

## 1. What is Professional Curiosity?

Professional Curiosity is a combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out and reflecting on information received. It includes:

- ♦ Avoiding optimism bias when considering the situation
- ♦ Not making assumptions
- ♦ Not accepting explanations on face value when you have doubts

## 2. Why it is important?

A lack of professional curiosity can lead to:

- ♦ Missed opportunities to identify less obvious indicators of vulnerability or significant harm
- ♦ Assumptions made in assessments of needs and risk which are incorrect and lead to wrong, or no, intervention
- ♦ Dismissal of concerns as a person's 'Lifestyle Choice'

## 3. Top Tips: LOOK

- ♦ Is there anything about what you see when you meet with the child or family that prompts questions or makes you feel uneasy?
- ♦ Are you observing any behaviour which is indicative of abuse or neglect, including self-neglect (in respect of an adult)?
- ♦ Does what you see support or contradict what you are being told?

## 7. Think Family

- ♦ A 'Think Family' approach to safeguarding work with children **and** their families is essential.
- ♦ When meeting with children, including when completing assessments, professionals need to take opportunities to recognise risk and enquire deeper, **including where that risk relates to another child or family member.**



## 4. Top Tips: LISTEN

- ♦ Are you being told anything which needs further clarification?
- ♦ Are you concerned about what you hear people are saying to each other?
- ♦ Is someone trying to tell you something but is finding it difficult to express themselves? If so, how can you help them to do so?

## 6. Top Tips: CHECK OUT

- ♦ Are other professionals involved?
- ♦ Have other professionals seen the same as you?
- ♦ Are other professionals being told the same or different things?
- ♦ Are others concerned? If so, what action has been taken so far and is there anything else which should or could be done by you or anyone else?

## 5. Top Tips: ASK

Are there direct questions you could ask when you meet the child or family which will provide more information about the vulnerability of them or another person?

- ♦ Use the words to **T**ell, **E**xplain, **D**escribe and **S**how (**TEDS**) in your questions (e.g. 'Tell me why...' or 'Can you show me how to do...')
- ♦ When do you feel safe?

**THURROCK LOCAL  
SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**

