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What is 'Think Family'?

A 'Think Family' approach considers the needs of **all family members** and not just the individual person that a professional is supporting or working with.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and **whether you primarily work with children, young people or adults**, it is essential to consider the well-being and safety of everyone within their family context.

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Why 'Think Family'?

In Salford, the **Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP)** and **Safeguarding Adult's Board (SSAB)** promote and encourage a 'Think Family' approach.

Learning from local and national reviews show that when services focus only on single issues or one-person, overlapping vulnerabilities and risks can be missed. Local reviews highlighting the need for a Think Family approach include, but are not limited to Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) '[Matthew](#)', [Joint Adults' and Children Review 2023](#), Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) '[Yvonne](#)'

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What is a Family?

Families come in all shapes and sizes and '**family**' can mean different things to different people. Families can include complex networks of friends and relatives, some of whom you might not expect to be classed as a family member.

Exploring who is in an individual's family can help to identify a person's support network and identify potential risks.

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How to 'Think Family'

The *Think Family* guidance sets out 7 steps to help professionals take a Think Family approach. These involve recognising the wider family context, identifying support networks and caring roles, understanding linked needs and risks, considering how family members affect one another, working collaboratively across agencies, and promoting sustainable change.

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Work Together

Professionals should **work together**, considering the entire family's needs by ensuring relevant professionals from both children's and adults' services attend key meetings so all professionals involved can work together in a co-ordinated way to ensure better outcomes for the whole family. Professionals should **share information** with each other in accordance with local and national guidelines.



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Further information:

[Think Family Guidance and Resources](#) (including the Think Family Guidance)

Information Sharing – [Adults](#) / [Children](#)

Multi-Agency Escalation Policy and Procedure – [Adults](#) / [Children](#)

[Creating Strengths based partnerships with families guidance](#)

[Joint Adults and Children's Review](#) (2023)

[SAR Mathew](#) and [Joint DHR/SAR Susan](#)

[Thriving Families Tool](#)

[Think Family - NHS](#)

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What to do if you have concerns

You may need to complete referrals/raise concerns for other family members where this is appropriate. If **you** have a safeguarding concern about **any family member** (adult or child), **you** have the responsibility to raise that concern – **DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE WILL DO IT.**

- [Worried about an adult?](#)
- [Worried about a child?](#)

[Worried about an adult?](#) Report concerns via the [Adults' online portal](#) or call 0161 206 0604

[Worried about a child?](#) Report concerns via the [Children's online portal](#) or call the Bridge 0161 603 4500

Think Family 7 Minute Briefing [Feedback Form](#)

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board

Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership