

3. QUESTIONS FOR YOU, THE PROFESSIONAL

Interviewee's Names: _____

Date of interview: _____

Your name: _____

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- Is there a risk of suicide – from anybody?

- Is there a risk of self harm – from anybody?

- Is there anybody who is significantly vulnerable in any way?

- Is there a risk of sexual assault – from anybody?

- Is there a risk of violence – from anybody?

- Is there evidence of any eating problem? Either in terms of faltering growth (aka failure to thrive) and eating disorders which are prevalent in adolescence such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

- Is there evidence of physical neglect? Especially in not being cared for physically by the relevant adult.

- Is there evidence of physical/sexual or emotional abuse? E.g. by the relevant adult. Note: the manner of adult to child interactions in interview is an unreliable guide to out-of-interview behaviour.

- Is there evidence of vulnerability? Especially vulnerability to being bullied by peers. 'Oddities' in appearance or habit can make children especially vulnerable.

- Is the child unpopular at school? Marked unpopularity may result in significant emotional and behavioural problems.

- Is there evidence of self-harm (approx 1 in 10 adolescents self harms)? E.g. by cutting.

- Is there a risk of absconding? E.g. is their current situation so unrewarding they may wish to go elsewhere?

- Is it difficult or impossible to engage with the young person? Failure to engage with helpers exacerbates all other risks.

- Is there any evidence of substance misuse Including glue and aerosol sniffing, and especially the use of cannabis at this age (which sometimes has implications for later mental health)?

- Is there any evidence of highly sexualised behaviour, which may lead to a sexual assault, thereby undermining the young person and others?

- Is there evidence of involvement in criminality, including a criminal peer group? E.g., stealing mobiles, criminal damage, violence.

- Are there any factors 'in the pipe-line' that may suddenly increase the risk?

- What is the most helpful thing I can now do?

Note for the professional:

You should now form a risk management plan if necessary. That is, if you have identified any risks, to take whatever action is required to ensure as far as possible that those risks do not come to pass.