



Engagement with family

Think family – ensure that all family members are considered in assessment and interventions across all agencies.

For further guidance on how to engage with fathers please see some of the barriers to practice and top tips [here](#)

Key risk factors

Key practitioners should be familiar with signs of physical abuse and confident in when to request a CPME

Practitioners should always consider:

- other risk factors arising from parental behaviours
- understand the harm within a wider context of historical risk and vulnerability within the family

Thresholds / referrals

To ensure that there is adequate **and timely** referral information provided.

To consider other information including previous history of risk and concerns reported.

To always consider the immediate nature of risk considering additional factors and how these impacts upon harm. Some cases should be referred immediately by telephone.

Understanding the child's lived experience

With concerns of physical abuse, children should be seen in a range of environments to promote gathering best evidence

Direct work should take place in a range of settings and be directly linked to the child's plan

Practitioners should use supervision to reflect on the work they do considering the consequences and impact upon the family.

Physical Abuse: Key learning points

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Roles and responsibilities and participation in multi-agency CP practice

Practitioners can make practice more effective through being clear about their own role and that of others when working with families

That all practitioners are reminded regularly of escalation and challenges as part of everyday practice

Please see our local [escalation and resolution protocol](#)

Quality of assessment, planning and intervention

Good practice and planning in safeguarding considers anti- racist practice and the cultural beliefs and practice of families when bringing about change

Appropriate use of skilled interpreters is vital to child protection practice

Acknowledgement and reflection that safeguarding and child protection practice can be beneficial but also oppressive

Information-sharing, recording and communication within and between agencies

Get basic details about families right and review them regularly with colleagues

Ensure that the history of the family in terms of previous risk and vulnerability is used

Ensure that a range of information from various sources are sought.

Do not assume that information processes and systems are complete or run smoothly

Please see 7-minute briefing on [Information-Sharing](#)