Assessing risk of further child maltreatment: a research-based approach

Jones D, Hindley N and Ramchandani P (2006)

Factors	Future significant harm more likely	Future significant harm less likely
Abuse	Severe physical abuse including burns/scalds	Less severe forms of abuse
	Neglect	
	Severe growth failure	
	Mixed abuse	
	More than one affected child in household	
	Previous maltreatment	
	Sexual abuse with penetration, or repeated over long duration	
	Fabricated/induced illness	
	Sadistic abuse	
Child	Development delay with special needs	Healthy child
	[Child's] mental health problems	Child does not blame themselves for sexual abuse and recognises that it caused harm
	Very young requiring rapid parental change	Later age of onset
		One good corrective relationship
Parent: Include mother and father if involved with child AND new partners if resident or having contact with child	Personality disorder or problematic personality traits identified by psychiatrist or psychologist (anti-social, sadistic, aggressive)	Non-abusive partner
	History of violence or sexual assault	
	Lack of compliance	Willingness to engage with services
	Denial of problems	Recognition of problem
	Learning disabilities plus *mental illness*	Responsibility taken
	Substance abuse within the last two years	Mental disorder, responsive to treatment
	Paranoid psychosis	
	Abuse in childhood – not recognised as a problem, or which now preoccupies the parent	Abuse in childhood – acknowledged as a problem and parent is not overwhelmed by distress, able to focus on children's needs

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Parenting and parent/ child interaction	Disorganised; severe insecure patterns of attachment	Secure attachment; less severe insecure patterns.
	Lack of empathy for child	Empathy for child
	Poor parenting competency	Competence in some areas
	Poor parent-child relationship	
	Own needs before child's	
Family	*Inter-parental conflict and violence*	Absence of domestic violence
	Family stress	
	Power problems: poor negotiation, autonomy and affect expression	Capacity to change
	Large family Lone parent family High continuing access by abuser	Supportive extended family
Professional	Lack of resources	Resources available Therapeutic relationship with child Outreach to family
	Breakdown in partnership working, exclusive focus on parents' needs, child not seen	Partnership with parents
	Professionals lacking appropriate skills/experience/supervision	
Social setting	Social isolation	Social support
	Lack of social support	More local child care facilities
	Violent, unsupportive neighbourhood	Volunteer networks

References
Jones D, Hindley N and Ramchandani P (2006) 'Making Plans: assessment, intervention and evaluating outcomes'. *The Developing World of the Child*, 15, 267-286. London: Jessica Kingsley.