



Strategic Partnership Boards  
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

## Bitesize video guide: Think Family

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. Adult and children 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, aged 50 who has learning disabilities. 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 get the best out of the support being offered.

### 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 think about how 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.