



Signs of Safety in Cardiff



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together



What is working well?

139 Reflection Meetings have been held with Social Workers.

These meetings help social workers to focus on what is really concerning them about the issues in the family and how this impacts on the child and what the social worker wants to see to ensure that the family are able to keep the child safe.

Feedback comments

- I found the meeting helped me to focus on the safety elements within the family.
- Helped to focus on what I am really worried about.
- Helped to focus on what work I need to do with family.
- Would be great to do these meetings with every (child and family) case.
- Made me realise that I can do this with more of my cases.
- Actually helped me to reassess if children need to remain on the Child Protection Register.
- Decided that we did not need at this stage to start the PLO process as there is still a chance for the family to change.

Staff Briefings

- The team have currently organised and delivered 40 briefing sessions which have all been well attended.
- The topics cover all aspects of the model and allow for practice as well as informing staff who may not have attended training.
- Also enables staff to share their experiences of using the tools and helps to increase confidence.
- These sessions have been attended by 90 members of staff including Social Workers, Support Workers and staff from education services.

Feedback

- “The facilitator was fantastic and her presentation was easy to understand – both the PowerPoint presentation and the way that she explained things. It wasn’t made boring, she allowed plenty of input and we were all able to laugh and feel comfortable.”
- “.....found them very useful and explained terms that I’d heard but wouldn’t have been able to properly explain”
- ‘The briefing was very informative. It was very detailed. The briefing was with regards to how to complete a chronology. I feel more able to do this now.’
- ‘The content was sharp and to the point . The facilitator’s timing ran the sessions to everyone’s level . The information was detailed and informative. The idea of drop in sessions suited my work diary. The sessions were the right length of time. I would not make any changes. I hope that there are more sessions in the future’

- A 5 day intensive Signs of Safety course was held in October and was attended by 50 members of staff
- Four 2 day Signs of Safety Introductory courses have been held and a further two have been organised
- All 2 day courses have been fully booked and well attended
- 5 induction sessions and 5 team briefings have taken place.
- Briefings have also taken place with “Early Help” team and School based counsellors
- Second Celebration Event to be held in January 2020.

What are we worried about?

- Some staff are reluctant to use tools in practice when working with families and children/young people.

(This appears to be linked with confidence in practicing aspects of the model)

- Limited funding for ongoing training
- Currently unable to report on impact on children and families.
- “Buy in” and understanding from other professionals, including courts/judiciary.

What needs to happen?

- Provide more briefings for teams and share good practice
- Provide briefings for schools, MASH and police
- Mapping sessions with team managers
- Facilitate peer case reflection/supervision

Next Steps

Short-term plan :

- Provide briefings to staff to improve the analysis of risks and decision making using a Signs of Safety model within parenting assessments.
- Provide briefings for other partners and agencies so that they have an awareness of the model and language
- Work with universities, practice assessors
- Work with education (Designated Safeguarding Person) to raise awareness in schools
- Attend Team meetings to cover updates, barriers, group supervision, Words & Pictures.

Longer-term plan

- Signs of Safety to be embedded in practice
- Cardiff to have fully adopted the safety and strengths model
- Develop a reporting system to gather feedback and look at the impact Signs of Safety is having on families

Cost Avoidance

W Siblings (15 & 13 years old)

Expense	Cost
Court	£365.52
Foster placement	£1000 weekly
Panel	£171.58
LAC Review	£351.54
Allowances	£1454.46 (+ 363.62 weekly)
Total	
Annual	£2782.62 (+ £1363.62 weekly)
£67,796.86	

B.R 16 years old

Expense	Cost
Conference	£234.36
Court	£365.52
Residential placement (out of area)	£4700 weekly
Panel	£171.81
LAC Review	£351.54
Allowances	£884.52 (+ £221.13 weekly)
Total	
Annual	£2007.75+ £4921.13 weekly
£238,221.99	

D Siblings (6 & 9 years old)

Expense	Cost
Meeting	£234.36
Court	£365.52
Foster placement	£1000 Weekly
Panel	£171.81
LAC Review	£351.54
Allowances	£1272 (+£318 weekly)
Total	
Annual	£2394.52+ £1318 weekly
£65,658.52	

R Siblings (13 & 10 years old)

Expense	Cost
Conference	£234.36
Court	£365.52
Foster placement	£1000 weekly
Panel	£171.81
LAC Review	£351.54
Allowances	£1363.24 (+ £340.81 weekly)
Total	
Annual	£2486.47 (+£1340.81 weekly)
£66,845.35	

Comments about Signs of Safety

- Social workers have said that families have responded well to the model. Families feel as though they are more involved in the process and that they are not being told what to do.
- “ It’s brilliant – family really getting on board now whereas before they would avoid me “
- “Families love it and understand why we (CS) are involved”