

# PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY

## 1. What is 'Professional Curiosity'?

Professional curiosity is a core part of the job of any professional engaging with children, young people, adults and families.

It involves exploring and understanding what is happening within a family, or with the individual, rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value.

## 2. Key Messages

- Be flexible and open-minded, not taking everything at face value
- Think the unthinkable; believe the unbelievable
- Ask 'the second question', probe behind the first information or first answers given
- Be alert to those who prevent professionals from seeing or listening to the person
- Ensure you are hearing the voice of the individual
- Take responsibility for the safeguarding role you play, however large or small, in the life of the person in front of you
- Never be concerned about asking the obvious question and share concerns with colleagues and managers



## 4. Resources

- SSAB have developed 'Professional Curiosity' guidance for professionals
- SSAB have developed guidance on using a Structured Partnership Approach
- Waltham Forest Council have developed a multi-agency bitesize video guide on professional curiosity
- Solihull SAR reports and practice briefings for John, Rachel, Paul & Stephen
- LSCP - Professional Curiosity Briefing

Click on the text above to access each link

## 3. What Does This Mean for Me?

- Ask 'what if?' questions to challenge and to think more widely around cases
- Think about the case from the perspective of other family members or other professionals
- Is a fresh pair of eyes needed on the case?
- Do you have the skills and knowledge to hold difficult conversations, if not, what could you do about this?
- Think about whether things have improved for the person