

Identifying the Lead Worker

The Lead Worker should be identified in consultation with the family. The decision can be made by considering the following factors:

- **Positive** working relationship with the family
- **Involved** in a significant piece of work with the family
- **Choice** of the family

However, it is also recognised there may be good reasons why the Lead Worker role may be undertaken by a practitioner who is not the first choice of the family. For example, issues such as availability of the practitioner may need to be considered.

It is suggested that there is some discussion between those practitioners invited to the Team around the Child meeting before the meeting to understand who may be able to undertake the Lead Worker role. Often it will be very clear who is best placed to be the Lead Worker and the family may have already expressed a view as to who they would want.

It is expected that agencies will be supportive of and co-operate with practitioners who undertake the Lead Worker role and the engagement of services in this will be monitored to ensure shared participation.

The choice of the Lead Worker should be agreed taking into account the views of the child and family, the kind of support that the child needs, the complexity of the plan, previous contact and/or relationship with the child or family and if there are statutory responsibilities.

Where a child is:

- Looked After
- or their name is on the Child Protection Register
- or they have a Child in Need Plan

The Lead Worker will always be a social worker.