

Signs of Safety how to guide: Worry statements and success goals



What is a Worry Statement?

Worry Statement(s) give the reasons we are worried about the child or young person 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 Worry Statement

There should be one Worry 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 'substance misuse' – 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 Success Goal?

For each Worry Statement there should be a Success Goal.

Success Goals say **what we need to see to stop being worried**.

The Success Goal shows everyone what we are working together to achieve.

How to write a Success Goal

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 have their needs met?**

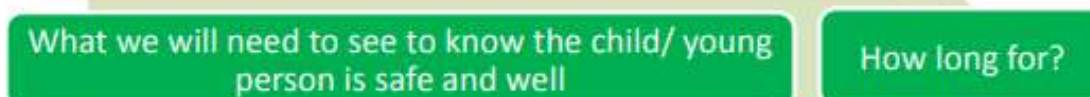
Be specific, and try to focus on saying what good things will be happening instead, rather than the saying the worries will have stopped.

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

Worry Statement:



Success Goal:



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