

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.**

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?

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?

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?



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