

7 Stage Briefing

Think Family Approach – working with families



Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

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THE CHILDREN'S ACT

Parents and carers have primary care for Children, however Local Authorities and Multi-Agencies have Specific responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare.

The Children Act 1989/2004 identifies specific responsibilities of Local Authorities and all agencies to safeguard and protect children.

Thinking family- is fundamental to safeguard children, children are best looked after within their families where possible and safe to do so. Scie.org - guide 30 think child, think parent, think family.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/introduction/thinkchild.asp>

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BACKGROUND

A **'think family'** approach is essential in order to work with families to identify early risk of harm, abuse or problems. Ensuring that services and professionals can provide early help and intervention to support the needs of children, young people and their parents/carers.

Ensure that the voices of children, young people and adults are heard and that they have the freedom to be involved in decision making.

Be mindful of any children in the household, their ages and the impact the parental mental health may have on those children and young people.

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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 families wellbeing.

Share relevant information in a timely and open manner with families in a way they understand

Communicate with other professionals who can help the family and be clear on individuals roles, responsibilities, actions to be taken and services to be provided.

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The Care Act 2014 highlights 4 steps to ensure a whole-family approach

One: Think family.

Two: Get the whole picture.

Three: Make a plan that works for everyone.

Four: Check it's working for the whole family.

Further help and advice is available

www.scie.org.uk

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.

Safeguarding supervision can be provided on an Individual basis or group/team supervision.

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Recommendations

The right professional at the right time undertakes effective assessments. Make referrals and provide interventions that are timely and effective.

Be curious, remain determined and don't be afraid to ask difficult questions (**think the unthinkable**).

Be aware of the Trio of Vulnerabilities
Mental Health,
Domestic Abuse,
Substance Misuse.

Continued....

Ask service users about their own children and any other children with whom they are involved with. Establish who has parental responsibility for these children. Do they need support with parenting?

Actively work with partners to promote a shared understanding of Think Family and Safeguarding: and how they can support service users and their families.

Never assume somebody else is raising or dealing with an issue.

Don't work in isolation when making difficult decisions. Consult your colleagues, supervisor, managers or your safeguarding Named Practitioners for advice.

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For further information regarding safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children call the Safeguarding Team