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Resources

[Report a concern about a Child](#) or [Early Help - Bury Council](#)

[Report a concern about an Adult](#)

[Think Family](#)

[What is Think Family?](#)

[Strengths Based Approaches](#)

[Think Family, think solutions that benefit everyone](#)

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Strengths Based Working

Professionals should always use a strengths-based approach, empowering individuals by focusing on their personal, social and community strengths. This positive focus on strengths helps build family resilience to tackle present and future challenges.

When supporting children, using the Family Safeguarding Model strengthens the 'Think Family' approach. It fosters strong relationships with parents, empowering them to meet their children's needs and achieve shared goals with practitioners.

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Collaborative Working

Collaborative working is crucial in safeguarding.

Professionals should work together, considering the entire family's needs by ensuring relevant professionals from both children's and adults' services attend key meetings so all professionals involved can work together in a coordinated way to ensure better outcomes for the whole family. This helps to triangulate information. **Professionals should share information with each other in line with local procedures, which set out what can be shared, with whom & why:**

[Bury Safeguarding Children Partnership - Information Sharing](#)
[Bury Safeguarding Adult Board - Information Sharing](#)

Think Family

[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)



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How to Think Family

Ask questions & be curious!

*Who else lives in your house? *Who helps? *Who is important in your life? *Is there anyone that you provide support or care for? *Is there a child in the family? (including stepchildren, children of partners or extended family). *Does any parent need support in their parenting role?

Consider the needs of the entire family and be responsive to those needs. Undertake relevant assessments for children and adults that explore all factors affecting household members, including frequent visitors, poverty, substance misuse, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental health issues.

1

What is Think Family?

A Think Family approach considers the **needs of all family members**, and not just the individual that a professional is working with or supporting.

Whether you work with children, young people, or adults it is essential that you consider the wellbeing and safety of everyone within their family context.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility!

2

Why Think Family?

A Think Family approach breaks down silos in existing services. It puts equal priority on the needs of adults and children and enables seamless collaboration among multiple agencies to support a family's plans.

Bury Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) and Bury Safeguarding Adult's Board (BSAB) promote and encourage a 'Think Family' approach. Local reviews have highlighted the **need for professionals to be aware of potential needs / risk to other family members** as part of a Think Family Approach.

3

Consider the Family

Families come in all shapes and sizes, and it is important to remember that **'family' can mean different things to different people**. Families can also include networks of friends and relatives, some of whom you might not expect to be classed as a family member. As well as considering the whole family unit, it is important to consider that all voices are heard, and their unique lived experience considered. Ask about family & record this. Completing a family tree can be helpful & may help to uncover 'hidden family members.'

Exploring who is in an individual's family, who is important to them, and anyone that is new in the family, can help to identify a person's support network and identify potential risks.