

## MARF TOP TIPS



### SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have immediate concerns about a child's safety, contact 999.

If you have safeguarding concerns which may need a quick response, please make a telephone referral and complete the referral form as soon as possible following this.



### TIME TO TALK

A core principle of SoS is working relationships are at the heart of practice, which includes being honest and open with families. It is good practice to discuss your concerns with the parent or carer (or the child if appropriate) and get their agreement for the referral, unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm.



### FACT OR OPINION

Make it clear what information is factual and what is your opinion.



### TIME TO THINK

The form is designed to slow down your thinking to consider what are you worried about, what is working well and then your scaling of the situation.



### RELEVANT INFORMATION

You may know a lot about a family, but please only include relevant information to your worry, rather than everything you know about a family.

### ACCURATE INFORMATION

Your referral information is very important and valuable. Good quality referrals include accurate and relevant information which is specific around the worries and strengths. This helps with the decision making around keeping children safe and identifying what needs to happen next.



### IDENTIFYING SUPPORT

The referral format will help determine the next steps a lot quicker and you may identify support yourself as you think through the issues.

### PREPARATION

This is a new way of working so initially it may take a little longer to complete the form, however the prompts in the work will be useful in helping the social worker/early help worker prepare the best questions to ask families, to gather the information needed to determine what needs to happen next.



### WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

Indicating that past support has been in place will not prevent a referral being considered.

However, support that has worked well in the past for a family will always be considered.

