

Top Tips for Making a Safeguarding Decision

Worried about a child?

Many professionals often worry about a child's safety and require further guidance to help them make a decision to assist the family to improve the child's situation. Reading LSCB has produced a helpful Threshold Guide to support professionals to measure the extent of their worry and help inform the decision making process.

This factsheet is designed to give you some top tips, using both the Thresholds Guide and your professional expertise, to get to the right decision for that child.

Our Top Tips:

- Before making a decision, consider answering these key questions:
 - ⇒ What has been happening for the child?
 - ⇒ What is happening now and what other professionals are involved?
 - ⇒ What might happen with no intervention?
 - ⇒ What is going well? What are the resilience/protective factors?
- Keep a record of what has happened, when it happened, who was involved, what you did and what happened as a result
- Seek or take advice from within your organisation from the relevant safeguarding lead
- Apart from level 4 Child Protection concerns, it is necessary to seek consent
- Focus on the child, and if appropriate ask them for their views
- Talk to and include the family, if this does not put the child at further risk
- If you are making a referral to the Children's Single Point of Access use the language from the Thresholds document to describe the child's circumstances
- Remember to share information appropriately and ask questions of colleagues to gain information to help in your decision making

What to do next:

Our Thresholds Guide provides even more advice and guidance to help you in your decision. Find a copy at the Reading LSCB website:

www.readinglscb.org.uk/information-professionals/threshold-criteria

Contacting the Children's Single Point of Access

If you decide your concern meets our thresholds at level 2 or above, please contact the Children's Single Point of Access. Using a web form is the most secure and effective way of requesting help for a child. The form can be found at: www.reading.gov.uk/childrensreferralform. Alternatively, telephone 0118 937 3641, or email ChildrensSinglePointofAccess@reading.gcsx.gov.uk.

The Thresholds Guide explains what will happen after you make a referral.