

Questions for the Strengths Column of the Map

- “What would mom/dad say their best attributes are/what do they do well as parents?”
- “What would the mom say she likes most about: her child, about herself as a mom, time she spends with her child?”
- “What would the children say they like about their parents?”
- “Tell me about times when the kids are looked after well?” where they have been safe enough?
- What would mom say are the biggest problems she has faced and dealt with in her life? How would she say she did this?
- Exception Questions: (remember this has to be in relation to the worry – so these are just suggestions, you wouldn’t ask them if you weren’t worry about that issue)
- “When has mom attended to the child’s health needs?”
- “Has there been a time when Dad has stopped himself getting angry and rather than hitting someone, he has done something different?”
- “When the house is messy/clutter/full of garbage etc., how do they manage to keep the child reasonably healthy and clean? And away from the dirty stuff and garbage, animal feces etc.?”
- “Has there ever been a time when one of the parents have acknowledged even a little bit that the violence affects the children?”
- “If you asked the mom would she be able to describe a time when she told the boyfriend she won’t use and party with him and instead focused on making sure the baby was okay?”
- **Using SF circular or relationship questions where you ask one person about the perspective of another.**
- “What would the parents say is positive about the children?”
- “What would dad say are the best aspects of mom as a mother?”
- “Have you asked the child whether there are times when the mother has been able to stop the boyfriend from taking over control of everything?”
- “Who would the child say they feel safest with in their extended family?”

As you grow the list of positives, relate them back to the significance of the child and increasing their safety/wellbeing

“ How does this make the situation better for the child?”

“How does this help you/us/the family make the child safer in relation to the danger?”

“How does the therapist/parenting course/in home support, help make things better for the child?”

Once a worker has asked an articulate scaling question and received some numbers – there is an opportunity for more questions off the scale:

What are the parents doing that brings your number that high? (anything over 0)

What else leads you to rate this as high as a 4

What's better between now and when the situation was previously at a 1?

For me your rating is lower than I expected given what we've written up on the strengths column, is there anything that we have missed in the worries or am I missing something?

And then of course relationship questions to get other's perspectives:

"Where would the principal, grandma, auntie, rate the current situation on the safety scale?"

"Where would the mother/father/child rate the current situation on the safety scale."

"How were you able to create a relationship with this mom where she is able to speak so openly about her worries with you?"