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Effective working together depends on an open culture and honest relationships between agencies, where different professional perspectives are welcomed and given serious consideration.

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Professional challenge is a fundamental professional responsibility. All agencies and services should promote a culture which encourages constructive challenge within and between them.

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Please find the link to the Safeguarding Partnership's Protocol for Escalation and Resolution Conversations:
<https://www.olscb.org/professionals/policies/>

03

Challenge is an integral part of safeguarding and fundamental to professional curiosity and inquisitive practice.



Challenge can be uncomfortable, however respectful challenge can stimulate and motivate others. Key learning from Serious Case Reviews says that professionals wished they had challenged more as they reflected on practice.

Disagreements may arise from the following:

- Response to a referral
- Decisions to close a case
- Decisions to convene a conference
- The need for immediate action

If disagreements occur, they need to be openly acknowledged and addressed.

If resolution cannot be achieved this needs to be escalated in a timely manner.

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