

Case Studies/Activities

Chapter 28: Generic issues in practice contexts

Commentary

In this exercise there are no 'right' answers, although if you undertake the activity with a group of others you may identify commonalities in your views. We would generally anticipate that the 4-month-old baby is at most risk because of his/her young age and the extreme physical abuse inflicted. However, respondents second and third choices could be more mixed. Some of the aspects that might come out in your discussions may relate to age, type of risk presented and ability of the child or young person to access or draw on forms of support.

Aspects that you may want to consider further include, how you perceive safeguarding where the presenting issue is physical harm as opposed to emotional harm (are there any differences and, if so, why?); scenarios where you perceive there is very little or no vulnerability/ safeguarding concerns (why is that the case?) and what aspects of social work values are highlighted in these scenarios.

Of course, for all of these scenarios more information would be required through the processes of assessment and intervention. However, these kinds of snapshot exercises can do much to hone your awareness of how you perceive different situations and what key information you would be looking for.