

# Working Together to Safeguard Children: Referral, Assessment & Investigation

September 2014



# Learning Objectives

- To understand the assessment of children who require safeguarding
- To be clear how to make a child protection referral
- To gain an understanding of the aims, purpose and process of S.47 Investigation
- To develop an awareness of own and others' responsibilities in S.47 process



# Principles Statement

- Each member of the group has a valid contribution which will be valued and listened to.
- Differences in views will be heard sensitively or questioned constructively.
- We ask the group to take responsibility to address oppressive behaviour and language sensitively and constructively
- Confidentiality: what is said in the room stays in the room



# Professional Responsibilities

- Prevention
- Recognition
- Investigation
- Assessment
- Planning/Decision making



# Why assess?

- What do we mean by assessment?
- What models do we use?
- What is the purpose of assessments?



# Assessment - aims

- Prediction
- Planning
- Change (capacity)
- Analysis (of risk)



# Principles of Assessment

- Are child centred
- Are rooted in child development
- Are holistic in their approach
- Involve partnership working with children and their families
- Built on strength as well as identifying difficulties
- Are inter-agency in their approach to assessment and the provision of services
- Assessment as a continuous process, not a single event
- Grounded in evidence based knowledge



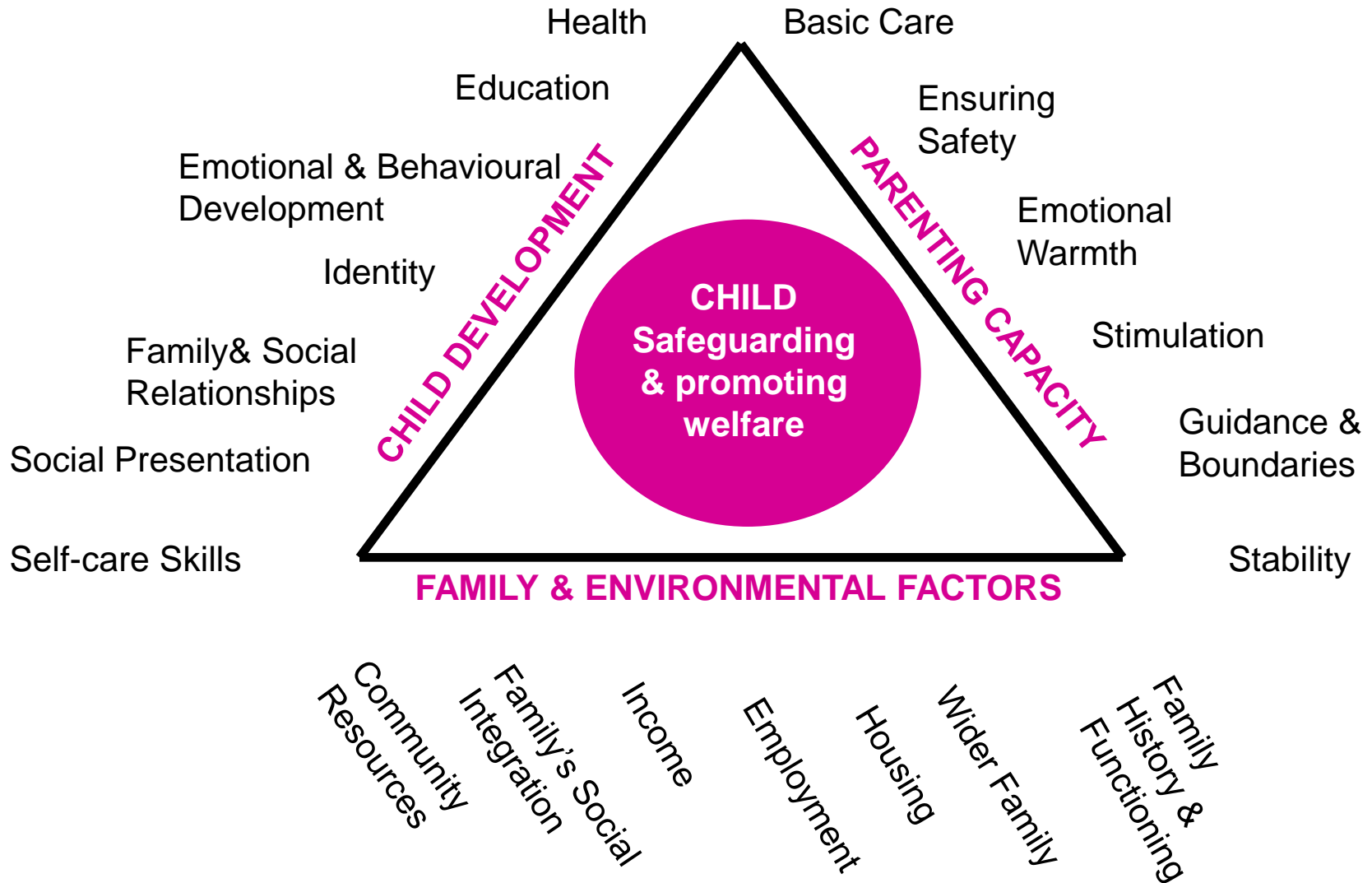
# Assessment Tools

- Family CAF
- The Framework for Assessment





# Assessment Framework



# Social Work Assessment Process

- Gather information
- Analyse information
- Formulate plans
- Apply intervention
- Evaluate & reassess



# Stages of assessing risk

- What is or has been happening?
- What might happen?
- How likely are these outcomes?
- How undesirable are they?
- The overall judgement of risk – a combination of the likelihood and the seriousness



# Signs of Safety

- Solution focussed
- Goal focussed
- Increased safety for the child is the goal
- Focus on strengths and risks



# Signs of Safety: Six Practice Principles

- Understand the position of each family member
- Find exceptions to the maltreatment
- Discover family strengths & resources
- Focus on goals
- Scale safety and progress
- Assess willingness, confidence & capacity



# Analysis

- What is most concerning about this case and why?
- How do you decide when neglect is severe enough to warrant a child protection referral?
- What would you need to be doing in response to this situation?
- What would you expect other agencies to be doing?



# What do you know about the referral process?

Discuss in pairs:

If you have made a referral:

- What was the response?
- What was the outcome?
- How did you feel about it?
- Was there anything you would have liked to have been done differently?

If you have never made a referral:

- Think about what you need to do.
- What information would you need to be able to make a referral?



# What do you know about the referral process?

- If you have received referrals think of an example of one that was well made. What were the elements that made it a “good” referral?
- Was there anything you would have liked to have be done differently by the referrer?





# Why Refer?

- Children have a right to be safe
- Adults have a responsibility to protect children
- Abuse and Neglect are damaging
- Child abuse and neglect continue because of secrecy and silence
- You only have a small piece of the jigsaw
- Children rarely lie about abuse
- An abuser may well abuse many other children who also have the right to protection



# Professional Response: Immediate Action (3.3)

- If a child is suffering from a serious injury, medical attention must be sought at A &E
- Children's Social Work & duty consultant paediatrician to be informed
- All other medicals arranged by Social Work and Police Safeguarding Investigations Unit



# Professional Response

- Listening to Child!
- Parental Consultation
- Professional consultation: Managers, Supervisors and Advisors
- Gather information held within service organisation
- Child protection referral to MASH



# Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

MASH

Telephone: 2950400

E-mail: [mash@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:mash@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



# Useful numbers

- Police Safeguarding Investigation Unit: 101
- Emergency Duty Service: 07699-391462



# Responding: responsibilities

- Verbal referrals must be followed up in writing in 24 hours, using an interagency form
- If no acknowledgement by Children's Social Work within 24 hours, referrer to contact them to establish current status of referral



# Recording: key principles

- Record your concerns as soon as possible
- Be factual and accurate
- Note down who you have shared information with and what decisions/action taken
- Date and sign record



# Investigation and time scales

CP concerns referred to MASH

MASH make a decision about course of action

Discussion with referring agencies/professionals, check records. Involving other agencies as necessary.

Strategy meeting/discussion

Decide if child is in need (section 17)





# ↓ Investigation cont: ↓

Section 47 investigation completed

Refer to other agencies

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Section 47 and (up to) 45 day assessment of need can be run alongside each other.

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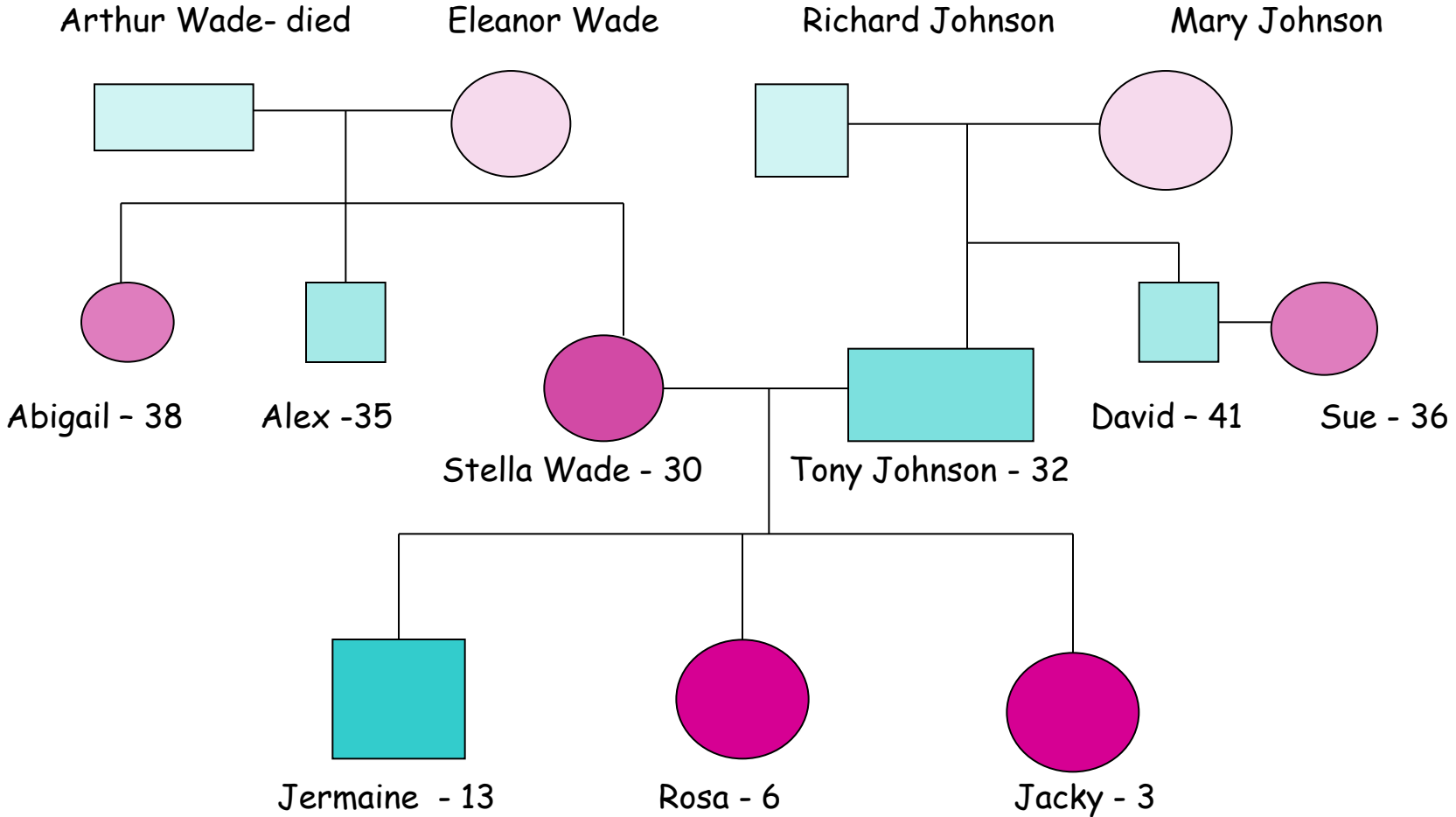
Initial CP Conference, 15 working days of strategy meeting

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Review CP Conference within 3 months of initial conference if made subject to CP Plan



# Mock Case Genogram





Brighton & Hove

**LSCB**

local **safeguarding**  
**children board**

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