'Five R' Approach to Safeguarding Children

Recognise	Respond	Record	Refer	Review
Be alert to signs of risk	Take timely and proportionate action	Keep clear and accurate records	Take action to get support	Follow up and reflect
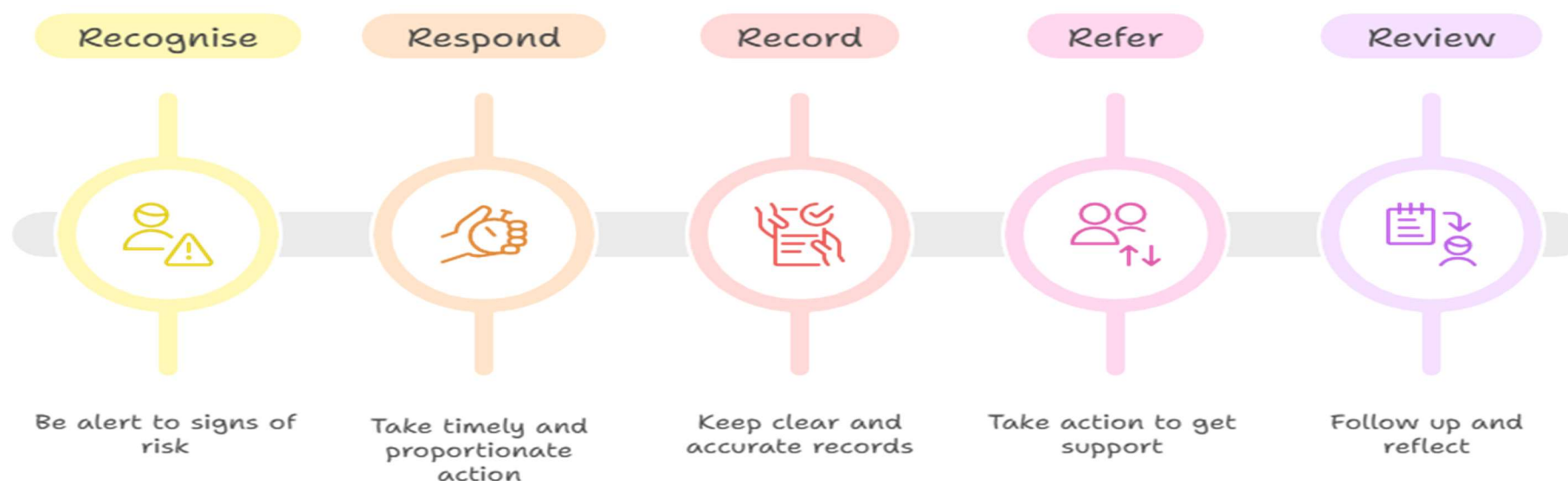
Recognise	Respond	Record	Refer	Review
• Be familiar with the signs and indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. • Consider the child's lived experience and any patterns in their history. • Consider whether you have all the relevant information available. • Reflect on your level of concern and where this sits within the Kent Support Levels Guidance. Ask yourself: ***What is making me feel uncomfortable or concerned?***	• Identify what immediate steps are needed to ensure the child's safety. • Seek advice from your safeguarding lead. • Speak to the child in calm, age-appropriate, and non-leading way. • Speak to parents/carers where appropriate, including about consent for referrals. Ask yourself: ***What does the child need from me right now?***	• Record what was seen, heard, or disclosed - use the child's own words where possible. • Include dates, times, and who was present. • Note what action you took or plan to take. • Ensure records are accessible to the appropriate staff and stored securely. • Keep records updated with outcomes and follow-up actions. Ask yourself: ***Would this make sense to someone reading it in six months' time?***	• Consider whether a referral to Early Help or Children's Social Care is needed. • Review the SLG to guide your decision-making. • Make a Request for Support via the portal. • Make referrals to other services as appropriate. Ask yourself: ***Have I done everything I can to ensure this child is safe?***	• Ensure you receive confirmation and outcomes from any referrals made. • Follow up if no response is received within expected timeframes. • Record outcomes and any further actions taken. • Reflect on the effectiveness of your response and whether further support is needed. • Escalate if you believe the response is not proportionate to the risk. Ask yourself: ***Has the situation improved for the child? What else might be needed?***

Kent Safeguarding Children multi-agency partnership