

# Person Posing a Risk to Children Assessment Framework

## Introduction and guidance notes

A Home Office Review of Schedule 1 in 2004 identified that the term *Schedule 1 Offender* is ill defined and to a certain extent unhelpful since it defines people by their offending history rather than any risks they may pose. The Home Office has therefore concluded the term *Schedule 1 Offender* should be replaced with 'Risk to Children' (RTC). This clearly indicates that the person has been identified as presenting a risk, or potential risk, to children.

This tool is designed to provide a framework for assessing the risk posed by such individuals, who may or may not be convicted. For convenience they are referred to as PPR (Person Posing Risk/potential Risk to children) throughout this document. It is intended for use as a framework for discussion with the PPR and other members of the household, (not a form to be completed) when social workers become aware of such an individual living in a household with children, or having contact with a household with children.

The headings below can be used as appropriate for individual sections of a written report containing factual information and an analysis of that information. The information is obtained by a series of planned interviews, by associated observation of the household interaction, and by information from other agencies. The bullet points in the following framework are intended as a checklist guide to the areas to be covered and the framework should not be used as a form to be completed.

The task is to assess the degree of risk and consider whether it is acceptable / manageable in the light of other factors. However, Managers must bear in mind the PPRTC assessment takes several weeks. They are responsible for deciding whether there is an evident high risk requiring immediate action to safeguard children, in addition to, or instead of, the commissioning of such an assessment.

When planning the PPRTC assessment, social work managers should consider whether the worker conducting the assessment should be independent, i.e. not directly involved in working with the family in question.

The PPRTC assessment should be conducted openly with the individual concerned, the children, and all the other members of the household. As the risk assessment will normally require a series of discussions over a period of weeks, an assessment plan should be drawn up and shared with the PPR. When the report is completed, the PPR is entitled to receive a copy of the sections that refer to them.

On completion of the information gathering, interviews and observations, the written assessment is then compiled for submission to the Manager, who will decide whether the children are sufficiently safeguarded for the plan to be endorsed.

It is important for those undertaking PPRTC assessments to bear in mind the importance of the following factors:

- Consulting other professionals who know the family
- Obtaining clear information about offences, cautions, allegations, and findings of fact
- Awareness of the process of the assessment – the development of relationships with the interviewer, attitude to authority
- Observations of family interactions
- Any changes in attitude/response depending on who is present at interviews
- Cultural factors

## Persons Posing a Risk to Children Assessment Framework workflow

