



One Minute Guide - Appreciative Inquiry

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

The Kirkles Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP) is now using Appreciative Inquiry as one of its approaches for analysing and understanding multi-agency safeguarding practice. Appreciative Inquiry will help us understand, define and celebrate good multi-agency safeguarding practice in Kirkles. The approach is well established and already used in health and social care setting around the country.

What are the key features of Appreciative Inquiry?

Appreciative Inquiry looks at what is good, what works and what we'd like to do more of. This is different to traditional approaches of reviewing practice where the focus is often on what went wrong and what should be done differently. As an approach, Appreciative Inquiry does not apportion blame; instead it seeks to understand what has happened, within a framework that is participative, collaborative, embraces professional curiosity and challenge, and focuses on what works well and what is valued.

How is learning shared?

The KSCP Unit produces a report that sets out the findings from the activity including what went well, what didn't go so well, what we're good at and what do we feel we can improve on. This is then compiled into a next steps section which articulates the actions for agencies to complete.

The KSCP are always exploring how they can build on their approach to supporting audits and quality assurance activity within individual agencies, teams, practitioners and supervising staff.

Key contacts for more information

If you'd like to discuss how appreciative Inquiry can support practice development in your area of work, or to find out more, please contact Philip Cross, Safeguarding Effectiveness Lead at the KSCP, email: Philip.cross@kirkles.gov.uk or tel: 01484225450.

As Kirkles develops and reviews the approach to Appreciative Inquiry, more information will become available on the KSCP website. In the meantime, you can find more information from the IRISS webpage

[– forming new futures through appreciative inquiry](#)