

7 Minute Briefing – Think Family

1. 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.

2. Why 'Think Family'?

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

Local reviews have highlighted the need for professionals to be aware of potential needs / risk to other family members as part of a Think Family Approach. Two reviews examined adults with care needs who tragically died by suicide – both were parents.

In a further review, an adult (parent) suffered further harm after their care and support needs were not sufficiently acted upon.

3. 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.

4. How to 'Think Family'

Be curious and ask lots of questions.

Consider the needs of the **entire family** and be responsive to those needs.

Undertake **relevant assessments for children and adults** that explore all factors affecting household members, including frequent visitors, poverty, substance misuse, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental health issues.

5. 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.

6. Strengths-Based Working

Practitioners should use a **strengths-based** approach, empowering individuals by focusing on their personal, social and community strengths. This positive focus on strengths helps build family resilience to tackle present and future challenges.

When supporting children, using the **Family Partnership Model** strengthens the 'Think Family' approach. It fosters strong relationships with parents, empowering them to meet their children's needs and achieve shared goals with practitioners.

7. Further information

- [Think Family Guidance and Resources](#)
- 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 Safeguarding](#)

Contact details:

[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

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