

### What is an Analysis?

Analysis is the process by which we come to understand something and its meaning. In social work this includes understanding its meaning to the child, to the parents, and to the wider family system.

Analysis in social work is not an exact science but we use a range of knowledge and skills, including a relational understanding of families, alongside the capacity to think critically and reflectively. A good **analysis** makes clear the links between the information that is gathered and the decisions made about what happens next for the child and family.

### Why do an Analysis?

The systematic gathering of **information** from a number of sources plus **analysis** equals **assessment**.

An assessment isn't an assessment without an **analysis** and a good assessment is at the heart of good practice.

There is much evidence available that highlights the importance of assessments and shortcomings in assessments have been a consistent feature in many cases of severe injury or child death (Rose and Barnes, 2008). The quality of assessments – the information and its **analysis** - is therefore really important for getting it right for children and families.

### How to produce an Analysis

The **analysis** is making sense of the information you have gathered from a number of different sources including observation. You will use your knowledge obtained from experience, your knowledge through training and reading to reflect critically on what you have seen and heard. Then record your findings in the analysis box on the assessment episode on Frameworki. There are many different tools that can be used to help you, particularly if the issues are complex. See Practice Matters - Analysis Tools & Tips.

As a minimum always consider and record: What are you/the family worried about (risks); What is the impact of these risks/behaviours on the child and family. What is working well to address these worries (strengths); What needs to happen next (to address the risks, build the strengths, address the needs), What would the family say about how you could support and assist them best.

### Action Required

**Practitioners** - all assessments will have a completed analysis section prior to the development of a plan or the decision for no further action or closure.

**Service Managers** - no assessment must be signed off that has an incomplete analysis section.