

# Signs of Safety Newsletter

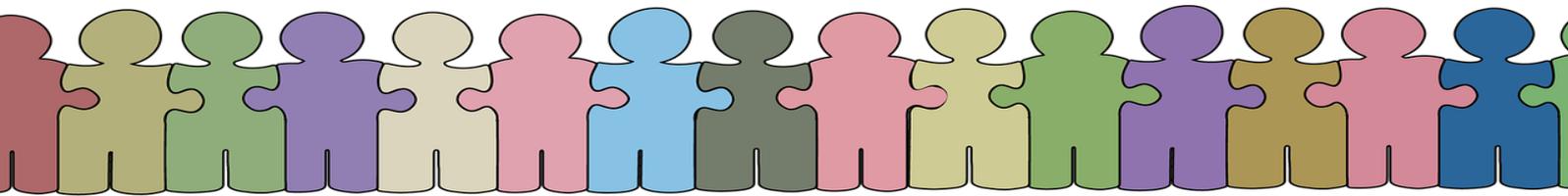
Hello, and welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Signs of Safety (SofS) newsletter. Happy New Year! We intend to use the newsletter to keep you in touch with any news and developments which relate to our implementation of Signs of Safety.

**COMING SOON...SIGNS OF BELONGING**

**GO LIVE DATE 24 FEBRUARY**

Andrew Turnell has been developing his vision for Children who are Cared for and has created Signs of Belonging. All children's services and children in care work, is first and foremost aimed to sustain and deepen the child and young person's connection with the families, people, culture and communities they were born into and belong to even when the children cannot live with their family and however long they are in care. To support the practice Elia have developed a whole new suite of forms for working with children who are cared for, these are designed to build practitioners' and managers' skills in applying the Signs of Success/Belonging in their everyday work with children in care and leaving care, their parents, support network, carers and professional partners and how to use the case recording solution to strengthen their practice, and evidence their work.

There will be a standalone mapping for children who are cared for, and the forms will change to make the plan section with timelines and safety planning optional so it can be used only when there continues to be need for safety planning. The focus will shift to belonging, keeping children connected to their families and aspirational planning.



Workers from across the teams have been testing the forms and adding case examples, if you would like to do this then please contact the systems team. This is your opportunity to see the forms before they go live and understand how they work.

The Systems team have developed training videos to help you all navigate the new forms, please take a look and then once you have watched them if you have questions then please book onto the drop-in sessions, we will be running these weekly up to go live.

<https://ncc.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=3523>

[Drop In Sessions \(office365.com\)](https://office365.com)

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

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## Message from the Practice Leads...

We are moving on from the Academy now, we have really enjoyed being able to deliver face to face group supervision and face to face training for the first time in 2 years! Paul and Mel have been really impressed with the work that they have seen in areas where teams start off the work. We can see how the model is being embedded and work with families is meaningful and plans have a clear focus.

Team managers and practice leads spent time talking about what the team needed, made a plan and the work that is seen is now so much better and the workers feel more confident. We hope to continue to use what we have learnt works well in supporting the teams as we move onto West and SELT safeguarding teams to shift the focus onto longer term work and timelines and safety planning. We will also be working with the IRO/CC team and offering support to individuals when asked to.

We have been developing the new SharePoint site with areas for everyone, Training, Practice Champions and Managers. We have been adding to the good practice folder in the new Signs of Safety SharePoint and can't wait for you all to see it!

[Signs of Safety - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)  
[Signs of Safety - Good examples of practice - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Paul and Mel will continue to add to the good practice folder so that it grows into a resource to share of all the great work that is going on across the service. You can also share via the link on the site. If you have a piece of work that you feel really proud of then please get in touch!

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

## Training

We have welcomed new trainers to the group, if this is something you think you could be interested in the please get in touch. We welcome Katy Carr who will bring some Early Help expertise to the training. Carra Charlton from family placement team and Holly Cummings from 18+ team have both delivered training for the first time and bring perspectives on the model from around the service.

Training is now available to book on Learning together. We have listened to the feedback and the training offer has been developed and is now a 4-day training that covers the 2-day training and the specialist workshops of Analysing harm, Timelines and Safety planning with some extra bits added in!

We use the same case to work through all aspects of the model and demonstrate how it applies in practice.

We were lucky to be able to deliver face to face training at the end of last year but have now returned to online training due to the rise in covid cases so we can make sure that everyone is safe.

Booking for the course in March is open  
[SOS 4 days: Signs of Safety 4 day Course \(learningpool.com\)](#)

**Authority - Honoring - Vision - Questioning - Compassion.**

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# Northumberland Gathering 2022

Save the date!

We Need YOU!

20 April  
2022

Every year Elia run an event to share good practice from around the world. The interesting thing about a gathering is that it gives practitioners really good ideas about new ways of working with families and it is an opportunity to share inspiring stories of the work we are doing to make a difference.

This year we heard presentations about ethical enquires, changing the story, and using networks in new and innovative ways. We have decided that we want to create our own event to share all the good practice that we see here in Northumberland, and we need you! The theme of our gathering will be belonging and leaving no-one behind.

Has your work helped keep a child safe?

We want to hear from you if you have used Signs of Safety really well.

Do you have an inspiring story?

Have you done something that has impressed your manager?

Do you have practice you want to share?

Are you really proud of your work with a family?

Have you done something different that has surprised you?

Get in touch and tell us your story at [Signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Signsofsafety@northumberland.gov.uk)

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## Feedback from teams across the service from the Benchmark survey

"Peer/group supervisions really helps when a case is stuck or if feeling overwhelmed by the worry."

"I have used the three columns in team around the family meetings for some time now. I find it keeps the meeting concise and makes people pull out positives about the families. I feel families have a much better experience of the meetings; it can help boost their confidence as they are not always hearing the negatives all the time. This in turn will support the changes they are making and the lives of the children."

"Using the model has in my opinion made it easier to see what is going on for the family and the worker. It keeps focus and prevents drift."

"Using the model has cut down my report writing time significantly, which means I have more time to complete other work-related tasks, that would've usually been left."

"When parents are prepared for child protection conferences, and they are talked through the SofS language and receive well written clear reports prior to the conference this works well for the parents and the meeting. It takes out a lot of waste in being overloaded with information that is not relevant to the meeting."

"Meetings are much more family focused with the family able to become involved in the plan or make their own plan with support rather than having a plan given to them and make it fit with their family."

### What we will do

The findings will be considered by the Signs of Safety board, and any identified actions will be progressed within the five workstreams (learning and development, quality of practice, systems, practice and communication and partnership).

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