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## Professional Curiosity at a Glance

Displaying Professional Curiosity is a requirement of all practitioners involved in safeguarding to ensure they have considered all available child protection safeguarding options.

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By identifying and addressing disguised compliance; the rule of optimism; thinking the unthinkable; verifying, escalating and challenging families, guardians and other practitioners where necessary, will ensure both current and for the future, the health and well-being of children and young people.

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Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value. Local and National SCRs consistently identify a lack of professional curiosity as a significant factor.

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Responding to these opportunities requires the ability to recognise (or see the signs of) vulnerabilities and potential or actual risks of harm, maintaining an open stance of professional curiosity (or enquiring deeper), and understanding one's own responsibility and knowing how to take action.

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Children in particular, but also some adults, rarely disclose abuse and neglect directly to practitioners and, if they do, it will often be through unusual behavior or comments. This makes identifying abuse and neglect difficult for professionals across agencies.



## Useful links:

1. [learning.nspcc.org.uk/inter-professional-communication-decision-making/](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/inter-professional-communication-decision-making/)
2. <https://www.gscb.org.uk/media/2090789/gscb-james-serious-case-review-final-170719.pdf>
3. [https://seriouscasereviews.rip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LSCB\\_SCR\\_Briefing\\_v2.pdf](https://seriouscasereviews.rip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LSCB_SCR_Briefing_v2.pdf)