



It's easy to sometimes lose sight of how far we've come in implementing Signs of Safety across Doncaster. Excluding staff from Doncaster Children's Services Trust over 850 staff have accessed Signs of Safety training. Alongside this staff at the Trust have accessed nearly 450 places on the 2 day and/or 5 day training. Staff are also receiving support in their workplace to use the Signs of Safety approach. This means that Signs of Safety is now being routinely used by partner agencies across Doncaster.

The next phase of rolling the programme out across Doncaster will focus on supporting all partner agencies to embed Signs of Safety within their organisation.



We are always looking for examples of good practice to celebrate and share with colleagues. Below is an example of how one school Heatherwood is using Signs of

Safety:

Heatherwood was introduced to Signs of Safety through the designated leads attendance at the advanced practitioner course. Heatherwood embraced the process and delivered a staff meeting to all teaching staff, including briefing sessions to associate staff; this outlined the core principles and how, from now on, school practice would follow this approach.

Cases were analysed/assessed using the three columns model and scaling questions used to fine tune opinions and views. There are now 5 leaders within school all of whom have now attended Signs of Safety. Perhaps progress was slow at the initial introduction however it is now embedded within our Safeguarding framework. There is one common language.

As a school we would have no hesitation in recommending this approach to others. Practice has indeed now changed as currently all CP meetings are conducted following this system which makes for a much more joined up debate and leads to more incisive planning and support. The results speak for themselves.

This is a great example of how Signs of Safety can help improve how we support children and young people. Thanks to Heatherwood for sharing their experience. If you've got an example that you would like to share please email Peter.Williams@dcstrust.co.uk

We also have gathered a collection of exemplars of good practice which can be accessed on the [Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board website](#) Signs of Safety page.



The Signs of Safety Leadership Day took place in London on the 25 September. Pauline Turner, Director of Performance, Quality and Innovation (jobshare)/ Head of Service and Principal Social Worker and together with Yvette Cotton, Workforce Development Manager, attended on behalf of the Trust.

Kevin Campbell delivered an interesting presentation that focussed on the importance of relationships and engaging meaningfully with families and the wider support networks. He discussed the importance of father engagement when separated in order to prevent “disappearing families” and lost history. This initiative is very close to Family Group Conference work and comes from the premise that if a family have not developed a network, workers have not done enough.

A copy of his presentation can be found on the Trust’s Signs of Safety page on the intranet. If you don’t have access to this then please e-mail Peter.Williams@dcstrust.co.uk for a copy.



The following training is coming up:

Signs of Safety Roadshows

The roadshow provides you with an insight into Signs of Safety and how to use it in your work with children, young people and families where you have concerns about a child's well-being and safety.

The next sessions will take place on:

- Tuesday 14 November 2017
- Tuesday 23 January 2018
- Tuesday 13 March 2018

An Introduction to the signs of safety approach- 2-day training session

The day will provide you with an understanding of the Signs of Safety:

- Philosophy,
- How it is used in child protection work and in supporting children, young people and families,
- How to use danger statements and safety goals, best questions and scaling,
- How to use case mapping to think into and through a case where you have concerns about a child's well-being and safety,
- How to use safety planning and
- Direct work resources to use with children and young people.

The next sessions will take place on:

- Tuesday 6 to Wednesday 7 February 2018

Signs of Safety 3 day Practice Champion training

- Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 November 2017

Book your place today. Visit <http://buy.doncaster.gov.uk/Training> and then under filters, select Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board from the 'Providers' drop-down list to search for the courses.



You should by now have received an invitation to undertake a questionnaire about Signs of Safety. Please take the time to complete this as it will help us to plan how best to support you in your use of Signs of Safety.



A partnership strategic board was established to drive forward the implementation plan and to provide support to all agencies. The board is chaired by Doncaster Children's Services Trust.

Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Board (DSCB) signed up to implement Signs of Safety as its choice of practice model in July 2015, led by Doncaster Children's

Services Trust, and represented by Doncaster Council, South Yorkshire Police, NHS Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Trust and Public Health.

For the latest information on Signs of Safety programme visit the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board website <http://www.dscb.co.uk/>

