

What makes good? Early Help audit grading guidance

To receive a grading, 3+ sections need to have been achieved to obtain the equivalent grading.

e.g. An EHA is outstanding if 3+ sections are outstanding, and the fourth section is good.

Some professional judgement is required however as an EHA cannot be outstanding if 3 sections are outstanding, but one section is inadequate or requires improvement. The overall grade will then need some consideration. The final grade would then be good or requires improvement dependent on what is missing.

Outstanding

Section 1: Assessment:

- Whole family assessment.
- The assessment is detailed and thorough.
- The assessment gathers information from other agencies who are involved.
- Voice of the children have been gathered and analysed. This includes siblings. The voice is meaningful in relation to the identified worries.
- Voice of Parents have been gathered and analysed. Voice is meaningful in relation to the identified worries. Where this is not possible the reason is recorded e.g. parent has had no contact with children for a significant number of years and family do not know where they are.
- Strengths of family are identified.
- Family support networks are identified. Who do the family turn to in times of need? Can they be invited to the Team around the Family meetings?
- Links have been made to research – without support what could the potential outcomes be for the family?

Section 2 & 3: Initial and Review Family Network meetings:

- Meeting is within timescale or there is a clear reason why not.
- Both parents (where appropriate) are included in the meeting. Consideration has been given to include or update separated parents and to avoid potential conflict/discomfort.
- Multi-agency attendance/involvement in the plan.
- The family have ownership of the plan and have their own role to play. They have a say in what is happening.
- Family support networks attend the meeting. Actions include family networks.
- Actions are SMART.
- Actions are clear and easy to understand.
- Actions address the worries identified on the assessment.
- Where there is a lot of intervention, priorities are clear.
- Voice of children have been gathered and analysed throughout. Siblings are included and the voice is relevant to the identified worries.
- Voice of parents have been gathered and analysed throughout. Both parents and stepparents are included. Voice is relevant to the identified worries.
- Voice of significant others have been gathered (if appropriate). Links are made to the identified worries.
- There is a clear trajectory/journey. What needs to 'seen' to close the EHA is made clear in the scaling question.
- Any agency who has not been able to attend the meeting has updated the lead professional as to their plan and next actions have been agreed so that the plan can still move forward.

This means that progress is not slowed down in their absence. This is agreed with the professional who was absent prior to the meeting.

- Any new worries identified are updated on the assessment and reflected in the plan.
- There is evidence of progress.
- Assessments (including updated versions) and all plans are submitted to children’s front door and shared with all attendees in a timely manner.

Section 4: Outcomes

- Life has improved for the family.
- The family no longer need the support from multiple services.
- The family have a clear plan and know what they need to do should they struggle in future. The aim is to avoid dependency on services so the family have their networks established and should be self-sufficient on closure and moving forward.

Good

Section 1: Assessment:

- Whole family assessment.
- The assessment is detailed and thorough.
- Strengths are identified.
- The assessment identifies other agencies who are involved.
- Voice of the children have been gathered. This includes siblings. The voice is meaningful in relation to the identified worries.
- Voice of Parents have been gathered. Voice is meaningful in relation to the identified worries. Where this is not possible the reason is recorded e.g. parent has had no contact with children for a significant number of years and family do not know where they are.
- Family support networks are identified. Who do the family turn to in times of need?

Section 2 & 3: Initial and Review Family Network meeting:

- Meeting is within timescale or there is a clear reason why not.
- Both parents (where appropriate) are included in the meeting. Consideration has been given to include separated parents and to avoid potential conflict/discomfort.
- Multi-agency attendance/involvement in the plan. Professionals involved with siblings are included.
- The family have ownership of the plan and have their own role to play. They have a say in what is happening.
- Most actions are SMART.
- Actions are clear and easy to understand.
- Actions address the worries identified on the assessment.
- Where there is a lot of intervention, priorities are clear.
- Voice of children have been gathered. Siblings are included and the voice is relevant to the identified worries.
- Voice of parents have been gathered. Both parents and step parents are included. Voice is relevant to the identified worries.
- Voice of significant others have been gathered (if appropriate). Links are made to the identified worries.
- Any agency who has not been able to attend the meeting has updated the lead professional as to their plan and next actions have been agreed so that the plan can still move forward. This means that progress is not slowed down in their absence. This is agreed with the professional who was absent prior to the meeting.
- Any new worries identified are updated on the assessment and reflected in the plan.

- Assessments (including updated versions) and all plans are submitted to children’s front door and shared with all attendees in a timely manner.

Section 4: Outcomes

- Life has improved for the family.
- The family no longer need the support from multiple services.
- The family are clear with the outcomes and their plan moving forward.

Requires Improvement

Section 1: Assessment:

- The assessment only gives basic detail e.g., Behaviour is a worry. But details about the type of behaviour, times, locations, triggers, and impacts are not included.
- Assessment tends to be more ‘worry’ focussed rather than strength based.
- Voice of the child is basic. This may not be in relation to the identified worries or may only have been gathered for the child the professional is working directly with.
- Voice of Parents is basic. Voice may not be meaningful in relation to the identified worries.
- Voice of one of the parents has not been gathered or no reason is given as to why one cannot be gathered.

Section 2 & 3: Initial and review Family Network Meeting:

- There may be some delay in the meeting timescales and no clear reason as to why.
- At least one parent or adult with PR must attend the meeting.
- Multi-agency attendance/involvement in the plan.
- The actions are led professionally. The family are not involved in identified actions.
- Actions are not fully SMART.
- It might not be clear.
- Voice of parent not revisited at each meeting and recorded.
- Voice of children not revisited at each meeting and recorded.
- Where professionals have not attended there has been no further update or agreed action to ensure that progress continues.
- When new worries arise, they are addressed in the meeting, but the assessment has not been updated to reflect the new concerns.
- Updated plans and assessments are not shared in a timely manner meaning the family and professionals involved do not know what is happening next.

Section 4: Outcomes

- There has been a little progress, but the family are still struggling with the same issues.
- The family still need support from multiple services even after 6 months of work suggesting there may be some evidence of drift and delay.

Inadequate

Section 1: Assessment:

- The assessment is not fully completed (blank sections).
- The assessment only gives basic detail e.g., Behaviour is a worry. But details about the type of behaviour, times, locations, triggers, and impacts are not included.
- Negative. There are no identified strengths.
- The needs of the whole family are not considered. Focus is on one child or parent.
- No voice of child has been gathered.
- Voice of both parents has not been gathered or no reason is given as to why one cannot be gathered.

Section 2 & 3: Initial and review Family Network Meeting:

- There is a big delay in the meeting timescales and/or no meetings taking place.
- Parent may not have attended the meeting.
- The family have no say in what is happening. Professional led.
- Actions are not SMART.
- Actions are not clear.
- Worries are not prioritised.
- No evidence of voice of parents.
- No evidence of voice of children.
- When new worries arise, they are not addressed in the meeting and assessments have not been updated to reflect the new concerns.
- There may be some safeguarding concerns which are not addressed.
- Updated plans and assessments are not shared in a timely manner meaning the family and professionals involved do not know what is happening next.
- The review meetings may have stopped altogether without any reason or closure.

Section 4: Outcomes

- There has been no progress to suggest that life has improved for the family and things may have even got worse.
- Safeguarding issues may have placed the children at risk.
- The family still need support from multiple services even after 6 months of intervention suggesting there may be some evidence of drift and delay.
- Professionals and family do not know what is happening with regards to next steps.