

Signs of Safety Harm Analysis Matrix

When assessing child abuse and neglect it is crucial to gather specific, detailed information about the harm. This involves clearly identifying the harmful behaviour, its severity and frequency and impact on the child. The matrix is designed to assist practitioners at any stage of involvement with a family to gather detailed information from professionals, family, young people and others associated with the family, to enable a broader understanding of the harm to the child than simply the professional perspective.

Chronicity Action/Impact	Timespan	First incident	Worst Incident	Last Incident
Behaviour <i>The dangerous or harm causing adult behaviour. Can also be a young person's dangerous behaviour</i>	<i>What is the worrying adult behaviour and how long has it been happening? How many times has that adult behaviour happened over the total time span?</i>	<i>When and what was the first time the agency heard about the worrying adult behaviour?</i>	<i>When, and what, was the worst event of worrying adult behaviour the agency knows about?</i>	<i>When, and what, is the most recent event of worrying adult behaviour the agency knows about?</i>
Severity <i>Describes how bad the harmful adult behaviour is</i>	<i>Over the whole timespan the adult behaviour has been happening, how bad has the adult behaviour been?</i>	<i>How bad was the first event of adult worrying behaviour?</i>	<i>How bad was the worst event of worrying adult behaviour?</i>	<i>How bad was the most recent event of worrying adult behaviour?</i>
Impact <i>Describes the physical and emotional impact of the adult behaviours on the child</i>	<i>Over the whole timespan the adult behaviour has been happening, what has been the overall impact on the children?</i>	<i>Over the whole timespan the adult behaviour has been happening, what has been the overall impact on the children?</i>	<i>What was the impact of the worst incident on the child(ren)?</i>	