

APPENDIX I

The Risk Sensible Approach

The Risk Sensible model sets out a way in which practitioners work with families to identify and manage need and risk at an appropriate level and ensure children and young people are safeguarded against significant harm. It challenges the culture of working in a risk averse way and provides a framework to address this that supports assessment, analysis and management of risk.

The model provides a common language amongst practitioners to talk about risk, introducing High Risk Indicators and Low Risk Factors as a core part of the model. The model focusses on the following areas;

Risk Assessment: The collection of information about children and families by clinical and actuarial means. This is completed through the process of enquiry, observation and communication with others.

Risk Analysis: Making sense of the data - the process of evaluating the impact of the child's exposure to the risk of harm and taking account of individual/family strengths and agency services that could reduce the likelihood of future harm.

Risk Management: The statement of SMART plans and the allocation of responsibilities for translating the outcomes of risk assessments and analysis into practical measures to reduce risk.

How the Risk Sensible Model Works

