## **Four Key Questions**

During an assessment four key questions are asked of the child and their family and anyone who cares for the child. The assessment will also include professionals working with the child, such as teachers, nurses, doctors, community workers and police:

1. What is working well in the family?
2. What are we worried about for the child in their family?
3. How safe and well is the child on a scale from 0 to 10?

(0 meaning the child is in danger, 10 meaning the child is safe/ well-being assured)

1. What needs to happen to help the child be safe in the future / well-being improved?

## **Consider the following when completing the 3 columns:**

## **Safety / Strengths statements**

* What are the strengths of this family
  + Assets, resources capacities within family, individual / community
  + Who can be there now to help?
  + Who can help you to understand?
* What safety currently exists
  + Strengths demonstrated as protection over time
  + Pattern/history of exceptions
  + Family networks, who does what to help?

## **Danger and Harm Statements**

* What are you worried will happen to these children in the care of this family if nothing changes?
* Need to be based on past harm and not on catastrophic thinking
* Danger harm statements need to be in simple straightforward language that make sense to family without minimising the seriousness
* Safety scale

0 = the danger / harm we predict is inevitable, 10 = there is sufficient safety and wellbeing there

## **Safety and Wellbeing goals**

* What would improved wellbeing and more safety today look like?

Or, maybe

* What would you need to see to know that things are heading in the right direction