - 3.3. Referral no further action
    - 3.4. Source of referral
    - 3.5. Factor group
    - 3.6. Closure date
    - 3.7. Reason for closure
    - 3.8. Date of initial child protection conference (transfer in cases)
4. Assessment group:
    - 4.1. Assessment actual start date
    - 4.2. Assessment internal review point date (optional)
    - 4.3. Assessment authorisation date
    - 4.4. Level of support required after assessment
    - 4.5. Factors identified during assessment
5. CIN plan dates group:
    - 5.1. CIN plan start date
    - 5.2. CIN plan end date

6. Change in level of support change
    - 6.1. Level of support change
    - 6.2. Date of level of support change
7. Section 47 group
    - 7.1. Section 47 enquiry actual start date
    - 7.2. Target date for initial child protection conference (optional)
    - 7.3. Date of initial child protection conference
    - 7.4. Initial child protection conference not required
8. Child protection plans
    - 8.1. Child protection plan start date
    - 8.2. Initial category of abuse
    - 8.3. Latest category of abuse
    - 8.4. Number of previous child protection plans
    - 8.5. Plan review date
    - 8.6. Child protection plan end date
9. Pre-proceedings and FGDM
    - 9.1. Date pre-proceedings began
    - 9.2. Date ‘letter before proceedings’ sent
    - 9.3. FGDM meeting offer
    - 9.4. FGDM meeting facilitation
    - 9.5. Date of initial pre-proceedings meeting
    - 9.6. Number of review meetings
    - 9.7. Date of decision to step up or step down
    - 9.8. Outcome of pre-proceedings
    - 9.9. Date of application to court
    - 9.10. Date ‘letter of issue’ sent

1.7. Multiple entries of some types of data

Since a particular child can have more than one episode, child protection plan, etc., some of the data in these modules can be repeated for each child.

1.7.1. Technical note

For staff preparing XML outputs, please note that care must be taken with the repetition of modules. This is described fully in the technical specification and

examples of multiple instances are given in the example files that are part of the documentation pack.

1.8. Submission

The final deadline for submitting the completed return is **31 July 2028**. Only returns submitted by this deadline will be included in published figures.

Children's social care services local authority numbers were aligned to the local authority code set used in education data collections as of April 2027. Your 2027 to 2028 census return should include the three-digit numeric code used only for education data collections.

The output of census data from local authority systems should be an XML file that is loaded into the COLLECT (collections online for learning, education, children and teachers) system.

The children in need COLLECT blade can be accessed through DfE Sign-in. DfE Sign-in is accessed via the DfE Sign-in website. For any queries, please use DfE Sign-in help.

Details of how to access DfE Sign-In and the COLLECT portal will be sent in a communication to local authority contacts, nearer the time that the census collection goes live.

1.9. Validation checks

Validation checks will be applied to your data once it has been loaded into COLLECT. These checks help to identify missing data, invalid data, and other anomalies. The validation checks can be found in the accompanying technical specification for this collection.

Validation checks are classified as either errors or queries. A query can be distinguished from an error by the validation rule number, which has a 'Q' suffix (for example 8530Q), and that the associated message begins, "Please check …".

DfE classifies validation rules as errors where a correction is required in all cases. However, for queries, although DfE would expect a correction in most cases, there may be circumstances under which the data is correct and may remain. The COLLECT system enables users to annotate queries with an explanation and we request this is undertaken to assist with data cleaning.

Some of the validation rules that are built into COLLECT have an automatic 'OK' function. This means once you have checked all the records where these rules have triggered and you are content the data is correct, you can add specific text to the return level notes field to explain the query. These records are then automatically authorised overnight within the COLLECT system.

Details of the acceptable notepad entries for all queries along with the text to include for automatic OK queries are listed in the separate acceptable notepad entries document, available on the census data collection website.

1.10. Year on year checks

Year on year checks are built into COLLECT and applied to a number of the headline measures and the number of child records in the return. The checks compare the data in the current data collection and to that in the previous year. Substantial increases or decreases between the current and the previous year will be highlighted. Details of these validation checks can be found in the validation rules document.

1.11. General notes

1.11.1. Date fields

This guide assumes that each management information system (MIS) in use within local authorities will have standard conventions for recording dates with which users will be familiar. However, the XML format for the census defines all dates as being in the format 'CCYY-MM-DD', in accordance with the XML standard. The export functionality for any system will therefore have to convert any dates into this format. Any local authority which makes its own software arrangements, rather than using a commercial system, should take this into account.

1.11.2. True/false fields

There are two items within the census that can be either true or false. These items are 'initial child protection conference not required' and 'referral no further action'. The format for the census follows the XML standard in allowing true or 1 for the true state, and false or 0 for the false state. However, we recognise that users of MISs may be presented with a number of ways of recording this type of information, such as check boxes or a drop-down list. In this case the export functionality of any system will need to convert these fields to the XML standard format.

2. Data module 1: Child identifiers

This module contains details about the child's identity and it must be completed for every child record.

If a child is adopted from care during the year and continues to require support, then the child should have two separate unlinked records entered for them: one for pre-adoption and one for post-adoption with appropriate new child identifiers.

Items 2.1 to 2.7 are used for identifying and matching purposes.

2.1. 'LA Child ID'

This must be a unique ID for each child (no longer than 20 characters), and it should be retained from year to year. Unborn children should be allocated their own 'LA child ID'. A 'LA child ID' should not be reused after a period of time, it should be unique to a single child in your local authority. The 'LA child ID' can only contain alphabetic or numeric characters and should not contain leading zeros. It must be the same ID that is used for other purposes, for example in the children looked after data collection return. The ID is the sole means of DfE computer identification of each child record and is used to match between census years and between the children in need and the children looked after collections.

Local authorities are free to choose their own child ids according to the above format.

If you are planning to change the 'LA child ID', either for a single child or for a whole group of children, it will prevent DfE from analysing data across different census years and between the children in need and the children looked after collections. For this reason, any proposal to change IDs should be discussed with DfE at an early stage and in advance of any changes. Identifying child information, for example names, dates of birth, unique pupil numbers (UPNs) or local authority child IDs, should not be sent in email communications to the department or in data collection service requests.

Details of changes to child IDs should be sent via the School to School (S2S) file transfer system which is accessed via DfE sign in. You will then need to send us a data collections service request form informing us that the file has been uploaded.

2.2. Unique pupil number (UPN)

A unique pupil number (UPN) is allocated at the point of a pupil's first entry into the state funded school sector. It is an identifier only for use in an educational context during a child's school years and it is subject to data protection restrictions.

The UPN must be 13 characters in the format 'Annnnnnnnnnnn' or 'AnnnnnnnnnnA' (for a temporary UPN) where A is a character and n is numeric. Temporary UPNs may only be issued as an interim measure until the permanent UPN is obtained.

In 2018 we began cross referencing the UPNs returned on the children in need census and the children looked after census.

Please ensure that the correct UPN for a child is returned in both collections. This will help the Department to match children accurately between different datasets to produce statistics on outcomes for children in need and children looked after; including special educational needs, educational attainment, destinations from school, absence from school, suspensions and permanent exclusions from school, free school meal eligibility and type of school attended.

Policy development designed to improve the outcomes of children requiring support is therefore dependent on the availability of UPNs. In that case, local authorities must make every attempt to track down missing UPNs. If a child has not been assigned a UPN by a state-funded school, then they may have been assigned one by the education department within the local authority, which has the ability to assign a UPN for those in, for example, alternative provision. Only where it is not possible to locate the UPN should the item be left blank.

Note that state-funded nursery schools also allocate UPNs, so children may have a UPN from the age of 2 or 3 years onwards.

It is possible to do a non-UPN search using a child's first name and/or surname to obtain a child's UPN, using the service Get Information About Pupils (GIAP). It is then possible to filter further using middle name, date of birth and sex if required.

GIAP is accessed through DfE Sign-in. You can create an account if you have not used DfE Sign-in before. User access to GIAP is administered directly by local authorities. Please contact the approver in your local authority to arrange access to GIAP. If you require further assistance, please contact the department via a data collections service request form.

Once obtained, the child's UPN may be retained on the local authority children's social care services database for the purposes of returning the information to DfE. It

is up to the local authority how they track down the UPN and we cannot offer legal advice to local authorities on obtaining UPNs.

For looked after children that have been adopted during the year, the UPN on the child's pre and post-adoption records should be different.

Further information on UPNs is available in DfE's UPN guide for schools and local authorities. This link also contains information on the assignment of new UPNs to adopted children.

2.2.1. UPNs for children educated outside of a local authority

The use of GIAP is derived from legislation which gives the Secretary of State (SoS) the power to grant a certain degree of sharing.

However, GIAP cannot be used to identify the details of pupils attending schools in boroughs or local authorities who are not your own, unless the child is a looked after child (your local authority is the corporate parent) and the child is placed outside your own local authority.

Where children attend schools outside of your local authority it is possible you may not hold their UPN, if you do not already do so for other reasons. In this case, please add a note to your children in need return to explain why the UPN information is not available.

2.3. Pupil's former UPN

This is where a pupil had held another UPN, for example a temporary UPN when they were first admitted to a school, but has subsequently been given a permanent UPN.

Where a looked after child has been adopted during the year and this is the child's post- adoption record, do not enter the pre-adoption UPN in this field; leave it blank instead.

2.4. UPN unknown reason

This item is optional for referral no further action cases or where a child is not of school age and is included to assist local authorities in informing DfE why a UPN is missing. The UPN unknown reason codes are listed below:

Code	Description
UN1	Child is not of school age and is not yet assigned a UPN.
UN2	Child has never attended a maintained school in England and has not been assigned a UPN.
UN3	Child is educated outside of England and has not been assigned a UPN.
UN4	Child started receiving support during the final week of the collection period and the UPN is not yet known at the time of the census return.
UN5	Sources collating UPNs reflect discrepancy/ies for the child's name and/or surname and/or date of birth therefore prevent reliable matching (for example duplicated UPN).
UN6	Child is not looked after and the local authority is unable to obtain the UPN.
UN7	Child referred but no further action taken.

2.5. Date of birth

The date of birth should be recorded using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. If the exact date of birth is not known, record an approximate date of birth based on the child's estimated age at date of referral.

This field will be blank for unborn children. If an unborn child is subsequently born in the period of need, then the date of birth should be entered and the expected date of birth should be deleted.

If the date of birth of an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child is reassessed, and:

- if the age of the child is assessed to be over 18 years, then please report the original date of birth recorded on entry into care rather than amend it to the reassessed date of birth
- if the age of the child is assessed to be under 18 years, then please report the reassessed date of birth

2.6. Expected date of birth

Record the expected date of birth (due date) for a child who is unborn at the time of referral and who remains unborn at 31 March or when the case is closed. The

expected date of birth should be recorded using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section.

If a child is stillborn, or the mother suffers a miscarriage (including a chemical pregnancy) or a phantom pregnancy, or there is a termination of the pregnancy, please record the expected date of birth and leave the date of birth blank. In cases where a death certificate is issued, the closure date does not need to match the date on the death certificate. The date of death and the final closure date should both be recorded. The reason for closure should be recorded as ‘RC2 died’.

If the child is born before 31 March 2028 or before the case is closed, then the return for that child should not include both the date of birth and the expected date of birth; only the date of birth should be returned.

Please note that users may wish to retain the expected date of birth on their systems, but it must not be included within the census return if the date of birth is present. It will be possible for us to assess whether the child was unborn at the time of the referral if the date of birth is later than the referral date.

2.7. Sex

Children should have their sex reported, as recorded on a birth certificate or on a gender recognition certificate. This is a value which identifies the sex of a person as recognized in law.

Enter:

Code	Description
M	Male
F	Female
U	Unknown

Code U should be used when the sex of the child has not been recorded, the sex of the child is not known, or the sex of the child has not been registered. It should also be used to code the sex of unborn children, even if the sex of the unborn child is known.

2.8. Date of death

The collection of date of death information reflects the legislation introduced in April 2008, which made reviews into child deaths a statutory requirement.

This information is required to help show more clearly where services continue to be provided after a child has died. The final case closure date should also be provided; this may be after the date of death if the case remains open for a short time after the death.

The date of death should be verified from the death certificate and recorded using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. The closure date does not need to match the date on the death certificate. The date of death and the final closure date should both be recorded. The reason for closure should be recorded as ‘RC2 died’.

If a child died or was stillborn, or there was a miscarriage or termination of the pregnancy before referral to children’s social care services, they should not be included in the census; whether or not services were provided after the death.

If a child in need dies outside of the 2027 to 2028 collection period but the case is still open for investigation, the child should be included in the new collection period. The date of death and the final closure date should both be recorded.

3. Data module 2: Child characteristics

3.1. Child ethnicity

The children's social care services method of determining a child's ethnicity involves first asking the child about their ethnic identity. If they are not yet old enough to respond, ask their primary carer.

Ethnicity is specified using the codes within the common basic dataset (CBDS).

The ethnicity of unborn children should be coded under Information not yet obtained (code NOBT), even if it is thought to be known.

This data item should not be left blank. Code ethnicity using the following table:

Ethnicity	Code	Description
White	WBRI	White British
	WIRI	White Irish
	WIRT	Traveller of Irish heritage
	WOTH	Any other White background
	WROM	Gypsy/Roma
Mixed	MWBC	White and Black Caribbean
	MWBA	White and Black African
	MWAS	White and Asian
	MOTH	Any other mixed background
Asian or Asian British	AIND	Indian
	APKN	Pakistani
	ABAN	Bangladeshi
	CHNE	Chinese
	AOTH	Any other Asian background
Black or Black British	BCRB	Caribbean
	BAFR	African
	BOTH	Any other black background

Ethnicity	Code	Description
Other ethnic groups	OOTH	Any other ethnic group
	REFU	Refused
	NOBT	Information not yet obtained

3.2. Type of disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) defines a disabled person as a person with a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The condition must have lasted, or be likely to last at least 12 months in order to be counted as a disability.

Certain conditions are not regarded as impairments for the purposes of the act:

- addiction to, or dependency on, alcohol, nicotine, or any other substance (other than as a result of the substance being medically prescribed);
- the condition known as seasonal allergic rhinitis (hay fever), except where it aggravates the effect of another condition;
- tendency to start fires;
- tendency to steal;
- tendency to physically or sexually abuse other persons;
- exhibitionism;
- voyeurism

In addition, disfigurements such as tattoos, non-medical body piercing, or something attached through such piercing, are not regarded as having a substantial adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

If a child is disabled or becomes disabled at any time during the collection year, record all the relevant disabilities that have affected the child. For example, children may have multiple disabilities in which case more than one category from the below list can be selected. 'Other DDA' can also be used in conjunction with any of the other categories.

If your MIS does not allow for the identification of individual disabilities, then the code 'Other DDA' may be used for all children with a disability, but given the mandatory nature of this data item please endeavour to ensure the identification of individual disabilities is resolved for future years. However, this must be recorded in your COLLECT return-level notes, so your data can be analysed appropriately.

If a child has no disability, do not leave this item blank; use the code ‘NONE’. However, if a child is unborn then the disability item should be left blank.

Disability codes:

Code	Description
NONE	‘NO DISABILITY’.
MOB	‘MOBILITY’ – getting about the house and beyond.
HAND	‘HAND FUNCTION’ – holding and touching.
PC	‘PERSONAL CARE’ –for example, eating, washing, going to the toilet dressing.
INC	‘INCONTINENCE’ – controlling the passage of urine or faeces.
COMM	‘COMMUNICATION’ – speaking and/or understanding others.
LD	‘LEARNING’ – for example, having special educational needs.
HEAR	‘HEARING’.
VIS	‘VISION’.
BEH	‘BEHAVIOUR’ – a condition entailing behavioural difficulties, includes attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
CON	‘CONCIOUSNESS’ – seizures.
AUT	‘DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM OR ASPERGER SYNDROME’ – diagnosed by a qualified medical practitioner as having classical autism or Asperger syndrome. Do not include children who have merely been identified as having an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), for example by their school. This can be associated with the behaviour and learning categories above.
DDA	‘OTHER DDA’ – one or more of the child’s disabilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) does not fall into any of the above categories.

4. Data module 3: Episode details

This module can be entered more than once for a particular child record, if that child has had more than one episode during the year.

It includes details for each episode active or reviewed during the period. This includes episodes that started prior to the data collection period, but remained open on 1 April 2027.

The first part of this section (4.1) gives an overview as to what information is required for a child who is referred, as the level of detail is dependent on whether further action is taken.

4.1. Information required for referrals

The data collection allows referrals to be followed by more than one assessment, CIN plan, level of support change, section 47 enquiry, child protection plan and pre-proceedings and FGDM. For this reason, these groups may repeat within the census's data structure so that multiple instances can be included. Please note, however, that these activities should not overlap. The census will validate the data provided and query any overlaps that are included.

The data collection allows for a number of variations in process. The following two alternatives are therefore the minimum valid content for one instance of the episode details module.

In each instance, a referral is a request for children's social care services from someone not currently in receipt of them from the local authority. When new information is received on an already open case, it should not be counted and recorded as a new referral in the census. Any resultant activity (for example, assessments) should be recorded against the child's open episode.

Option	Option criteria
Either option A: for a 2027 to 2028 referral that leads to further action	the referral date; the presenting level of support; the factor group code; at least one assessment actual start date; the referral no further action flag with a value of false or 0; the source of referral.

Option	Option criteria
Or option B: for a 2027 to 2028 referral that does not lead to any further action (see note below)	the referral date; the referral no further action; flag with a value of true or 1; the source of referral.

For option B, the no further action flag should only have a value of 1 (true) where after initial consideration of the referral no action is taken by children's social care services. This initial consideration should take place within one working day. For the purposes of the census this can include cases, for example, where the only action taken once a referral has been received is to provide information or advice to the referring organisation, or referral of the case on to other services. However, initial contacts should not be included in the census.

For a referral with no further action, factor group, closure date and reason for closure are not required.

Furthermore, a referral resulting in no further action should not have any other activities (that is assessments, factors, CIN plans, section 47 enquiries, child protection plans or pre-proceedings and FGDM) linked to it in your return.

A referral with no further action is **not** the same as a case that is closed immediately following an assessment:

Cases closed following an assessment should use the reason for closure code 'RC8 – case closed after assessment, no further action' or 'RC9 – case closed after assessment, referred to universal services and community based early help', with the referral no further action flag set to 0 (false). No other activity (that is other assessments, assessment factors, section 47 enquiries, CIN plans, child protection plans or pre-proceedings and FGDM) should be linked to the case in your return. The case should be closed on the same date as the assessment ends or, if this is not practical, as soon as possible afterwards.

4.1.1. Information required for transfer in cases

If a child who was the subject of a child protection plan in their previous local authority moves to your local authority, then all data modules need to be completed and the episode details module should include:

- a referral date (which should be the date your local authority received formal notification that the child had permanently moved to your local authority);
- a source of referral;

- level of support
- a factor group;
- the referral no further action flag should equal 0 or false;
- the date of initial child protection conference should be provided, but **within the episode details group**, not as part of the section 47 enquiries subgroup.

The section 47 enquiries group should not be returned for these children, unless a subsequent section 47 enquiry is carried out at your local authority.

If the child's case is closed in the year 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028, then the closure date and the reason for closure code should be completed.

4.2. Referral date

Enter the date that the child was referred to children's social care services, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. This date can be a non-working day and should be the date the child was referred to children's social care services, not the date the child was assessed as requiring support.

The referral date can be before 1 April 2027, provided the case was open at some point between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2028.

A referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by local authority children's social care via the assessment process outlined in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children and is either in respect of a child not previously known to the local authority, or where a case was previously open but is now closed. New information about a child who is already an open case does not constitute a referral for the purposes of this return.

Reception and initial contact activity is not in itself a referral. Such activity may or may not lead to a referral.

If the record is for a child who continues to require support after being adopted from care and this is the child's post-adoption record, then the referral date should match the date of the court's adoption order.

If a number of agencies refer the child at a similar time, then the first referral date should be recorded as the referral date.

4.3. Presenting level of support

Select the indicative level of support using information presented in the referral. This data item captures the initial view of the child and family's level of need based

on the information available at the time the referral is received. This should reflect the reason the case has been referred to children's social care and the expected level of support required. This is a presenting level of support. There will be a limited amount of information at this stage therefore this capture point is not confirming the level of support expected at end of assessment, this is only an indicator. The level of support could change after assessment is completed.

For episodes open at 1 April 2027, record the indicative level of support using information presented in the referral. If this information is not available, or the level of support has changed between referral and 1 April 2027, record the level of support relevant at 1 April 2027.

Enter:

Code	Description
TEH	Targeted Early Help
CIN	Child in Need

4.4. Referral no further action

The referral no further action flag allows the reporting of children who were referred, but after initial consideration no further action was taken. Enter:

- 1 (or true) if the referral was received but after initial consideration no further action was taken;
- 0 (or false) if the referral was received and after initial consideration further action was taken.

Refer to section 4.1 for more information on the appropriate use of the no further action flag. This data item should not be left blank.

4.5. Source of referral

For each new referral, record the source of referral from the list below.

Where there is more than one referral for the same child on the same day, the first referral should be recorded and it is this referral source that should be recorded here. The data should be returned for each year the episode remains open.

Code	Description
1A	INDIVIDUAL – family member, relative or carer.

Code	Description
1B	INDIVIDUAL – acquaintance (including neighbours).
1C	INDIVIDUAL – self.
1D	INDIVIDUAL – other (including strangers or Members of Parliament (MPs).
2A	SCHOOLS.
2B	EDUCATION SERVICES (including childminders).
3A	HEALTH SERVICES – general practitioner (GP).
3B	HEALTH SERVICES – health visitor.
3C	HEALTH SERVICES – school nurse.
3D	HEALTH SERVICES – other primary health services.
3E	HEALTH SERVICES – A&E (accident and emergency department).
3F	HEALTH SERVICES – other (for example hospice).
4	HOUSING - local authority housing or housing association.
5A	LA SERVICES – social care, for example adults social care services.
5B	LA SERVICES – other internal services, not including social care or early help.
5C	LA SERVICES – external, from another local authority's services, for example social care or universal services and community based early help.
5D	LA SERVICES – universal services and community based early help.
6	POLICE.
7	OTHER LEGAL AGENCY – including courts, probation, immigration, CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) or prison.
8	OTHER – including children's centres, independent agency providers or voluntary organisations.
9	ANONYMOUS.
10	UNKNOWN.

4.6. Factor group (formerly primary need code)

This code indicates the main reason why a child started to receive services. It should not be left blank. Only one reason can be recorded.

For episodes open at 1 April 2027, assign a factor group code based on the reason the child started to receive services. Only if all available information has been considered and it is still not possible to assign a factor group based on the reason the child started to receive services should the factor group be based on the reason the child is receiving services on 1 April 2027.

As this requires existing open episodes to be re-coded, further guidance on mapping primary need and factor groups will be provided shortly in an updated version of this document. The re-coding of primary need to factor group can be carried out up until 31 March 2028, prior to the 2027 to 2028 census go live in April 2028. Primary need can be retained in local systems but will not be collected in the 2027 to 2028 census.

If a child is also looked after, the factor group code for children requiring support might not necessarily be the same as that recorded in the children looked after data collection. For example, this may occur if a child became looked after at a later date than when they became a child requiring support.

The order of the categories is alphabetical, and does not reflect any hierarchy or level of importance. The selection should only be made based on what is the main reason a child started receiving services. Where there are multiple factors that are contributing to a child receiving services, the **main** reason should be selected as the factor group, and all others should be reflected in the factors during assessment. Further information on choosing a factor group category is in Appendix A.

‘FG10’ can be used if a child has been adopted and, although they are no longer receiving family help or child protection support, receive adoption support from children’s social services immediately after adoption. This should not be used where a child receives an adoption payment only as these children should not be included in the census.

Enter the factor group code, selecting from the table below:

Code	Category	Description
FG1	Abuse	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, abuse inside or outside the home, or online.

Code	Category	Description
		This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • abuse linked to faith or belief • emotional abuse • female genital mutilation • forced marriage • 'honour'-based abuse • physical abuse (adult on child) • physical abuse (child on child) • sexual abuse (adult on child) • sexual abuse (child on child)
FG2	Contextual family factors	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about, actual or likely harm related to contextual family factors. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • adult in the family is workless • family in acute stress • family require support with their finances and / or have unmanageable debt • parent/carer in prison • unsuitable housing
FG3	Domestic Abuse	Children requiring service as a result of, or where there are concerns about, actual or likely harm related to domestic abuse. This category should be selected when the main reason the child (or pregnant woman) started receiving services was one or more of the following: • child victim of domestic abuse (under the section 3 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definition) or concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy • teenage relationship abuse • concern other person in the household is a victim of domestic abuse (not a parent/carer or relative of the child) • child to parent/carer abuse

Code	Category	Description
		• concerns relate to domestic abuse between a child's parents, carers or relatives – or where there are concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy
FG4	Education	Children requiring services as a result of their attendance or access to education. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • on a school roll with attendance issues • not on a school roll and not receiving suitable education
FG5	Extra-familial harms	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to extra-familial harms. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • child criminal exploitation • child sexual exploitation • financial exploitation • gangs • missing • radicalisation • trafficking
FG6	Illness or disability	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, illness or disability. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • learning disability (concerns about the child) • learning disability (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s)) • learning disability (concerns about another person in the family/household) • physical disability or illness (concerns about the child)

Code	Category	Description
		• physical disability or illness (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s)) • physical disability or illness (concerns about another person in the family/household)
FG7	Mental health and behavioural concerns	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, mental health and behavioural concerns. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • mental health (concerns about the child) • mental health (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s)) • mental health (concerns about another person in the family/household) • self-harm • socially unacceptable behaviour • child beyond parental control
FG8	Neglect	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, neglect.
FG9	No factors identified	Children whose reference data is not completely entered on the system and whose factor group code is yet to be determined, or the case is a referral that has been closed following assessment.
FG10	Other	This includes children who have been adopted and, although they are no longer receiving family help or child protection support, receive adoption support from children's social services immediately after adoption. This should not be used where a child receives an adoption payment only as these children should not be included in the census. This should not be used where other factors have or can identify the concerns.
FG11	Private fostering	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, being a privately fostered child. This includes children who are privately fostered, including where one or more of the following apply: • children making alternative family arrangements • children in educational placements

Code	Category	Description
		These factors should be used in all cases regardless of whether the child is from the UK or overseas, and whether overseas children intend to stay or return.
FG12	Problem drug or alcohol use	Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about actual or likely harm related to, problem drug or alcohol use. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following: • problem alcohol use (concerns about the child) • problem alcohol use (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s)) • problem alcohol use (concerns about another person in the family/household) • problem drug use (concerns about the child) • problem drug use (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s)) • problem drug use (concerns about another person in the family/household)
FG13	Unaccompanied asylum seeker	Children requiring services as a result of being an unaccompanied asylum seeking child.
FG14	Young carer	Children requiring services as a result of being a young carer.

4.7. Closure date

A case is closed if the local authority has no intention of taking any initiative with respect to the child or family concerned, unless the local authority receives new information that requires it to take some sort of action.

Enter the date that the case was closed, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section.

If the case is still open at 31 March 2028, then leave this item blank.

A closure date can be the same as the referral date but, in practice, this should only very rarely occur. Closure date is not required for a referral that leads to no further action.

4.7.1. Case closure in the case of adoption

When a child's case is closed because of adoption (reason for closure code 'RC1'), the closure date will normally be the day when the court granted the adoption order.

It is recognised that an adoption case may sometimes remain open to allow all procedures to be completed. In this situation the census will allow for the case to extend up to one month after the date of the adoption order without having to open a new record. The factor group code would stay the same in these cases. Anything above one month will require a new record to be created. If a child continues to require support after being adopted from care, then the new post-adoption child record should be opened with a referral date that is the date of the court's adoption order. If the child is receiving post-adoption support, it should be recorded in this new record.

4.7.2. Case closure in the case of death

When a child is no longer receiving support because the child dies or an unborn child is stillborn (reason for closure code 'RC2'), the closure date and the date of death recorded on the death certificate no longer need to match. It is recognised that the case may remain open for investigation and review procedures after the child dies; the date of death field allows local authorities to separately record the date of death and final case closure date in the census. This will allow local authorities to record the services they provide between the death and the case closure.

4.8. Reason for closure

This is the reason that the case was closed.

The reason for closure codes RC1 to RC7 should be used by local authorities to categorise a case for a child who they assess as requiring support following a referral and for whom they provide services and whose case is subsequently closed.

RC7 should be used for cases where a section 47 enquiry had commenced on a case even if it was found that the allegations that triggered the section 47 enquiry were unfounded, as at the point the section 47 started the child would be counted as requiring support, even if services were not necessarily provided.

Codes RC8 and RC9 should only be used by local authorities to categorise a case for a child who they assess as **not** requiring support following a referral, and for whom they **do not** provide services and whose case is subsequently closed (refer to section 4.8.1 for further information).

If the case is still open at the end of the year, then leave this item blank.

Enter the reason that the case was closed, selecting from the codes provided in the table below:

Code	Description
RC1	Adopted
RC2	Died
RC3	Child arrangements order
RC4	Special guardianship order
RC5	Transferred to services of another local authority
RC6	Transferred to adult social care services
RC7	Services ceased for any other reason, including child no longer in need, child no longer in need of family help services
RC8	Case closed after assessment, no further action
RC9	Case closed after assessment, referred to universal services and community based early help
RC10	Targeted early help services ended following withdrawal of consent

4.8.1. 'RC8 – case closed after assessment, no further action' and 'RC9 – case closed after assessment, referred to universal services and community based early help'

The reason for closure code RC8 should be used by local authorities to categorise a case for a child who they assess as **not** requiring support following a referral, and for whom they do not provide services and whose case is subsequently closed. It should not be used for any other reason.

The reason for closure code RC9 should be used by local authorities to categorise a case for a child who they assess as **not** requiring support following a referral, and for whom they do not provide services, but is subsequently referred to universal services and community based early help and whose case is then closed.

These are different from cases that were closed prior to assessment, at the referral stage; the referral no further action flag should be used in these cases (refer to section 4.4). The reason for closure codes RC8 and RC9 should not be used for cases that were closed prior to assessment, or for cases where, following a referral,

the child was assessed as requiring support at any point and services were provided at any point.

If a factor group code is retained on your system for these children, then this can be returned using the full code set listed in section 4.6. However, if you do not retain a factor group code for some or all of these children use code ‘FG10’ for this field. This allows for children whose reference data is not completely entered on the system and whose need code is yet to be determined, or where the case is a referral that has been closed following assessment.

When the reason for closure code RC8 or RC9 is used the case should be closed on the same date as the assessment ends or, if this is not practical, as soon as possible afterwards.

4.9. Date of initial child protection conference

This data item in the episode details module should only be completed where a child who is the subject of a child protection conference transfers into your local authority.

In these cases, the receiving local authority should convene a child protection conference within 15 working days of being notified of the move and you should record the date of this child protection conference here and not in the section 47 group.

5. Date module 4: Assessments

Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children requiring support for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Local authorities undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine what services to provide and action to take.

Assessments should be recorded only at significant points such as the beginning of a new episode.

As set out in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, where the outcome of the assessment is continued through an agreed plan of action, the plan should be reviewed regularly, the outcomes of these reviews do not need to be recorded. However, if the situation changes significantly, this may result in the need for the completion of a new assessment, in which case this new assessment should be recorded.

Include all assessments that fall entirely or partly in the 2027 to 2028 collection year, including those that had started but had not finished by 31 March 2028, and those

that started prior to 1 April 2027 and were completed within the 2027 to 2028 collection year. Please note, if a child is referred to a local authority and has been classified as requiring support following an assessment, they should be included in the census, regardless of whether they are receiving youth offending or any other service.

Within one working day of a referral being received, a decision should be made about the type of response required. The maximum timeframe from the assessment to arrive at a decision on the action to be taken should be no longer than 45 working days from the point of referral. This should be recorded as the end date of the assessment.

Assessments may lead to no further action, the direct provision of services, and section 47 enquiries. See statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, for further information.

Where the child is already known to services, assessments should build on existing information, activity, assessments and plans, including those completed in family help under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, at or at targeted early help, and in community-based early help.

There must always be an assessment actual start date, but if the assessment authorisation date falls after the end of the census year, it should be left blank. The assessment internal review point date is optional.

5.1. Assessment actual start date

Enter the date the assessment actually started, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. This is the actual start date of the continuous assessment.

5.2. Assessment internal review point date (optional)

How quickly an assessment has been carried out after a child's case has been referred into children's social care services will be determined by the needs of the child and the nature and level of harm being suffered. The local assessment framework must have an internal review point set at the outset for completing assessments. This must be shared with the lead social worker and all relevant partners – cases must be reviewed by managers regularly to monitor whether assessments are being completed by this date.

Enter the internal review point date, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. If the internal review point date falls beyond the census year, this should be included.

5.3. Assessment authorisation date

Enter the actual date on which an assessment is completed and authorised, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. If the assessment authorisation date falls after the end of the census year, it should be left blank. This is the date the assessment is completed and authorised.

An assessment is deemed to be completed once the social worker has informed, in writing, all the relevant agencies and the family of their decisions and if the child requires support, of the plan for providing support/or once the assessment has been discussed with the child's family (or carers) and the team manager has viewed and authorised the assessment.

5.4. Level of support after assessment

Select the level of support using information gathered during the assessment.
This data item captures the child and family's agreed level of support based on the information gathered during the assessment. This applies to all assessments completed within the year 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028, which are recorded in the assessments group. There is no requirement to assign a level of support to assessments completed in earlier years.

The level of support is collected to distinguish between targeted early help and child in need support delivered through Family Help, supporting monitoring of the Families First Partnership programme.

Enter:

Code	Description
TEH	Targeted Early Help
CIN	Child in Need

5.5. Factors identified during assessment

Record the factors as understood during the assessment relevant to:

- the impairment of the child's health and development ('Child');
- the parent(s)/carer(s) capacity to respond to the child's needs ('Parenting capacity');
- other people in the family/household, for example, a sibling or lodger ('Other').

This applies to all assessments completed within the year 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028, which are recorded in the assessments group. There is no requirement to re-code assessments completed in earlier years.

The information should be recorded at the end of the assessment and all factors which are felt to be relevant to the child's assessment should be reported from the list below. This includes factors where services are put in place to mitigate the effect of the factor as well as factors which need to be taken into account in providing other support.

Please record factors which are an issue of concern at any point during the assessment process. This should include all factors which are identified during the assessment process, even where they have been immediately addressed or resolved prior to the end of assessment. For example:

- if domestic abuse is a current issue of concern, please record it.
- if domestic abuse was an issue in a previous relationship and is not an ongoing or currently relevant concern during the assessment period for this episode, then do not record it.
- if there was concern about domestic abuse during the assessment period, but support or interventions were put in place which mean that it is no longer an ongoing or currently relevant concern at the end of the assessment period, please record it.

This ensures that all factors which are relevant and of concern throughout the child's contact with services are identified and recorded for each episode. Factors such as mental health concerns do not need to be confined to medically defined conditions. They may also refer to situations where, for example, the social worker identifies a child's mental health is of concern or a parent's mental health may affect their parenting capacity.

Code FG9A (no factors identified) should be used for cases where, following a referral, the child was assessed as not requiring support, services were not provided and the case was closed with no further action (reason for closure code RC8 or RC9). In these instances, code FG9A should be the only factor listed.

For cases where, following a referral, a child was assessed as requiring support and services were provided, please record all relevant factors, selecting from the list below, but excluding FG9A. If a subsequent assessment ended in the outcome that services were no longer required and the case was then closed:

- all relevant factors (other than FG9A) should be recorded, together with a reason for closure code RC1 to RC7, where factors were still identified at that point;

- FG9A (no factors identified) should be recorded as the sole factor, together with a reason for closure code RC1 to RC7, where **no** factors were identified at that point.

FG9A (no factors identified) should not be reported at the end of assessment if a section 47 enquiry has commenced on a case even if it was found that the allegations that triggered the section 47 enquiry are unfounded. Instead, the relevant factors that were considered at the assessment that initiated the section 47 enquiry should be recorded. The case should then be closed using the reason for closure code: 'RC7 - services ceased for any other reason, including child no longer in need, child no longer in need of family help services', as at the point the section 47 started the child would be counted as a child requiring support even if the case closed shortly after. FG9A should only be used in cases where the section 47 enquiry was automatically triggered alongside the assessment and both the assessment and section 47 resulted in no further action.

Appendix B provides more detailed information on the factors.

Please report all the following factors that apply:

Factor group	Code	Factor
Abuse	FG1A	Abuse linked to faith or belief: concerns that services may be required or that the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to abuse linked to faith or belief.
	FG1B	Emotional abuse: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to emotional abuse.
	FG1C	Female genital mutilation (FGM): concerns that services may be required or the child may suffering or likely to suffer harm due to female genital mutilation.
	FG1D	Forced marriage: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to forced marriage.
	FG1E	'Honour'-based abuse: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to 'honour'-based abuse.
	FG1F	Physical abuse (adult on child): concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to physical abuse by an adult.
	FG1G	Physical abuse (child on child): concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to physical abuse by another child.
	FG1H	Sexual abuse (adult on child): concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to abuse or neglect by an adult.
	FG1I	Sexual abuse (child on child): concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to sexual abuse by another child.
Contextual family factors	FG2A	Adult in the family is workless: A household which has at least one adult aged 16–64 and all adults in the household, aged 16 or over, are currently economically inactive or unemployed. Economically inactive members may be unavailable to work because of family

Factor group	Code	Factor
		commitments, retirement, study, sickness or disability.
	FG2B	Family in acute stress: Family facing multiple or complex pressures that are negatively impacting family functioning, wellbeing, resilience, or day-to-day coping. Examples may include bereavement, family breakdown, caring responsibilities, crisis events, or multiple pressures affecting family wellbeing and stability.
	FG2C	Family require support with their finances and / or have unmanageable debt: Families experiencing financial hardship, debt (e.g. rent arrears), or difficulties managing household finances that require support to improve financial stability.
	FG2D	Parent/carer in prison: Where a parent or carer is currently serving a custodial sentence in prison, remand centre, or other secure setting.
	FG2E	Unsuitable housing: Accommodation that does not adequately meet a family's safety, health, space, accessibility, affordability, or stability needs. Examples include homelessness, unsuitable or overcrowded housing, temporary accommodation, unaffordable housing, inaccessible housing, and young people experiencing housing instability.
Domestic abuse	FG3A	Child to parent or caregiver abuse.
	FG3B	Domestic abuse: child victim (under the section 3 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definition) or concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy. Where concerns relate to domestic abuse between a child's parents, carers or relatives, they should be recorded under this factor. Concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy should also be recorded under this factor. Appendix B4 provides further information about the domestic abuse factors.
	FG3C	Domestic abuse: concerns other person in the household is victim (not parent/carer or related to the child).
	FG3D	Teenage relationship abuse.

Factor group	Code	Factor
Education	FG4A	On a school roll with attendance issues: Child is enrolled at a school and has attendance concerns that may require monitoring, support, or intervention. This may include children with emerging, persistent, or severe attendance concerns who remain enrolled at a school but are not attending regularly.
	FG4B	Not on a school roll and not receiving suitable education: Child is of compulsory school age, is not registered at a school, and is not receiving education at home or elsewhere. This may include children who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education through school, alternative provision, home education, tuition, or other appropriate arrangements.
Extra-familial harms	FG5A	Child criminal exploitation: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to child criminal exploitation.
	FG5B	Child sexual exploitation: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to child sexual exploitation.
	FG5C	Financial exploitation: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to financial exploitation.
	FG5D	Gangs: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm because of involvement in/with gangs.
	FG5E	Missing: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to going/being missing.
	FG5F	Radicalisation: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to radicalisation.
	FG5G	Trafficking: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to trafficking.

Factor group	Code	Factor
Illness or disability	FG6A	Learning disability: concerns about the child's learning disability.
	FG6B	Learning disability: concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s) learning disability.
	FG6C	Learning disability: concerns about another person in the family/household's learning disability.
	FG6D	Physical disability or illness: concerns about a physical disability or illness of the child.
	FG6E	Physical disability or illness: concerns about a physical disability or illness of the parent(s)/carer(s).
	FG6F	Physical disability or illness: concerns about a physical disability or illness of another person in the family/household.
Mental health and behavioural concerns	FG7A	Mental health: concerns about the mental health of the child.
	FG7B	Mental health: concerns about the mental health of the parent(s)/carer(s).
	FG7C	Mental health: concerns about the mental health of another person in the family/household.
	FG7D	Self-harm: concerns that services may be required or due to suspected/actual self-harming child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm
	FG7E	Socially unacceptable behaviour: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to their socially unacceptable behaviour.
	FG7F	Child beyond parental control (as per Section 31 of the Children Act 1989).
Neglect	FG8A	Neglect: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to neglect.
No factors identified	FG9A	No factors identified: only use this code if there is no evidence of any of the factors listed above or below and no further action is being taken.

Factor group	Code	Factor
Other	FG10A	Other.
Private fostering	FG11A	Privately fostered: concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm, as a privately fostered child: children in alternative family arrangements.
	FG11B	Privately fostered: concerns that service may be required, or that the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm, as a privately fostered child: children in educational placements.
Problem drug or alcohol use	FG12A	Problem alcohol use: concerns about problem alcohol use by the child.
	FG12B	Problem alcohol use: concerns about problem alcohol use by the parent(s)/carer(s).
	FG12C	Problem alcohol use: concerns about problem alcohol use by another person living in the household.
	FG12D	Problem drug use: concerns about problem drug use by the child.
	FG12E	Problem drug use: concerns about problem drug use by the parent(s)/carer(s).
	FG12F	Problem drug use: concerns about problem drug use by another person living in the household.
Unaccompanied asylum seeker	FG13A	UASC: concerns that services may be required or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child.
Young carer	FG14A	Young carer: concerns that services may be required or the child's health or development may be impaired due to their caring responsibilities.

6. Data module 5: CIN Plan dates group

CIN plan dates relate to the Section 17 CIN plan. Only plans where the child has been assessed as meeting the Section 17 CIN threshold should be recorded. Targeted early help (TEH) plans should not be reported in this group.

In instances where a child's level of support decreases from CIN to TEH within family help and a child is on CIN plan, the date the level of support changed should be used as the CIN plan end date.

Where a child's level of support increases from TEH to CIN within family help and a CIN plan is started, the date the level of support changed should be used as the CIN plan start date.

There is no expectation for Local Authorities to amend their existing workflows if they have already adopted a single workflow involving one family help plan.

For the 2027 to 2028 reporting year CIN plan data will continue to be collected pending consultation outcome. Subject to the outcome, this may be replaced by collection of family help plan information.

We consulted on proposals to update the statutory framework for help, support and protection of children between June and September 2026. The consultation sought views on revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Children's Social Care National Framework, and associated policy supporting the development of multi-agency child protection teams. We recognise there are interdependencies and will take these into account when considering next steps.

A CIN plan should be developed where the outcome of an assessment is that a local authority children's social care should provide services. The CIN plan sets out which organisations and agencies will provide which services to the child and family. The plan should also set clear measurable outcomes for the child and expectations for the parent(s) or carer(s). More information on CIN plans is provided in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The CIN plan start date and CIN plan end date should be recorded, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. CIN plan dates should be recorded where the following conditions apply:

- A CIN plan start date and/or end date fall within the census year;
- The plan was already open at the start of the year, that is, there is a CIN plan start date for the episode even if it is before the census year

If neither of the above conditions applies, information on CIN plans is not required.

A CIN plan should be recorded as ended when the period of the CIN ends. This may be because the child becomes the subject of a child protection plan; the child becomes looked after; or the child ceases receiving support from children's social services (due to no longer needing support, being stepped down to early help, or reaching adulthood).

A child can have one, more than one or no CIN plan(s) – but can only have one at a time. CIN plans do not include other plans such as leaving care support or adoption support.

7. Data module 6: Change in level of support

There should be one assessment and plan that covers all of family help (TEH and CIN), which stay and evolve with families. While circumstances will change and new information will need to be captured, this should be added to existing assessments and plans, rather than starting again. Assessment is a dynamic process.

Where local safeguarding partners can determine their process and timeliness for reviewing plans, there should be mechanisms to review the effectiveness and impact of the plan.

As the level of support can change one or more times after the assessment during a child's episode, this module allows for multiple levels of support changes throughout the reporting year to be recorded. There is no requirement to record changes in level of support prior to the start of the reporting year.

7.1. Level of support change

While Family Help is intended to operate as a single system of support, children and families may receive differing levels of intervention according to their needs. Collecting information on the level of support provided will help improve understanding of how services are delivered and support evaluation of Family Help reforms.

This data item captures where the level of support has changed during the reporting year and a new assessment is not required. If there have been no changes in level of support after the assessment, leave this blank.

Enter:

Code	Description
TEH	Targeted Early Help
CIN	Child in Need

7.2. Date of change to level of support

Enter the date on which it was agreed the level of support should change, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. This must be within the reporting year. If the date falls after the end of the census year, it should be left blank.

8. Data module 7: Section 47 enquiries

This module refers to enquiries conducted under the provisions of section 47 of the Children Act 1989 where the local authority has cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The objective of such enquiries is to determine whether action is needed to promote and safeguard the welfare of the child or children who are the subject of the enquiries.

Include section 47 enquiries that started during the year 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 inclusive, even if they carry on into the next data collection year. Also, include cases where the section 47 enquiries started on or before 31 March 2027, but that led to an initial child protection conference (ICPC) with a date on or after 1 April 2027.

If a child was the subject of section 47 enquiries on more than one occasion during the year, record each occasion separately. An assessment should also be recorded on each occasion a child is subject to a section 47 enquiry.

We are aware that in some local authorities a section 47 enquiry is automatically triggered alongside the assessment. In these cases, where both resulted in no further action, a section 47 should not be recorded.

Each section 47 group will comprise one of the following:

Option	Option criteria
Either option A: for a section 47 enquiry that does not lead to any further action	the section 47 enquiry start date, the ICPC not required flag with a value of true or 1

Option	Option criteria
Or option B: for a section 47 enquiry where the initial child protection conference has taken place	the section 47 enquiry start date, the initial child protection conference target date (optional), the date of initial child protection conference, the ICPC not required flag with a value of false or 0
Or option C: For a section 47 enquiry where the initial child protection conference has not yet taken place	the section 47 enquiry start date, the initial child protection conference target date (optional), the ICPC not required flag with a value of false or 0

8.1. Section 47 enquiry start date

Enter the date of the strategy discussion at which the section 47 enquiries were initiated, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. This can be a non- working day.

8.2. Target date for initial child protection conference (optional)

Enter the date that is 15 working days after the strategy discussion at which section 47 enquiries were initiated, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. The date should be supplied, even if it falls within the year 2027 to 2028.

8.3. Date of initial child protection conference

Enter the date on which the initial child protection conference takes place, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. If the initial child protection conference has not yet taken place, please leave blank. Please note, this date within the section 47 section should not be used for children transferring between local authorities. Further information on how information should be recorded for transfer in cases is given section 4.1.1.

8.4. Initial child protection conference not required

This indicates that section 47 enquiries were commenced, but that an initial child protection conference was not deemed necessary. Enter:

- 1 (or true) if the section 47 enquiry was commenced, but an initial child protection conference was not deemed necessary;
- 0 (or false) if the section 47 enquiry was commenced, and an initial child protection conference was deemed necessary.

9. Data module 8: Child protection plans

This module contains information on child protection plans. A child can have none, one or more than one child protection plan (CPP) – but can only have one at a time. A child who is not requiring support cannot have a child protection plan.

This module is required where any of the following conditions apply:

- the child protection plan start date or end date fall within the census year;
- the plan was already open at the start of the year and no child protection plan end date within the year.

The collection allows more than one plan review date to be provided and all reviews within the year should be included. A child protection plan being transferred from another local authority should be recorded as a new plan, even if the child had previously received services in the local authority they are transferring to.

This module is repeatable.

9.1. Child protection plan start date

If a child is the subject of a child protection plan, enter the start date of that plan, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. Otherwise, leave blank.

9.2. Initial and latest category of abuse

Using the code set in the table below record the initial category of abuse as assessed when the child protection plan commenced and the most recent (latest) category of abuse assigned to the child protection plan.

The initial category of abuse under which a child is made the subject of a child protection plan will have been decided upon at the child protection conference. However, if the category of abuse applicable to the current child protection plan has changed as a result of subsequent child protection conferences, then enter the latest category of abuse. Any amended category after the initial category of abuse should be recorded as the latest category of abuse. The latest category of abuse may be the same as the initial category of abuse.

Both initial and latest category of abuse variables use the following codes:

Code	Description
NEG	Neglect
PHY	Physical abuse
SAB	Sexual abuse
EMO	Emotional abuse
DAB	Domestic abuse
EFH	Extra-familial harm
OTH	Other

The ‘Other’ category should be used only when none of the above categories apply to the child’s current protection plan. Local authorities should internally record the category of abuse if categorised under ‘Other’.

Any child protection plans open at 1 April 2027 which were previously recorded as ‘Multiple/not recommended’ must be re-coded to the most appropriate category from the above list.

The categories are defined for the purpose of this collection as follows:

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, shelter, or clothing (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical harm, emotional harm, or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers);
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment;
- provide suitable education

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer deliberately fabricates symptoms or induces illness in a child.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place in family settings, in institutional settings, online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Child sexual abuse material available online may have been generated in a family environment. Online abuse can also take the form of cyber-grooming or self-generated sexual content under coercion. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. A child of any age or sex can be a victim of sexual abuse.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional or psychological maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or making fun of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on the child. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as the overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve the child seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may also involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone. Use this category when it is the main or sole form of abuse.

Domestic Abuse

This category should be recorded on a child protection plan where the main concern is that the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of domestic abuse. This category should be used where it is important to reflect the dynamics of domestic abuse (often involving multiple forms of harm) and the impact of this on children. This may include but is not limited to where a child is a victim of domestic abuse, as defined under the section 3 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (this includes concerns about domestic abuse between a child's parents, carers or relatives); where there is concern that someone else in the household (not a parent/carer or related to the child) is experiencing domestic abuse; or where the child (under 18) is experiencing abusive behaviour in their own intimate or dating type relationship (teenage relationship abuse).

Further information on domestic abuse, including the impact on children and types of domestic abuse, can be found in the domestic abuse statutory guidance.

Extra-familial harm

Children may be at suffering, or likely to suffer, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and exploitation in contexts outside their families or the home they live in, including in a children's home or foster home. While there is no legal definition for the term extra-familial harm, it is widely used to describe different forms of harm that occur outside the home. Children can be vulnerable to multiple forms of extra-familial harm from both adults and/or other children and harm may be perpetrated or facilitated by individuals or groups, and may be in person and/or online.

Examples of extra-familial harm may include (but are not limited to):

- child criminal exploitation
- child sexual exploitation
- financial exploitation
- gangs
- missing
- radicalisation
- trafficking

Practitioners should consider the most appropriate category where the concerns relate to child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Other

This category should be used only when none of the above categories apply to the child's current protection plan. Local authorities should internally record the category of abuse if categorised under 'other'.

9.3. Number of previous child protection plans

The number of previous times that a child was made the subject of a child protection plan by the same local authority. If this is the first plan then the value should be zero. Child protection plans issued by other local authorities should not be counted. The number of previous child protection plans includes the number of times the child was on the child protection register.

9.4. Plan review date

Enter the date of the child protection plan reviews in the year 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section.

If more than one review has taken place then each should be provided. If there have been no reviews for this plan, leave this blank.

9.4.1. Date of plan reviews held in 2026 to 2027

If the child is the subject of a child protection plan at 1 April 2027 and any child protection plan review was carried out in the previous year you should include the details of the last review that was carried out in the year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

DfE uses this information to help identify which child protection plans were reviewed within the required timescales.

9.5. Child protection plan end date

Enter the end date of the plan, using the format specified in date fields of the general notes section. Otherwise, leave blank.

10. Data module 9: Pre-proceedings and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)

10.1. Context

Pre-proceedings are a key part of a child's journey through the family justice system. Pre-proceedings refer to the formal stage before care proceedings are initiated, where local authorities work intensively with families to address concerns, aiming to avoid the need for court intervention and children being separated from their families. Capturing data on this important process will ensure disparities and trends can be analysed and areas for improvement identified.

This new module is informed by learning from local innovation projects, including Warrington Borough Council's work on improving children's social care pre-proceedings data. Warrington piloted a structured approach to capturing and analysing data on pre-proceedings, which has helped to identify patterns in decision-making, timeliness, and outcomes for children. Their work has demonstrated the value of consistent data in improving practice, supporting families earlier, and reducing the need for care proceedings.

In addition, through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, we are legislating to require all local authorities to offer a family group decision-making meeting to all parents, or those with parental responsibility, whose children's cases have reached the pre-proceedings stage, unless it would not be in the child's best interests. Family group decision-making (FGDM) is a term used to describe a voluntary process that enables a family network to come together and make a family-led plan in response to concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing, working alongside skilled professionals. Evidence suggests that FGDM can be an effective way of diverting children from care proceedings when used at pre-proceedings.

The inclusion of pre-proceedings and FGDM data in the census from 2027 to 2028 reflects a growing recognition of the need for better national insight into how these processes are used across local authorities.

10.2. Cases in scope

Please include only cases where pre-proceedings were started during any part of the year from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028. In further years, we will look to include cases that were already open before the collection year begins.

10.3. Cohort

This module does not introduce a new cohort of children. Instead, it adds a new layer of information about children already within the CIN cohort. That is, it is the Department's expectation that all children in pre-proceedings should already be captured in the census. This module identifies which of those children have progressed to the pre-proceedings stage.

10.4. Multiple episodes of pre-proceedings

This module can be entered more than once for a particular child record, if that child has had more than one episode of pre-proceedings during the reporting year.

10.5. Data items

10.5.1. Date pre-proceedings began

This indicator provides a starting point for when the pre-proceedings process formally began. The decision to enter pre-proceedings will be made on the basis of the legal threshold being met under section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989.

Enter the date of the legal planning meeting/panel or other decision making forum (e.g. management/leadership decision) where the LA made the decision to commence pre-proceedings. This date must fall within the reporting year (from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028).

If the decision to commence pre-proceedings was made in another format i.e. not in a legal planning meeting, please still specify the date the decision was made, rather than leaving the date blank.

If you do not yet collect this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide date pre-proceedings began”.

10.5.2. Date ‘letter before proceedings’ sent

Enter the date the ‘letter before proceedings’ was sent to parents/those with parental responsibility. This date must fall within the reporting year. In the event there are multiple parents or separated parents who may have been informed at different times, enter the date of the earliest letter.

This date should be on or after the date pre-proceedings began (section 10.5.1). If you do not yet collect this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide date letter before proceedings sent”.

10.5.3. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meeting offer

FGDM is a voluntary process which allows a family network to come together and make a family-led plan in response to concerns about a child, working alongside skilled professionals. A Family Group Conference (FGC) is a specific model of FGDM, which includes private family time and an independent coordinator.

Confirm if an FGDM meeting was offered in the ‘letter before proceedings’ by selecting 1, 0, true or false. If you do not yet collect this information, please leave this

field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide FGDM meeting offer information”.

10.5.4. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meeting facilitation

A family group decision-making meeting is a meeting held for the purpose of enabling the child’s family network to discuss the welfare needs of the child and to make a proposal in response to concerns about the child’s welfare.

Confirm if an FGDM meeting was facilitated in the pre-proceedings period following the offer made in the ‘letter before proceedings’ by selecting 1, 0, true or false. If you do not yet collect this this information, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide FGDM meeting facilitation.”

10.5.5. Date of initial pre-proceedings meeting

Enter the date of the first effective pre-proceedings meeting with parents following the legal meeting/panel that decided to commence pre-proceedings. This date must fall within the reporting year. ‘Effective’ in this context means that the meeting has taken place and that the parents were there and represented. It is an effective meeting, even if the outcome of the meeting is that care proceedings need to be initiated.

In the event there are multiple parents or separated parents who may have had separate meetings, enter the date of the earliest meeting. The date must be on or after the date pre-proceedings began (section 10.5.1).

If you do not yet collection this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide the date of initial pre-proceedings meeting”.

10.5.6. Number of review meetings

Current judicial guidance produced by the Public Law Working Group recommends that “every step of the pre-proceedings process should be tailored to the particular needs of the child(ren) and their family. It should be overseen and regularly reviewed by a senior manager e.g., at six-eight weeks or at the half-way point”.

Enter a numeric value for the number of review pre-proceedings meetings that took place with parents, following the initial pre-proceedings meeting. Exclude the initial pre-proceedings meeting. The review pre-proceedings meetings can include meetings where there is a decision taken to extend pre-proceedings. Include all review meetings which fell within the reporting year. In most cases, we would expect

at least one review meeting to have taken place. For ongoing cases, include all review meetings up to 31 March 2028. Any review meetings held after this date must be included in the 2028 to 2029 census.

If you do not yet collect this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide the number of review meetings”.

At this stage we are asking for a count of the number of review meetings. In future years we may look to collect individual meeting dates to identify how much time has passed between meetings.

10.5.7. Decision to step up or step down

Enter the date of legal meeting, panel or management/leadership decision that agreed to end pre-proceedings to either step down or step up, i.e. initiate care proceedings. This date must be on or after the date of the decision to begin pre-proceedings and must fall within the reporting year. This is the date the decision was made, not the date of application to court if step up is agreed – as this date is captured separately below.

If you do not yet collect this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide the date of decision to step up or step down”.

10.5.8. Outcome of pre-proceedings

Enter the outcome of pre-proceedings by selecting one of the following:

- Decision made to initiate care proceedings
- Decision made to step down
- Other – this would include cases where there is no decision made to step up or step down but pre-proceedings have ended for another reason. For example, because in pre-birth pre-proceedings the pregnancy was terminated or the mother miscarried, or the family has been transferred to another LA or the family left the country

If you do not yet collect this information, please leave this field blank and enter a note in COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide outcome of pre-proceedings”.

10.5.9. Date of application to court

Enter the date that the LA submitted the application to the court to begin care proceedings. This date must fall within the reporting year. This date must be on or after the date of the decision to initiate care proceedings (date to step up/down section 10.5.7). If the LA has decided care proceedings do not need to be initiated, please leave this blank.

If you do not yet collect this data, please leave this field blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide date of application to court”.

10.5.10. Date ‘letter of issue’ sent

Enter the date that the letter to initiate care proceedings was sent to parents. If care proceedings have not been issued, please leave this blank. This date must be on or after the date of the application to court (section 10.5.9) and should be within the reporting year. In the event there are multiple parents or separated parents who may have been informed at different times, enter the date of the earliest letter.

If you do not yet collect this data, please leave it blank and enter a note on COLLECT with the reason e.g. “we don’t yet have the systems in place to provide date letter of issue sent”.

Appendix A: definitions and guidance for factor group codes (see section 4.6)

More detailed descriptions of these factors included under each of these factor group codes are included in Annex B.

A1. Abuse (code FG1)

A1.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or that are suffering or likely to suffer, abuse - inside or outside the home, or online. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- abuse linked to faith or belief
- emotional abuse
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- 'honour'-based abuse
- physical abuse (adult on child)
- physical abuse (child on child)
- sexual abuse (adult on child)
- sexual abuse (child on child)

Children may be experiencing one or more of these forms of harm.

A1.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

Children who have just been referred with evidence of possible abuse should be included where this is the primary reason for services being provided.

Children whose needs arise primarily out of their abusing other children which has triggered section 47 enquiries should be included.

Children whose needs primarily arise from forms of abuse which are related to factors listed under the extra-familial harm factor group should be recorded instead under the extra-familial harm factor group.

A2. Contextual family factors (code FG2)

A2.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or who are suffering or likely to suffer harm related to, contextual family factors. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- adult in the family is workless
- family in acute stress
- family require support with their finances and / or have unmanageable debt
- parent/carer in prison
- unsuitable housing

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A2.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This category encompasses families that are in difficulty but where the basic positive relationship between the parent(s) and their children is not in question.

This includes families where the parenting capacity is normally good enough but they face circumstances, factors, or events that undermine that capacity. This would include events such as:

- An adult in the household is unemployed or economically inactive.
- The family is experiencing significant pressures or crises that affect their ability to cope and function effectively, such as death of a parent/carer or other family member, or loss of amenities important to the care of the children.
- Financial hardship, debt, or difficulties managing household finances are impacting family stability.
- A parent or carer is currently serving a custodial sentence or held in a secure setting.
- Housing circumstances are unsafe, unstable, inadequate, unaffordable, or otherwise unsuitable for the family's needs.

A3. Domestic Abuse (code FG3)

A3.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns about, actual or likely harm related to domestic abuse. This category should be selected when the main reason the child is receiving services is one or more of the following:

- domestic abuse: child victim (under the definition in Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021) or concerns due to domestic abuse in pregnancy
- teenage relationship abuse
- domestic abuse: concerns other person in the household is victim (not parent/carer or related to the child)
- child to parent or caregiver abuse

Children may be experiencing one or more of these harms.

A3.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

The domestic abuse factor group should be used where the main concern(s) relate to the impact of domestic abuse on a child or in pregnancy. Domestic abuse can take many forms and use of this grouping aims to identify the dynamics of domestic abuse and recognise the risks involved/impact on children. While children's experiences are the focus of this grouping, in many cases their experiences will be as a result of domestic abuse experienced by a parent, carer or relative, who may be receiving support in addition to the child.

The domestic abuse factor group should be used: where the child is a victim under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definition of child victim (section 3) i.e. as a result of the 'seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects' of domestic abuse between a parent, carer or relative; where there are concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy; where there is concern that someone else in the household (not a parent/carer or related to the child) is experiencing domestic abuse that could put the child at risk of harm; or where the child is experiencing or displaying abusive behaviour in their own intimate or dating type relationship (teenage relationship abuse).

While teenage relationship abuse is a form of extra-familial harm, concerns about teenage relationship abuse should be recorded under the domestic abuse factor group in recognition of the specific complexities, dynamics and often multiple harms which this form of domestic abuse can involve, often underpinned by coercive and controlling behaviour. Children who are victims of teenage relationship abuse and/or

children who may be causing harm to others as part of a teenage relationship should be recorded under this factor group, if this is the main concern identified.

Children who are using abusive behaviour toward their parent or carer (child to parent/carer abuse) should also be recorded under the domestic abuse factor group if this the main concern identified.

Where the main concern is that services may be required or that the child (0-18) is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to specific forms of abuse by a parent/carer or relative, this should be recorded under the ‘abuse’ factor group (FG1).

Where there are concerns that services may be required, or that the child is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to sexual exploitation this should be recorded under the extra-familial harm factor group (FG5).

Education (code FG4)

A4.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of their attendance or access to education. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- on a school roll with attendance issues
- not on a school roll and not receiving suitable education

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A4.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

Educational factors relate to concerns about a child's access to, participation in, or engagement with suitable education. These factors identify children whose educational needs may require monitoring, support, or intervention due to poor attendance, non-enrolment at school, or lack of access to appropriate educational provision. This would include situations where a child is:

- Enrolled at a school but have attendance concerns ranging from emerging to severe, affecting their regular participation in education.
- Of compulsory school age but are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education through school, alternative provision, elective home education, tuition, or other appropriate arrangements.

A5. Extra-familial harms (code FG5)

A5.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns the child is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to, extra-familial harms. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- child criminal exploitation
- child sexual exploitation
- financial exploitation
- gangs
- missing
- radicalisation
- trafficking

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A5.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This category includes harms children experience which occur from sources which are outside the home. It may also include harms which occur inside the home (e.g. where a child is sexually exploited online, or where family members are involved in the criminal exploitation of a child).

This category includes extra-familial harms which are perpetrated by adults and/or other children, and includes harm perpetrated both by individuals and by groups.

This category does not include teenage relationship abuse, which is captured in FG3 – Domestic Abuse.

A6. Illness or disability (code FG6)

A6.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns the child is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to, illness or disability. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- learning disability (concerns about the child's learning disability)
- learning disability (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s) learning disability)

- learning disability (concerns about another person in the family/household's learning disability)
- physical disability or illness (concerns about the physical disability or illness of the child)
- physical disability or illness (concerns about the physical illness or disability of the parent(s)/carer(s))
- physical disability or illness (concerns about the physical illness or disability of another person in the family/household)

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A6.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This category applies to children whose health condition, disability, neurodevelopmental difference, or impairment results in additional needs that require support beyond that which can reasonably be provided by their parent(s) or carer(s) alone. As a result, children's social care involvement is required, often alongside support from other services such as health, education and specialist provision.

The term disability should be interpreted broadly and includes physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, long-term health conditions, and neurodevelopmental conditions where these are the primary reason for children's social care involvement. It may also include illnesses or health conditions that have a significant impact on the child's day-to-day functioning, development or wellbeing.

While many children recorded under this category will have long-term or lifelong conditions, this is not a requirement. Children who require children's social care support during recovery from a significant illness, injury or health condition, or where the long-term impact of a condition remains uncertain, may also be included where this is the primary reason for involvement.

Many children within this category will have a diagnosed condition, such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, a learning disability, a sensory impairment or another recognised health or developmental condition. However, a formal diagnosis is not always necessary where the child's assessed needs arising from a disability, health condition or developmental difference are the primary reason for children's social care involvement.

Where a child's primary needs arise from neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), they should be included in this category if those needs are the main reason for children's social care involvement.

Children who present with emotional, behavioural or mental health needs may require careful consideration. Where these needs are primarily associated with a disability, long-term health condition or neurodevelopmental condition, this category may be appropriate. Where the primary reason for involvement relates to mental health difficulties, emotional wellbeing, or behavioural concerns that are not principally linked to a disability or health condition, the Mental Health and behavioural issues category (FG7) may be more suitable.

A7. Mental Health and behavioural issues (code FG7)

A7.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns the child is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to, mental health and behavioural issues. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- mental health (concerns about the child)
- mental health (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s))
- mental health (concerns about another person in the family/household)
- self-harm
- socially unacceptable behaviour
- child beyond parental control

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A7.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This category includes children who are beyond parental control as per Section 31 of the Children Act 1989.

Children should be captured under this category where concerns around mental health are sufficient that this is the primary reason for support being provided, whether or not there is a formal diagnosis.

Children with emotional and behavioural difficulties will present particular difficulties of classification. If there is a medically diagnosed learning disability or physical disability or illness attributed then the child should be included instead under FG6 – Illness or disability.

Children who have been diagnosed as suffering from a psychiatric illness should be included.

This category includes children and young people receiving support from a youth justice service where the relevant staff or provision is funded through the local authority's children's social care budget.

It also includes children receiving services through local crime prevention or reduction arrangements, whether or not a youth justice service is involved. However, where a youth justice service refers a child for reasons unrelated to offending behaviour, practitioners should consider whether another factor more accurately reflects the child's needs and circumstances.

This category should be used where the child's behaviour has become a concern beyond the immediate family and indicates that support or intervention may be required because of its impact on the child, other people or the wider community.

This may include children who are known to services because they are frequently in situations that may place them or others at risk. Examples may include being out late at night in unsafe locations, involvement in antisocial or offending behaviour, or regularly associating with people involved in criminal activity.

Where the primary concern is that the child is being exploited, coerced or otherwise harmed outside the home, practitioners should follow the appropriate safeguarding and child protection procedures and record the concern under the extra-familial harm (FG5) category.

A8. Neglect (code FG8)

A8.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of, or where there are concerns the child is suffering or likely to suffer harm related to, neglect.

A8.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

Children who have been referred with evidence of possible neglect should be included where this is the primary reason for services being provided.

All children who are the subject of a child protection plan or enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 due to neglect should be included, whether concerns are about actual significant harm or likely significant harm.

Children whose needs arise from being abandoned by their families in situations which trigger section 47 enquiries should be included.

A9. No factors identified (code FG9)

A9.1 Definition

Children whose reference data is not completely entered on the system and whose need code is yet to be determined.

This category is to enable the loading of data where the need codes are not immediately to hand. It is assumed that this will only apply to children who are supported in their families or who are independent; as looked after children will have had a need code allocated.

The number of children in this category should be kept to a minimum.

A10. Other (code FG10)

A10.1 Definition

Children who are receiving services but who are not strictly children receiving support through family help (targeted early help or child in need) or child protection.

This category must never be used because children do not appear to fit into other categories.

This code can be used if a child has been adopted and although no longer receives support, receives adoption support from social services immediately after the adoption. This is not to be used where a child only receives an adoption payment.

A11. Private fostering (code FG11)

A11.1 Definition

Children requiring services as a result of being, or that may be at risk as, a privately fostered child.

A11.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This includes children where one or more of the following apply and this is the primary reason for the child receiving services:

- concerns that services may be required or the child may be at risk as a privately fostered child - children in educational placements

- concerns that services may be required or the child may be at risk as a privately fostered child - children in alternative family arrangements

Children should be included where these factors apply regardless of whether they are from the UK or from overseas, and whether children from overseas intend to stay or return. Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A12. Problem drug or alcohol use (code FG12)

A12.1 Definition

Children requiring services or that may be at risk as a result of problem drug or alcohol use. This category should be selected when the main reason the child started receiving services was one or more of the following:

- problem alcohol use (concerns about the child)
- problem alcohol use (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s))
- problem alcohol use (concerns about another person in the family/household)
- problem drug use (concerns about the child)
- problem drug use (concerns about the parent(s)/carer(s))
- problem drug use (concerns about another person in the family/household)

Children may be experiencing one or more of these factors.

A12.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

These categories include concerns about problem use of both legal and/or illegal substances.

Where there are concerns about problem drug or alcohol use related to being exploited or experiencing other forms of harm outside the home should be categorised under the extra-familial harm category.

A13. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker (code FG13)

A13.1 Definition

Children requiring services or where there are concerns the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm as a result of being an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child.

A13.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

This should be selected where the primary reason that a child is receiving services is as a result of being an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child, including where there are concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm as a result of being an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child.

A14. Young Carer (code FG14)

A14.1 Definition

Children requiring services or where there are concerns a child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm as a result of being a young carer.

A13.2 Guide to inclusion or exclusion from this category

The young carers factor group should be recorded for children under 18 who provide or intend to provide care assistance or support to another family member, and where this is the primary reason that a child is receiving services.

This includes where services are required as the child's health or development may be impaired due to their caring responsibilities.

Appendix B: Additional guide on factors identified during assessment

B1. The purpose of collecting the factors identified during assessment data

The effective assessment of an individual child's needs is a process requiring the skills, knowledge and professional judgement of practitioners. This is in order to ascertain the child's needs, the parent's ability to meet those needs, and the impact of wider family and environmental factors.

Recording this data after assessment means that the professional skills taken to complete the assessment can be utilised to record findings, from the assessment, systematically in a manner which facilitates analysis and service planning based on the social worker's understanding. For example, the prevalence of domestic abuse and substance misuse has an impact on the services (including multi-agency services) needed. It can also be used to gain an understanding of the impact of services over time for example by looking at what happens to children where there are these factors present and by looking at trends of prevalence. It means that information informed by professional skills about the needs of children can then inform other processes such as the work of the local safeguarding partners.

B2. The process of selecting factors identified during assessment data

Children's social care assessment aims to gather important information about a child and family, analyse their needs and/or the nature and level of any risk and harm being suffered by the child, including where harm or concerns of likely harm is from outside the home, and to provide support to address those needs to improve the child's outcomes and, where necessary, to make them safe.

The framework for assessment set out in statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, provides an example of a conceptual model which facilitates a systematic approach to delivering a comprehensive assessment for all children, recognising that it is important to understand all the factors which may be contributing to a child needing support or protection and that the relationship between these factors can be complex. The model investigates three domains:

- the child's developmental needs
- the capacity of parents or carers (resident and non-resident) and any other adults living in the household to respond to those needs

- the impact and influence of the family network and any other adults living in the household as well as community and environmental circumstances

While it is in no way exhaustive, we have included the key data items which have been suggested in terms of facilitating service planning and that would become evident through the assessment process. This is in terms of an analysis of the needs of the child and parenting capacity within their family and community context (including concerns about harm outside the home) as a basis for formulating a plan for the child.

We have included key factors which affect the child's health and development and are factors which mean the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm. The needs of the parents and carers are an integral part of assessment. Providing services which meet the needs of the parents or carers is often the most effective means of promoting the welfare of children.

We have also included key issues which research has shown affects parents' ability to respond appropriately to the child's needs in terms of the ability to nurture their children, protect them from risk and support their development. In addition, we have included some environmental and family factors which play a role in reducing or increasing the stresses on families, depending on the support available to them. We have included a 'no factors identified category' in the end of assessment factors although in practice it is unlikely that no factors would be identified though an assessment. **We would only expect this category to be used in cases which were closed following assessment where it was determined the child did not require support.**

Our knowledge and understanding of children's welfare – and how to respond in the best interests of a child to concerns – develops over time, informed by research, experience and the critical scrutiny of practice. Sound professional practice involves making judgements supported by evidence: evidence derived from research and experience about the nature and impact of maltreatment, and when and how to intervene to improve outcomes for children; and evidence derived from a thorough assessment of a specific child's health, development and welfare, and his or her family circumstances, as well as any risks from outside the home.

B3. Factors identified during assessment – additional information

Code	Code descriptor	Additional information
FG1A	Abuse linked to faith or belief	Code FG1A should be used where there are concerns that a child is experiencing, or is likely to experience, abuse linked to faith or belief. This includes, but is not limited to, belief in witchcraft, spirit possession, demons or the devil, the evil eye or djinns, dakini, kindoki, ritual or muti murders and use of fear of the supernatural. The beliefs involved are not confined to one faith, nationality or ethnic community. The abuse concerned may be of any form but can include physical abuse (including excessive physical discipline), sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect (including the denial of necessary medical treatment), domestic slavery and sexual exploitation. Where specific forms of abuse are identified, relevant factors should also be recorded. The following should not be recorded under this factor: • 'Honour'-based abuse arising from the perception that a child has brought, or may bring, 'shame' or 'dishonour' on themselves, their family or wider community • Cultural practices that are themselves a specific form of abuse, for example female genital mutilation or forced marriage • Child abuse in faith settings which are incidental to the abuse, for example, sexual abuse by individual(s) in a religious community where religious beliefs are not being used to facilitate/drive the abuse.
FG1B	Emotional abuse	The emotional abuse factor should be recorded where there is persistent ill-treatment of a child that causes severe and continual adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Some

		level of emotional abuse is implied in all types of ill-treatment of a child, although it may occur on its own. Emotional Abuse may involve a parent or carer: • conveying to the child that they are inadequate, worthless or unloved or valued only as far as they meet the needs of another person • imposing inappropriate age or development related expectations on the child • overprotecting or limiting exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interactions • allowing the child to see or hear the ill-treatment of others • bullying • causing the child to frequently feel frightened or in danger • exploiting and/or corrupting the child. • Code (FG1B) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to emotional abuse.
FG1C	Female Genital Mutilation	The female genital mutilation (FGM) factor should be recorded where there are concerns a child or young person is at likely to be, is being, or has been subjected to a procedure involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (FGM). This factor should only be recorded if the girl herself is perceived to be at risk, not if the only risk factor is that her family are from a practising community. Further information on Female Genital Mutilation is available from the World Health Organization. Code (FG1C) concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk due to female genital mutilation.

FG1D	Forced marriage	Code FG1D should be recorded where there are concerns that a child has experienced, or is likely to experience, a forced marriage. This includes concerns that arrangements are being made for a child to marry, or that a child may be taken abroad, or kept abroad, for the purposes of a forced marriage. Where specific forms of abuse are identified, relevant other factors should also be recorded. **For children under the age of 18, consent is not relevant when identifying a forced marriage**. A forced marriage occurs where anything is done to cause a child under 18 to marry, whether or not the child appears to agree or want the marriage. Practitioners do not need evidence that a child has objected, or been threatened, pressured or coerced, into the marriage in order to record this factor. For the purposes of this factor, marriage includes civil, religious and customary marriages, whether or not the marriage is legally recognised in England or Wales. Examples may include: • a marriage being proposed, planned or arranged for a child; • pressure or expectations that a child will marry, including through threats, violence, emotional pressure or guilt; • plans, or arrangements, for a child to travel or remain abroad where there are concerns a marriage may take place; • withdrawal from education or restrictions on movements, friendships or communication in connection marriage plans; • a child expressing fear, anxiety or uncertainty about a proposed marriage, family plans for their future, or an upcoming trip abroad

		Where there are also concerns that abuse, control or restrictions are motivated by protecting or defending family or community ‘honour’ or reputation, including concerns about 'shame' or 'dishonour', the ‘honour’-based abuse factor should also be recorded. Further information is included in the statutory guidance on forced marriage.
FG1E	‘Honour’-based abuse	Code FG1E should be used where there are concerns that a child is experiencing, or is likely to experience, ‘honour’-based abuse. This includes children assessed as being at risk of harm, even where no abuse has yet occurred. Where specific forms of abuse are identified, relevant other factors should also be recorded alongside ‘honour’-based abuse. ‘Honour’-based abuse occurs where abuse, or the risk of abuse, is motivated wholly or partly by a perceived need to protect or defend the ‘honour’ or reputation of an individual, family or community. It may occur in response to an actual or perceived breach of expected behaviour or be used to prevent a child from behaving in a way that is believed may bring ‘shame’ or ‘dishonour’ to themselves, their family or wider community. The abuse may be carried out, encouraged or arranged by one or more family or community member(s) and can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological abuse and/or coercive or controlling behaviour. Examples may include threats, monitoring or surveillance, restrictions, punishment or other abuse linked to a child's relationships, sexuality, sex, behaviour, dress, friendships, social or online activity, education, or refusal to comply with family expectations where concerns about 'shame' or family or community reputation are a motivating factor. The factor should not be recorded solely because

		a child belongs to a particular family, community, culture, religion or ethnic group. Where forced marriage is identified, the forced marriage factor should also be recorded. Government intends to publish statutory guidance on 'honour'-based abuse in due course – this will be made available on gov.uk.
FG1F and FG1G	Physical abuse	The physical abuse factor should be recorded where there is abuse or serious violence that may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, stabbing, beating up or otherwise causing serious injury /physical harm to a child. Physical abuse may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. Code (FG1G) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to physical abuse by another child - child (age under 18) to child (age under 18). Note: record this factor for all children referred and assessed as being in need of services. This includes children who have carried out physical abuse or serious violence, as well as child victims of physical abuse. Code (FG1F) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to physical abuse by an adult.
FG1H and FG1I	Sexual abuse	The sexual abuse factor should be recorded where there are concerns that a child or young person is, is being, is likely to be, or has been subject to sexual harassment, sexual violence or sexual abuse and may have been forced or enticed to take part in sexual activities, including online, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

		Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet. Code (FG1I) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to sexual abuse by another child. Sexual abuse can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children with or without their consent. Child to child (peer on peer) sexual abuse involves a person, or group of persons under the age of 18, sexually abusing another person or persons under the age of 18. Note: record this factor for all children referred and assessed as being in need of services. This includes both victims of CSA, and children who have carried out sexual abuse or are displaying harmful sexual behaviour. Code (FG1H) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to sexual abuse by an adult.
FG2A	Adult in the family is workless	A household which has at least one adult aged 16–64 and all adults in the household, aged 16 or over, are currently economically inactive or unemployed. Economically inactive members may be unavailable to work because of family commitments, retirement, study, sickness or disability.

FG2B	Family in acute stress	Family facing multiple or complex pressures that are negatively impacting family functioning, wellbeing, resilience, or day-to-day coping. Examples may include bereavement, family breakdown, caring responsibilities, crisis events, or multiple pressures affecting family wellbeing and stability.
FG2C	Family require support with their finances and / or have unmanageable debt	Families experiencing financial hardship, debt (e.g. rent arrears), or difficulties managing household finances that require support to improve financial stability.
FG2D	Parent/carer in prison	Where a parent or carer is currently serving a custodial sentence in prison, remand centre, or other secure setting.
FG2E	Unsuitable housing	Accommodation that does not adequately meet a family's safety, health, space, accessibility, affordability, or stability needs. Examples include homelessness, unsuitable or overcrowded housing, temporary accommodation, unaffordable housing, inaccessible housing, and young people experiencing housing instability.
FG3A, FG3B, FG3C, and FG3D	Domestic abuse	Domestic abuse can take many forms. Further information on domestic abuse, including the impact on children and types of domestic abuse, can be found in the domestic abuse statutory guidance - Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - GOV.UK One or more of the following domestic abuse factors should be recorded where there are concerns about a child in relation to domestic abuse. Section B4 explores a range of domestic abuse scenarios and provides further advice on which factors may be recorded. **FG3A Child to parent or caregiver abuse**

		Factor FG3A should be recorded where there are concerns that a child (under 18 years) is using abusive behaviour towards a parent or caregiver, including adults with parental responsibility, such as kinship carers and foster parents. This abuse may encompass a wide range of behaviours and typically forms a pattern of incidents. It can include physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, stalking, economic, psychological, emotional, or other abuse. **FG3B Child is victim of domestic abuse** Code FG3B should be used where the child is a victim of domestic abuse (as defined by section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021). Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, recognises that a child, (0-18), is a victim of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to either victim or perpetrator of the abuse, or, either the victim or perpetrator of the abuse has parental responsibility for that child. Therefore, where concerns relate to domestic abuse involving a child's parents, carers or relatives, they should be recorded under this factor. This factor should also be recorded where there are concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy. Once a child is born, if concerns about domestic abuse continue, children will be recognised under section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act. Where the child is experiencing abuse in their own intimate or dating-type relationships – code FG3D 'teenage relationship abuse' should be used.

		FG3C Concerns other person in household is victim of domestic abuse (not parent/carer or related to the child) This factor should be used to capture concerns about anyone else in the child's home who may be experiencing domestic abuse – but who does not have parental responsibility for, or is a relative of, the child e.g. if a friend of the child's parent is living in their home and experiencing domestic abuse from a partner. These circumstances would sit outside the definition of section 3 'child victim' but may still place the child at risk of harm. This factor should be used to capture concern about risk to, or impact on, the child in relation to such circumstances. **FG3D Teenage relationship abuse** Code FG3D should be recorded where a child is experiencing and/or using abusive behaviour within their own intimate or dating-type relationship with another child (often known as 'teenage relationship abuse'). Abusive child-on-child behaviour that is not linked to an intimate or dating relationship, or not occurring within a wider pattern of coercive control, is not teenage relationship abuse and other factors, e.g. child-on-child sexual abuse or child-on-child physical abuse should be used. It should be noted that a child using or experiencing teenage relationship abuse may experience other harms, such as child sexual exploitation and/or other forms of extra-familial harm. These factors may also be recorded, in addition to teenage relationship abuse. Teenage relationship abuse can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, controlling and coercive behaviour, stalking, online and offline. It can be a single incident or a pattern of behaviour. It is important to be aware that a child may not

		identify as a victim of teenage relationship abuse or not recognise behaviour as abusive.
FG4A	On a school roll with attendance issues	Child is enrolled at a school and has attendance concerns that may require monitoring, support, or intervention. This may include children with emerging, persistent, or severe attendance concerns who remain enrolled at a school but are not attending regularly.
FG4B	Not on a school roll and not receiving suitable education	Child is of compulsory school age, is not registered at a school, and is not receiving education at home or elsewhere. This may include children who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education through school, alternative provision, home education, tuition, or other appropriate arrangements
FG5A	Child criminal exploitation	The child criminal exploitation factor should be recorded where there are concerns a child is at is likely to be, is being, or has been criminally exploited. Child criminal exploitation is common in 'county lines' and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The signs of involvement may not be the same, and professionals should be alert to this. Child criminal exploitation may be present in cases where there are some of the following concerns: • Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions; children who go missing for periods of time from home or

		school or who come home late or are missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home. • Children who have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (for example, knife crime). • Children who are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line (for example, county lines), moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs. • Children who are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection • Children found in a 'trap house/ house invasion' where there is drug activity. • Children who owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters. • Children who have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.
FG5B	Child sexual exploitation	The child sexual exploitation (CSE) factor should be recorded where a child or young person under 18 is at risk of, is being, or has been, sexually exploited. Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears to be consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. A child may also be at risk of child sexual exploitation (even if they have not yet experienced

		this directly) if they live with an adult who is accessing child images of a sexual nature online. Code FG5B should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to child sexual exploitation (even if they have not been sexually exploited). Further guidance on child sexual exploitation, including: potential indicators of CSE; overlaps with other types of harm and; information on children whose experiences, characteristics and/or vulnerabilities may make them more at risk of exploitation, is available from the Department for Education.
FG5C	Financial exploitation	Financial exploitation can take many forms. In this context, we use the term to describe exploitation which takes place for the purpose of money laundering. This is when criminals target children and adults and take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive them into facilitating the movement of illicit funds. This can include physical cash and/or payments through financial products, such as bank and cryptocurrency accounts.
FG5D	Gangs	The gangs factor should be recorded along with the child criminal exploitation factor where a child is part of a street or organised crime gang for whom crime and violence are a core part of their identity. Code (FG5D) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at suffering or likely to suffer harm because of involvement in/with gangs.
FG5E	Missing children	The missing children factor should be recorded where a child up to the age of 18 has gone missing from their school, home or care placement, has been forced to leave, or whose whereabouts is unknown.

		Code (FG5E) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm due to going/being missing. Further information about Missing Children is available from the Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care.
FG5F	Radicalisation	The susceptibility to radicalisation factor should be recorded where a child is considered to be at risk of radicalisation. Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, violence. For the purposes of this indicator, this includes the susceptibility to radicalisation into terrorist violence which may motivate a referral to Prevent. See the Prevent duty guidance for further details. For the purposes of this indicator, this also includes susceptibility to radicalisation into non-ideological extreme violence. This might include children that develop a fascination with extreme violence and may develop an intent to inflict extreme violence (without ideological motivation).
FG5G	Trafficking	The trafficking factor should be recorded where a child is moved for reasons of exploitation. This is considered to be trafficking, whether or not the child has been forced or deceived. Trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

		Code (FG5G) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to sufferharm due to trafficking. Further information about child trafficking is available from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
FG6A, FG6B, and FG6C	Learning disability	The learning disability factor should be recorded where a learning disability impacts on a child. This could include, but is not limited to, a reduced ability to understand new or complex information or to learn new skills, a reduced ability to cope independently and a lasting effect on development. Code (FG6A) should be used for concerns about the child's learning disability, (FG6B) for concerns about the parent's or carer's learning disability and (FG6C) for concerns about the learning disability of another person in the family/household.
FG6D, FG6E, and FG6F	Physical disability or illness	The physical disability or illness factor should be recorded where the child's health or development is impacted due to their physical disability or illness; or the capacity of a parent to respond to the child's needs is impacted because of the parent's physical disability or illness. If recording a parent's physical disability or illness which impacts on parenting capacity, consider whether there is a need to record the young carer factor for the child. Code (FG6D) should be used for concerns about the child's physical disability or illness, (FG6E) for concerns about the parent's or carer's physical disability or illness and (FG6F) for concerns about the physical disability or illness another person in the family/household.
FG7A, FG7B, and FG7C	Mental health disorder	The mental health factor should be recorded where the effects of mental health impact on a child.

		Code (FG7A) should be used for concerns about the child's mental health, (FG7B) for concerns about the parent's or carer's mental health and (FG7C) for concerns about the mental health of another person in the household.
FG7D	Self-harm	The self-harm factor should be recorded where a child has attempted or carried out harm against themselves. Self-harm is defined as self-poisoning or self-injury, irrespective of the apparent purpose of the act. Code (FG7D) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk due to suspected/actual self-harming.
FG7E	Socially unacceptable behaviour	The socially unacceptable behaviour factor should be recorded where the child's behaviour impacts detrimentally on the community. This includes children who require services because they offend, are considered to be at risk of offending, are behaving in such a way that they cause alarm or disturb the peace or are 'pushing at the boundaries' of community acceptance. This factor can also be used for children who create concern within the community because they put themselves at unacceptable risk, and children and young people being served by staff in a Youth Offending Team (YOT). This factor may also be used for children who are receiving services as part of the Youth Crime Prevention Programme. Code (FG7E) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk due to their socially unacceptable behaviour.
FG7F	Child beyond parental control	As per Section 31 of the Children Act 1989.
FG8A	Neglect	The neglect factor should be recorded where there is a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which may

		result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Neglect may involve a parent or carer: • not providing adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment) • not protecting a child from physical and emotional harm or danger • not providing adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers) • not providing access to appropriate medical care or treatment • being unresponsive to a child's basic emotional needs. Code (FG8A) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to abuse or neglect.
FG9A	No factors identified	Only use this code if there is no evidence of any of the other factors and no further action is being taken.
FG10A	Other	Other. Local authorities should internally record the need or harm behind this factor selection.
FG11A and FG11B	Private fostering	The private fostering factors should be recorded where an arrangement has been made privately for the care of a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt. A person who is a relative under the Children Act 1989 i.e., a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether full or half blood or by marriage) or stepparent will not be a private foster carer.

		Code FG11A should be used where there are concerns that services may be required as a privately fostered child - children in alternative family arrangements. Code FG11B should be used where there are concerns that services may be required as a privately fostered child – children in educational placements. These factors should both be applied regardless of whether the child is a UK child or a child from overseas, and whether or not they are overseas children who intend to stay or return.
FG12A, FG12B, and FG12C	Problem alcohol use	The problem alcohol use factor should be recorded where problem, harmful or dependent drinking impacts on the individual, and if applicable, their role as a parent /carer. Code (FG12A) should be used for concerns about the child's problem alcohol use, (FG12B) for concerns about the parent's or carer's problem alcohol use and (FG12C) for concerns about problem alcohol use by another person in the household. This data point is the same as historical items labelled "alcohol misuse". The language has been updated to match NHSE. Further information about problem drinking is available from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).
FG12D, FG12E, and FG12F	Problem drug use	The problem drug use factor should be recorded where an individual is intoxicated by regular excessive consumption of and /or dependence on substances, which has led to social, psychological, physical or legal problems. It includes problematic use of both legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol when used in combination with other substances).

		Code (FG12D) should be used for concerns about the child's problem drug use, (FG12E) for concerns about the parent's or carer's problem drug use and (FG12F) for concerns about problem drug use by another person in the household. This data point is the same as historical items labelled "drug misuse". The language has been updated to match NHSE
FG13A	Unaccompanied asylum seeker	The unaccompanied asylum seeker (UASC) factor should be recorded where a child is separated from their country of origin and are without the care and protection of their parents or a legal guardian. The child (aged under 18) is applying for asylum in their own right. The child must be without the care of both parents and are not being cared for by any other adult who, by law, has responsibility to do so. Code (FG13A) should be used where there are concerns that services may be required, or the child may be suffering or likely to suffer harm, as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child.
FG14A	Young carer	The young carers factor should be recorded for children under 18 who provide or intend to provide care assistance or support to another family member. The child intends to or will carry out on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility, which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving care could be a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has a chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition connected with a need for care support or supervision. Code (FG14A) should be used for concerns that services may be required, or the child's health or development may be impaired due to their caring responsibilities.

B4. Further information on domestic abuse factors

From 2027 to 2028, the domestic abuse factors have been revised, to ensure that children are consistently recognised as victims of domestic abuse and that the impact of domestic abuse on children, as a result of abuse in their own intimate relationships and/or where children experience domestic abuse between a parent/carer or relative, is identified and recorded consistently.

The table below provides some examples of domestic abuse and offers further guidance on which factors may be recorded in these scenarios, subject to the individual circumstances identified through the social work assessment. In practice, children experience multiple harms and assessments are therefore likely to identify a broader range of factors than those illustrated in the scenarios. Domestic abuse can involve many different forms of abuse and can affect anyone; victims and perpetrators may be of different gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background. The illustrative scenarios below are, therefore, not exhaustive. Further information on domestic abuse is available at Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - GOV.UK

Scenario	Factor group recorded	Factors recorded (subject to individual assessment)
Child (0-18) lives in a house where dad is abusive towards mum, with a pattern of physical abuse, sexual abuse and controlling behaviour, including control of mum's finances.	Domestic abuse	Child victim – child is a victim in their own right under section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as a result of experiencing parental domestic abuse.
A mum who lives with her two children has been experiencing domestic abuse from her partner for a number of years. The relationship has now ended and the ex-partner has moved out of the family home but still sees the children. The ex-partner's abusive behaviour towards mum has continued following the separation.	Domestic abuse	Child victim – under section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the children may still experience the effects of domestic abuse.

Two children, (aged 15 months and 4 years), live at home with their mum and maternal grandparents. There are concerns that the grandfather is being verbally and physically abusive towards the grandmother in the presence of the 4-year-old.The 15-month-old is usually in another room.	Domestic abuse	Both children would be recorded under the 'child victim' factor as a result of 'seeing, hearing and/or experiencing the effects' of domestic abuse between their grandparents.
Child (aged 16) lives in a house where mum is physically abusive to dad. Mum is also physically abusive to the child.	Record either 'domestic abuse' or 'abuse', depending on which the social worker identifies as the primary harm.	Child victim – child (0-18) is a victim in their own right under section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as a result of parental domestic abuse. AND Physical abuse (adult on child) – mum's abuse of her child is recorded as child abuse.
A pregnant woman is experiencing domestic abuse from her partner	Domestic abuse	Child victim and concern about domestic abuse in pregnancy. While the section 3 Domestic Abuse Act definition only comes into effect once the child is born, the child victim and pregnancy factor captures concerns about domestic abuse in pregnancy.
A 15 boy is being coercively controlled by his 16-year-old girlfriend	Domestic abuse	Teenage relationship abuse (TRA) – the children are in an intimate relationship. Under assessment, TRA could be recorded as a concern for both children (the boy as a victim and the girl due to the harm she is causing)
A 16-year-old boy is physically and sexually	Domestic abuse	Teenage relationship abuse – the children are in an intimate relationship. This factor could

abusing his 17-year-old girlfriend.		be recorded under teenage relationship as a concern in assessments for both children (the boy as causing harm, the girl as victim of harm). If the assessment has identified specific types of abuse (physical abuse and sexual abuse), then the factors physical abuse (child on child) and sexual abuse (child on child) would <u>also</u> be recorded for both children.
A 14-year-old boy has, on more than one occasion, sexually assaulted a 15-year-old boy who goes to the same school. They are not in an intimate relationship.	Abuse	Sexual abuse (child on child) – the boys are not in an intimate relationship, so this would <u>not</u> be recorded as teenage relationship abuse.
A 16-year-old boy is physically abusive, verbally threatening and controlling towards his foster mum	Domestic abuse	Child to parent/carer abuse
A child is living in a house with mum and mum's friend. Mum's friend is a victim of domestic abuse and her abuser (her same sex partner) regularly stays at the house and is abusive towards mum's friend. Neither mum's friend, or her partner are related to the child.	Domestic abuse	Domestic abuse: other person in the household is a victim (not parent/carer or relative). The child is not recorded under the 'child is a victim' factor as they are not related to mum's friend (or her abusive partner) and so do not come under the section 3 (Domestic Abuse Act 2021) definition – however there is an identified risk of harm in the context of domestic abuse experienced by someone in the household (not related to or a parent/carer of the child).



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