

Contribution to the Summer Seminar
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Child Safeguarding and Protection Plans

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Three questions

And I've been asked to bring in
theory and legislation ... plus some
examples

Why is there an emphasis on
planning in child safeguarding and
protection?

What do such plans tend to contain?

What is the current thinking about
introducing innovation and change?

Why is there an emphasis on planning in child safeguarding and protection?

The whole question of child safeguarding and protection can be considered to be a 'wicked problems', a term coined by Horst Rittel and Melvin Webber in 1973)

'Wicked problems' can be recognised by some of the following challenges:

- There are often no clear definitions
- It is not clear when or how (or even 'if') the 'problem' comes to an 'end'
- Plans are not 'either-or'; rather, they are 'both-and'
- Plans and sub-plans can be difficult to 'undo'
- Presenting problems can be symptomatic of other problems.
- Getting things wrong can have major consequences

Other 'wicked problems' include: climate change, healthcare, poverty ...

What do they tend to contain?

- There are differences between a child safety plan and a child protection plan (although there are often overlaps between the two)
 - **Child safety plans** often contain practical tips for the child to help them stay safe, whereas **child protection plans** usually contain more detailed actions, including what relevant key agencies and organisations will be doing – ‘it takes a village to *protect* a child’
- Child protection safety plans derive conceptually from various theoretical ideas including:
 - complexity theory
 - systemic and ecological frameworks
 - contextual safeguarding principles
 - and attachment- and trauma-aware practice.

Child Safety
Plans tend to
include headings
such as ... (they
will vary
depending on
age etc.)

- When might I need to use this plan ...?
- I can then contact the following trusted people ...
- To help with my emotions I might try to ...
- To stay safe where I am, I can ...
- If I need to contact someone 'official', I can call/message ...
- If I still feel unsafe, I can do the following ...

Child Protection Plans
tend to include details
about ...

What is likely to cause harm to the child/young person

How they can be protected from these harms

What each agency has agreed to do, especially children's services

What is expected of parents/carers and what support they will be given

What is the current thinking and research about introducing innovation and change?

- Recent Developments in Attachment for Practice
- Mentalisation
- Relationship-based Practice
- Trauma-informed Practice
- Child Development (for non-psychologists)
- Contemporary research in decision-making in children and families work
- Towards more analytic recording
- Finding and Using Research
- Child Neglect
- Leadership and Management
- Contemporary Research on Supervision
- Professional Curiosity
- Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Moral Injury

