



North Tyneside Council

# NEWSLETTER

## **Autumn 2021 Newsletter**

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Signs of Safety Newsletter. We know that it is still a challenging time for everyone, including the children and families that we are working with, so thank you for your continued hard work!

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find:

- Practice Standards and Expectations.
- Practitioner Knowledge Library.
- New information for families/parents and carers.
- Upcoming training/learning opportunities.
- Signs of Safety Bitesize
- Spotlight on Harm Matrix.

## **Practice Standards and Expectations**

As many of you will be aware, we now have a set of 8 practice standards for our work with children and families; they are:

1. Children and Young People will be listened to and we will act on what they tell us.
2. Children and Young People will have important people involved in helping to meet their needs.
3. Children and Young People will have their needs clearly understood.
4. Children and Young People will have a plan which tells those who need to know how to meet their needs and keep them safe.
5. Children and Young People will only have help for as long as they need it (so they can get on with their own lives).
6. Children and Young People will be able to understand all the things written about them.
7. Children and Young People will have help which follows the rules.
8. Children and Young People have help from workers who get the advice and support they need to do a good job.

The Practice Development Team are starting to work with all teams across children's services so that we can develop practice expectations for each team/service area that align with these practice standards. We will be working with managers and leaders to develop bottom lines for each team/service area before moving on to holding focus groups with staff to develop the practice expectations for your team/service area. This is a great opportunity for you to be involved in setting expectations for practice and thinking about how you want families to experience involvement from you or your team.

### **Practitioner Knowledge Library**

Many people have been asking about 'golden examples' of work that has been done using different aspects of the signs of safety model. We have been wanting to create this for some time and have finally been able to create the space for it [here](#).

Split into two sections, you will find information leaflets for children and young people, copies of our newsletter, and key papers about signs of safety, as well as a list of support services in North Tyneside. The Knowledge Library section now contains all group supervision guides, guides on using tools, as well as some case examples.

We hope to expand this library over time so that there are helpful tips and anonymised examples of using the model in practice.

### **New Information for Families/Parents and Carers**

We now have information on our website available to families/parents and carers, explaining how we work with them, using the signs of safety model. Parents or Children and Young People will also be able to access information leaflets and see what the 'My 3 Houses' and 'My Safety House' tools look like. If you want to have a look, it's [here](#).

### **Upcoming Training/Learning**

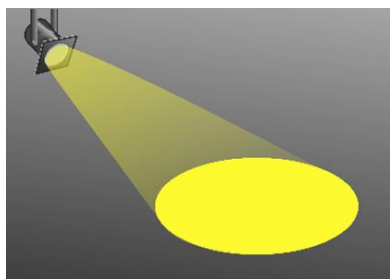
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
25 October	1-4	Multi-Agency Group Supervision
04 November	9-12:30 and 1-4:30	Practice Learning Session – Pathway Planning
17 November	9.30 – 12.30	Multi-Agency Group Supervision
22, 29 November and 6 December	9.30 – 4.30	Introduction to Signs of Safety ( <b>Fully Booked</b> )

13 December	9.30 – 4.30	Additional Practice Model Training – Harm Matrix, Mindful Positioning, Mobility Mapping
16 December	9 – 12.30	Practice Learning Session – Non-accidental injury
16 December	1 – 4.30	Practice Learning Session – Appreciative Inquiry

Please book through Learning Pool: [Course: Signs of Safety Practice Learning Sessions \(learningpool.com\)](#)

### **Signs of Safety Bitesize**

The Practice Development Team have developed a programme of nine 30-minute sessions on aspects of the signs of safety model. These are designed to keep aspects of practice on our minds so that we are thinking about how we use them in practice with families. We have already run the whole programme for social work teams and are halfway through the sessions with early help practitioners. We are hoping that in the New Year this will become a rolling programme open to all practitioners across children's services.



### **Spotlight on Harm Matrix**

We have been working with Social Care MASH recently to strengthen the use of the harm matrix. The matrix is used in MASH if we are unsure whether a social work assessment is needed based on the information from the contact. Workers have been finding the sessions useful and completing the harm matrix together makes it a little less daunting. The matrix is available (in LCS/EHM) as a stand-alone form for any child who is allocated to a social worker or early help worker. It's helpful to use for assessments so that you have an analysis of harm based on factual information. You can use the matrix to gather information from a range of perspectives and support your thinking at any key decision-making points within your service area. You can find a couple of examples from our work with the MASH team on the practitioner knowledge library. Why not give it a go in group supervision; you can find the group supervision guide on the practitioner knowledge library or if you need support email: [practicedevelopmentteam@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:practicedevelopmentteam@northtyneside.gov.uk)

## Useful Links



[NTC Signs of Safety](#)



[Facebook \(Signs of Safety\)](#)



[Early Help](#)



[Twitter \(Signs of Safety\)](#)



[Signs of Safety](#)