



Strategic Partnership Boards
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

Bitesize video guide: Think Family

Hello, my name is Roy Litvin and I'm an adult Community Mental Health Nurse from Nort East London Foundation Trust.

The Serious Case Review (SCR) on Joe, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) on Linah and our multi-agency audits have highlighted a specific area where we as practitioners can improve the services we deliver. Adults and children's services don't always work together as well as they should, to ensure that families receive support in a joined-up way. Professionals from all areas need to Think Family. To me, Think Family is about recognising that families are really a system and if we want to support them, intervention needs to be with the family as a whole. As professionals we all need to recognise how the needs and outcomes of each family member interconnect and impact on each other. I can think of 3 situations that would need a Think Family approach:

1. The first is a family of adults and children - where the mum is using alcohol and drugs, the father has recently come out of prison and they have 3 children, one of whom has a disability. The school is concerned that the children are being neglected.
2. The second is a family of adults: An older woman who is getting frail and in early stages of dementia is living with her son. He is 50 years old and has a learning disability. The son has recently started behaving anti-socially.
3. There are also families who have a lot of complex needs and have many services working with them. Sometimes it's hard for them to manage all the different appointments and assessments. These families need services to work better together, so the services are more joined up, helping them to get the best out of the support being offered.

Here are your three messages to take away:

1. Think Family all the time whenever you first meet someone. Be curious and ask who is part of their family. Don't forget, family can mean different things to different people.
2. If there are other family members that have support needs, then with their permission make contact with their practitioners and share information and work together.
3. Always consider the impact of any intervention will impact on all members of the family. Finally, attend the Think Family workshop on the 30 November 2015. Your manager has more information on this if you need it.

