

## **Referring children to specialist services**

Where despite integrated service delivery coordinated through a common assessment, needs remain unmet or even escalate, practitioners should consider making a referral to a specialist service, that can respond to the unmet needs.

Specialist interventions that may result from a CAF include:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)
- Special Educational Needs assessment
- Drug / Alcohol services
- Youth Offending Service (YOS)
- Disabled Child: Integrated Needs assessment (CHAD)
- Paediatric Health Services
- Child in Need Assessment (Section 17 - Children and Young People's Social Care)
- Section 47 Child Protection Assessment (Children and Young People's Social Care)

In these cases the practitioner should:

- Discuss the common assessment and the request for specialist intervention with the receiving agency including, if appropriate, agreeing a lead professional
- Agree the request for intervention with the child and/or their parent/carer and seek their consent to appropriate information sharing

Where there is consent, share the content of all the current common assessment documentation with the relevant agency. The CA is now complete but not closed.

The CAF practitioner who completed the common assessment is responsible for pursuing the request for intervention with the specialist agency and retains a monitoring role in respect of the child or young person, until the outcome of the request is known.

It may also be possible to generate a request for specialist intervention as part of a multi-agency plan. Where a specialist request is made, the common assessment episode stays open until the lead professional is clear the request has been accepted.

Agencies in Leeds agree that the Common Assessment can be used in the majority of cases as part of a request for specialist services. It is important to ensure the information captured during the assessment is sufficiently detailed to allow informed decision making about service delivery.

Separate guidance is available on Common Assessment and working with Children and Young People's Social Care ([CAFCYPSC](#)) and [Early Support](#) for disabled children and young people.