



TEA-BREAK GUIDE



Think Family – what is it??

Think Family approach refers to the steps taken by children's, young people's and adult's practitioners to identify wider family needs which extend beyond the individual they are supporting. For example, in relation to safeguarding, if you work primarily with adults, you should still consider the safeguarding needs of children, and if you work mostly with children, you should still consider the needs of vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

This promotes a holistic approach to supporting children and families and promotes working relationships between all professionals.

This may include things like ensuring all relevant people are invited to Professionals meetings, Family Network meetings and included in circles of support.

Clear Messages:

Why do we need to raise awareness of the Think Family approach?

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) want to ensure that frontline practitioners and managers understand and apply a 'Think Family' approach in their work.

This is as a result of the learning that emerged from a recent Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) involving an adult with care and support needs who presented with severe neglect. The household also comprised of young people who NCT were also working with.

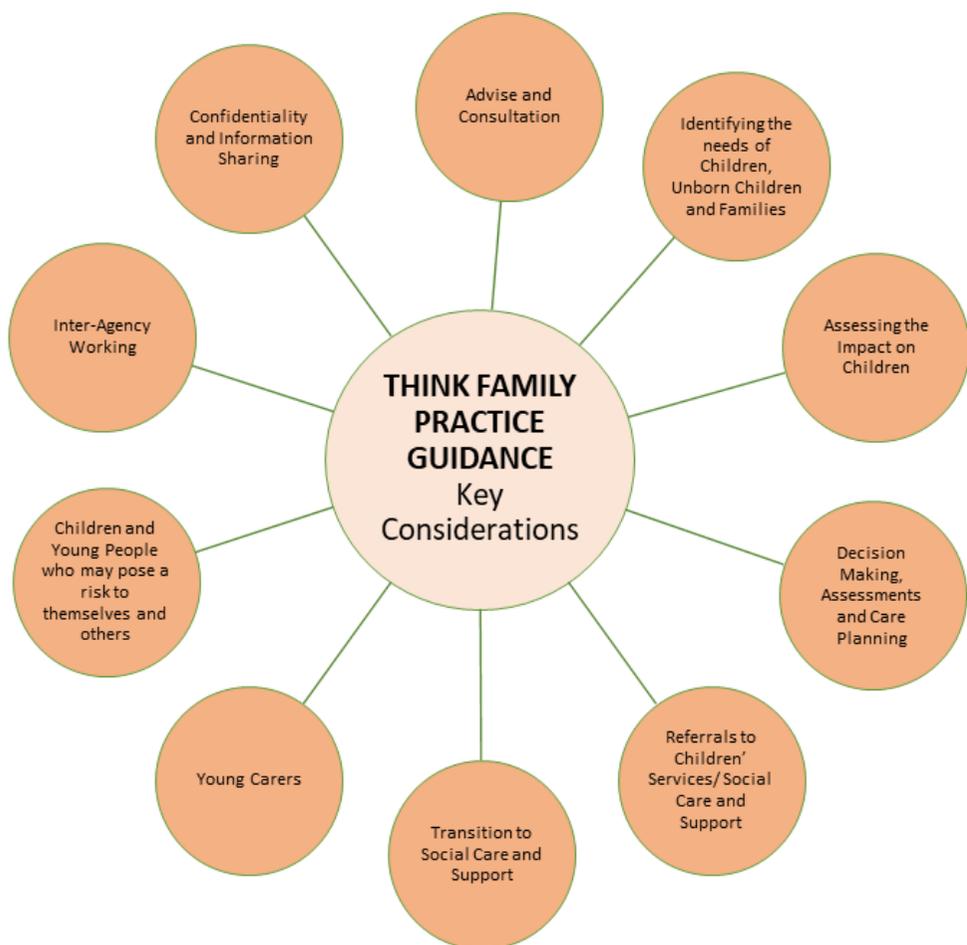
What should practitioners do

The NSCP and NSAB would like to encourage frontline practitioners to:

- Consider the needs of the whole family and be responsive to those needs.
- Consider all the factors of everyone in the home, and frequent visitors, including things like poverty, use of drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental ill health, which may impact upon all the family.
- Think about the family's needs and all staff involved with the family so we can work together.
- Make sure information is shared appropriately according to the level of risk and the need for people to understand any difficulties.
- Escalate your concerns to appropriate levels of line management if you are not being listened to or heard.
- Use tools like genograms, Eco Maps and Culturagrams to understand networks and supports.

Useful reading

- [Think family – think solutions that benefit everyone - Social work with adults \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2018/07/26/think-family-think-solutions-that-benefit-everyone-social-work-with-adults/)
- [Think child, think parent, think family: Introduction - Think Family as a concept, and its implications for practice \(scie.org.uk\)](https://www.scie.org.uk/publications/2018/01/think-child-think-parent-think-family-introduction-think-family-as-a-concept-and-its-implications-for-practice/)



Useful contacts

Northamptonshire Childrens Trust MASH

If you have an urgent concern please do not hesitate to call the MASH immediately on 0300 126 7000 where you will be able to speak to a professional who will listen to and record your concern. You will be required to submit a written copy of the referral following this conversation if it meets the thresholds for a referral.

If your concern is not urgent, please visit our website to make a referral and to see the thresholds and pathways document.

[Report a concern \(nctrust.co.uk\)](https://nctrust.co.uk)

West Northamptonshire Council: 0300 126 7000

[Report a concern about an adult | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://westnorthants.gov.uk)

North Northamptonshire Council: 0300 126 3000

[Report a safeguarding concern about an adult | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://northnorthants.gov.uk)