

01

What Do We Mean by Think Family?

A Think Family approach refers to the steps taken by children’s, young people’s and adult’s practitioners to identify wider family needs which extend beyond the individual they are supporting. A Think Family’ approach is essential in order to work with families to identify early risk of harm, abuse or problems. Think Family ensures that the voices of children, young people and adults. are heard and that they have the freedom to be involved in decision making.

Working with Families

To improve the outcomes for children and their families it is essential to focus on those problems faced by parents/carers which have an impact on entire families, be aware of the needs of each family member and how these may impact on the whole family’s wellbeing, share relevant information with families in a way they understand and communicate with other professionals who can help the family.

02

07

Recommendations

- Ensuring referrals and interventions are timely and effective.
- Professionals need to be curious and not be afraid to ask difficult questions.
- Be aware of the trio of vulnerabilities: mental health, domestic abuse, substance misuse.
- Ask service users about their own children and any other children with whom they are involved with and establish who has parental responsibility for these children.
- Actively work with partners to promote a shared understanding of Think Family and Safeguarding.
- Don’t work in isolation. Consult colleagues, supervisor, managers or safeguarding Named Practitioners for advice.

03

The Children’s Act 1989/2004

identifies specific responsibilities of Local Authorities and all agencies to safeguard and protect children. Think family is fundamental to safeguard children.



The Care Act 2014 highlights four steps to ensure a whole-family approach.

1. Think Family.
2. Get the Whole Picture.
3. Make a plan that works for everyone.
4. Check it’s working for the whole family.

Safeguarding Supervision

Safeguarding supervision can be provided to all professionals working with families where there are safeguarding concerns. This can be either Safeguarding Children Supervision, Safeguarding Adult Supervision or Joint Safeguarding Supervision to promote the Think Family Approach.

06

05

04