

Signs of Safety newsletter

March 2021

Group Supervision

Last month we shared about how the Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Unit have been using Group Supervision; this month the focus is on Education staff.

Vicki Clements (Safeguarding Education Officer) facilitated a session with several staff from different schools in Knowsley and the feedback from a Headteacher was great:

I attended a Signs of Safety Group Supervision session and worked through the process with other colleagues for a specific child within our school. To experience the process as a part of an interactive session brought a completely different perspective. To hear from others who are not in the situation allowed me to evaluate if decisions we were making could be altered to have a different impact on the situation. Vicki modelled and supported us in writing our own Signs of Safety worry statements and clearly explained the whole process throughout. This is something we are now using back in school.

To have a session run in this way brought the process to life and made us see how it would and could work in our own setting. It was an excellent way to learn. I would highly recommend the sessions that Vicki Clements or Vicki Caplin are offering, and I will enjoy taking part future sessions but take on another role next time.

Group Supervision can be used by any group of staff in any agency and is a useful way of thinking through a problem together. If you don't feel confident to run the session yourself, why not ask Vicki Caplin to arrange a facilitated session for you? Please see the Group Supervision Guidance embedded here:

[Knowsley-Group-Supervision-Guidance.pdf \(knowsleyscp.org.uk\)](https://knowsleyscp.org.uk)

Agency Briefings

A briefing was delivered this month to a few newer members of the Senior Leadership Team within Children's Social Care and Education. Whilst a number of the Senior Leadership Team have completed the 2 day training the focus of this briefing was to consider how the model can be more widely applied across the services as a whole; not just for those working directly with children and families. Feedback was positive, and leaders left excited to see how they could implement it within their roles:

10/10 – I like the comments about a deficit model not being the way to get the best outcomes.

10/10 – loved it! Really impressed with how you delivered it.

I like the way it can be applied across the whole system.

It felt very transferable and relevant to all elements of my work...the uplifting style of delivery made me want to get on and practise it!

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?

We are about to enter the next phase of our Signs of Safety implementation!

Over the past couple of years many of you have been using the model to complete assessments and work with families but have struggled to record the great work you have done because the forms have not enabled you to do this easily.

On 8th April that is all going to change! Every form within Early Help and ICS (Social Work Teams) will be upgraded to include all the Signs of Safety questions. The Multi Agency Referral Form will also change, meaning when you make a referral you will be able to use Signs of Safety in the form much more readily.

Lots of testing of the forms has been going on and a great big thank you to all those who have been involved in the testing and building of the forms. Whilst there will be some challenges as we adjust to using new forms, feedback from the MASH team about the forms has been positive:

It will assist us in the use of danger statements.

It is simpler than what we have now.

It will make us work in a SMART manner.

It provides evidence of clear use of the Signs of Safety model and approach.

Allows me as a Social Worker to keep focussed.

For staff in Family First and the Social Work teams there is a quick reference guidance document and dedicated training sessions for each part of the service in March – please make sure you attend your session!

Support will also be available for Level 2 staff via the Early Help Co-ordinators.

Training

The Introduction to Signs of Safety course is usually a 2-day face to face course.

Due to covid restrictions in February and March it was run virtually over 4 mornings. Both courses were fully booked, and feedback has been excellent.

If you work in Education an Introduction to Signs of Safety course is going to be run for you in May. It will be virtual on Zoom over 4 mornings (**24th–27th May 9.30am-12.30pm**). There are 20 places available so book on asap via the KSCP Training Booking Portal:

<https://kscbtraining.knowsley.gov.uk>

Further multi-agency dates will be advertised as soon as they are available.

When booking please ensure you check if it is the 2 full days or 4 half day (morning only) course and that you can attend all the sessions. If you are unable to make one of the sessions, please wait until the next course as due to the nature of the course, and real life case study that is used, you need to complete all the sessions together.

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.