

1 What do we mean by 'Think Family'?

A Think Family approach refers to the steps taken by children's, young people's and adult's practitioners to identify wider family needs which extend beyond the individual they are supporting.

For example, in relation to safeguarding, if you work primarily with adults, you should still consider the safeguarding needs of children, and if you work mostly with children, you should still consider the needs of vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

2 Why do the LSCP and the SAEB want to raise awareness of the Think Family approach?

The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and the Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB) for RBKC/WCC want to ensure that frontline practitioners and managers understand and apply a 'Think Family' approach in their work.

This is as a result of the learning that emerged from a recent Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) involving an adult with care and support needs who presented with severe neglect.

The household also comprised of several younger siblings under the age of 18.

3 Key Learning Points from the Safeguarding Adults Review included:

- To always consider 'Think Family' approach where there is a parent-carer of an adult-child living with other younger children
- Importance of following No Access Policy
- Importance of escalation to safeguarding teams and regular supervision
- Managing aggressive patients and family towards staff

4 Think Family Survey Results

The LSCP and SAEB conducted a Think Family Survey late last year to gauge how well understood a Think Family approach was by frontline practitioners and managers across our workforce.

The survey was completed by 278 workers. Participants responded to a number of questions, including:

How confident would you say you feel about implementing the Think Family approach in your work?

- 28% responded 'very confident'
- 36% responded 'somewhat confident'
- 11% responded 'not so confident'
- 15% responded 'not at all confident'

7 What the LSCP and SAEB will do next?

The results of the survey have been considered by the partnerships and will help shape further joint learning opportunities to ensure that frontline practitioners and managers can continue to work in partnership across both the children's and adults' workforce in social care, police, health and the voluntary sector.

6 Think Family: what should practitioners do?

- Think about the family's needs and all staff involved with the family so we can work together.
- Make sure information is shared appropriately according to the level of risk and the need for people to understand any difficulties.
- Escalate your concerns to appropriate levels of line management if you are not being listened to or heard.

5 Think Family: what should practitioners do?

The LSCP and SAEB would like to encourage frontline practitioners to:

- Consider the needs of the whole family and be responsive to those needs.
- Consider all the factors of everyone in the home, and frequent visitors, including things like poverty, use of drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental ill health, which may impact upon all the family.

