

The network explained on a page



Description

The wisdom of the oft quoted African saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child' is the foundation of childcare in traditional cultures and well recognised in developed countries. The aspiration that children's services should do everything possible to maintain a child's connections to their family and community is also enshrined in the child protection legislation.

A child who is connected to many people that care and are involved with them will almost always have a better life experience and be safer than an isolated child.



Structure/Process

- If parents don't already have a strong enough safety network around the children, work with them to get one without delay. You can use safety circles and the network finding matrix to help them identify people to ask.
- Accept the parent/s fears if they say that they are embarrassed /scared to tell people what has been happening in their family. We need to understand their worries to best protect children and parents as they engage in the safety planning process.
- Gently encourage and negotiate with the parents as children do best when they are surrounded by safe, stable and committed adults.