

Strategic Partnership Boards

SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

Spotlight on ... Escalation

When working with children, adults and families, there may be times when professionals disagree with each other's decisions that may result in the need to escalate concerns about particular cases. Escalation about safeguarding is a positive and healthy part of good practice for working with children and adults and is open to everyone.

In Waltham Forest, Directors and Chief Executives from all the main agencies have agreed that it is important for us all to embrace escalation as a positive part of constructive challenge between practitioners. Escalation is an essential part of good safeguarding practice for children and adults. As practitioners we should expect to be challenged because working together effectively depends on an open approach and honest relationships between agencies.



This means your Director wants YOU as a practitioner to escalate concerns appropriately whenever is required

Nationally and locally, escalation comes up frequently as an issue in statutory and local reviews and audit.

Let's make Waltham Forest the place where escalation is viewed as a positive part of our good safeguarding practice.

[Click here](#) to see the WFSCB and WFSAB for the escalation process which includes the roles and contact details of managers across the partnership

Why do we need to escalate?

As practitioners working with children, adults and families in often complex situations we can have different opinions and views on the best way to provide support. Discussion and debate with colleagues, along with constructive challenge should be part and practice of our everyday practice.



At times we may disagree about:

- threshold judgements
- the appropriate course of safeguarding action

We may also have concerns about professional practice

If we do, it is our individual responsibility as practitioners to:

- speak to our managers about any disagrees or concerns
- ask to speak to the manager of the person we are disagreeing with and if necessary, keep going up the hierarchy if we feel our opinions are not being understood
- where appropriate speak to the Adult/Local Authority Designated Officer if we have concerns about professional practice.