

Trilogy of Risk

Know it

✓ **Alcohol/drug misuse**

✓ **Domestic abuse**

✓ **Mental ill-health**

If any of these are present:

- Risks of harm and impact could be higher for children and vulnerable adults
- Ability to parent/care could be lower

Spot it

- Trust your instincts
- Ask open questions and listen
- Be curious: things are not always as they first appear
- People may minimise and deny their difficulties
- Where one risk factor is identified, always look for others
- Gather other relevant information, for example children in family, adults with additional needs, financial and social factors
- Look for evidence of other forms of abuse

Who to contact

Share it

- Do not be afraid to ask for advice – it is okay not to know all the answers
- Seek advice and support from your manager/supervisor
- Contact other practitioners involved with family members
- Consider a referral to social care/early help
- Signpost/refer to specialist services if appropriate

Remember

- If you see something, do something
- Know your organisation's procedures
- Write down your concerns
- Be persistent – check the progress of your concerns
- Check: is anyone else working with or worried about this family or individuals?
- Trust is key – vulnerable people need to feel safe, respected and listened to



If there is an immediate or urgent risk, take action