

# Signs of Safety Newsletter

Hello, and welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> Signs of Safety (SofS) newsletter. We intend to use the newsletter to keep you in touch with any news and developments which relate to our implementation of Signs of Safety.

**There are lots of ways for you to keep up to date with practice, there are a whole range of tools that you can use to help you on your signs of safety journey.**

**In Tri.x there are practice guides for all of the forms and the ICS team have also created system guides, you can access these [here](#)**

In the Signs of safety SharePoint there is a folder of resources for everyone, and you can access this [here](#)

The Signs of Safety workbook and safety planning workbooks are available to everyone who has attended the training, and both have a range of practice examples in covering danger statements and safety goals, safety plans and timelines and words and pictures as well as many others.

Signs of Safety has an online library of resources called the knowledge bank, some content is available to everyone. If you see something you want and can't access it, please contact your Practice Champions or Mel and Paul who can help.

Each service area and team has practice champions, make sure you know who they are and how to contact them.



Contact Paul or Mel  
at the Signs of Safety Mailbox,  
[signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Don't forget we are all learning together, don't be afraid to have a go at something new, training is only the first step and the best way to build your confidence to so have a go and try.**

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## HOW IS THE SERVICE CHANGING IN RESPONSE TO SIGNS OF SAFETY?

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We are **here to help you** through this process.

**Ask us** - We can support you if you have any questions or queries.

**PAUL THOMPSON AND MEL ATKINS**

[signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk)



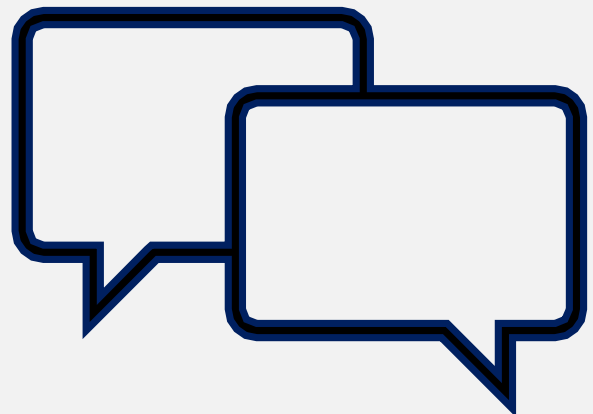
**PRACTICE  
LEADS**

### Message from your Practice Leads

After spending some time with the triage team, Mel and Paul moved to the front door and have been supporting workers with duty visits, rapid safety plans and assessments, they have both been working on cases so that work can be shared with the service and give some examples.

We have supported workers to complete direct work with children using the M3H tool and the Safety House as well as developing the use of rapid safety plans, network meetings and the harm matrix.

We will continue to support the team and look to support workers with using the mapping tool and recording in assessments. Mel and Paul have both enjoyed getting away from the laptop and training room and doing direct work with children and families and putting into practice everything that they have learned over the last 18 months.



### What's working well

Mel and Paul have led group supervision with the Northumberland Families First team and the Central Locality team, there has been positive feedback for the sessions and it is clear that there is development in the teams and their understanding and how much it is being used with families and children.

The West Locality team have started weekly support sessions for signs of safety for their team.

In the North Early Help Team they have used the mapping tool to help them understand where they are on their signs of safety journey and look at how they can continue to improve.

The South East Locality Team have added direct work with children to their team meeting agenda so that they can share good practice examples.

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## Coming soon...

The Systems team are going to be running some systems workshops, they will be offering 2-3 hour drop in for workers to bring individual issues and then Focused topic sessions - 1 hour - 1 1/2 hours looking at areas like care teams, genograms, chronologies, legal module.

Mel and Paul are working on some one page guides for different parts of the model and these should be available by the end of August.

The new training offer is being finalised and should also be available to book from the end of August.

### Feedback from teams across the service

#### From Early help:

The system is helping workers in the team to see how the model flows, and there is far less drift. The scaling question is putting thoughts to workers to really think about why they are involved and be more purposeful about what they are doing. Other professionals are taking more ownership of what needs to happen and not just the EHFV. The plan is very clear visually so other professionals can see this more clearly.

#### From the South-East Locality Team:

The Team have also used really creative ideas to gather the views of children in a signs if safety way, including making a fortune teller game. This has promoted discussions in a non-threatening way and has been shared and adopted by several workers within the Team.

The Practice champion has shared this in the NCC Good practice SharePoint folder for all champions to see.

Workers have used fire drills on a case and then shared how they were used with the team.




Next time the newsletter will take an area of practice to focus on we are starting with Timelines but please let us know if there are areas you would like to see covered.

### Top Tips...

- ✓ Always start with the mapping, if you don't really understand what you're worried about everything else will be harder to do
- ✓ Break your timeline down into chunks of weeks, so 1-4 5-9 and so on, you don't have to detail each week on its own, give yourself enough time to do the work needed in a meaningful way
- ✓ If you are developing a safety plan, always start with the family, then the network, then the professionals, don't forget it is the family that need to do the most work.

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