

Professional Curiosity

What is Professional Curiosity?

It's about exploring and understanding what is happening in someone's life, rather than making assumptions or accepting what they are told.

A combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out and reflecting on all the information received and not accepting it at face value.

A lack of professional curiosity can lead to..

Missed opportunities to identify less obvious indicators of vulnerability or significant harm and in the worst circumstances this has resulted in death or serious harm.

It is a common theme in learning from both local and national reviews where practitioners have responded to presenting issues in isolation.

How to be professionally curious?

- Don't be afraid to ask questions - do so in an open way - not to judge or criticise.
- Be open to the unexpected - incorporate information that does not support your initial assumptions.
- seek clarity from the child, person, family and/or other professionals
- Be open to challenging/have challenged your assumptions, views and interpretations - triangulate the information you hold
- Consider what you see as well as what you're told.

Find out more

Visit the SSP website where there is additional information and resources for you to access
www.safeguardingpartnership.swindon.gov.uk

