



Safeguarding Newsletter

A huge welcome to all. We are grateful for your support and commitment to safeguarding and we want to welcome each and every one of you to updates via this newsletter. Any contributions to the newsletter will always be welcomed. We are hoping to bring you a wealth of information and be able to signpost you to assist with your everyday safeguarding practice.

We understand that safeguarding can be a challenging experience but know that the Corporate Safeguarding Team and the Safeguarding Board are here to support you and your fellow colleagues.

Useful Contacts:

Local Authority RCT and Merthyr (MASH) 01443 743730	Health Contact (MASH) 01443 742949/01656 643630 Health Email CTHBMASHReferrals@wales.nhs.uk (All referrals from health must be sent electronically to the email address above . Out of Hours a copy may be sent to local authority on request)
Local Authority Bridgend (MASH) 01656 642320	EDT 01443 743730

Hardship Project – East Integrated Network Bridgend

Poverty can affect health when financial resources are insufficient to meet basic living needs, such as adequate heating for the home, appropriate clothing, or adequate nutrition. Poverty can also affect the psychological health of aging individuals and is considered a risk factor for decline in mental health among older people. Those at the lower levels of socioeconomic status are often most likely to be diagnosed with a psychological disorder. During this economic crisis, We are concerned that individuals will start going without food to save money for rent, disconnecting the gas to save money and not cooking food to save energy costs. There appears to be an increasing sense of pressure from trying to support family members and apprehension for the future. In the team we are specifically worried about individuals who are on district nurse case load as they are housebound and unable to leave the home to find the help and support needed. We are worried that they will neglect their care plan or neglect looking after themselves – possibly not follow dietary plans, stop paying for care packages, not use equipment provided for them like air flow mattresses, CPAP machines etc – thus their health may not improve leading to hospitalisation or worse. These people are particularly vulnerable to abuse from family members or neighbours/friends or scam traders – financial abuse is a real possibility. In our project, we are asking professionals in the network to look holistically– get to understand their social network, check if there are signs of self-neglect and if the individual starts voicing concerns about their financial situation and/or the people that look after them then they should refer into the multi-disciplinary team. We are building relationships with third sector organisations that will be able to signpost and support these individuals when they are identified. As part of safeguarding week we will also be carrying out further awareness activities to highlight the safeguarding implications of poverty.

Harmful sexual behaviour: labelling actions, not children

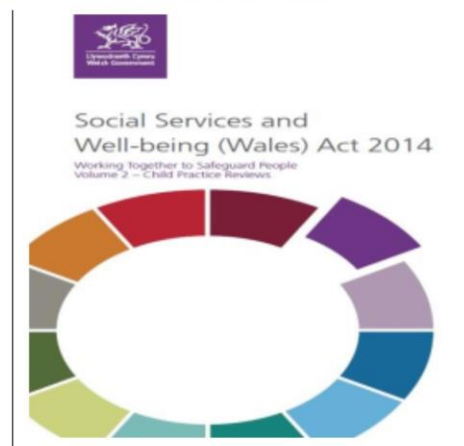
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/why-language-matters/harmful-sexual-behaviour-labelling-actions-not-children>



7 Minute Briefing on Professional Curiosity



Professional Curiosity Themes from Child and Adult Practice Reviews



In the event of a serious incident, the death of a child or adult the relevant Regional Safeguarding Board will complete a Child Practice Review (CPR) or Adult Practice Review (APR).

The key aim of any review is to collaborate with practitioners from all organisations who knew the young person or adult, and their family. To understand whether there are lessons that can be learnt to improve practice in the future. It is important to stress that the review process is not designed to apportion blame, but to try and understand what happened and the wide range of factors that affected the way people responded to the circumstances of the case at the time.

A theme has been a factor in many published reviews is the lack of what is known as professional curiosity.

Background:

All professionals who come into contact with children, parents, adults and carers in the course of their work need to be aware of their Safeguarding responsibilities and alert to their vulnerabilities. This requires inquisitive curiosity about a family, their circumstances and events that can effectively identify vulnerabilities and potential or actual risks of harm. People young and old rarely disclose abuse and neglect directly to practitioners and, if they do it will often be through unusual behaviours and comments. This makes identifying abuse and neglect difficult for professionals across agencies.

Why it Matters?

People do not always disclose abuse and neglect directly to practitioners and, if they do, it will often be through unusual behaviour or comments. This makes identifying abuse and neglect difficult for professionals across agencies. The first step in keeping people safe is to be professionally curious and to engage with children, adults and their families at the earliest opportunity before problems escalate into crisis.

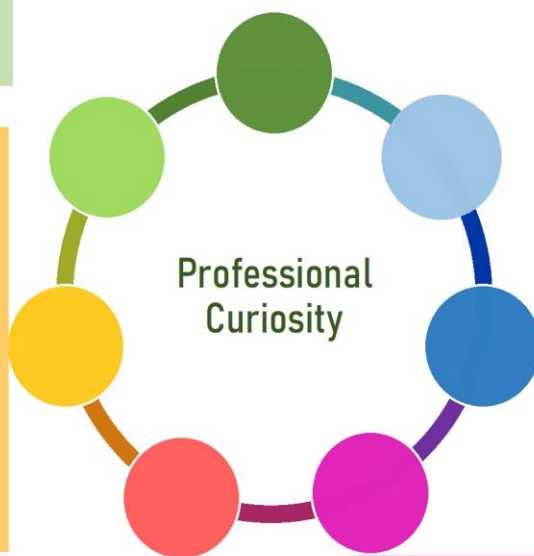
Reviews into adults and child deaths repeatedly highlight the need for practitioners to be alert to the risk of fixed thinking and perceptual bias. Munro (2005) comments that repeated inquiry reports show the extraordinary lengths to which some abusive parents can go in their efforts to deceive practitioners through disguised compliance. The Daniel Pelka review emphasised the need for professionals to be able to **'think the unthinkable'** rather than accept parental versions of what is happening at home.

Action:

Develop your own 'Professional Curiosity'
Reassure and treat clinical signs as per organisational policies and procedures.
If you suspect abuse or neglect this must be an 'At risk' report.

- Consider Police support if the child, young person or adult is in immediate danger

Contact the Safeguarding Team/Lead for any further advice.



Recognition:

Professional Curiosity – also described by Lord Laming (2003) in the Victoria Climbié inquiry as 'respectful uncertainty' – is the capacity to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value, applying critical evaluation to any information received and maintaining an open mind. By acquiring an open mind and curious mindset, professionals can avoid linear and absolute explanations by exploring alternative, multiple perspectives on a situation.

How to respond:

- Develop critical thinking skills, sensitivity and persistence.
- Remain curious and inquisitive about what you are seeing and assessing
- Be open to new information
- Be confident that you have sufficient information upon which to base judgements
- Consider the need to add a "warning" about the strength of evidence contained in this assessment and implications for decision making
- Be prepared to change your mind

Key Issues:

Professional curiosity is supported by:

- A person centred approach with an ability to create suitably safe and trusting listening environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Identifying and exploring what is not discussed as much as what is.
- An openness to other perspectives/ willingness to try different responses.
- An ability to build close partnership style relationships with families whilst being constantly aware of the child's and adults needs/degree to which they are met.
- Judgements based on evidence not optimism.

Any Man Can...be a victim of domestic abuse

News Release

A campaign to raise awareness that men can be victims of domestic abuse has been developed by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board, in collaboration with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg VAWDASV (Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Steering Group.

This was in response to a recommendation from a [Domestic Homicide Review](#) into the death of a man in the Cwm Taf area due to domestic violence.

The campaign, which has been named “*Any Man Can...*” aims to highlight the issue of domestic abuse against men and to raise awareness of where they can go for information, advice and support in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend.

The statistics show that:

- One in every six men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- Over 500,000 men suffer abuse from their partner.
- One man per fortnight is killed by a current or ex-partner.

(Office for National Statistics (ONS) report 2017/18)

Any Man Can...be a victim of domestic abuse.

Despite these figures, domestic violence and abuse against men is believed to be an under-reported crime and this is often due to barriers such as fear of not being believed or being accused as the perpetrator, embarrassment at talking about the abuse, and feeling 'less of a man'. “*Any Man Can...*” aims to help to break down these barriers and encourage victims to get the help, support and practical advice that is available throughout Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Men have exactly the same rights as women to be safe in their own homes. All public services have a duty to provide their services to everyone, whatever their gender or sexual orientation. . Men are protected by exactly the same laws as women — anyone who has assaulted another person, regardless of the gender of either, can be prosecuted.

Any Man Can...be a victim of domestic abuse.

Any Man Can...access support.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse and need someone to talk to for support and guidance, please get in touch.

Rhondda Cynon Taf

PontypriddSafetyUnit@rctcbc.gov.uk

01443 494190

Merthyr Tydfil

Teulu.mac@smt.org.uk

01685 388444

Mobile/Text Service - 07539 170396

Bridgend

info@calandvs.org.uk 01656 766139

Live Fear Free (24 hour helpline)

0808 80 10 800

If you are experiencing domestic violence and you need emergency help, phone the police on 999.

For further information, visit www.ctmsb.co.uk

You are not alone.



Paediatric Bereavement Study Day



Paediatric Bereavement Study Day

Monday 30th January, 2023

Keir Hardie Education Centre

08:30 – 16:30 Cost: Free

Open to all staff groups

To book email:

Esyld.Watson@wales.nhs.uk



Aim: To increase staff awareness of the Procedural Response to Unexplained Deaths in Childhood. (CPD points applied for)