

## **Briefing No 1      Introduction to Signs of Safety**



The Signs of Safety model was created by Andrew Turnell and Steve Edwards, in collaboration with over 150 child protection workers throughout the 1990s in Western Australia. The model promotes strong relationship building and enables practitioners across different disciplines to work in partnership with children and families to maintain a focus on building safety within the family.

Achieving for Children is rolling out Signs of Safety as its primary operating model from 19 June 2017.

### **Key Principles**

- ensuring children and families are at the centre of practice and strengthening professional judgement
- collaborative working - listening to, informing, and involving the children through the whole process.
- focused and effective risk assessment that maximises engagement of family and partner agencies and involves the child, family and wider network in assessment and safety planning

### **Signs of Safety Overview**

1. Signs of Safety's simple approach enables children, families and practitioners to understand:
  - **What is working well**
  - **What is worrying us**
  - **What needs to happen**
2. Practitioners work with the children, parents and the support network using a common language to understand the professional's concerns about harm and danger - they write a danger statement and scale the current situation 0 to 10
3. Working in partnership, the children, parents and practitioners formulate safety goals and a safety plan, including next steps and a timeline for review

### **Find out more about Signs of Safety**

- Sign up to Achieving for Children's formal Signs of Safety training <https://www.afccpdonline.co.uk/cpd/portal.asp>
- Signs of Safety website [www.signsofsafety.net](http://www.signsofsafety.net)
- ['You Can't Grow Roses in Concrete'](#) Action Research Final Report on Signs of Safety English Innovations Project, Eileen Munro, Andrew Turnell and Terry Murphy
- [Signs of Safety in England](#): An NSPCC commissioned report on the Signs of Safety model in child protection, Amanda Bunn, Freelance Research Consultant