Health Visitor Observation and Assessment of the Infant (HOAI)

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The HOAI

• A comprehensive assessment of the infant’s physical, social and emotional well being.

• Undertaken by the Health Visitor at the primary birth visit and before the 6 week medical.
Aims of the HOAI

• To standardise Health Visiting practice throughout Wales.
• To ensure best practice across the Health Visiting service.
• To promote positive parent-infant relationships from the beginning.
• To work in partnership with parents to observe and interpret their infants’ uniqueness in a meaningful way.
• Formulate caregiving strategies sensitive to the infant and parents.
• Promote the development of a therapeutic relationship between the Health Visitor and parents.
The Development of the HOAI

• Developed by the Healthy Child Wales Programme Training Group 2015.

• Originally adapted from the work of ABUHB Health Visitors Amanda Holland, Tracie Carrier-Johnson and Lisa Hodge, who developed the *Health Visitor Primary Observation of the Newborn* teaching programme, 2015.

• Underpinned by a strong evidence base.

• Responds to global, national and local government commitments to improving outcomes in the early years.

Health Visitors’ views of implementing the HOAI
Sarah Liverick

ABUHB Health Visitor and Clinical Practice Teacher, Blackwood

20 Years Health Visiting
Does the HOAI benefit the parent-infant relationship?
WHAT DO HEALTH VISITORS ENJOY MOST ABOUT IMPLEMENTING HOAI?
Summary

• Enables the development of a positive parent-infant relationship.
• Enables the development of a therapeutic relationship between the Health Visitor and the parents.
• Creates job satisfaction.
• Responds to government commitments aimed at improving outcomes in the early years.
The Value of Health Visitors

Detective Chief Superintendent John Carnochan OBE, Strathclyde Violence Reduction Unit ...

“If I had the choice between a thousand extra health visitors and a thousand extra police officers I’d choose a thousand health visitors every time.”
The Next Steps - Recommendations

- Undertake work to critically analyse outcomes resulting from the implementation of the HOAI across wales.
- Continue to explore Health Visitors’ views of implementing the HOAI.
- Research parental views and opinions of implementation of the HOAI.
- Continue to support, develop and enhance Health Visitors’ knowledge and skills.
- Continue to prioritise the development of positive relationships between parent and their infants.
Thank You

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