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Who do we keep records for?
“It was like reading my diary but it was written by other people.”

'Carol'
Getting it Right for Every Child

- Named Person
- Lead Professional
- Network of Support
Best Start in Life: Ready to Succeed
“Procedures and guidance cannot in themselves protect children; a competent, skilled and confident workforce, together with a vigilant public, can... Guidance enables managers and practitioners to develop a shared understanding of their common objective – to support and protect children, particularly those who are most vulnerable” (para 1)
Risk Indicators

- Child placing themselves at risk
- Child exploitation
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Parental drug misuse
- Parental alcohol misuse
- Non engaging family
- Parental mental health problems
- Other concern(s)
“Official Procedures and assessment frameworks are essential elements in practice, but they need to be integrated with the professional’s reasoning skills, emotional intelligence, and understanding of human nature and culture to lead to good quality work.”

Munro (2007) Introduction to Child Protection
http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/4402/1/Introduction_to_Child_Protection_(LSERO).pdf
What are the challenges?

- Recognising concerns – what should I record?
- Sharing concerns – what can I tell others?
- Making sense of concerns – what if I get it wrong?

“There is no record...”
How many legs does this elephant have?
“Too often the focus on the child was lost; adequate steps were not taken to establish the wishes and feelings of children and young people, and their voice was not sufficiently heard.”

Ofsted (2010) Learning Lessons from Serious Case Reviews, p6
Sharing concerns

NOTICE
LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA LA
I'M NOT LISTENING!

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Sharing concerns

“The failures were not so much in sharing information but managing information”

Parton (2004) *From Maria Colwell to Victoria Climbie*
Making sense of concerns

“Gathering together large amounts of information is not an assessment. Sharing it does not constitute a child protection plan.”

Eilean Siar inquiry (2005) para 234
“Our aims are pretty well the same. The intention is to protect the child. There is a willingness to do one’s job.”

“I am convinced that the answer lies in doing relatively straightforward things well.”

Lord Laming
Victoria Climbie Inquiry