



**Bracknell Forest**  
SAFEGUARDING BOARD

# Professional Curiosity



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Professional curiosity is where a person explores and understands what is happening within a family or vulnerable adult rather than making assumptions or taking a single source of information and accepting it at face value. This has been described as the need to practice 'respectful uncertainty' and:

- don't be afraid to ask questions, and do so in an open way so they know you are asking to keep the child or adult safe, not to judge or criticise.
- understand the importance of triangulation of information and seek clarity from other professionals.
- consider what you see as well as what you're told. Are there any visual clues as to what life is like, or which don't match with the information you already hold?
- show a real willingness to engage with children, adults and their families or carers to understand lived experiences.
- challenging parents, carers, vulnerable adults (and colleagues) requires expertise, confidence, time and a considerable amount of emotional energy.
- Supervision sessions are an opportunity to explore cases and identify less obvious indicators of vulnerability or harm so seek advice anytime you are unsure.

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Rochdale Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Adults Board have produced a [video](#) that explains this concept.

