



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# **SPECIFICATIONS DYADIC CAREGIVER- CHILD RELATIONSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOL**

Version 1 (24/11/2022)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is an intensive, preventative, evidence-based one-to-one nurse home visiting programme that improves the health, well-being and self- sufficiency of low-income, first-time young parents and their children from early pregnancy until their child reaches two.
- 1.2. Its main aims are to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development and the economic self-sufficiency of the young family.
- 1.3. FNP is a licensed programme which is built on a strong theoretical foundation with specific programme materials and tools.
- 1.4. The team overseeing the delivery of the FNP programme are part of the Chief Public Health Nurse directorate within the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (Department of Health and Social Care).
- 1.5. The FNP license requires that practitioners use a **tool** to enable them to assess the relationship between the parent and child. The tool currently used is under license from the University of Colorado, Denver. a
- 1.6. We are looking for a supplier capable of developing and/or delivering an assessment tool that could be used not only for the FNP programme but more widely by a range of practitioners working with families with children aged 0-2 years (and possibly older).

## 2. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) has been implemented and developed in England since 2007, under licence from the University of Colorado, Denver, in the USA.
- 2.2. The Licence for the FNP in England is held by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
- 2.3. The FNP Unit provides strategic oversight and sits in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities within the Department of Health and Social Care.

- 2.4. One of the license requirements is the use of an assessment tool which enables the practitioner to assess the quality of the dyadic relationship between caregiver and child.
- 2.5. The ability to assess the quality of the dyadic relationship is an important component of the family nurse skill set. It provides the nurse with a framework for the examination of a client's approach to parenting and the developing attachment within the dyad. It enables the nurse to match the FNP programme content accurately to each client's needs, so increasing the likelihood of positive programme outcomes.
- 2.6. The tool currently used DANCE (Dyadic Assessment of Naturalistic Caregiver-child Experiences), is a licensed tool that has been created specifically for use in FNP. However, there is no mandate under the FNP licence to use DANCE, specifically.
- 2.7. Reliability of the DANCE assessment holds great value clinically. For nurses, a reliable assessment tool ensures the nurse undertakes an observation which provides accurate information to help guide their work with clients. A reliable assessment tool allows the nurse to provide the most appropriate support for the client. This support can help the client move along the parenting continuum. A tool (or user) that does not evidence reliable assessment may result in differences in that assessment influenced by the user's own experience, beliefs, interpretations, and biases. This type of assessment can result in a misperception of the client's strengths and areas for growth and the possibility of not supporting the client in the most appropriate and effective manner.
- 2.8. Additionally, a reliable assessment tool allows the nurse to complete the assessment at different points in time and have confidence that changes in caregiving behaviour are more likely to be true differences and not an artifact of scoring.
- 2.9. A reliable assessment tool holds significant clinical value to the larger team of practitioners. A reliable tool ensures that nurses and supervisors discussing the relationship between caregiver and child hold a common understanding of what a specific behaviour and score for that behaviour represent. This type of common understanding allows nurses and supervisors to support each other during supervision, case discussions, visit planning, and covering caseloads when a nurse is out of the office.
- 2.10. The current Dyadic Assessment Tool - DANCE license contract expires in April 2023 with a 12-month option to extend. Therefore, it will be up for renewal in April 2024.
- 2.11. Any new assessment tool would need to meet the needs of FNP as well as providing an opportunity to support the wider children and family's workforce

and potentially extend the age so the tool could be used for children over the age of 2 years.

- 2.12. At a time when there is a focus on workforce integration it is important to investigate an assessment tool that could be used across the workforce to support parenting capacity, increase parental responsiveness and sensitivity, and support reducing health disparities for children and families.

### **3. THE TOOL REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1. FNP National Unit currently works with 56 Sites across England, and a workforce of approximately 450 practitioners. Work is also underway to increase access to evidence-based practice for those families who are not eligible or are not offered the FNP programme. Procuring an assessment tool that could be used across the health workforce (and possibly more widely) working with families with infants and young children would support consistency and equity of service across a wider population.
- 3.2. A clinically sound alternative assessment tool that could be used to assess the caregiver-child dyad in FNP and the wider early years workforce. The dyadic assessment tool would need to fit into the current FNP programme model.
- 3.3. Implementation of the tool in FNP programme delivery no later than February 2024 to ensure there is continuity of provision of an assessment tool.
- 3.4. It must be an observational tool that uses a strengths-based approach.
- 3.5. The tool must maintain reliability while not overburdening practitioners with additional paperwork with a user-friendly look and feel.
- 3.6. Wider roll out of the tool into wider workforce could be done concurrently or post FNP implementation.
- 3.7. Ability to adapt to future requirements based on new evidence or information available to the FNP team.

### **4. SERVICE**

- 4.1. In addition to the provision of the Dyadic Assessment Tool, the appointed supplier will be required to:
  - 4.1.1. Develop a training module to assist Practitioners to achieve a proficiency knowledge of the assessment tool with clear approach to sustaining skills across the workforce.
  - 4.1.2. Provide a sustainable model for ongoing proficiency training and assessment of each Practitioner.

- 4.1.3. Report each Practitioner assessment results to the Practitioner, and DHSC.
- 4.1.4. Provide technical assistance for Practitioners who complete the training module and do not reach proficiency knowledge.
- 4.1.5. Provide a sustainable model for re-fresher training which includes reassessment of proficiency.
- 4.1.6. For those Practitioners who do not achieve proficiency knowledge, the appointed provider will set out a plan to enable the Practitioner to achieve the proficiency knowledge required for the correct usage of the tool.
- 4.1.7. Provide consultation/planning support by email, phone or video conference for training, implementation, and integration. Calls/video conferences will occur at mutually agreed upon dates and times.

## **5. CONTRACT TERM**

The contract duration will be an initial 12 months with the option to extend for a further 36 months on period or periods of up to 12 months each (1+1+1)

During the initial 12 months the Authority will have discretion to discontinue the process after targeting testing phase and report on testing evidence, to the discretion of the Authority, that the tool is not efficient or robust enough for implementation.

## **6. BUDGET/CONTRACT VALUE**

### Option 1 - Provision of an existing tool

Licensing of the tool and its service: £45,000 per year (exclusive of VAT)

### Option 2 – Development of the tool

Tool development and its services: £90,000 1<sup>st</sup> year, £30,000 subsequent years.

## **7. PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

### Year 1 payments

There will be 4 payments:

- Y1-1<sup>st</sup> Payment: An initiation fee of 10% of the annual value of the contract, paid once contract has been awarded and exit plan has been submitted to the Authority.
- Y1-2<sup>nd</sup> Payment: 35% of the year 1 value of the contract. To be paid once the focus testing phase has been completed, lessons learnt information gathered and report on testing has been provided.
- Y1-3<sup>rd</sup> Payment: 30% of the year 1 value of the contract. To be paid once any recommendations and/or modifications of the tool have been implemented.

- Y1-4<sup>th</sup> Payment: 25% of the year 1 value of the contract. To be paid once the wider testing phase has been completed and tool is integrated as assessment tool into FNP.

The appointed Provider will receive payments as above once an accurate and timely invoice is received.

Payments will only be made on the successfully delivery of the Tasks=KPIs that fall within that payment.

After Y1-2<sup>nd</sup> payment the Authority will have the opportunity to accept the Tool as suitable progressing to a full roll on or stop the project.

If the Dyadic Assessment Tool proposed or developed is not accepted Y1-3<sup>rd</sup> payment will not made to the appointed provider.

#### Year 2 and subsequent years payments

Payments will be made quarterly in arrears.

## **8. TIMESCALES**

- 8.1. Provider will submit a project plan with milestones and dates to meet the target dates below. Detailed tasks for the 3 phases should be developed.
- 8.2. Completion of project plan with detailed tasks will be monitored as Key Performance Indicators.

<b>Milestones = Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Target dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Phase</b>		<b>Year 1</b>
Starting	ASAP after award of contract July 2023	Y1-1 <sup>st</sup> Payment (Initiation fee)
Develop/Provision of the tool		
FNP team review of the tool		
Target training (selected Practitioners)		
Target testing phase		
Lesson learnt data gathering		
Lesson learnt and recommendations report		Y1-2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment
Modifications, if required in accordance with recommendations report and lessons learnt from testing.		
Approval and sign off	January 2024	Decision Point Y1-3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Phase</b>		
Wider training		

<b>Milestones = Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Target dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Integrated Implementation	February 2024	Y1- 4 <sup>th</sup> Payment
Service and or Licensing		Year 2 and subsequent
Annual Review and lesson learnt		
Any additional training needed as per Service requirements		

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