

# Safeguarding Professional Curiosity



## What is professional curiosity?

Professional curiosity is a combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out and reflecting on information received.

Questions to consider/discuss -

- Are you professionally curious?
- How do you demonstrate professional curiosity in your practice?

## TASK

Use the scenario and questions to aid team meetings, as part of group/individual supervision or for own development. Use the questions to aid discussions of what questions you may ask yourself.

These questions can then be reflected upon and the correct actions can be taken to support the child and family.

## Scenario

Dina aged 4 and lives at home with Mum, Uncle and two older brothers aged 10 and 15.

- Home is a three-bedroom flat. Dina sleeps in Mum's room, her brothers share and Uncle sleeps in the box room. This was previously Dina's room
- Dina's father left the family home about a year ago and was physically abusive to Mum and Dina's brothers. Dina often witnessed this
- Dina was very close to her dad and has expressed that she misses him • Mum works long hours so as to financially support the family
- Mum has a good support network and her brother (Uncle) moved in about 6 months ago. He needed somewhere to live after his relationship broke down and he was able to help Mum with childcare while Mum is working. Dina's two brother were previously helping with this
- During play time recently, Dina was found touching another girl's genital area and staff overheard her making sexual references.

## Questions

1. Question why someone is behaving in a certain way. Consider what these behaviours could indicate.
2. Find out more about someone's personal circumstances. Assess their behaviour in light of what you know about them and their situation.

3. Question the motives of anyone who is with the person. Why are they there? What is their relationship to the person? Do they appear controlling? Do they dislike leaving the person alone? Even if they appear kind and supportive, could this be a way of hiding their role in harming the person?
4. Recognise when someone is reluctant to provide a full or accurate account of events or is pretending to cooperate to avoid raising suspicions.
5. Think outside the box. Consider the person or situation from the viewpoint of others. What might they look out for and notice? What would they think about the situation?
6. Maintain an open mind. Avoid making assumptions, taking information at face value and jumping to conclusions. Take account of changing information and different perspectives. Consider if you need to adapt your views.
7. Ask questions and challenge what you believe to be untrue.
8. Notice if you or someone else starts to doubt that someone is a victim – consider the reasons for these doubts. Are they fair?
9. Trust your instinct and raise concerns if something about someone's behaviour or situation does not feel right.
10. Think vulnerability and exploitation – be actively aware of how anyone you come across may be vulnerable and could be experiencing exploitation.

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Training Priority  
Domestic abuse and child safeguarding