

Resources

The Signs of Safety practice

Signs of Safety Assessment Framework

The Assessment &
Planning
Framework

The
3 steps in
assessment



Thinking about a person in your life that you feel a worried about:

What are you Worried About?

← STEP ONE: START HERE, BACK AND FORWARDS →

2. What has happened, what have you seen, that makes you worried about this person?

4. What words would use to talk about this problem so that _____ would understand what you're worried about?

6. When you think about what has already happened to _____ what do you think is the worst thing that could happen to _____ because of this problem?

8. Are there things happening in _____'s life or family that make this problem harder to deal with?

What's Working Well?

1. What do you like about _____ what are his/her best attributes?

3. Who are the people that care most about _____? How do they show they care for _____?

5. What would _____ say are the best things about his/her life?

7. Who would _____ say are the most important people in his/her life? How do they help, support, protect them?

9. Example of a time when this problem has been dealt with or was even a little better? How did that happen?

What Needs to Happen?

STEP TWO

10. Having thought more about this problem now, what would you need to see that would make you satisfied the situation is completely sorted out

11. What would _____ need to see that would make them say this problem is completely sorted out?

12. What do you think is the next step that should happen to get this worry sorted out?

13. On a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means this problem is sorted out as much as it can be and 0 means things are at their worst where do you rate this situation today? What places you there?

0

STEP THREE: JUDGEMENT

10

Thinking about a child/teenager in your life that you feel a worried about:

What are you Worried About?

← **STEP ONE: START HERE**

What has happened, what have you seen, that makes you worried about the teenager?

HARM

What words would use to talk about this problem so that _____ would understand what you're worried about?

When you think about what has already happened _____

DANGER

what do you think is the worst thing that could happen to _____ because of this problem?

Are there things happening in _____'s life or family that make this problem harder to deal with?

Complicating Factors

What's Working Well?

BACK AND FORWARDS →

What do you like about _____ what are his/her best attributes?

Existing Strengths

Who are the people that care most about _____? What are the best things _____ care for _____?

What would _____ say are the best things about his/her life?

Who would _____ say are the most important people in his/her life?

How do they help _____ grow up well?

Existing Safety

Has there been times when this problem has been with or was even a little better? How did that happen?

What Needs to Happen?

STEP THREE

Having thought more about this problem now, what would _____ do that would make you satisfied the _____ 10?

FUTURE SAFETY

What would _____ need to see that would make them say this problem is completely sorted out?

Next steps

What do you think is the next steps to happen to get this worry sorted out?

Animations Off

On a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means this problem is sorted out as much as it can be and zero means things are so bad for the young person you need to get professional or other outside help, where do you rate this situation today? (Put different judgment numbers on scale for different people e.g., you, child, teacher etc).

0

← **STEP TWO: JUDGEMENT** →

10

Signs of Safety

What are we worried about?	What's working well?	What needs to happen?
HARM	Existing Strengths	SAFETY GOALS
Danger Statements	Existing Safety	Immediate Actions/ next steps
Complicating Factors		

On a scale of 0–10 where 10 means the child/teen is safe enough and we can close the case and zero means things are so bad for the young person we must remove them into care immediately, where do you rate this situation today?
Put different judgement numbers on scale for different people, e.g. different professionals, child, parents etc.



Signs of Wellbeing

What are we worried about?	What's working well?	What needs to happen?
Wellbeing concerns	Existing Strengths	WELLBEING GOALS
Worry Statements	Existing Wellbeing	
Complicating Factors		Next steps

10 being achieving in all areas and 0 being struggling in all areas



Signs of Success

What are we worried about?	What's working well?	What needs to happen?
Wellbeing concerns	Existing Strengths	Success GOALS
Worry Statements	Existing Success	
Complicating Factors		Next steps

10 being achieving in all areas and 0 being struggling in all areas

0



10

Creating Danger Statements

Based on what already has happened within this family what are you worried will happen to the child, YP (adult) if something like the harmful behaviours happens again?

What's the worst things that could happen?

Signs of Safety Risk Assessment: Analysing Harm

Harmful behaviours are the reason children and young people become involved in child protection processes mostly from adults actions or teenagers 'risk-taking' behaviour that is harmful to themselves or others

Predicting future danger is an inexact science but **the best predictor of the future is the past**

To best understand future danger it is vital to carefully analyse any harmful behaviours that has happened.

“Beyond Reasonable Doubt and Balance of Probability

Signs of Safety Risk Assessment: Analysing Harm

Understanding harm involves looking at:

Behaviour actions that was harmful/damaging/hurtful

Chronicity How often the harmful behaviour has happened

Severity How bad the behaviour has been

Impact How the child, young person has been negatively affected

Whatever the behaviour professionals are worried about, impact on the child is always the most important issue. Though the most critical issue, impact on the child is often assumed rather than explicitly expressed.

Draft Safety Goal - CSE

Lou from Children's Services wants Chloe to live at home with her mum Sarah as Chloe wants this to happen and they have been working hard to try and solve their problems.

To know this will happen Lou needs to see that Chloe and Sarah and their safety / support network create and stick to a family safety plan to show how Chloe will manage her intimate relationships and her drug and alcohol. This must be in place for 6 months before Children's Services will end involvement.

Practicing Safety Goals

What would you need to see to be satisfied that xxx is safe in relation to the danger you identified in your Danger statement?

On your own, write your Safety Goal

Give affirmations and Insert your preferred future we would need to see that mum and dad identify a family and friends network who will work together to create and follow a plan to show everyone ...



Making a judgment & Measuring Progress

Where are you on a scale of 0 – 10

where 10 = there is sufficient safety to close the case
and 0 = things are so serious the child/ren needs to
be removed immediately

What places you there?

What would others rate it?

Draft Safety Scale - CSE

How protected is Chloe from men who would use and abuse her for sex and give her drugs and alcohol where

10 is Chloe is fully protected and no one is worried about her safety

0 is Chloe has no protection just a matter of time before Chloe is in a dangerous situation

The best predictor of the future is the past

HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

FUTURE DANGER

FUTURE SAFETY

0 ----- 10

SAFETY SCALE

Practice Tools to help families identify Safety Networks

Exercise: *Dealing with Difficulties in Finding Safety Networks*

Objection/difficulty when working with parents to get them identify a network, develop questions to explore this with the family?

Objection/Difficulty:	
Negative	Positive
Past	
Present	
Future	

1. Mum says I don't have a network professionals will trust to be around the girls

Negative

Past

1. Out of all your family and friends who have Social Workers said can't be around the girls and you didn't understand the reasons for this?
2. When the girls moved back home with you who do you think they hoped you stopped hanging around with as they had bad experiences with them in the past?

Present

1. What are Social Workers and Police worried will happen to the girls if Will is part of the girls network?
2. Who else is spending time with you and the girls that professionals worry will hurt them and you disagree with them?

Future

1. Who would be with the girls that would make professionals phone the Police to get them away from these people as they are worried they are dangerous and could badly hurt them? What do you find most challenging with this?
2. Who do you expect professionals will have a problem with if you identify them as part of the girls safety network?

Positive

Past

1. Who has helped you in the past that who you thought professionals wouldn't like but said they were pleased as they could see how big a support they were to you and the girls?
2. Is there anyone that has helped you and the girls that professionals haven't complained to you about?

Present

1. Out of all of your family and friends who do you trust to be around, on their own with the girls. What is about these people that makes you trust them? What do you think it would take for professionals to trust them?
2. Out of all of your family and friends who has offered to help you with the girls that professionals are saying they are pleased they are in the girls lives?

Future

1. Out of all of your family and friends network who would you like to put forward as you know the girls have a good relationship with them and despite their problems they will always have the girls back?
2. Who do you think the girls want in the safety plan as they trust these people?

1. We don't have anyone to ask to be part of the safety plan

Negative

Past

Give me an example of a time when you called a family member or a friend to help you with Gemma and they said no sort it out yourself. Who has made your relationship with Gemma harder? Who has let you and Gemma down?

Present

Who would be the worst person to ask for help as they would say yes I help but not follow through?

Who triggers more arguments between you both?

Who are you both avoiding even though they are offering to help? What's your reasons for this?

Future

Who would keep letting you and Gemma down?

Who would cause you more problems?

Who would gossip about your situation to other family members?

Who would Gemma dread being involved? And you?

Who would

Positive

Past

Give me an example of a time when you called a family member or a friend to help you with Gemma and they dropped everything and helped you.

Present

Who in your life would be the best person to ask to be part of the plan? What is it about them that makes you think that?

Who cares about you? How are they offering to help you?

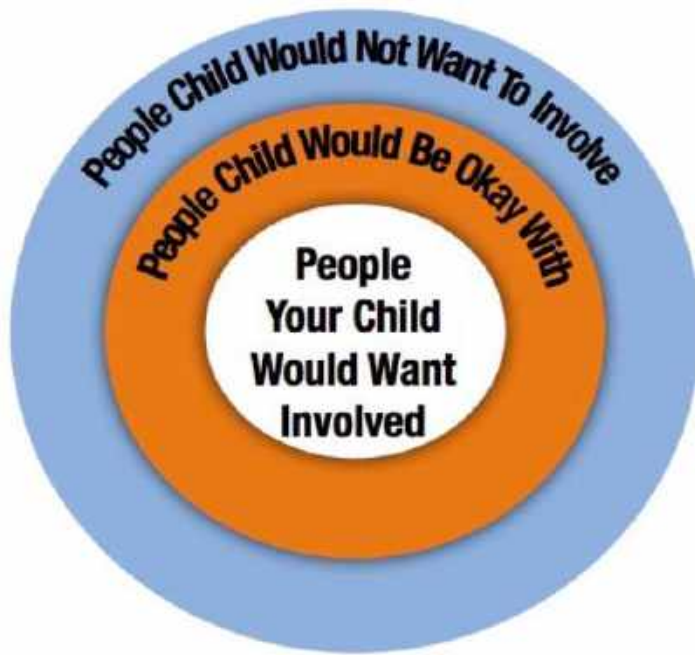
Tell me more about your 2 friends who came to help you that day?

Future

Suppose everything is going well with Gemma, who will be supporting you, what will they be doing?

Suppose Gemma is saying she has everyone she needs helping her, who would be helping her, how would they be helping?

Imagine in 3 months time your back in house and relationship is going well, who would have helped you with this?



Susie Essex created the family safety circles as a visual tool to think through in detail with the family, people parents can involve in a naturally occurring safety network; who can be most useful and who should know what. Adapt to your case and context.

Family Safety Circles

By Susie Essex

