

## Safety Networks

Parents will be asked to think about all the people that care and want the best for their child and family who could become part of their safety/support network. They could be family members, friends and people who see the child regularly. The parents would be asked to tell the safety network the reasons why they are involved with Children's Social Care and invite them to a Family Network Meeting.

There may be a minimum number of people that are needed to make up a safety network.

## Family Network Meeting

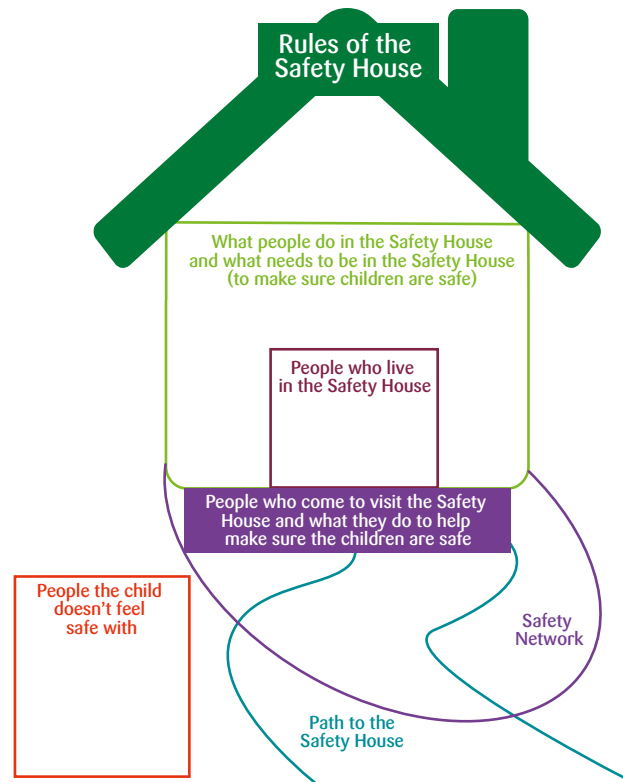
The Family Network Meeting is where parent's get together with their network and their Child's Social Worker. The aim of the meeting is for everyone to think about the things that they can do to make sure that the child is safe. All of everyone's best ideas are then put into a safety plan. The Social Care Team Manager will need to see the plan to make sure that it will keep the child safe in relation to the concerns.

## Safety Plan

The safety plan will set out the rules that everyone will follow to make sure the child is safe everyday. The safety plan will include the times/situations that parent's might find difficult and what people will do if this happens, its sets out the things that would show everyone that things were going ok. The safety plan would also say what would happen if the plan was not followed. The parent and network will be asked to share their safety plan at Child Protection Conferences and other meetings and talk how it is going, giving examples of how it has helped keep the child safe.

## Involving Children In Safety Plans

It's important that children are involved in making the safety plan and what they need to happen to feel safe. To help children think about safety and get their ideas we use something like the Safety House to help us understand what rules they think should be included in the safety plan.



## Words & Pictures

It is important for children to have an understanding of why adults are worried about them. Words and Pictures is something that the parents do for their child with the help of the Social Worker. Using their own words and pictures parents explain what has happened and what people are doing to make things better. Once everyone is happy with the content the parent and network share it with the child and answer any questions they might have. Words and Pictures can also be used to help children understand the safety plan that has been made with the network.

## Children and Families

# Signs of Safety



Leicestershire County Council uses Signs of Safety (SofS) as its way of working with children and families. SofS is a strength based way of working, its about finding and growing the strengths and skills of children, young people and families, as well as looking at the family's needs and any harm /risks the children might be experiencing.



Danger Statements

If after mapping all of the information there are concerns for a child, the concern will be written as a danger statement which sets out;

- WHO is worried
- WHAT are they worried about (what has happened to the child already)
- WHY are they worried (what else could happen to the child if nothing changes?)

Safety Goals

Each Danger Statement has a matching Safety Goal which clearly sets out what everybody would need to see the parent/carer doing consistently so that they would be confident that the child would be safe, healthy and happy in their care.

Trajectory

In Signs of Safety a trajectory is an agreed plan that describes and measures a pathway to the Safety Goal. This means everyone knows what they need to do and when.

- A trajectory sets out
1. Shared goals
  2. Clear steps to achieve the goal
  3. How progress will be measured

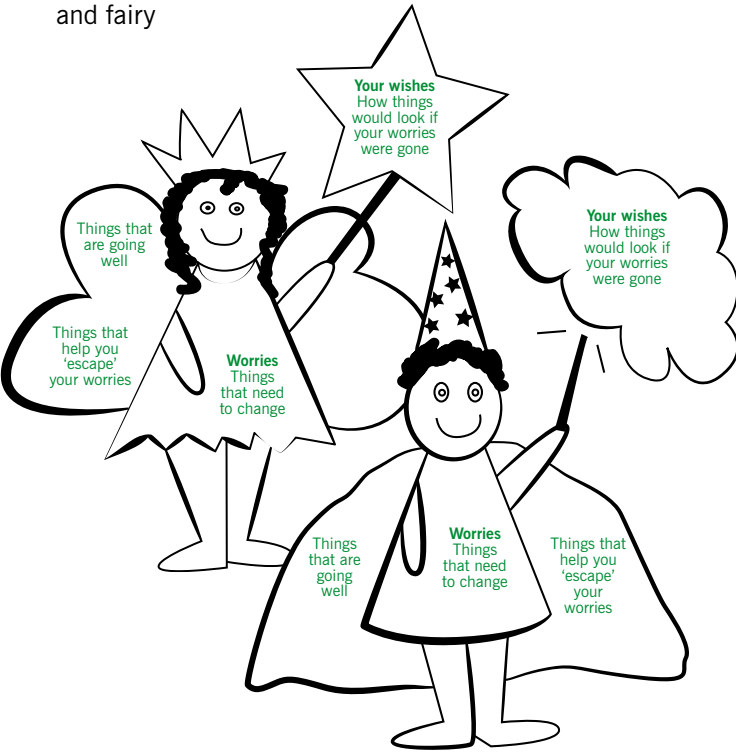
Child's Voice

It is important that children have the chance to talk about their life, about what makes them happy and feel safe, the things that they worry about and what they would like to see happen to make them feel safe.

Workers use a number of tools to help children talk about their lives, like the house of good things, house of worries and house of dreams.



For younger children workers may use a wizard and fairy



Working together

Signs of Safety is about family members and professionals (health visitors, social workers, teachers, doctors, police and early help) working together to look at what's going well in the child's life, (strengths and safety) the worries and concerns identified (who is worried and why) and agree what needs to happen (goals) to reduce the concerns and keep the child safe.

Mapping Framework

The mapping framework is used in meetings and reports to help everyone understand what's happening in a child and families life. Questions are used to help people think through what's working well, what the worries are and what the family and others are doing to make things better. Scaling questions are then used to find out how worried people are about what is happening.

Signs of Safety 'map'		
Harm / Danger / Worry	Strengths / Safety	Goals / Next steps
<div>0 ←————→ 10</div> <p>Given everything that we know about the child and families' situation on a scale of 0 – 10 where 10 is there is enough safety in place for us to close the case and 0 is the worries are so great the child is likely to get hurt again or suffer further abuse or neglect where would you rate the situation today and why?</p>		