

Practice guidance for the Valuing Care Tool



The valuing care is an **approach** which looks to identify, track and articulate needs and outcomes. This will help to build a **holistic assessment** of both the needs and strengths of the child/young person at a point in time through rating against a set of thirteen domains.

The tool should be used taking a multi-agency approach with the child/young person to create a shared aspiration for both the child/young person and professionals. It will help to identify the necessary support that will address the child/young person's needs.

The thirteen domains are as follows: when completing this in Mosaic there is clear guidance embedded to support you with each of the domains.

Theme	#	Need descriptor
Health	1	Has a physical health need that requires additional support
	2	Needs support with their emotional health or diagnosed / undiagnosed mental health condition
Safety	3	Needs support and encouragement to form positive and healthy attachments and friendships that are always free from any form of exploitation.
	4	Needs support to make safe decisions around the use of drugs or alcohol
	5	Needs support to make safe decisions around appropriate sexual behaviour
Education and employment	6	Has an assessed/ unassessed learning difficulty or disability and requires additional support to manage this
	7	Has a lower level of educational or learning progress and therefore requires additional support to achieve at the expected level in early years settings, school, employment or in training.
Resilience and wellbeing	8	Needs support to manage emotions; respond to stress and to self-regulate or observe appropriate boundaries, in order to manage the risk they present to themselves or others.
	9	Needs support to engage in social activities in their community.
Independence and identity	10	Needs support in developing age-appropriate self-care and independent living skills.
	11	Needs support to ensure wishes, opinions and feelings are known.
	12	Needs support to understand their identity, their life story and to develop positive self-esteem.
	13	Needs support to maintain safe, functional and positive family relationships.

All of the numbers you enter into the domains will then pull through onto the following radar. The radar allows you to track how the child/young person's needs change over time. This will allow all the professionals to see what needs are not being met and start to look at what support can be put in place for the child/young person to address this. The tool will need to

be completed again when there are any changes, for example if there is a new need. The radar allows the child/young person and professionals to see where progress is being made.



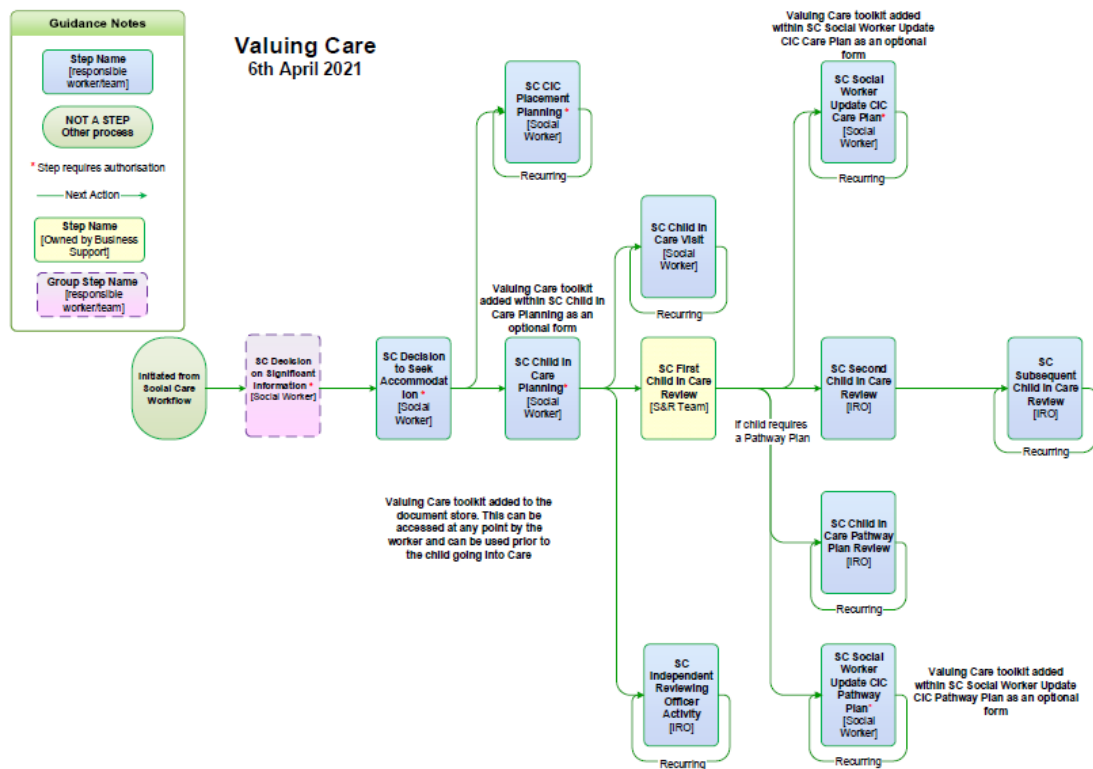
The following is a workflow showing where the valuing care tool will sit within mosaic. The tool is not mandatory but should be considered in the following:

Children in Care Planning.

Social Worker updates Children in Care, Care Plan.

Social Worker updates Children in Care Pathway Plan.

Whenever you feel it would be beneficial to use so you can clearly understand the needs. If it is not part of a work flow then the tool can be found in the document store.



When completing the tool in the workflow you must remember send to your Practice Supervisor using the clipboard to authorise. When the tool is used from the document store then once completed you will need to email your Practice Supervisor and request that they go into the document and authorise. This is really important as there will be regular checks to ensure that they are being authorised.

Some tips for using the tool.

- Focus on the child's current needs and how they are met – not needs they may have had in the past or things you think might be an issue in future.
- We only score needs if they are over and above what you would expect any child of their age to have. E.g. All 1 year olds will need support at all times to access social the community so we score this need as a 0.
- **Voice of the child:** make sure you understand the child's view of their own needs and what is important to them – challenge your assumptions!
- **Multi-agency** - Use this tool to guide your conversations with children, parents, carers and other professionals (e.g. IRO, virtual school, health). Shape the support together – carers often know the children they care for better than anyone else so listen and work in partnership.
- Take a **strengths-based approach**. Children with very high needs will always have some things they are strong on and areas in which they have made progress. Recognise strengths and progress and build on this!
- **Needs not behaviours!** Think carefully about how you identify needs and consider the needs behind the behaviour. Children express their needs in different ways. For example, boys and girls can often express their needs in different ways. Don't overlook the quiet child or overplay the needs of a child whose behaviour is outwardly expressive.
- A higher need score doesn't necessarily mean a child needs lots of external support – it is about understanding the individual child and thinking through the best way forward for them.

When you are considering signs of safety scaling and you are so worried about a child/young person's emotional well-being that you scale a three, it follows that you would expect the valuing care tool to highlight a higher figure, since the needs are also higher.