

# Signs of Safety newsletter

February 2021

## Group Supervision

Group Supervision can be used by any group of staff in any agency and is a really useful way of thinking through a problem together. Staff in the SQUA have started doing group supervision once a month now and are finding it really beneficial. Some of the comments have been:

I found today's group supervision very helpful. It gave me some ideas on how I can work with families using a Signs of Safety approach (something that I am struggling with if I am being honest) especially around danger statements, safety goals and scaling questions. I think the more I do this the better I will get especially as we work towards embedding this into CLA practice.

It was so helpful. Really helps to have an opportunity to see how we can apply the model practically in our roles to contribute to Quality and improvement. And great to have a chance to practice and get better at this, which I feel I really need.

Please see the group supervision guidance attached – if you don't feel confident to run the session yourself, why not ask Vicki Caplin to facilitate a session for you?

## Training

The next two multi-agency 2 day Introduction to Signs of Safety courses will be on **22nd-25th Feb** and **16th-19th March (9.30am-12.30pm)**. The training will be delivered by licenced Signs of Safety trainer Kerry Yendall – and expectations are high!

Places can be booked via the KSCP Training Booking Portal:  
<https://kscbtraining.knowsley.gov.uk>

## Agency Briefings

Recent briefings have been undertaken with some CRC & Probation Staff and some of our Residential Staff. Feedback was really positive and staff left excited to see how they could implement it within their roles:

A great way forward in how social work identifies issues/ need and records them with the family/young person - whom I am confident will understand the process and be encouraged to own it.

10/10 the signs of safety training was excellent, all of it was helpful.

I think it is a very good model and user friendly.

Clear delivery, clear objectives and easy to understand, with an awareness of Probation objectives / assessments often differing in approach.

If you feel that your team would benefit from a bespoke briefing about what Signs of Safety is and how it can be used in your setting please contact Vicki Caplin and she will be able to plan and deliver a session that is relevant for your team.

# What's working well?

One of our child protection Social Workers, Katie is using Signs of Safety with a toddler and her family. The concerns are around her parents using drugs and not being able to look after her safely.

Katie supported the family to have a few **Family Network Meetings** and they came up with a **safety plan**; family members would check in each day. Sadly, the parental drug use increased. Another **Family Network Meeting** was held and it was agreed that family members would stay overnight to keep the little girl safe. It was recognised that this was a not a realistic long term plan.

Two family members (one maternal and one paternal) both applied to the Court for a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and a **new safety plan** was agreed; maternal family member cares for the little girl for half the week and the paternal family member cares for her the other half of the week. She sees her parents during the day. Part of the safety plan is that family decide if Mum and Dad are able to safely see their daughter (because of drug use the previous night). There have been times when family have had to say no to parents and this has been accepted with no issues.

During the initial court hearing for the SGO, the Judge considered an Interim Care Order but decided against this because there was a realistic **safety plan** in place that was working.

**This little girl has not had to become looked after as a direct result of using Signs of Safety; specifically the Family Network Meetings and Safety Plans.**

Well done Katie and thank you for sharing!

## What needs to happen next?

We would love to share more examples of what's working well – please send examples of when using Signs of Safety has helped a family or you have used group supervision in your team to Vicki Caplin to be included in the next newsletter.