**PARENTAL INTERVIEW STRUCTURE (adapted from Calderdale Council)**

**Child Parent(s)**

**Interviewer School Date**

Taking a complete social history is very helpful in identifying significant life events, which could impact upon a child’s behaviour and outlook. Explain this to the parents and that the information is confidential and that you will share your conclusions with them i.e. you’ll not be taking all this and be making secret judgements about them!

**FAMILY STRUCTURE**

1. How **many children** do you have?
2. How many of each? **Girls Boys**?
3. What are their ages ? **Birth order** 1. 2. 3. 4. etc.
4. How is this **child different** to the others?
5. Is there **anyone** in the family he/she’s like?
6. Who is he/she closes to?
7. Are you in a long-term relationship with the child’s **father/mother**?

**BIRTH CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. Was his/her **birth** straightforward or different to your other children?
2. What **sort of pregnancy** did you have and was it any different to you others?
3. Did you have the baby **at home** immediately or did he/she have to go into **special care**?
4. What were the **reactions of the family** to this birth? (its parents, siblings, grandparents etc?)
5. When did you **plan** to have this baby? (Were things fairly stable then?)
6. Did you experience any **major life changes or upsets** during the pregnancy or afterward such as :
   * moving house?
   * losing someone close to you ? (separated or died)
   * someone being very ill or going into hospital?
   * One of you losing your job?
   * having to change your life style?(e.g. working away, caring for a relative etc)
   * anything else?

**DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY**

1. Did the child have any operations or periods in hospital?
2. How quickly did he/she establish a **regular sleep pattern**? (if not, what were the effects?)
3. When did he/she reach the **developmental milestones**? (& how did these compare with his/her peers?)
   * feeding? \* toilet training?
   * hearing ? \* vision ?
   * walking? \* talking?
4. Does he/she have any particular behaviour problems?
5. What sort of temperament/personality does he/she have?

**WHERE THERE IS AN IDENTIFIED DISABILITY? i.e. Does your child have any disability or medical problem?**

1. When and how did you **first become concerned** about his/her development?
2. Did other **members of the family** or friends express concerns?
3. When and how was the **diagnosis of disability** first made?
4. How did the **family react** to the diagnosis?
5. What sort of **support** do you get from other members of your family?
6. What sort of **medical treatment or medication** does he/she have?
7. What exactly do you **understand the disability is** and how does it affect his/her development?
8. Who (or what service) has been **most helpful** to you? (professionals & other parents/support organisations?)

**SCHOOL HISTORY**

1. How did he/she react when **first** **starting nursery**?(school?) (How long did the problems persist?)
2. Who **baby sat** for you when he/she was little?
3. Did he/she have any **time away from** **you** (with extended family or others) when they were young?
4. If there were there any **major life changes** during their early schooling (see question 13) what period of schooling was this? (Did it affect the child at school?)
5. What **different schools** has he/she attended? (any difficulties & why change?)
6. Were there **any learning difficulties at any stage**?
7. Were there any **social difficulties at any stage**?

**PARENTAL PERSPECTIVE**

1. What **do you think has contributed** to your child’s difficulties?
2. What **have you learned from this discussion** which might have affected your relationship with this child, which might be different to the other children in the family?
3. What would you like to **change/happen** to make things better?

**DEBRIEFING APPROACH**

When you have identified a significant life event explore this by these sorts of questions:

What exactly happened? (when, what, who, where, how, in what order?)

What did you think at the time ?

What did it feel like?

How have you thought and felt about it since?

What would you like to do about it?

Feedback (this is what it could mean to you)