

Signs of Safety newsletter

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Training



March has been a busy month in terms of training. All scheduled training dates are now full, however further dates will be arranged to take place between now and the end of the year. Future dates will be shared once agreed.

Workshops have been arranged for professionals outside of Children's Services to attend to find out more about Signs of Safety (dates were published in the previous newsletter).

Team meetings

As an alternative to workshops, managers from any agency can request a Signs of Safety briefing (delivered by the Principal Social Worker) at their team meeting.

Signs of Safety briefing



A Signs of Safety briefing has been drafted - please contact me if you would like a copy.

Signs of Safety in practice

I am very pleased and excited to inform you that at a recent signs of practice session, social care staff and family first practitioners shared how they are using the Signs of Safety approach in practice. Many examples were given and in particular parents have fed back that they felt they were listened to. At one meeting, a head teacher stated it was the best meeting he had been to.

Feedback



Holly Seeger, Independent Reviewing Officer has used Signs of Safety in a Children Looked After review. The approach made the meeting more interactive and everyone was quite clear about the family's strengths, what we are worried about and what needed to happen.

Ann Clarkson, Head of Service for Children Looked After and Care Leavers has used the Signs of Safety group supervision with staff to agree next steps for a child, feedback again was that the approach carefully consider the family's strengths as well as risks.

Other feedback from the Signs of Safety training includes:

The Signs of Safety model fits well with the strengths based approach to working with adults as a whole, including safeguarding adults. The types of questions practitioners are trained to ask in terms of what is working well, what are you worried about, what needs to happen can be asked of the adult at risk, professionals who are supporting the adult and also their family members.

I think that a lot of the model fits nicely with making safeguarding personal in terms of the adult being central to the enquiry and it being less process led. There will be some safeguarding concerns that would benefit from the network meeting in terms of identifying a network of safe people who can help manage risk once the local authority close their involvement.

The model also would be great in terms of group supervisions and how we were trained to assist the practitioner with the case if they are stuck or want to reflect upon what has happened and what needs to happen next. Sharing our worry or danger statements and scale of risk to the worker so they can decide what to do next. In 1:1 supervisions, using the what is working well, what are you worried about, what needs to happen questions are useful when reflecting upon cases.

Our trainer Vanessa (who was amazing) said that Aberystwyth use it with their adults. She didn't say in what capacity but she suggested we pick up the phone and ask to visit!

Nicola Yu

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