



In Durham, families are starting to hear about Signs of Safety. The aim of this leaflet is to

give you a better understanding of what it means for you, your children and family.

### What is Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety is about you and your family members working together, alongside professions (health visitors, social workers, teachers, doctors, police etc.), to meet the needs of your children in the best way possible. It puts children, young people, their parents, carers and families at the heart of the work.

Families play a key part in working together with professions, making clear the worries and concerns identified for their child, (who is worried and why), identifying the things that are going well in the child's life (strengths), and agreeing what needs to be done (goals), to build on the strengths and reduce the worries.

### What difference will Signs of Safety make to the way professionals work with me and my children?

We use Signs of Safety to make sure that your children's and your views, as parents/carers, are fully heard, with strengths of your family clearly identified and included in the plans and actions needed to keep your child safe and/or promote their wellbeing. Professions will be trying to make sure this happens by asking you questions such as,

"What do you think is going well?"

"What are you worried about?"

"What needs to change?"

Signs of Safety is a way of making sure that everyone involved in your child's life has the same understanding of what is happening in your child's life and what needs to be different. Using Signs of Safety we try and explain in a simple way, using danger statements and safety goals, what worries people have about your child, what your strengths are, and what needs to happen for everyone to be confident that your child is safe and well.

Signs of Safety aims to get everyone who cares about your child and who helps and support you, including your extended family to think about ways they can help your child feel safe, healthy and settled.

### Talking to children

Talking to your children is at the heart of Signs of Safety. It is important that children, as well as adults, have an opportunity to talk about what they are worried about, what makes them happy, and what they would like to see happen in their family and community to keep them safe. The Signs of Safety approach uses a direct work tool including The Three Houses to talk to children and ask them their views:



You will be given a copy of your child's assessment and plan. The same plan will also be used in meetings between you and your children's social workers.

Your child's social worker will review progress against the plan of what needs to happen, with the aim of everyone involved in their lives – family members and professionals – working together to increase wellbeing and safety for your child.

If you have further questions about Signs of Safety that this leaflet doesn't answer then please discuss these with your child's social worker.

#### Contact information

Your child's Social Worker

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Contact number:

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If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact:

Children & Young People's Services  
Durham County Council  
Third Floor  
County Hall  
Durham DH1 5UJ

Tel: 03000 ??????  
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www.durham.gov.uk

## The Signs of Safety Approach

Signs of Safety is a way of working with families who need help and support, listening to what is important to them, and working in partnership with parents and carers to reduce the risk of harm and help children reach their potential.

