

Critical issues/Harm Matrix explained on a page



Description

The harm matrix provides a clear structure to assist professionals to analyse harm that has occurred to children, caused by adult behaviour, or the harm that has happened to a child/teen when they are engaged in risky behaviour. The harm matrix magnifies the information that is recorded in the past harm category of the Signs of Safety three columns map. Click on pin for the template.



Structure

There are two steps to using the matrix:

- 1) The worker unpacks the information they have in relation to adult behaviours, the chronicity (frequency), severity, and the impact on the child in the dimensions of the matrix. The worker focuses on the first known incident, the worst incident they know of, and the most recent incident that has caused concern.
- 2) The worker creates questions to ask professionals and the family in each of the dimensions to explore the detail the adult's behaviours and the harm to the child.



Tips

- The worker should focus on the impact dimension of the matrix (since this is the most important aspect when thinking about future danger) and use the relationship questions to help people to think about differing perspectives.
- The matrix could be used where no past harm has occurred eg a homeless 15 year old who was in care previously is pregnant.



Examples

See examples of 'Critical issues/harm matrix'.