



North Tyneside Council

# NEWSLETTER

## **Summer 2021 Newsletter**

Welcome to the summer edition of the Signs of Safety Newsletter. We know that it is still a challenging time for everyone, including the children and families that we are working with, so thank you for your continued hard work!

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find:

- Changes to Practice Lead Sessions.
- New Opportunities for Learning
- Upcoming training/learning opportunities.
- Spotlight on Networks.

## **Practice Lead Sessions**

We have been catching up with all practice leads, finding out what their experience of being a practice lead has been like and how they see their role developing in each service area. We have practice leads across all our services and everyone seems to be embracing the role and taking a lead on things like Group Supervision within their teams.

We have changed practice lead sessions to practice learning sessions and these are now available to everyone. There are a range of sessions focusing on applying different parts of the model to specific areas of practice. Have a look at the upcoming training/learning for the next available sessions.

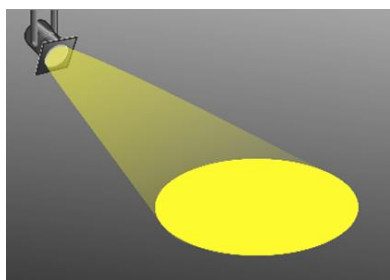
## **New Opportunities for Learning**

The Practice Model and Development Team are now hosting a range of learning opportunities in addition to our new 3-day Introduction to Signs of Safety. We now have monthly multi-agency group supervision sessions open to everyone, bitesize signs of safety sessions, and sharing good practice events. Bitesize sessions are only available to social work teams right now, but we will be rolling them out to other services over the coming months.

### **Upcoming Training/Learning**

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>Time</b>             | <b>Session</b>  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 10 August             | 2.30-4                  | Sharing Good Practice (Networks)  |
| 17 August             | 9.30-12.30 or 1.30-4.30 | Practice Learning (Contextualised Safeguarding)   |
| 20 August             | 1-4                     | Multi-Agency Group Supervision  |
| 23, 31 Aug and 6 Sept | 9.30-4.30 each day      | Introduction to Signs of Safety (mandatory for any new starter)                             |
| 16 September          | 9-12.30 or 1-4.30       | Practice Learning (children with complex needs)   |
| 28 September          | 9.30-4.30               | Additional practice model training (Mindful positioning, harm matrix, and mobility mapping) |
| 1 October             | 9.30-12.30              | Multi-Agency Group Supervision  |
| 12 October            | 9-12.30 or 1-4.30       | Practice Learning (children with complex needs)   |
| 25 October            | 1-4                     | Multi-Agency Group Supervision  |

Please book through the Learning Pool : [Course: Signs of Safety Practice Learning Sessions \(learningpool.com\)](https://learningpool.com/courses/signs-of-safety-practice-learning-sessions)



#### **Spotlight On Networks**

At a recent bitesize Signs of Safety session with the social work teams, we heard about some great practice where a social worker in safe and supported had worked with a family to identify their network when the family and initially said they didn't have one. A network was created, involving mum's hairdresser and someone mum knew who worked at a local shop. The social worker supported mum and her network to come together and develop their safety plan and they can now see that the plan is working. This demonstrates great creativity and persistence from the worker as well as the mum being brave and vulnerable enough to share information with people so that they can support her to keep her children safe.

Another great example of creativity in establishing safety plans came from a worker in the social work assessment team who had been to a bitesize signs of safety session on immediate safety planning. Because the social worker was self-isolating at home, the social worker emailed the plan document to the family who were able to meet with their network, complete the plan, and send it back to the social worker. The family commented on how easy it was to understand and complete with little guidance. This demonstrates excellent sharing of responsibility between the family and professionals, giving the control to the family and their network and trusting in the family's own capabilities!

We want to hear more examples, from across children's services, of networks working together to develop plans that keep children safe. If you have an example you would like to share, please contact [CSCAdvancedPractitioners@northynteside.gov.uk](mailto:CSCAdvancedPractitioners@northynteside.gov.uk) and if you want to hear more about working creatively with networks, come along to our Good Practice event on 10 August!

People may be aware that we have been part of a recent research project with Signs of Safety around the use of networks during COVID-19. You can find the executive summary of the research and it's findings here: [https://my.northynteside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/COVID-19%20Research%20Executive%20Summary\\_0.pdf](https://my.northynteside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/COVID-19%20Research%20Executive%20Summary_0.pdf)

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