

Think Family Principles

(Insert Chief Exec or appropriate Director Name) on behalf of (Agency) confirms that the (Agency) will adhere to the Think Family Principles set out below:

All professionals who come into contact with children and/or adults and their parents/carers and families will recognise they have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults.

All professionals will look to identify the needs of the whole family rather than just focusing on the individual referred to their service this will ensure more effective support for the whole family and helps to prevent further problems arising in the future.

The well-being of children, adults and their families is best delivered through a multi-agency approach with different services working effectively together.

Criteria for access to adult services and to children's services take into account the individual and combined needs of children, parents and carers.

Assessment and subsequent work with families, needs to be made within the context of individual cultural understanding and equitable access to services.

Diversity will be valued but will not be used to provide an explanation or used to condone acts of abuse or neglect or to prevent appropriate action being taken.

Parenting capacity is best assessed with the joint input of workers from adults and children's services, with support where appropriate from services with specialist expertise.

Efforts should be made to work in partnership with families, children, adults and significant others during referral, assessment and follow-up unless this would compromise the safety of adults/ their children in need of safeguarding.

The whole family will be communicated with in a timely, appropriate and accessible manner that assists them to understand what is happening.

Children will be listened to and their wishes and feelings explored. Their views will be clearly recorded and the needs of the adults should not marginalise the needs of the children.

When a professional is working with an adult they will consider the needs of any children in contact with the adult and feel confident and able to pass on any concern to colleagues in Children services.

Additional support needs should be addressed by enabling parents/carers to access universal and community services and by the timely provision of specialist assessment services wherever possible.

All professionals will consider capacity in all aspects of working with adults, those deemed not having capacity will have a representative identified from within the family and if this is not possible a referral will be made to advocacy services. This applies to those working with children when the parent/carer is viewed as not having capacity

Where required ensure ready access to specialist mental health, adult social care, substance misuse services and children's safeguarding services when needed and that staff know **who** makes what decision in what circumstances.

The lead person with responsibility for the Think Family Strategy is: (insert name)

The (agency) will:

Establish effective integrated strategic planning that includes: the alignment of services, budgets and performance frameworks.

Build in opportunities to bring staff/volunteers across all services/sectors together to promote an understanding of each others' roles and responsibilities and establish joint working arrangements. Reinforce "think family" through multi-agency/service and training and development. Consider options for co-location.

Establish clarity of pathways and criteria for services alongside "directories" of resources/agencies.

Develop the use of a shared/integrated/multi-agency model/approaches and related 'tools' to assist with joined up assessment and responses to service needs.

Promote information sharing arrangements with clarity about differing impact of "consent" in decision making and systems that "talk" to each other across different organisations.

Ensure that services work towards achieving positive outcomes for the whole family, while all the time complying with statutory guidelines. The emphasis being on partnership work with the family rather than services prescriptively offering support.

(Key Service Providers include the Local Authorities, Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, NHS Derby City, NHS Derbyshire, The Derby Hospitals Foundation Trust, The Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Probation, Housing Providers and Independent Sector Providers in Derby and Derbyshire)