**Jargon Buster**

Everyone seems to speak in acronyms or use abbreviations these days. Some common ones used regularly include LOL, ASAP and FYI.

The main reason for shortening words is that it is quicker than saying or writing them in full. Each profession has their own acronyms and sometimes there is an assumption that we all know what they mean. We don’t! So, if someone uses an acronym or abbreviation – ask what it means, even if you know what it means. You can be sure at least one other person in the room will be happy you did this as they will be trying to work it out for themselves.

A classic example of misunderstanding an acronym that links to our profession occurred at a formal multi agency early help meeting. The chair of the meeting was discussing support for a family and referred to the CAF (Common Assessment Framework) process. Another professional in attendance was looking very confused and eventually asked. Who is Cath? I don’t think we have anyone in the meeting named Cath. They were unfamiliar with the acronym CAF so said what they thought they heard.

Below is a list of common acronyms and abbreviations we may use within our day-to-day practice. I’m sure there are more you would be able to add!

**A**

**ABE** Achieving Best Evidence

**AI** Accidental Injury

**ACES** Adverse Childhood Experiences

**ADHD** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**ASD** Autistic Spectrum Disorder

**ASC** After School Club

**B**

**BSL** British Sign Language

**BwD** Blackburn with Darwen

**C**

**CSC** Children's Social Care

**CSSH** Children’s Services Support Hub

**CAF** Common Assessment Framework (now Early Help Assessment)

**CFW** Children and Family Wellbeing Service

**CAFCASS** Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

**CGM** Core Group Meeting

**CON** Continuum of Need

**CIN** Child in Need

**CP** Child Protection

**CSAP** Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership

**CIDVA** Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

**CSE** Child Sexual Exploitation

**CAMHS** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

**CPC** Child Protection Plan

**CSPR** Children Safeguarding Practice Review

**CPOMS** – Child Protection Online Monitoring and Safeguarding system (safeguarding and child protection software for schools)

**CAB** Citizen’s Advice Bureau

**CM** Childminder

**CLA** Child Looked After

**CIOC** Child in Our Care

**CYP** Children and Young People

**CWD** Child with Disabilities

**CADS** Children’s Advice and Duty Service

**CWAN** Child with Additional Needs

**D**

**DA** Domestic Abuse

**DV** Domestic Violence

**DO** Development Officer

**DLP** Designated Lead Practitioner

**DSL** Designated Senior Lead

**DBS** Disclosure and Barring Service

**DASH** Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and ‘Honour’ Based Violence

**DOLS** Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (for those who lack mental capacity to make certain decisions for themselves)

**DfE** Department for Education

**E**

**EHA** Early Help Assessment

**EHCP** Education, Health and Care Plan

**EYC** Early Years Consultant

**EHE** Elective Home Education

**EP** Educational Psychologist

**EYFS** Early Years Foundation Stage

**EET** in Education Employment and Training

**F**

**FIS** Family Information Service

**FGM** Female Genital Mutilation

**FII** Fabricated or Induced Illness

**FSW** Family Support Worker

**FGC** Family Group Conference

**G**

**GDPR** General Data Protection Regulations

**H**

**HLTA** Higher Level Teaching Assistant

**HT** Headteacher

**HV** Home Visit or Health Visitor

**HBV** Honour Based Violence

**HSE** Health and Safety Executive

**I**

**ICPC** Initial Child Protection Conference

**IRO** Independent Reviewing Officer

**ISI** Independent Schools Inspectorate

**IDVA** Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

**J**

**K**

**KCSIE** Keeping Children Safe in Education

**L**

**LADO** Local Authority Designated Officer

**LP** Lead Professional

**LAC** Looked After Child

**LA** Local Authority

**LCC** Lancashire County Council

**M**

**MAPPA** Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. MAPPA is the statutory arrangement for managing sexual and violent offenders.

**MARAC** Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a multi-agency forum of organisations that manage high-risk cases of honour-based violence, stalking and domestic abuse.

**MASH** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. This service is made up of Children’s Social Care, Police, NHS and other organisations.

**N**

**NAI** Non-Accidental Injury

**NFA** No Further Action

**NEET** Not in Education Employment or Training

**O**

**OFSTED** Office for Standards in Education

**OSC** Out of School Club

**OT** Occupational Therapist

**P**

**PO** Project Officer

**PVI** Private, Voluntary and Independent settings

**PR** Parental Responsibility

**PEP** Personal Education Plan

**PPO** Police Protection Order

**Q**

**R**

**RIDDOR** Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations

**RCPC** Review Child Protection Conference

**RRM** Rapid Review Meeting

**RTC** Risk to Children

**RPC** Reducing Parental Conflict

**S**

**SCR** Serious Case Review

**SEN/SEND** Special Educational Needs and Disability

**SGO** Special Guardianship Order

**S47** or Section 47Child ProtectionInvestigation of a child at risk of significant harm

**S17** or Section 17 Child in Need

**SENCO** Special Educational Needs Coordinator

**SALT** Speech and Language Therapist

**SW** Social Worker

**T**

**TAF** Team Around the Family

**TA** Teaching Assistant

**U**

**UNCRC** United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**V**

**VS** Virtual Schools

**W**

**X**

**Y**

**YOT** Youth Offending Team

**Z**

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