

eCAF Standard Presentation



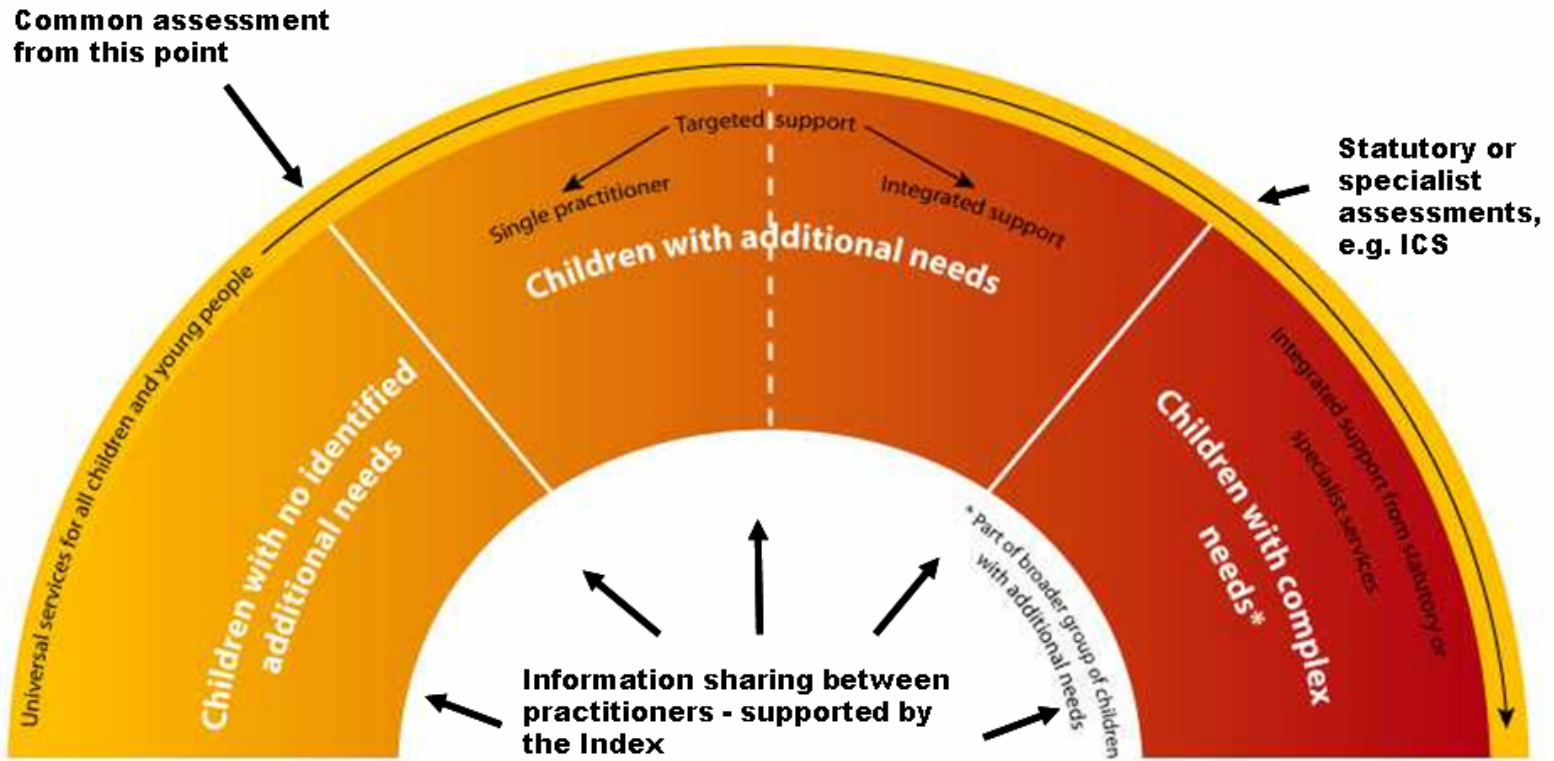
Overview of the national eCAF project



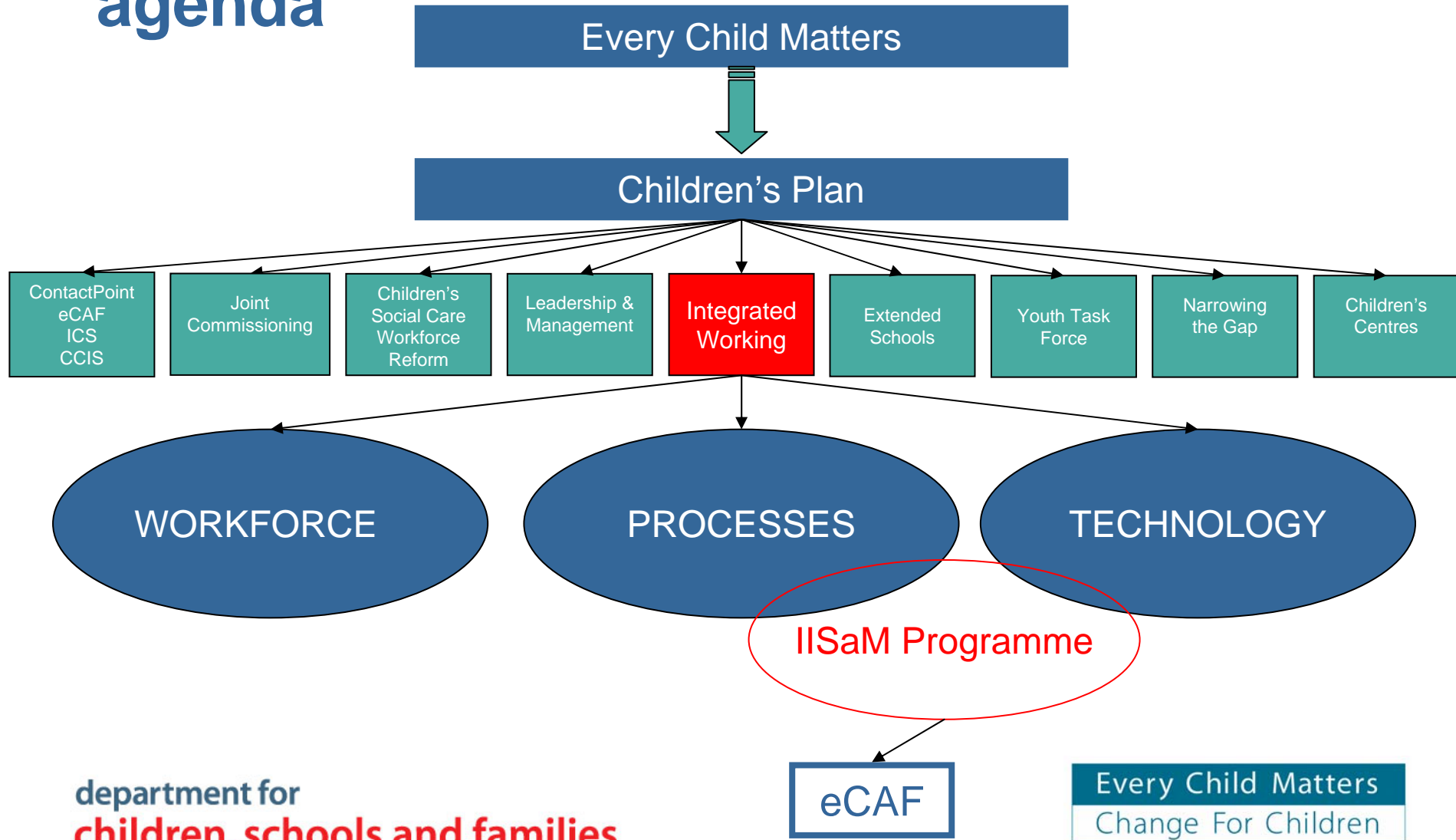
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Integrated Working: the whole picture



Where eCAF fits into the wider Children's agenda



What is eCAF?

- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a way to identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child's or young person's additional needs that are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs
- eCAF is the electronic enablement of the CAF
- It allows practitioners to electronically create, store and share a CAF
- It supports existing national CAF processes, which are being implemented by Local Authorities and National Partners, with support from CWDC

How will the eCAF solution work?

- Practitioners from all organisations working with children will have access to national eCAF
- Practitioners will only be given access to the details of children they are working with following the informed, explicit consent of the child or young person (or their parent / carer where appropriate).
- When a common assessment has been logged in the eCAF system, it will automatically notify ContactPoint that a common assessment has been carried out. There will be no actual access to the CAF itself via ContactPoint.
- ContactPoint provides the search facility to determine whether a CAF exists for a child – this search is not possible within eCAF
- eCAF uses an **Episodic Model** – this model is ‘whole needs based’ and joins up the separate (and more focused) cased-based interventions typically used within agencies.

The benefits of a national eCAF solution

Organisational Benefits

- Facilitates the effective and efficient delivery of a co-ordinated service
- Promotes multi-agency and cross-border working and early interventions
- The costs of design, build, hosting and software are covered by the DCSF

Practitioner Benefits

- Creates a holistic view of a child's needs
- Increases the transparency of work performed by other agencies

Child Benefits

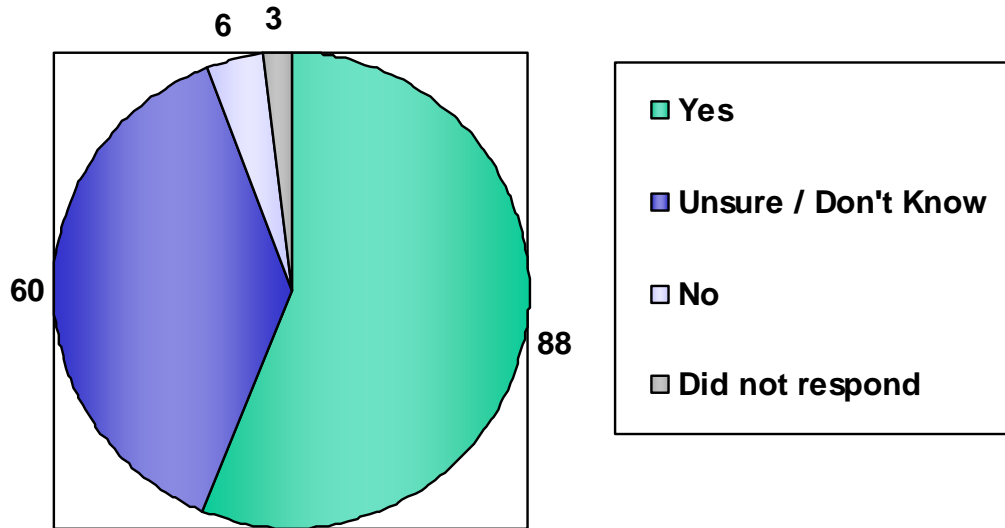
- Reduces need to repeatedly supply personal data to multiple agencies – will be captured once and stored in eCAF
- Encourages early identification and response to a child's needs – helping to ensure needs to not escalate to complex / urgent needs

Access and Security Concerns

- Access to the national eCAF system will only be granted to authorised users who have undergone appropriate checks, including those provided by the Criminal Records Bureau
- Access to the system will also be controlled by two forms of authentication: a password and a one-time-code generated by a security hardware token which itself is protected by a PIN number
- System administrators will be subject to the very strict controls and protocols required to operate a level 3 secure system (as per the standards set out in the eEnvoy's eGovernment Security Framework).
- Practitioners will only be given access to the details of children they are working with following the informed, explicit consent of the child or young person (or their parent / carer where appropriate).
- Without appropriate consent and agreement to continue, a common assessment should not be carried out and nothing should be stored on the national eCAF system

eCAF Scoping Survey results

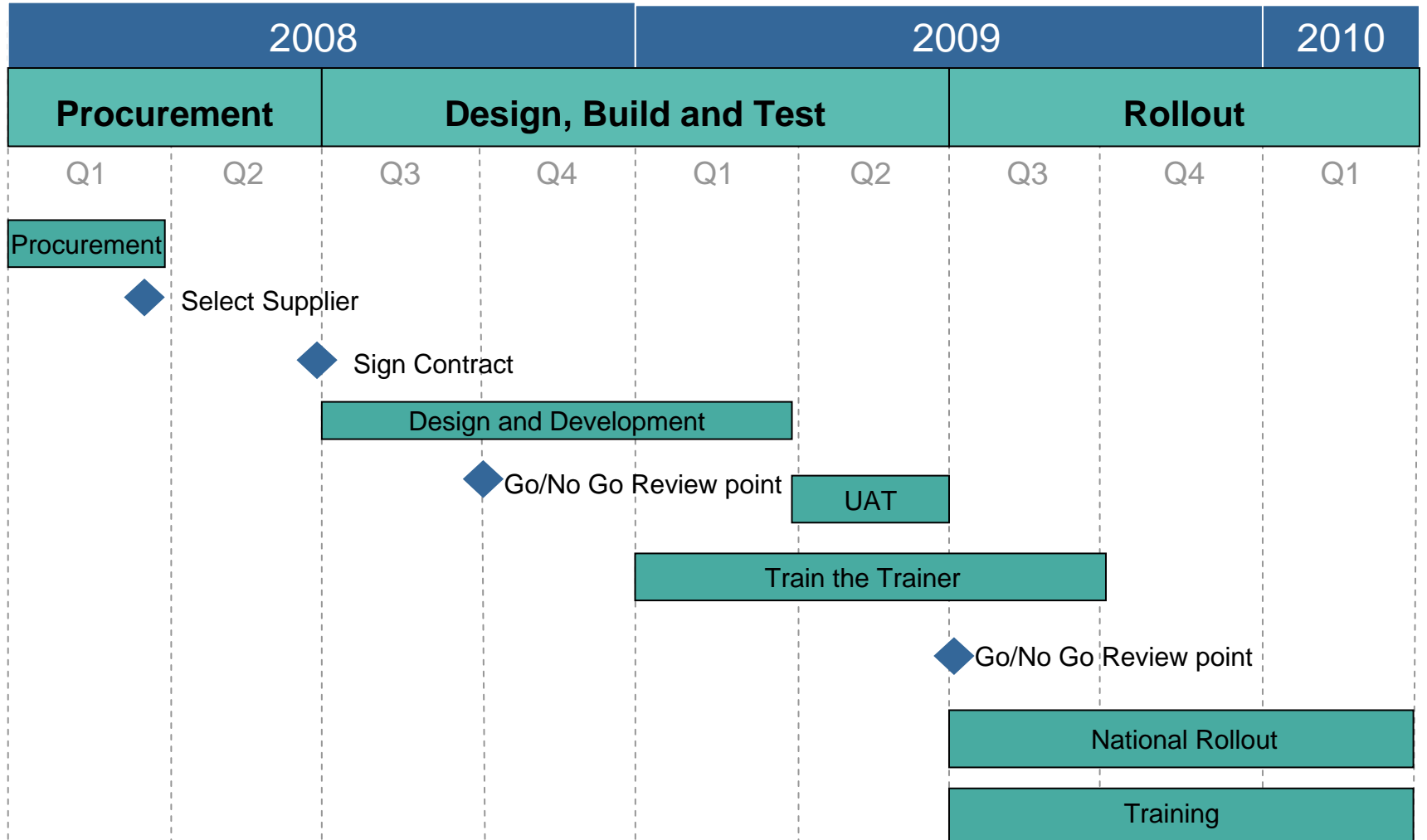
Pie chart showing LAs / partner organisations' intention of using the national eCAF solution



Total = 157

- A practitioner survey, conducted by the eCAF Project Team, in Spring 2007 indicated around two fifths of practitioners were unaware of CAF / eCAF
 - This could be a reason for the large number of ‘unsure’ responses
- A November 2007 survey of LAs / partners showed:
 - 88 LA / partners would take up a national eCAF system
 - Only 6 ‘No’ responses
 - 60 LA / partner organisations were ‘unsure’

Proposed high level eCAF timeline



Next steps for all organisations

- Read the following documents as they become publicly available:
 - The **eCAF Questions and Answers** – these provide information in response to frequently asked eCAF questions and are held on LARA and the ECM website
 - The **eCAF Factsheet** – a one page summary on the eCAF project available via LARA and the ECM website
 - The **eCAF interim guidance document** – this will help you understand how to operate CAF manually whilst awaiting national eCAF
- Regionally based implementation coordinators provide one-to-one support and guidance for ContactPoint implementation. They are now also supporting the national eCAF implementation
- The Implementation Co-ordinators will be your dedicated point of contact within DCSF - direct any additional questions or concerns you have to them

Further Information

For further information on CAF, please go to:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/caf/>

or

[http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/commonassessmentframework
.htm](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/projects/commonassessmentframework.htm)