
Overview

This standard covers the arrangements and checks you have to make when the planned care for an individual in a forensic setting includes engaging with a child or children of their family. It has been decided that a meeting should be considered and has been requested of those with parental responsibility for the child. Working with competent agencies you ensure that there is evaluation and balancing of the risks and benefits for the children, and that the child gives valid consent and has proper preparation before meeting or speaking with the individual. This is not a specialist child protection role, but involves liaising with specialists in competent agencies to ensure that the decision reflects children's best interests.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHFMH21

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 commission an independent assessment from the competent agency and ensure that the balance of risk and benefit in proposed contact is judged to be in a child's best interests
- P2 identify and report, from your knowledge of the individual:
 - P2.1 the harm and benefits to the child in their past relationship with the individual
 - P2.2 the risks to the child of new or continuing engagement with the individual (eg immediate physical risk, exposure to frightening behaviour, triggering of disturbing memories)
- P3 engage with the individual to assess their thoughts and feelings about the child and validate that they are the parent (eg check that they know the full names, date of birth and grandparents names)
- P4 agree with the team, family and competent agency a form of engagement where there would be clear benefits for the child, individual and family and where risks could be managed
- P5 ensure that the child has had opportunities with the competent agency to fully express their thoughts and feelings about the individual and possible re-engagement or ongoing contact
- P6 ensure that the competent agency has obtained the child's valid consent to engage with the individual and has been prepared for it
- P7 prepare the individual for any engagement and what they can expect from it
- P8 identify any changes in the predicted risks immediately before the meeting
- P9 provide environmental, procedural and physical protection for the child during engagement (eg observation, an observable meeting place, trusted adult accompanier)
- P10 satisfy legal requirements within child care legislation and safeguarding/child protection directives
- P11 identify the impact on the individual and use this with the competent agency's evaluation of the impact on the child to plan or terminate further engagement on the basis of risks and benefits
- P12 help the individual understand what happened during engagement and their thoughts and feelings resulting from it

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 risk assessment
- K2 how to establish a safe and secure environment including risk assessing a meeting room, observation levels and numbers of escorting staff required
- K3 assessing the clinical presentation of the individual prior to engagement
- K4 the balance of risk and benefit in order to inform the decision to whether a meeting or conversation is to proceed or not
- K5 identifying benefits to individuals from different settings and treatments
- K6 the risks to children from engagement with an estranged and ill parent
- K7 the concept of 'child's best interest'
- K8 offending behaviours, especially violent behaviour not related to mental illness and issues relating to the risks to children, either directly or indirectly
- K9 processes and effects of child abuse
- K10 family dynamics
- K11 mental health disorders
- K12 drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- K13 psychopathy and personality disorder
- K14 methods of supervising a meeting
- K15 child care law, child protection laws, protocols, and best practice (eg Safeguarding Children recommendations)
- K16 governmental recommendations regarding children visiting individuals in secure settings
- K17 agencies in different parts of the country providing child protection risk assessments and preparing children for meeting individuals
- K18 inquiry reports on the management of engagement between individuals and children in forensic mental health settings
- K19 how to check that a child's valid consent has been obtained
- K20 observation
- K21 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K22 the effects of culture and religious beliefs on individual communication styles
- K23 the different features services must have to meet people's gender, culture, language or other needs
- K24 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management
- K25 the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
- K26 how information obtained from individuals should be recorded and stored
- K27 how information regarding children should be recorded and stored

SFHFMH21

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB3 Protection of health and wellbeing

SFHFMH21

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