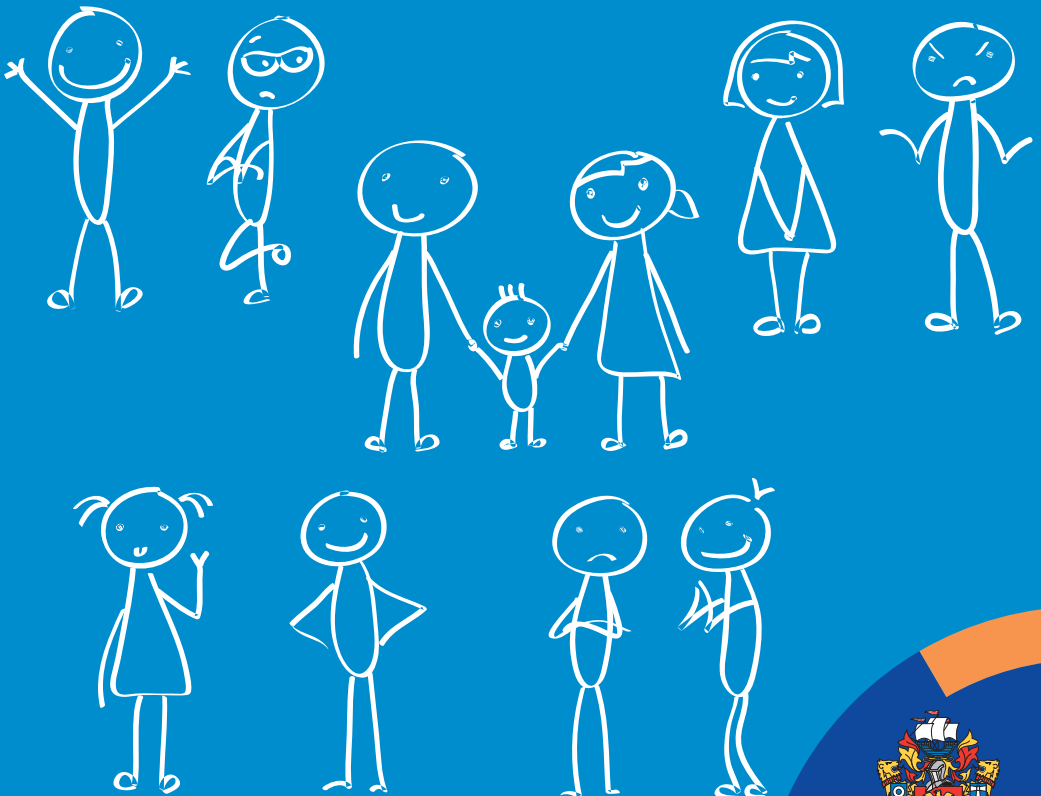


# Information for Young People about North Tyneside Council's Children's Services



# Who are we and what do we do?

North Tyneside Children's Services is part of the council, and our job is to work with families to keep children safe and well cared for.

You could have a worker, for example, a Social Worker, Family Partner, Health Visitor or Teacher who will support you. Workers at North Tyneside Children's Services work with children and their families when there is a worry a child has been hurt, is scared, is not being looked after well enough, or does not feel safe. Who you work with will depend on what the worry is.

The worker's job is to talk to you and the people that know and care for you, so that they can find out what has happened, help to change things so it doesn't happen again and to help you feel safe.

## What will happen?

We think that talking to children and young people is really important. We feel that you should have an opportunity to talk about what you are worried about, what makes you happy, and what you would like to see happen in your family to help keep you safe.

Your worker will meet with you so that they can listen to and talk with you about all the good and bad things in your life. This will help them keep you safe and let you have a say in decisions and plans about your future.

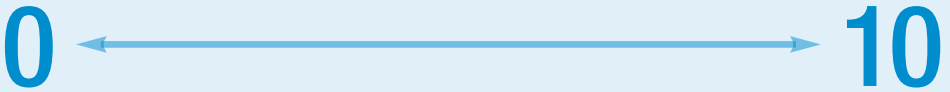
North Tyneside has a way of working with families called Signs of Safety. When there are worries about a child or young person, we will talk to them and listen to their views about what they think are the worries in their life. This way of talking, listening and asking questions is at the heart of Signs of Safety and brings forward your views and the views of your Mam, Dad, carers and extended family (or close family friends), all who are part of your network. This network of people looks at how to sort things out and help to make you safe.

Signs of Safety is about everyone working together to make a plan about what needs to happen to make sure you are safe, even when things get tough.

When your worker talks to you they will ask lots of questions to help you think about different things in your life. They will want to know about everything that's good in your life, in your family and with your friends that help you feel happy and safe.

They will also ask questions to help you think about the things that worry you, make you sad or scared in your family or in other places like out and about or in school. One of the most important questions they will ask will be a scaling question, like the one shown below. This question helps everyone understand what the worries are.

**Example.** On a scale of 0-10, where 10 means that even though things can get tough, you feel safe and there is someone you can talk to about your worries, and 0 means that there are times when you don't feel safe and there is no one you can turn to that will help things get better – where would you scale it today?



## Danger statement

When your worker is clear about all the worries, they will work with your family to write a danger statement so that everyone can understand all the worries together. A danger statement describes what it is that we are most worried might happen to you if nothing changes.

## Safety Goal

A safety goal describes the things we need to see happen so that you are safe, especially when life gets tough.

## Network

An important part of the safety goal is to find a safety network. A safety network is made up of the people in your life that are important to you, like grandparents, aunties, uncles and/or close friends who could help look out for you when you need them.

# Safety Plan

It maybe that your worker, together with you, your family and your network will write a safety plan. A safety plan, describes who will do what to keep you safe. All of the people in the network will know about the worries, safety plan and about what needs to happen if things ever get bad again. Once written, everyone will meet regularly to see how the plan is working to keep you safe.

## It's your worker's job to

- Help keep you safe
- Listen and talk to you; talk to you in private and in a place where you feel comfortable
- Help you think about the good and bad things in your life and about your future
- Give you information that you understand
- Only share information with others when they have to
- Treat you and your family with respect

It is really important to us that we do a good job and are helping you and your family to keep you safe.

Your worker's name is .....