Supporting information pack: Therapy Outcome Measures and the Children and Families Outcome Framework

**SLCN Outcome Tool:**

Working with me, my family and services to:

- Track my progress
- Measure the outcomes that matter to me and my family
- Grow the evidence base for interventions
The National Prospectus Grants Programme 2015-16:
The RCSLT SLCN Outcome Project

SUPPORTING INFORMATION PACK:
THERAPY OUTCOME MEASURES AND THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OUTCOME FRAMEWORK
1) An Introduction to: Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs) and the RCSLT Outcomes Project
Brief overview of Therapy Outcome Measures (Enderby and John 2015)

In 2014, the RCSLT carried out an appraisal of over 60 outcome measure tools against 11 criteria drawn up by RCSLT members. The RCSLT Board of Trustees considered the findings and agreed that the existing tool that is the ‘best fit’ with the 11 agreed criteria is the Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs) core scale. Key considerations in its selection being its:

- compatibility with existing diagnostic tools
- compatibility with existing frameworks of practice e.g. Care Aims, EKOS
- ability to aggregate data from individual to population level (strong validity and reliability)
- speed of administration (> 5 minutes)
- widely applicable across a range of clinical areas

It is not expected that TOMs will be used as a ‘stand-alone’ option but will be employed alongside other measures or diagnostic assessments which therapists will choose to use with the framework. TOMs can be used as a baseline pre-intervention and at the end of an episode to demonstrate the impact the intervention has had on the presenting (clinical) difficulty and on the individual’s day to day functioning (although it can also be used at points in between to track change). It looks particularly at changes in levels of independence, social engagement and emotional wellbeing.

The TOMs scales address four dimensions of an individual in line with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO, 2007) – impairment, activity, participation and wellbeing. Each is rated by the therapist (preferably in consultation with the individual and/or family) on an 11-point ordinal scale with six defined descriptors, ranging from 0 (worst case scenario), to 5 (best possible presentation).

- **Impairment** describes the severity of the presenting difficulty/condition (from 0 – the most severe, up to 5 – no impairment). This does not look at functioning per se, but can show the impact of intervention on improving, reducing or maintaining the difficulty.

- **Activity** looks at the impact of the difficulty on the individual’s level of independence (from 0 – totally dependent unable to function, to 5 – able to function independently).

- **Participation** looks at the impact on social engagement and autonomy, in recreation and education (from 0 – isolated, to 5 – fully integrated).

- **Wellbeing** looks at the impact of the difficulty on the individual’s emotional wellbeing (from 0 – high and constant levels of concern/anger/severe depression unable to express or control emotions appropriately, to 5 – well adjusted, stable and able to cope with most situations).

This project provides a significant opportunity for the RCSLT to continue to work with members on the development of outcome measures through the RCSLT Outcomes Project; for more information see: www.rcslt.org/members/professional_standards/outcomes
2) An Introduction to: The Children and Families Outcomes Framework (CFOF)
Introduction to the Children and Families Outcomes Framework (CFOF)

How CFOF has been used in children’s centres and schools to evaluate services, grow a local evidence base for early intervention to improve the life chances for children, families and communities.

The Children and Families Outcome Framework (CFOF)

The Children and Families Outcomes Framework (CFOF), developed and copy written by C A Salt Consultancy Ltd, enables organisations/services and commissioners to take into account all the determinants of health, education, child poverty and family support/parenting in mapping the needs of their local population, and to use these to capture and evaluate their impact, whilst providing the flexibility to use local resources most effectively (flexible but structured). The CFOF also enables organisations/services and commissioners to build an evidence base for ‘what works’.

The CFOF was developed to provide organisations/service providers and commissioners with an effective and structured way of drawing together the relevant and appropriate evidence to support a range of quality assurance processes including OfSTED Inspection, Local Authority Annual Conversation, Advisory Board and School Improvement, rather than presenting inspectors with a library of box files containing a myriad of qualitative and quantitative data sets.

The CFOF has been developed so organisations can use it flexibly to evaluate a specific sector of their work or to evaluate across a number of service areas:

- **Attainment and developing skills for the future (0-19 years)** includes:
  - Early learning and school readiness (0-5 years)
  - Primary years (5-11 years)
- **Health and well-being**
- **Safeguarding, parenting and family support**
- **Back into Employment, Education and Training**
- **Co-producing sustainable community services**
- **SUCCESS** – improving attainment through targeted interventions to improve children’s communication, language and social and emotional development
Linking Local and National Outcome Frameworks – How can CFOF help your service/organisation make the links?
What is the Local Picture?
CFOF helps you to identify key population and performance datasets building your own local Children and Families Needs Assessment, from which you will be able to:
1) Understand your population needs and where you need to target services and resources - Setting your priorities
2) Develop a set of local outcome measures and progress measures to track and evidence the impact of your services

What is the Big Picture?
CFOF enables you to link your local priorities to Government and Local Authority Outcomes, Inspection Frameworks. CFOF enables you to:
1) Make a clear link between activities, outputs and local and national level outcomes
2) Examine the national evidence base for 'what works' - using it to inform and review what services you need to provide to improve life chances at a local level

Is anyone better off?
CFOF enables you to build a Business Case for Early Intervention - growing your own local evidence base of 'what works' to improve life chances for children/families and communities by enabling you to:
1) Provide a coherent structure for the collation of data
2) Track the impact of the services you provide or that partners provide on your behalf
3) Examine the outputs and be responsive to meeting the needs of your community
4) Contribute through action research to a growing evidence base for current and future interventions
5) Evaluate the outcomes in relation to their aims and objectives ensuring that services are responsive to needs and local and national priorities
6) Self-evaluate against Ofsted Inspection Judgements, and gather a robust evidence base for inspections
7) Engage partners including governors, advisory boards and parent forums in evaluation, service design and planning at a local level
8) Demonstrate the value added and value for money - Incorporating social value/return on investment.
9) Provide a robust evidence base for commissioners of services
The CFOF enables organisations/services to:

- Make a clear link between activities, outputs and national level outcomes
- Provide a coherent structure for the collation of data
- Understand their population needs and where they need to target services and resources
- Examine the national evidence base for ‘what works’ - using it to inform and review what services need to be provided to improve life chances at a local level
- Track the impact of the services they provide or that partners provider on their behalf
- Examine their outputs and be responsive to meeting the needs of their community
- Contribute through action research to a growing evidence base for current and future interventions
- Evaluate the outcomes in relation to their aims and objectives ensuring that services are responsive to needs and local and national priorities
- Self-evaluate against Ofsted Inspection Judgements, and gather a robust evidence base for Inspections Plan their journey of change to meet Ofsted ‘Good’ criteria (as a starting point) by identifying and addressing any gaps/areas of development and identifying areas of innovation and improved outcomes
- Engage partners, including governors, advisory boards, and parent forums in evaluation, service design and planning at a local level
- Demonstrate the value they add and their value for money - Incorporating social value/ return on investment
- Provides a robust evidence base for commissioners