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# **Working more effectively with other agencies in child protection**

# Why Does it Matter?

Findings from serious case reviews tell us again and again that if we had worked more effectively as a multi-agency group of professionals we might have better understood the child's world and the risks within it.

If we had better understood the level of risk, we may have taken a different course of action, which may have resulted in a different outcome for the child.



**TUDOR ROSE**



**Q. Whose responsibility is it to chair a core group?**

**Q. Whose responsibility is it to minute a core group?**

# **Whose Responsibility is Effective Multi-Agency Working?**

Everyone's

## **What is the social Worker's Responsibility?**

You are the lead professional

“All animals are equal but some are more equal than others” (Animal Farm)

# What are the Barriers to Good Working Together?

- Time
- Location
- IT systems
- Lack of understanding of different roles, responsibilities and competing pressures
- Lack of understanding of the power of children's social care
- "Taking a child into care is the answer"
- Assumptions
- We all come at it from a different angle and we may have different agendas – not a bad thing

# How to Work Together More Effectively(1)

- Be clear about roles and responsibilities
- No acronyms
- No jargon
- Play to your strengths. Be honest about your strengths and weaknesses
- Be honest generally
- Enquire and sometimes challenge
- All relevant professionals need to know everything

# How to Work More Effectively(2)

- Just as with families, “attendance” is very different from “engagement”- are all the professionals actively involved?
- Work closely together so the family cannot play you off against each other
- Forget the “Them and us”
- Use a multi-agency chronology

# What Does Good Working Together Look Like?



And Finally(1), remember all that good working together is is:

**Things get better for the Child ↘**

So ask yourselves:

1. What has got better for the child?
2. What has got worse for the child?
3. What has stayed the same for the child and is that good, or bad?



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