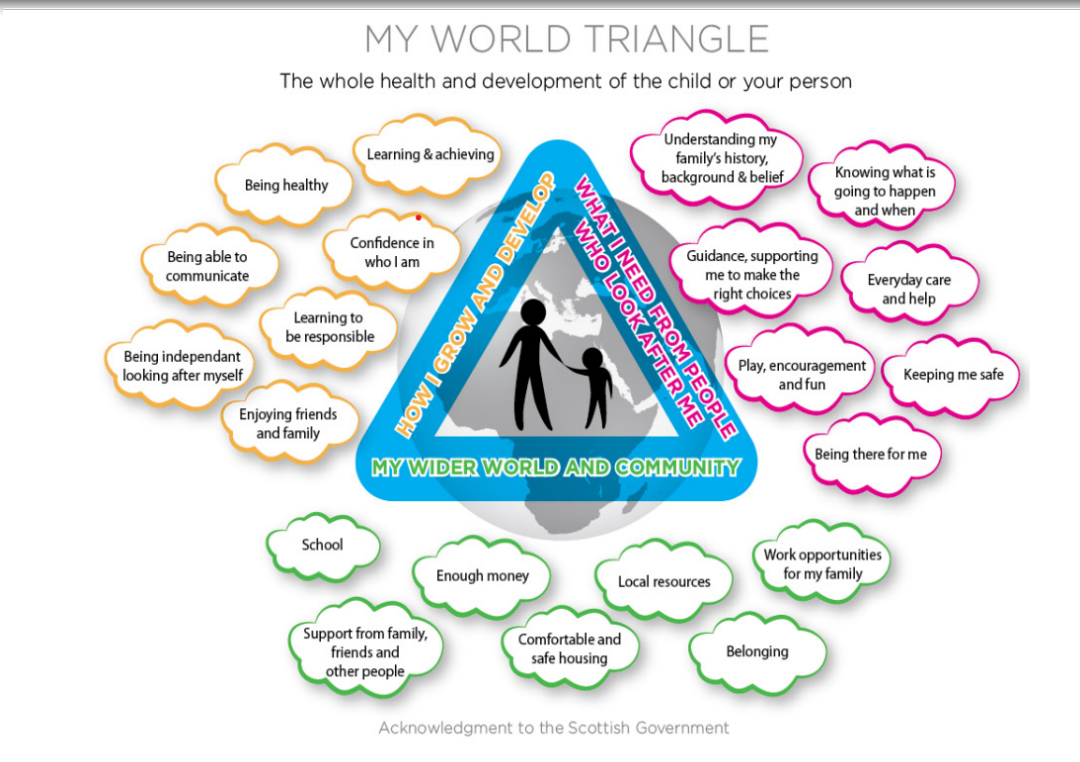


Guidance Notes for Lead Practitioners when completing the Strengths and Needs Record Form with Parents/Young People



The Strengths and Needs Record Form is a tool designed to look at all aspects of a child's development. It is used to explore three connected areas of the child's world in a structured way:

1. How the child grows and develops (their health and development)
2. What the child needs from the people who care for them to develop (parenting capacity)
3. What the child needs from the wider world and community (extended family and the community)

You can only complete the form with a parent's direct participation and if possible the child/young person's. You should use the form and the process of completing the form to help parents share their own knowledge, expertise and concerns about their child and the child/young person to express their views. The ultimate goal is to enable parents, children/young people and practitioners to work together to achieve a better life for the child. When you use the form, it is important to identify strengths within the three areas above. This will be important in developing a plan for the child's or young person's growth and development.

There is an additional box at the end of Section 5: 'Anything else you would like to add?' to allow parents/children/young people to mention anything that wasn't covered by the three My World Triangle sections.

Always try to base the strengths and needs on facts. If you are recording opinions, make this clear in your notes. A number of practitioners in the Meitheal Group may be sharing the Strengths and Needs Record Form. Remember, you are not expected to be an expert in all areas outlined in the Strengths and Needs Record Form, just your own field.



My World Triangle Supporting Questions *(from Meitheal Toolkit 2015)*

Please note that these questions are suggestions/prompts and don't all have to be asked. The type of language can be adapted depending on the age and stage of the child.

SECTION 1: HOW I GROW AND DEVELOP



Health

- For parents of younger children (0-5yrs) have they a personal health record for their child?
- Have you or your PHN expressed any concern within their child's health record?
- Are you happy with the child's development, progressing well?
- Have you good access to medical services, GP, dentist etc.?
- Has your child any major medical conditions that impacts on their health and/or development?
- Do you have any concerns around alcohol/drug misuse?
- Do you have any concern about your child's diet, exercise etc.?
- How would you describe your child (happy, sad, outgoing, shy, etc.)?
- Has your child any additional needs (disability, speech & language etc.)?



Educational Development: Learning & Achieving

- Does your child attend pre-school/school etc.?
- How is your child at pre-school, school, jobs etc.?
- Is your child able to keep up with the work, homework etc.?
- Do they attend regularly?
- Do they have any difficulties?
- Are they involved in activities after school (sports, music, clubs etc.)?
- What is their favourite activity?



**Social development:
Being able to
communicate,
enjoying friends &
family**

- How are your child's language skills?
- Do they have any difficulties with language?
- If so, are there any reasons for this (hearing difficulties etc.)?
- What language do they use for everyday communication?
- Is your child able to express their thoughts and feelings?
- Is there a particular person that they go to share their worries?
- Does your child make friends easily?
- Do they have many friends?
- Do they have close friends?
- Do you know their friends?
- How do they get on within the family?
- Does your child have a good relationship with you and other members of the family?



**Emotional
development:
'becoming
independent,
looking after
myself', 'confidence
in who I am' and
'learning to be
responsible'**

- How would you describe your child (for example, generally happy, sad, outgoing, loner etc.)?
- What makes your child happy?
- Does your child have the appropriate skills for their age (e.g. toilet training etc.)?
- Does your child take pride in how they look (for example, social presentation)?
- If they have to deal with a difficult situation, how do they deal with it?
- Do you have any concerns around their behaviour (substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, sexually active)?
- If asked to be home at a given time, does your child generally tend to be home at that time?
- Does your child have a good understanding of right from wrong?
- Would you consider your child responsible?

SECTION 2: WHAT I NEED FROM PEOPLE WHO LOOK AFTER ME



- If the parent has expressed concern regarding their child, ask what they have done to try and address the concern? What would be your suggestions in meeting your child's needs?
- What do you find most enjoyable about being a parent?
- What do you find the most challenging?
- Are there factors that impact on your ability to parent (for example, working parent, tired, a lot of other children, partner has different views on parenting, addiction, mental health etc.)?
- What are your ambitions/hopes/dreams for your child?
- How do you support this?

SECTION 3: MY WIDER WORLD AND COMMUNITY



- Do you like where you live?
- What is good/or not so good about your community?
- Do you have many services to support your family?
- What services do you find the most useful for you and your family?
- Have you any housing concerns?
- Have you any financial concerns?
- Do you have good family support (i.e. extended family)?
- What are your ambitions/hopes/dreams for your child?
- How do you support this?



Knowing the Child

- Who gets child up in morning and to school/pre-school/minder?
- How does child spend morning?
- Is child adequately supervised?
- What happens at lunch-time, is lunch provided?
- How does child get home?
- How does child spend afternoon?
- Who is present?
- Who arranges child's evening meal?
- How does child spend evening?
- Who puts child to bed?
- Who stays in the house overnight?

Adapted from the work of Buckley et al, 2006

Services/professionals that support children/young people and their families

This list is not exhaustive but an aid for completing sections 4 and 7.



Adult Disability Services	
Adult Mental Health Services	
CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services)	
Children's Disability Network Team	
Crèche or Early Years Services	
Domestic Violence Support Worker	
Drug and Alcohol Service	
TESS (Tusla Education Support Service)	
EWS (Education Welfare Service)	
SCP (School Completion Programme)	
HSCL (Home School Community Liaison Scheme)	
Family Resource Centre	
Family Support Service	
GP/Doctor	
Housing Service or Local Authority	
JLO (Juvenile Liaison Officer) or Gardaí	
NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service)	
Paediatric Occupational Therapy (OT)	
Paediatric Physiotherapy	
Parent and Toddler Group	
Probation Services	
Psychological Service	
PHN (Public Health Nurse)	
Social Worker (medical, disability, mental health, primary care or other)	
SLT (Speech and Language Therapist)	
Sports Clubs	
Teacher/School or Training Centre	
Tusla Social Worker	
Youth Service including mentoring	
Other	