

New Partners Joining Households



Background

Parents/carers in newly formed relationships may quickly involve new partners into their home and subsequently into caring roles for their children. It is important that we are assured that new partners do not pose a risk to them or their children.

Professionals should ensure that they fully explore what the parent/carer knows about their new partner and their past. Professionals should always be inquisitive when a new or unexplained adult is in the home.

Where can I find further information?

- [Moving in with a new partner article](#)
- [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme factsheet](#)
- [Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme factsheet](#)
- [Citizens Advice website](#)
- [Warwickshire County Council website](#)

Why is it important?

In some unfortunate cases children/young people have been seriously harmed by new partners. It is common in such cases that these individuals have a history of abusive behaviour.

What should I do if I have concerns?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering ANY form of neglect, abuse or cruelty, contact the C&F Front Door immediately on:

- 01926 414144
- Out of hours: 01926 886922
- If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 999

What to look out for?

- The parent/carer may mention the child's birth father or a new partner. Use professional curiosity to find out more.
- Identify 'significant' people in the child's life, such as partners (current and 'estranged')
- Clarify members of the household and remember some people may use nicknames, or be given false status, for example, 'uncle'.

What else should I consider?

Recent safeguarding reviews tell us that as well as considering any potential risks to children, professionals should also be mindful of being overly optimistic where new partners join households, and they contribute to childcare (babysitting etc). The help is often viewed as positively by professionals, however it can sometimes mask how well the parent is coping where there have been concerns raised previously around neglect and the parent has a history of mental and physical health problems.

What can Professionals do?

- Think the Unthinkable
- Share information with other agencies
- Explain the potential risks and signpost additional support, such as [Sarah's Law](#) and [Clare's Law](#)
- Listen to the voice of the child/young person and where possible speak to them alone
- Be Professionally Curious

Minute briefing

