### Rethink Formulation - Questions you can ask when formulating

#### Precipitating Factors

### **Lead question:**

- What happens/has happened that triggers the issues?
- Do we know what led to this/these event(s) / presenting issue(s)?
- What happens/happened before we see/saw the presenting issue?

**Follow-up questions:** (Listen for 'when' statements)

- Can you talk me through what happens step by step?
- Is that (behaviour, thought, feeling, etc.) something we see before the presenting issue?
- What's recently changed / what's been different lately?
- Is that something we see/saw before the presenting issue?
- Do we know what X was thinking before the issue?
- Do we know what X was feeling before the issue?
- So, what happened before that?
- Was that a one off event, or do we see a pattern?
- How does that person impact on the presenting issue?

#### **Predisposing Factors**

### Lead question:

- What do we know about the family's history / background?
- What vulnerabilities, challenges and experiences does this person/family have?
- What challenges/experiences are they living with?
- Follow-up questions:
- Do we know of any ACEs that (person) may have had?
- What's their previous experience of services been like?
- How does that (historic/current challenge/info) impact now?
- Is that something that can change?
- How do we know this is affecting family/people/issues currently?
- Do we have any evidence that this is influencing the current issues?

#### **Protective Factors**

### Lead question:

- What positives and strengths are there that are protective?
- What strengths are there in and around the family that we could utilise and build on?

### Follow-up questions:

- What do we see that's a strength or a positive?
- Is there anyone in or around that family that's supportive?
- What do we see mum/dad/etc. doing that's protective?
- What does the family do well?
- What's going well for this family at the moment?
- Have we seen positive changes/improvements before?
- How did the family maintain/sustain things in the past?
- How does that person support the child/family?
- How is that person/relationship/skill/experience protective?
- How do we know that is / they are protective?
- What is it about (... the positive/strength identified) that is protective?

# **Predicting Factors**

### Lead question:

- What is likely to happen if the presenting issues continue?
- What future risks relate to the presenting issues?
- What could happen if the presenting issue doesn't change? **Follow-up questions:**
- What could (a, b, c) lead to if it remains unaddressed?
- What are the potential consequences/outcomes?
- How might the presenting issues impact on future outcomes/relationships/development/well-being/etc.?

If it's difficult to link a stated prediction to the presenting issue ask them...

- Can you explain where that prediction comes from?
- What presenting issue is that prediction linked to?
- Can you explain how you've arrived at that prediction?

### **Presenting Issues**

### Lead question:

- What is happening right now that is causing concern? **Follow-up questions:**
- Can you describe the issue to me in detail?
- Tell us what that looks and sounds like? Say what you see?
- What are the factual and observable events/results?
- How often is this happening? When did it start?
- Who is being affected by this issue?
- Where do we see this happening? Any other settings?
- •So, what safeguarding issues is that leading to / does that lead to?

If the answer is in the 'future tense' (predicting) or is an 'opinion' ask...

- So, what is happening now that is leading you to believe that could happen?
- How do we know that is impacting on the child/ren, how are they presenting?
- How do you know this? What observable evidence is there?

# Perpetuating Factors

# Lead question:

- What is currently maintaining the presenting issues?
- What is keeping these issues going?
- What could be acting as a barrier to progress with the issues?

# Follow-up questions:

- How do we know that's keeping things going?
- Could that be something that gets in the way of progress/engagement/alignment?
- What evidence do we have for that perpetuating things?
- Can you explain how that keeps the presenting issues going?
- What's our relationship with the family like?
- How do people/services respond to the presenting issue?
- Is there any way that services could be a barrier to progress?
- How would the family describe that way of working?
- Do we fully understand that? Do we have missing information?
- Would the family see this in the same way as you do?
- Do the family share your concerns/presenting issues?
- Do we know what the family's views/goals are?