

Signs of Safety



Briefing note 4 for partner organisations and practitioners
April, 2020

Welcome

Welcome to the relaunch of the Signs of Safety briefing note for partner organisations and practitioners. It is designed to update all practitioners working with children and their families on what's happened so far to implement the Signs of Safety approach in South Gloucestershire and the next steps.

What is Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety is a relationship and strength based approach to working with children, young people and their families. It focusses on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and keeps their voices and experiences at the centre of all plans. It is a way of working with the family's strengths and bringing together their naturally connected people to provide life-long connections and stability. The approach recognises and supports the rights and responsibilities of parents to be included in the planning for safety and well-being for their children.

Practitioners supporting families work together to look at the strengths (what's going well in the child's life), the worries and concerns identified (who is worried and why) and focus on what needs to be done (outcomes) to build on the strengths, reduce the concerns and keep the child safe. This is known as a strengths and safety based approach.

The model and approach was created in Western Australia by Andrew Turnell and Steve Edwards. The Signs of Safety approach is now being used in organisations from across the world, including 56 Local Authorities across the U.K.

If you are interested to find out more, you can book onto one of our courses or have a look on Signs of Safety website for more information and some video clips of workers around the world talking about the approach.

Press  (control button) and [Click here for more information](#)

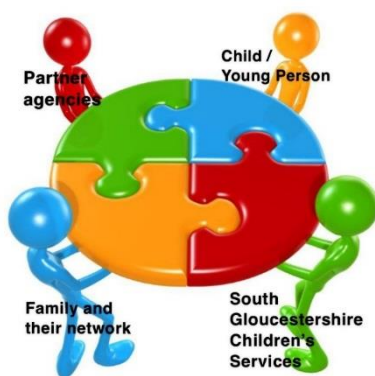
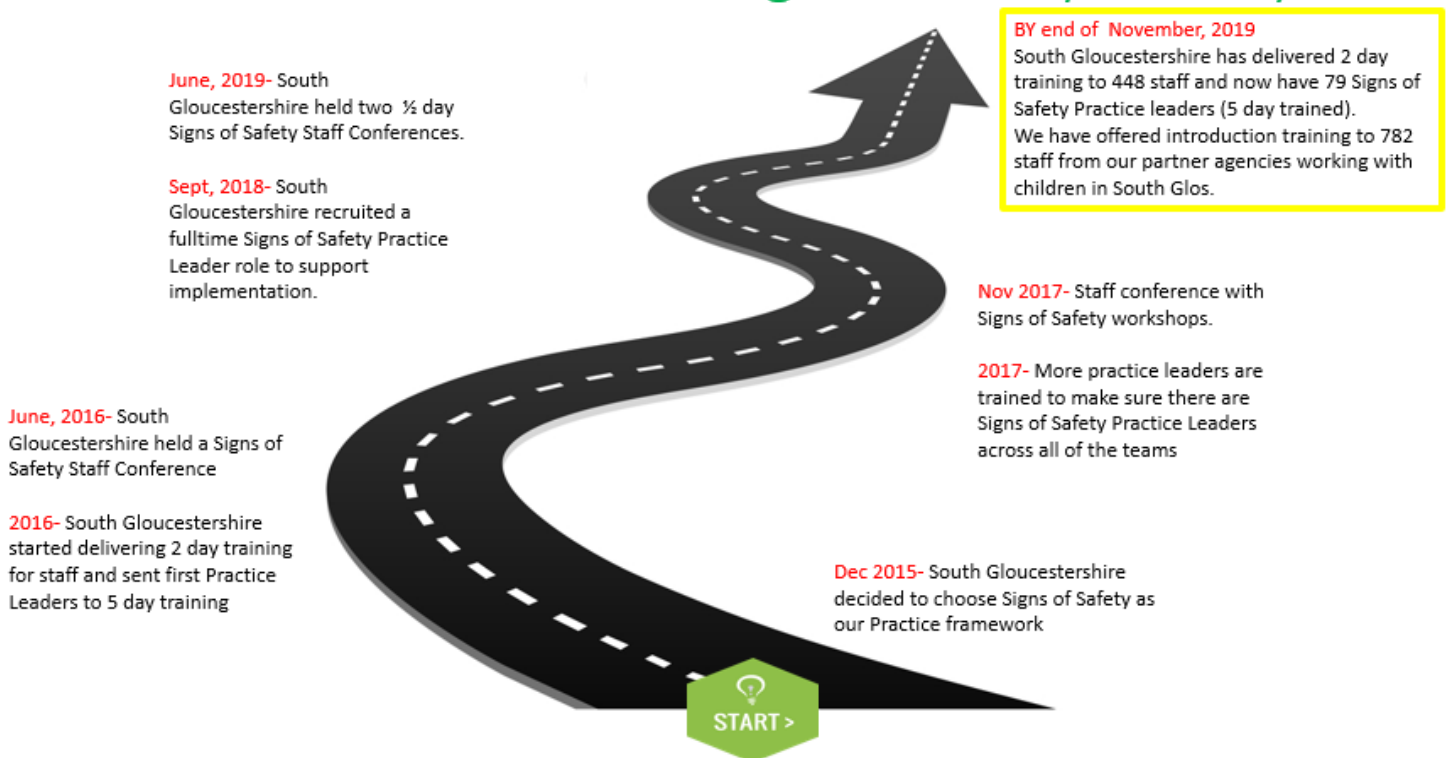
So where are we now with Signs of Safety in South Gloucestershire?



“Hi all, my name is Jo Hillier and I have been the Signs of Safety Practice Lead for South Gloucestershire Council since 3rd September, 2018. Since I have been in post I have been working with Children’s Services teams to support their Signs of Safety Practice Leaders to help their teams use the approach consistently in their work with families. I look forward to meeting some of you at the Signs of Safety awareness and Signs of Safety in practice sessions.”

The diagram below shows some of our journey so far with Signs of Safety:

South Gloucestershire’s Signs of Safety Journey



Partner Agencies and Signs of Safety

To help our partner agencies understand the way we work with children, young people and families in South Gloucestershire, we have been offering Signs of Safety awareness training (3 hours) and Signs of Safety for partners training (1 day) courses.

We have been delivering these sessions since January 2016 and by October 2019 we have trained **782 staff** from our partner agencies. These sessions will continue in 2020 with a slight change to the structure. Please see South

Gloucestershire Learning and Development site to read about the courses and book onto future courses. [Please click here to look at Signs of Safety courses](#)

Next steps

- To support our partner agencies to use Signs of Safety, Jo Hillier will write a briefing note twice a year to send to our partner agencies to give them updates in our Signs of Safety implementation. These will be sent out in April and October.
- Work to develop the Signs of Safety page on the South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership webpage, to be a place where partner agencies can access Signs of Safety resources and more information about the approach.
- Get feedback from our partner agencies about their experiences so far of Signs of Safety to share in the October briefing note.

Contact

For more information, feedback, comments or to share your experience of Signs of Safety so far please contact:

Jo Hillier

Signs of Safety Practice Lead

Phone: 01454 868942

Email: joanne.hillier@southglos.gov.uk