

1st Dec icebreaker:

Please look through this and prepare to share your ideas with others during the welcome session

Gem and the Common Assessment Framework

At the first Regional Learning Project meeting on 4th November we introduced a hypothetical East Midlands child called Gem, who we used to create a focus on change for children.

We now present a brief story about Gem's situation as a 5 year old child to ask you to consider

1. What steps should be taken next and by whom?

Assuming an assessment becomes necessary ...

- 2. Who starts and leads the assessment process? Whose responsibility is it?**
- 3. How does the assessment obtain the views of all those working with Gem and her family?**
- 4. How are the conclusions, solutions and actions from the assessment to be communicated to all partners?**
- 5. How must the CAF improve upon the current system?**

You are a teacher of 5 and 6 year olds and Gem is in your class. It is early December and you have noticed recently that Gem appears more withdrawn and unhappy than usual. Even though she has always been a quiet child who doesn't communicate much with others, this feels different.



Apart from in the first days of term, you haven't seen mum at all – she didn't attend parents evening. There has never been any mention of mum's partner.

You casually mention Gem's sadness in passing while another child's parent is in earshot. She immediately calls you to one side and tells you what she has heard

"Gem's mum is a neighbour of mine and I've been noticing how tired she looks recently. Her fella lost his job in the summer and after being all luvvy-duvvy to start with, they now seem to be arguing all the time. He obviously expected to get a job quickly but things haven't worked out and he's started drinking heavily. Another neighbour is sure that she heard them fighting the other day and Gem's mum had some facial bruising the next day. During the row he was heard to scream "And tell that brat to get out of here else she will get some as well!" I probably shouldn't have told you all this, you won't tell her will you – I don't want anyone to get into any trouble"