



Contact information

Your child's social worker is:

The contact number is:

The Signs of Safety Approach

In Norfolk, families are starting to hear about Signs of Safety. The aim of this information is to give you a better understanding of what it means for you, your children and family.

Signs of Safety is a way of working that supports families who need help with bringing up their children, it will help you understand any support you need and any risks to your child.

➤ What is Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety is about you and your family members working together, along with professionals (health visitors, social workers, teachers, doctors, police etc.), to meet the needs of your children in the best way possible. It puts children, young people, their parents and families at the heart of the work.

Families play a key part in working alongside professionals, making it clear about the worries and concerns that are identified for their child, (who is worried and why), identifying the things that are going well in the child's life (strengths), and agreeing what needs to be done (goals), to build on the strengths and reduce the worries.

➤ What difference will Signs of Safety make to the way professionals work with me and my children?

The whole point of Signs of Safety is to make sure that your children's and your views, as parents/carers, are fully heard, with the strengths of your family clearly identified and included in the plans and actions needed to keep your child safe and/or promote their wellbeing. Professionals will be trying to make sure this happens by asking questions such as,

"What do you think is going well?" "What are you worried about?" "What needs to change?"

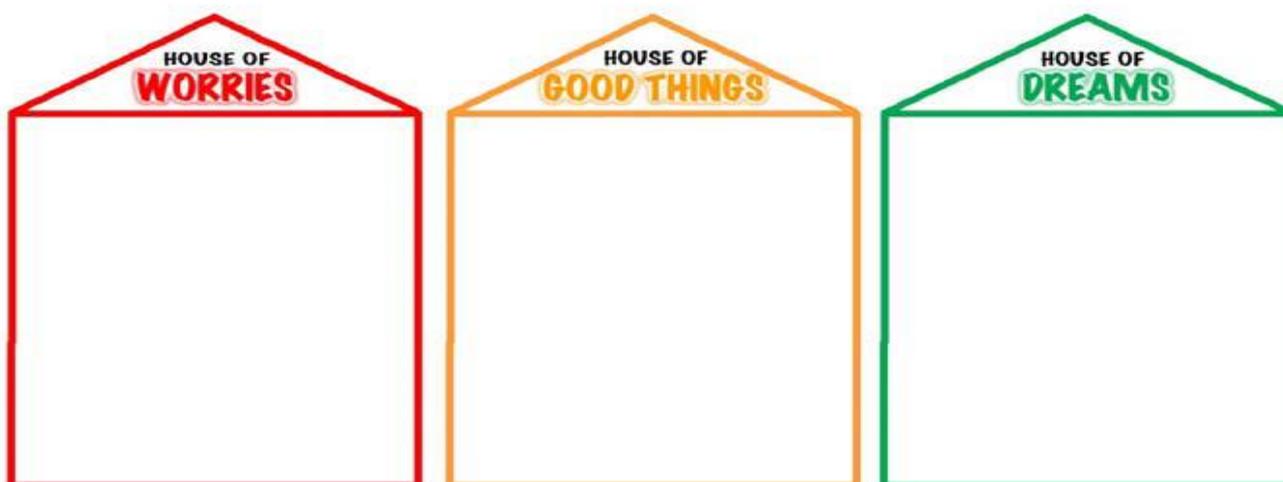
Signs of Safety is a way of making sure that everyone involved in your child's life has the same understanding of the strengths and the worries, and agrees the goals that need to be reached, to make sure that your child is safe and well at all times.

Professionals will be asking you how satisfied or worried you are about your child's safety, health, where they are living, or anything else which is important to your child and the kind of support being offered.

Signs of Safety helps everyone involved with your child or young person – including the child/young person themselves – to think about ways to keep safe, healthy and settled, wherever they are living.

➤ Talking to children

Talking to your children is at the heart of Signs of Safety. It is important that children, as well as adults, have an opportunity to talk about what they are worried about, what makes them happy, and what they would like to see happen in their family and community to keep them safe. The Signs of Safety approach uses a tool called *The Three Houses* to talk to children and ask them their views:



The Signs of Safety assessment will also include professionals working with your child, such as teachers, nurses, doctors and police. During an assessment four key questions will be asked of you, your child, your wider family and anyone else who helps to care for your child:

1. What are we worried about for your child?
2. What is working well in your family?
3. What needs to happen to make sure your child is safe and well in the future?
4. How safe or well is your child on a scale from 0 to 10?
(0 meaning the child is in danger, 10 meaning the child is safe)

