

Signs of Safety how to guide: Danger statements and safety goals



What is a Danger Statement?

Danger Statement(s) give the reasons we are working with the family in **clear simple language**.

They include what we are worried could happen if nothing changes, and the impact of this on the child/ young person.

How to write a Danger Statement

There should be one Danger Statement for each issue. Try not to have any more than three.

1. Start with **who is worried**
2. Then say **what we are worried about** – describe what has happened in the past that has caused us to be worried, be specific and factual; give examples. Try not to use professional language like 'domestic violence' or 'neglect' – say what the behaviour is.
3. Then describe the potential **impact on the child/ young person** in the short and long term if nothing changes.

What is a Safety Goal?

For each Danger Statement there should be a Safety Goal.

Safety Goals say **what we need to see to feel confident that the child/ young person is safe enough for us to step down or close the case**.

The Safety goal shows everyone what we are working together to achieve.

How to write a Safety Goal

The Safety Goal says what we need to see to close the case or step the case down.

Say what professionals will see that tells them that things are good enough. **What will be happening, how will we know the child/ young person will be safe in their parents care?**

Be specific, and try to focus on good things that will be happening rather than the bad things that will have stopped, e.g. say that 'mum and dad will have ways to resolve problems in a calm way' rather than 'mum and dad will not argue'.

You should say how long you will need to see the plan working or **how long you need to see the changes be maintained** for to be satisfied that this will continue in the long term.

Danger Statement:

Who is worried

About what

Impact on the child

Safety Goal:

What we will need to see to know things are safe

How long for?

Please share your practice examples with SignsofSafety@northumberland.gov.uk