

Signs of Safety

Briefing for Corporate Parenting Board

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What is Signs of Safety ?

- Way of working (what to do, how & when) an approach
- Learning model
- Evidence and strength based approach
- Clear principles– working relationships, appreciative enquiry, practice led evidence
- Requires a shift in how we practice and think about practice

Strength based practice in Middlesbrough

- Compliments our use of Restorative practice
- Supports our development of Family group Conferencing (FGC)
- Effective implementation involves all of us
 - Corporate parents


3 Core Principles

- 1. Working relationships are paramount:** to enable honest and respectful discussions of concerns and worries
- 2. Thinking critically:** to minimise error a culture of shared reflective practice and a willingness to admit you may be wrong is needed
- 3. Landing grand aspirations in everyday practice:**
Command and control social work V what on the ground good practice with complex and challenging cases looks, and lives like

Practice and thinking

- Strengthens relationships with parents, children & young people where there are safeguarding concerns
- Balances past harms & future danger /worries alongside indicators of strength and safety
- At the heart of SOS is a risk assessment and case planning framework – the map
- Introduces other helpful tools – Three Houses, Scaling questions, words & picture explanations

'Signs of Safety Map and Analysis Categories

What are we worried about	What's working well	What needs to happen?
<p>Harm</p> <p>Complicating Factors</p> <p>DANGER STATEMENTS</p>	<p>Safety</p> <p>Strengths</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>SAFETY GOALS</p>
<p>On a scale of 0 -10 where 10 means everyone knows the children are safe enough to close the case and zero means things are so bad for the children they are not safe enough to remain at home , where do we rate this situation ? If there are different views scale these on the continuum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>		

Signs of 'something'

Assessment Type	What Are We Worried About?			What's Working Well?		What Needs To Happen?	
	Past	Future	Complicating Factors	Existing Strengths	Existing Solutions	Goals	Next Steps
Signs of Safety <i>Child Protection</i>	Harm	Danger	Complicating Factors	Existing Strengths	Existing Safety	Safety Goals	Next Steps
Signs of Wellbeing <i>Early Help</i>	Wellbeing Concerns (past)	Critical Worries (future)	Complicating Factors	Existing Strengths	Existing Wellbeing	Wellbeing Goals	Next Steps
Signs of Success <i>LAC</i>	Worrying Behaviour (past)	Critical Worries (future)	Complicating Factors	Existing Strengths	Existing Success	Success Goals	Next Steps

What do we want to achieve

- Best outcomes for our children, young people and families
- We will do our best to keep children in their own families/family networks if it's safe and possible to do so.
- Put children's voices/stories at the heart
- We will change the way we think and practice to help us achieve these things
- Build a learning culture that drives continuous improvements and excellent practice

How we will implement SOS



Learning & leadership Trajectory

- Start of 2 year process – 5 year commitment to implementation activity
- Partner briefings commenced in August
- Focus groups to evaluate progress – workforce, partners, children, young people and families
- Targeted practice learning- Front Door/Conferencing and Review meetings /QA
- Audit the quality of our practice to help us understand impact

Rationale – evidence base

- Improved, more focused relationships with families
- Families feel more empowered, and are more able to understand and address the concerns of professionals
- Practitioners are clearer on what the risks are, and what is expected of all parties, resulting in better decision making for families
- Improved working between practitioners
- Reduction in the number of children brought into care
- Reduction in the time cases are open
- Increased job satisfaction of the social work workforce



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