

Guidance for Using the Signs of Safety Assessment and Planning Tool

The Signs Of Safety assessment and planning tool, also known as the Mapping Tool, is just that – a Tool.

A Tool to help you –

- Record, assess and plan
- Identify concerns
- Identify safety and strengths
- Scale the level of safety

These are known as the 4 core elements –

- What are we worried About?
- What's working Well?
- What Needs to Happen?
- Scaling

Column 1 – what are we worried about?

Within this section of the MAP you are trying to capture 3 main features –

- Past harm
- Future harm /Future Danger
- Complicating factors

Past Harm is what has happened that has made you worried

Future Harm is what you are worried about will happen if nothing changes, and the impact this will have on the child

Complicating Factors are issues that make the situation more complex – drug use, financial difficulties, homeless, mental health, previous child removed etc – Issues that make Building safety for the child more complicated.

Column 2 – What is going well?

This section is analysing strengths and safety. – Do the strengths within the family keep the children protected?

Exploring with the family what they are good at, what steps did they take before, what they think would help, works towards building resilience, skills and safety.

Identifying positives enables hope and engagement. Hope and engagement are essential in making change.

Column 3 - What needs to Happen?

This section clarifies what future safety looks like, and how it will be achieved.

What are the goals of the family and that of the agency?

What will things look like in order for the case to be closed. – Families need to know that the option of not having services involved in their life is achievable and possible

SCALING

0-----10

Scaling measures safety, 10 is very safe and we should not be involved.

0 is no safety and child is at risk of immediate harm

Scaling helps to identify what needs to change to progress up the scale.

Remaining static on the scale may indicate the family is stuck, dismissal is present or the family lack capacity for change.

Regular reviews of scaling is important, all professionals and family members should scale their views as well. This generates transparency for the family, accountability for agencies and hope to move forward.

SIGNS OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FORM

What are we Worried About?	What's Working Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p><u>Past Harm</u></p> <p><u>Danger Statement</u></p> <p><u>Complicating Factors</u></p>	<p><u>Safety</u></p> <p><u>Strength</u></p>	<p><u>Safety Goal</u></p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p>
<p>On a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means everyone knows the children are safe enough for the child protection authorities to close the case and zero means things are so bad for the children they can't live at home, where do we rate this situation? (If different judgements place different people's number on the continuum).</p> <p>0 _____ 10</p>		