



### **Critical thinking, professional judgement and decision making -**

develop competence and confidence in applying critical thinking, analysis, research, and best practice to inform professional judgement and decision making in all areas of practice including assessment and review.

**Focus**      **3.2** Decision making.

### **Mandatory learning activity**

Reflect on the process of gathering information when undertaking an assessment. Consider what you found helpful in the process of gathering information and how you decided what was relevant to the assessment.

Describe how a piece of research helped to inform your decision making in a practice situation.

Discuss with a supervisor a decision making process from your practice. Identify the skills you used when communicating the decision and rationale with individuals, families, carers and professionals. Reflect on areas you found difficult and identify actions you can take to improve your practice confidence.

Consider a significant case review that has been undertaken in children or adult services. Reflect on the use of professional judgement and decision making. Identify actions you can take to incorporate learning from the review, to develop your professional judgement and decision making capabilities.

Please note, this mandatory learning activity relates most closely to core learning element 3: critical thinking, professional judgement and decision making but all core learning elements are interconnected and should be considered holistically.

Please read [Core learning elements for social workers: NQSW descriptors and mandatory learning activity 2024](#) for full detail on how to meet the NQSW CPL requirements.