

25 Things to Consider (Front Line Practitioners)

Practitioner Responsibilities and Self Assessment Questions

Recognising Abuse and Harm

1	Do I have the knowledge and skills to recognise bruising that may be indicative of a non-accidental injury? Particularly pre-mobile baby!	
2	Am I confident that I understand the heightened risk/impact where Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and substance Misuse are present ? (Trilogy of Risk)	
3	Risk/Harm is dynamic- am I alert to changes that may indicate a greater risk? Is familiarity with this case a risk to recognition of significant changes?	
4	Do I have the knowledge and skills to recognise a child/young person's underlying vulnerability to child sexual abuse and exploitation and recognition of early indications of CSE?	
5	Am I up to date with the latest developments in 'on line safety'?	

Procedures

6	Do I know the referral procedure in the case of a pre-mobile baby with injuries/bruising ?	
7	Is there a clear plan (including contingencies) where a suspected non accidental injury has taken place?	
8	Does my recording reflect the work I have undertaken including the voice of the service user and evidence based decision making? Decisions agreed with manager are recorded	

Direct Practice

9	Am I sufficiently aware of any history that may impact on parenting e.g. a Looked after Child, Head injury, Mental Ill Health	
10	Am I confident to ask challenging questions about very sensitive matters? E.g. Domestic Abuse, Sexual Exploitation	
11	Do I know how to recognise evasion and lack of engagement ? What tools do I have to deal with this?	
12	Do I know how to deal with adults who use the fear of violence or intimidation of professionals to try to distract them from focussing on the needs of the children'	
13	Have I a clear picture of the lived experience the children or vulnerable adult in this family? 'Walk in their shoes' through their day	
14	Is there a Young Carer in the family?	
15	Are the needs, views and wishes of the children/vulnerable adult at the forefront, or is the parents/carers agenda dominating? Who is doing all the talking?	
16	Where the child/parents/vulnerable adult/carers have a learning disability or English as a second language have they understood the risks and safety planning? What have I done to address this? Is information accessible?	

17	What might assist me to see the whole picture in a complex situation (Genograms and Ecomaps)	
18	Am I 'weighting' information/observations correctly – Are the signs of safety really mitigating against risk and can this be maintained?	
19	Are the men associated with the family 'visible'? Involve them at all stages..	
Multi-Agency Working		
20	Have I spoken to and shared information with all the relevant workers involved in this case?	
21	Are the right people participating in strategy and multi-agency meetings? Have I been invited to attend all the meetings I should?	
22	Is there a shared understanding of the risk? Do I understand the responsibilities of other members of the core/ multi-agency group?	
Reflecting on Practice		
23	Have I had time to reflect on practice experience and learning from it, in supervision or in discussions with colleagues?	
24	Do I feel confident to challenge other professional's?	
25	Am I feeling confident and comfortable working with this family? If not why not? Is this a gut instinct telling you something?	

NOTES