

Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) Briefing

The Local Authority are required to collect data to return to the government annually on the emotional health of Looked After children.

All children age 4-16 will have a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) completed as they enter the care system as a base line assessment of their emotional and behavioural wellbeing.

Children age 4-16 already in care have an annual (SDQ) completed about them and by them.

The SDQ is an emotional and behavioural screening questionnaire for 4 -16 year olds. There are versions for the parent/carer to complete, the child/young person and the school to complete.

It is concise and easy to use. It gives a score which indicates when difficulties may be present. Research has shown that it is a reliable and valid tool.

The form has 5 separate sub scales for different aspects of problems or behaviours some positive others negative:

- Emotional problems
- Conduct/behaviour problems
- Inattention/hyperactivity
- Relationship with peers
- Pro-social behaviour

The scores are added together to produce a total overall stress score.

The questionnaire then asks for the impact of the behaviour to be rated to determine whether it is chronic, how much distress it causes, the level of social impairment and the burden to others.

The information gathered will be used as:

- An indicator to track the levels of difficulties children and young people are experiencing and any improvements that are made
- A guide for putting in place the appropriate support services, either from OCC (such as Placement Support service or Attach) or from partnership agencies (e.g. PCAMHS or specialist CAMHS)

Collection procedures

The SDQ is disseminated and collected in by the Designated Nurse for LAC for all children and young people within the age group who are new to care and again at annual intervals. The questionnaires are scored and the report returned to the child's social worker.

High Scores

A total score of 18 or more requires action to be taken by the child's social worker and the child brought to the attention of the psychology service (Attach) or mental health service if already involved with the child or a consultation arranged if not already know with one of the following services.

ATTACH
PCAMHS
CAMHS

Satisfaction with service referred to.

A questionnaire is sent to the social worker for each child with a high score to establish the effectiveness of the psychology/ mental health service referred to.

Contact for more information:

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LAC Administrator
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Please return completed forms to LAC Administrator, East Oxford Health Centre, 1 Manzil Way. Oxford. OX4 1XD

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) Report from Carer (for young person age 4 – 16)

Childs Name(s) _____
Family Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Instructions: For each item, please mark the box for Not True, Somewhat True or Certainly True. It would help us if you answered all items as best you can even if you are not absolutely certain or the idea sounds daft! Please give your answers on the basis of the child's behaviour **over the last six months.**

Strengths And Difficulties Questionnaire	Not True	Somewhat True	Certainly True
1. Considerate of other people's feelings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Restless, overactive, cannot stay still for long	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Often complains of headaches, stomach-aches or sickness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Shares readily with other children, for example toys, treats, pencils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Often has temper tantrums or hot tempers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Rather solitary, tends to play alone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Generally obedient, usually does what adults request	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Many worries or often seems worried	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Helpful if someone is hurt, upset or feeling ill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Constantly fidgeting or squirming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Has at least one good friend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Often fights with other children or bullies them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Often unhappy, down-hearted or tearful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Generally liked by other children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Easily distracted, concentration wanders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Nervous or clingy in new situations, easily loses confidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Kind to younger children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Often lies or cheats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Picked on or bullied by other children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. Often volunteers to help others (parents, teachers, other children)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. Thinks things out before acting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. Steals from home, school or elsewhere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. Gets along better with adults than with other children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. Many fears, easily scared	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. Good attention span, sees tasks through to the end	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please turn over – there are a few more questions on the other side

Impact Statement		No	Yes – Minor Difficulties	Yes – Definite Difficulties	Yes – Severe Difficulties
26	Overall, do you think that your child has difficulties in one or more of the following areas: emotions, concentration, behaviour or being able to get on with other people?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have answered “Yes” to Question 26, please answer the following questions about these difficulties:

		Less Than a Month	1-5 Months	6-12 Months	Over a Year
27	How long have these difficulties been present?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		Not at All	Only a Little	Quite a lot	A Great Deal
28	Do the difficulties upset or distress your child?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do the difficulties interfere with your child's everyday life in the following areas?		Not at All	Only a Little	Quite a lot	A Great Deal
29	HOME LIFE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30	FRIENDSHIPS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	CLASSROOM LEARNING	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32	LEISURE ACTIVITIES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	Do the difficulties put a burden on you or the family as a whole?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any other comments or concerns?

Signature _____ Date _____

Please circle accordingly – Mother / Father / Other – please specify

Thank you very much for your help.