

1 Understand the impact of previous events on the present day and the future

Adopt a trauma-informed approach to understand, and appreciate, present day experiences, actions and behaviours. Our past shapes our present and helps us identify who we are and where we are headed. So, it's natural to use our past experiences as a point of reference for our current situation. Our current experiences are often influenced by our past. Everything a child consistently experiences throughout their early years creates belief systems within them that then govern their life as adults. It is important to consider the impact of lived experiences taking place now and their long lasting impact well into adulthood. It is also important to apply this when considering the lived experience of their parent or carer and the impact on their ability to meet the needs of the child.



7 Consider the language used when working with exploitation and link to recording

The following links are useful to highlight the importance and impact of the language we use. Remember that everyone has the right to request information held about them and as such could be reading what you document – consider if you would be happy to read those words about yourself or someone you care about.

Making Words Matter:

<https://youtu.be/PZtFUPQMNZk>

Language in Social Work Campaign:

<https://youtu.be/70k6MkxuZRU->

Practice Guide

6 Think Family

A Think Family approach refers to the steps taken by children's, young people's and adult practitioners to identify wider family needs which extend beyond the individual they are supporting. Key components of family-centered practice include engaging with family members; working alongside the family to set up goals, strengthen capacity, and make decisions; and providing individualised, culturally responsive, and evidence-based interventions to each family.

2 Understanding intergenerational patterns

Intergenerational family patterns are made up of behaviours, beliefs and family dynamics that are passed down from generation to generation. These patterns become deeply entrenched within family systems. And in the case of unhealthy patterns, this is problematic because they can be difficult to break. It is important to understand the family's history and the impact on the present day.

3 Triangulate information from a wide range of sources to provide a balanced narrative of the lived experience of the child and family – family views, professional views, observations from other professionals/family members – distinguish between fact vs opinion and hypothesis.

Always consider the impact of the current circumstances on the child.

4 Professional led and family led – aiding the child, family and professionals to understand their journey to date

It is important to not just focus on difficulties that have occurred but to highlight achievements, strengths and positive aspects of their personality, their family and their life/the child's journey.

5 Understanding patterns of crisis points and support – what has contributed to these/what helped during these times.

This enables practitioners to understand the family's relationship with support, utilising any skills they have shown to manage crisis points, replicate support that they find helpful. In addition to mapping and understanding agencies involvement to date.