

Signs of Safety newsletter

May 2021

New Forms Roll-Out, Guidance & Feedback

On 8 April Knowsley went “live” with the Signs of Safety forms! You will have noticed that all the forms, right through from the MARF, to assessments, plans and planning meetings and reviews in both Early Help and the Social Work teams have all been updated to reflect the Signs of Safety model that we are now using in our everyday practice.

Since the rollout there has been some positive feedback – and some sighs of relief!

Day 1 and it's all done!! Wasn't too bad at all!

I have found this (ICS Guidance) very useful to refer to throughout today whilst completing a contact. Particularly for danger statement/safety goal and impact/analysis.

I just did my first Child Protection Conference using new format and it was good. Felt like lots less to do and I love the new Social Work report: clearly sets out the plan, tasks, etc. It all just feels much more focused and relevant.

The roll out of the forms are a big change for everyone so please make sure you refer to the guidance to help you with each form:

Level 2 Staff: Please contact the Early Help Co-Ordinators.

Early Help Staff: **Signs of Safety Guidance - EHM**

Social Work Teams: **Signs of Safety Guidance - ICS**

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Heather Brown to the position of Head of Service, Safeguarding & Principal Social Worker. Heather is covering this post whilst Lara Wood is Acting Assistant Executive Director of Children Social Care. Heather is therefore also the Signs of Safety Lead for the Authority so please feel free to raise any issues with her, or Vicki Caplin who is a part of the Signs of Safety implementation team.

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.

The next multi-agency Introduction to Signs of Safety course is going to be run in September. It will be virtual on Zoom over 4 mornings (27th – 30th September, 9:30am – 12:30pm).

There are 20 places available so book on asap via the KSCP Training Booking Portal: <https://kscbtraining.knowsley.gov.uk>

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's working well?

Support Network Meetings

Social Worker Laura Ramsey has received some positive feedback regarding some Support Network Meetings she has held:

Firstly, from a young couple that she is working with: Laura completed a Support Network plan for them as part of a pre-birth assessment. Prior to this plan being written the parents felt very overwhelmed by the number of professionals involved and who was doing what. Since having the plan, they have said they know who to contact, who does what and they feel less anxious about the whole thing. This has also resulted in the parents working much more closely with the professionals which will be a real positive once their baby is born.

Secondly, with another family, a judge complimented Laura's report and stated it was "very clear, child focussed and an easy read". At this hearing it

was concluded, and parents were happy with the proposed plan for the child and grateful the anxiety of court was over. Parents were happy with Laura's recommendation and the judge complimented Laura regarding a Support Network Meeting, as this helped towards the plan and decisions for the child.

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, you have used the model or held a group supervision in your team to Vicki Caplin to be included in the next newsletter:

If you or your team would like any bespoke training on any aspect of Signs of Safety, please do contact Vicki Caplin to arrange this.

