

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board

Signs of Safety

Briefing note 3 for partner organisations and practitioners

January 2017

Welcome.

Welcome to the third Signs of Safety Briefing Note for Partners. This update aims to highlight how the Signs of Safety approach is being used in practice and also details feedback from practitioners.

Included in this issue:

- **Who has been trained so far?**
- **Signs of Safety in Preventative services**
- **Signs of Safety in Practice**
- **CP 5 Agency report to Child Protection Conference**
- **Information Leaflets for Child Protection Conference**
- **Signs of Safety webpage**

Who has been trained so far?

So far 187 of social care's partner practitioners have attended the 1 day SofS training with a further 36 booked on to forthcoming dates. Another 264 have attended the 3 hour awareness raising with 28 booked on. Feedback is that these sessions really help people to understand the model and how they may come across it. For example CP conferences aren't quite as daunting to participate in than if the training hadn't been attended.

Further dates are detailed at the end of this briefing note and we urge everyone working within children's safeguarding to get themselves booked on.

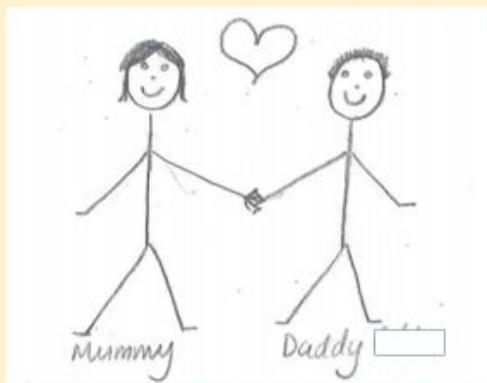


A 3 hour session was enough to provide an adequate overview



The session covers things well, useful introduction for someone with little safeguarding knowledge, process and techniques

Signs of Safety in Preventative Services



Mummy Met Daddy C and at first they loved each other very much and were very happy.

Partners may notice some differences in the forms we use but the approach is still the same; we work on strengths, we work with the family and we want to get the best outcomes we can. With this in mind the Signs of Safety Assessment and Planning Form has some changes.

What's working well – we identify only strengths rather than strengths and safety as this will have been considered as part of the decision to work with Preventative Services.

What are we Worried About – “Past Concerns” replaces “ Past Harm” as there may not have been significant harm to a child or young person but there are still some worries. Rather than “Danger Statement” we use “Risk Statement” as, again, we are not looking at immediate dangers to the child, young person or family but trying to identify clearly what our concerns are from a preventative perspective.

What Needs to Happen

“Goals” replace “Safety Goals” as we are looking more long term and want to identify tangible actions which will improve the current situation.

Scaling Question

Our question is as follows and we think partners will understand this in the context of the above

“On a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means everyone knows the family are strong enough to thrive without our involvement, and zero means the children are in danger of being harmed, where do we rate this situation?”

<p><i>Are there things happening in school/life that makes this problem harder to deal with?</i></p>	<p><i>Has there been a time when this problem has been dealt with or was even a little bit better? How did that happen?</i></p>	<p><i>What do we think needs to happen next to get this sorted out?</i></p>
<p>Worry Statement</p>	<p>Goal</p>	
<p><i>If this situation continues we are worried that.....</i></p>	<p><i>For us to see things improve we all need to see.....</i></p>	

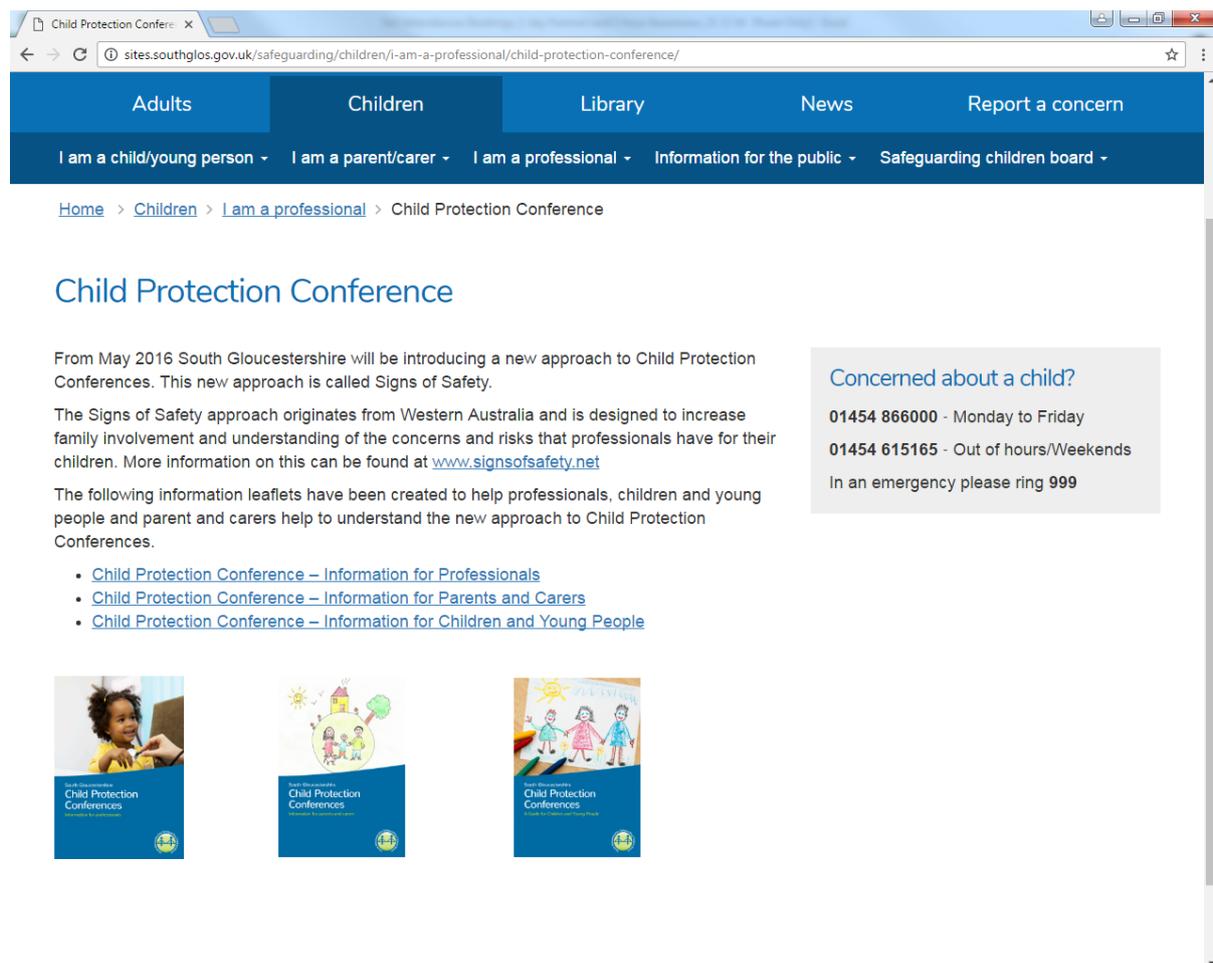
CP 5 Agency report to Child Protection Conference

The report to CP conference that our partners complete will soon be changing to reflect the signs of safety model. We will update partners once this is ready to use.

Signs of Safety and Child Protection Conferences

We have updated the following three leaflets to reflect using the Signs of Safety model in Child Protection Conferences:

<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/child-protection-conference/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/child-protection-conference/. The page has a blue header with navigation links: Adults, Children, Library, News, and Report a concern. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with dropdown menus for 'I am a child/young person', 'I am a parent/carer', 'I am a professional', 'Information for the public', and 'Safeguarding children board'. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Children > I am a professional > Child Protection Conference.

Child Protection Conference

From May 2016 South Gloucestershire will be introducing a new approach to Child Protection Conferences. This new approach is called Signs of Safety.

The Signs of Safety approach originates from Western Australia and is designed to increase family involvement and understanding of the concerns and risks that professionals have for their children. More information on this can be found at www.signsofsafety.net

The following information leaflets have been created to help professionals, children and young people and parent and carers help to understand the new approach to Child Protection Conferences.

- [Child Protection Conference – Information for Professionals](#)
- [Child Protection Conference – Information for Parents and Carers](#)
- [Child Protection Conference – Information for Children and Young People](#)

Concerned about a child?

01454 866000 - Monday to Friday

01454 615165 - Out of hours/Weekends

In an emergency please ring 999



Signs of Safety page on the SGSCB website

Now included on the Safeguarding Children Board website is a page dedicated to SofS. Here you will find these partner briefings, all the assessment tools and the policy statement about SofS.

<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/signs-of-safety/>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board website. The page title is "Signs of Safety | South Gl: X". The URL in the address bar is "sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/signs-of-safety/". The website header features the board's name and tagline "Safeguarding is everyone's business". A navigation menu includes "Adults", "Children", "Library", "News", and "Report a concern". Below the menu, there are links for "I am a child/young person", "I am a parent/carer", "I am a professional", "Information for the public", and "Safeguarding children board". The breadcrumb trail is "Home > Children > I am a professional > Signs of Safety". The main content area is titled "Signs of Safety" and features two cartoon illustrations: a fairy and a wizard. Below the illustrations, there is a paragraph explaining the implementation of Signs of Safety, supported by the board, and a "Policy Statement" section. On the right side, there is a "Downloads" section with links to various forms and guides, and a "Concerned about a child?" section with the phone number "01454 866000 - Monday to Friday".

Contact

If you have any queries regarding the implementation of the Signs of Safety approach please contact your organisations Safeguarding Children Board representative for more information. Alternatively you can contact Catherine Boyce

Catherine.boyce@southglos.gov.uk

