

Signs of Safety Newsletter



April 2019

Plans and meetings are changing!

What our plans look like and how we conduct meetings will be changing from **Wednesday 1st May 2019** so they are aligned with Signs of Safety. This will include:

- Child in Need and Child Protection Plans
- Care Plans
- Pathway Plans
- Placement Plans

These plans echo our early help plans (which are already aligned with Signs of Safety/Wellbeing), and will mean we have a consistent way of working with families across the continuum.

Feedback from the pilots of these new forms has been that these are much easier to use and much more family friendly. **Please note that transferring information from the old form to the new one will take longer than simply updating a plan, so please factor this in to planning your time.**

This will mean the way planning meetings are conducted will change. There is an agenda for planning meetings which is available [on our website](#). This will mean planning meetings will reflect the new style of CP conferences introduced in January 2019.

Plans need to **empower families** – practitioners leading meetings need to support the family and their network to come up with their best ideas about how to address the worries. **Most of the actions in the plan should be things the family and network will do** to make sure the child is safe and well cared for. Therefore planning meetings will be focused on helping the network think through what needs to happen and who could help.

Agency reports to Child Protection Conferences are also being reviewed so they are aligned with SOS. These forms are currently out for consultation from agencies.

Slight change to Early Help Plans

We're also simplifying our early help plans from **Thursday 18th April** based on feedback from practitioners. The new template is available on the [early help website](#).

Getting ready – help and support

If you want any help, support or advice, we recommend you speak to your Signs of Safety **Practice Lead** in the first instance (the Practice Leads for schools are the SCIES Team

SCiESTeamEast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

There are **exercises you can do in group supervision** to help you to reflect on what you need to see from the family, which will help you to prepare for meetings and think of what questions you need to ask the family. A guide for [safety planning in group supervision](#) is available on our website.

For **bespoke training, support and guidance** in relation to SOS, contact our SOS Lead Practitioner Louise Wright at

louise.wright@cheshireeast.gov.uk

For a briefing/ workshop in your team **on what to expect at CP Conferences** (which will now apply to other meetings) contact the Safeguarding team at

safeguardingchildprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk

For workshops and one to one **support with work at early help**, contact Early Help Brokerage EHB@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Signs of Safety Training

If you haven't had any Signs of Safety Training yet, please book yourself on. There are different options depending on your role, which are all included on [our website](#), along with how to book.

Contact us at:

SignsOfSafety@cheshireeast.gov.uk