



# Examples of Danger Statements and Safety Goals

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## **Example 1: Children with a disability**

### **Worry Statement**

Social Worker John from CSC is worried that Milly as a single mum, has no support and gets no time free from being a parent. Lou and Dan fight a lot and sometimes hurt each other. Dan can at times get angry and he has punched his mum in the face. We are worried that if the right support is not put into place to help them manage these behaviours at home, things will get worse, and someone could get seriously hurt. Dan might need to leave the home again like the time when Police took him to his dad's a few months ago. Whilst he was there, he and dad had an argument and Dan ended up with a cut in his face. Dad won't have him again, so everyone is worried about where he will go if this happens again.



## **Wellbeing Goal**

In order for everyone to feel less worried, mum will be supported to leave the family home with the boys being cared for, so she can have time for herself. The boys will be supported to manage their anxiety and increase their involvement in activities outside of the family home. When things get difficult, there will be safe places for the children to go that are with people they already know, rather than strangers. The plan will be explained to the boys, so they understand what is happening around them.

## **Example 2: Domestic abuse**

### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker John from CSC is worried if dad Elliot moves back in with the family, there will be times when he will get angry like he has in the past and he will yell at, hit and frighten mum Kelsey, like when mum Kelsey had injuries, or when Alfie has described hearing shouting and seeing his mum getting hit. Both mum Kelsey and dad Elliot say this never happened. This makes us more worried as all of the children have said that they have seen their dad Elliot hurt their mum in the past. If the yelling and hitting continues, John is worried that the children will grow up thinking that this is normal behaviour in relationships and grow up feeling anxious as adults, or might even grow up thinking it is okay for their partner to be violent towards them or for them to become violent themselves.

### **Safety Goal**

Social Worker John from CSC really want the children to grow up together in their family with mum Kelsey and dad Elliot because they love each other and really want to be together. For that to happen we need to see that mum and dad can choose at least six people from their family and friends who will help them to make and then follow a good long term plan that will show everyone that the children will grow up in a loving family, where they have ways of dealing with angry feelings and that doesn't involve yelling in ways that scare people, or hitting them. Dad will also need to work with the network to create and follow a plan that shows what he will do when he feels



angry, that doesn't involve yelling in ways that scare people. Mum will also work with a separate network to create her own safety plan that shows what she will do to keep herself and the children safe if dad's plan doesn't work and/or things get dangerous. A child's version of the safety plan will also be developed so the children know what to do if things get hard or scary at home.

### **Example 3: Sexual abuse**

#### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker John from CSC is worried about mum Tricia and Dad Frank's children because of stuff that Mel told dad and the Police about what Uncle Tony did to her. Mel said Uncle Tony touched her private parts and got her to touch his. Dad took her straight to the Police and Mel was very brave to say what had happened. The Police talked to Uncle Tony and now he has to wait in prison.

John is worried that if Uncle Tony gets out of prison he might try and hurt Mel or the other children in the future, and that maybe mum and dad won't know what to do to stop him. If Uncle Tony does this to the children they will be scared and could be seriously hurt. They could grow up feeling like they did something bad or that the horrible things that Uncle Tony did was their fault.

#### **Safety Goal**

For everyone to be sure that Mel and her brothers are safe from anyone sexually abusing them in the future, John needs to see that there is a network of people who can help mum and dad, especially when dad is feeling sad or stressed, make sure the children are safe. The network will work hard with mum, dad and John to make a clear plan with special rules that will show everyone Uncle Tony is never on his own with the children and who will do what to keep them safe. The plan will also have rules for who is going to help Mel know how brave she is and that she can talk to someone if she feels sad, scared, or worried anytime in the future about what Uncle Tony did. Mum and dad will help write a story for all the children to explain what has



happened and what will happen in the future to make sure the kids are always okay.

## **Example 4: Learning difficulty/neglect**

### **Danger statement**

Everyone can see how much Megan and Derek love and care for Andy and Terry, and that they try hard to be the best mummy and daddy they possibly can be. Social Worker Josie from CSC want them to be together as a family but there are some serious worries that need to get sorted out.

Josie worries that Megan and Derek have lots of different problems that makes it hard to care well for two really little boys. Like problems with learning, worrying, getting sick, and not having any help. Without these things, Paul worries that boys won't get what they need like:

- Being fed enough of the right stuff at the right times to help them grow bigger and stronger.
- The right amount of cuddles, play time and sleep time so they feel loved and safe.
- A clean place to live with a mummy and daddy who know what to do to keep them safe, even on the hardest days when they are most confused and tired.

Josie worries that if the boys went home today, the struggles that Megan and Derek have could mean that they don't know what to do or can't do what the little boys need them to do, and everyone knows how sad that would make Megan and Derek. The problems could get so big that the boys get sick, hurt, scared or even die.

## Words and pictures version

1. Megan and Derek love Andy and Terry so much.



2. Josie from CSC has some big worries because of Megan and Derek's problems with learning and staying well in their minds and bodies. Sometimes this means they don't know what to do for Andy and Terry.



3. Josie is worried Andy and Terry won't get fed good food enough, won't be clean, have a safe place, or safe people to make sure they are always okay.



4. Josie is worried that the children are really little so could get hurt or scared badly, or even die.



## **Safety Goal**

Social Worker Josie from CSC can see how much Megan and Derek want to have the boys live with them again and she knows how important that this is for them. Josie can see how much they both try to do everything people around them ask them to do so they can get better at being a mummy and daddy. Josie wants to give them both every chance to have Andy and Terry with them. For this to happen, Josie needs to see:

- They have a group of people around them who can help at any time, day and night and on any day of the week.
- That they work with their network people to make a plan with rules about who will do what to help them and the boys always get all the stuff they need.
- The plan will have rules about feeding the kids, bathing them, caring for them when they're sick and making sure there is enough money to have plenty of food and other things the kids need. The plan will also have rules about keeping the house clean.
- And that they help write a story for Andy and Terry so they know what has been happening and what will happen in the future, so they always feel safe, loved, cared for and happy with adults who look after them every day.

They will have lots of meetings and ask lots of questions so they can all understand the worries, the good things, and so they can work hard at making the plan.

### Words and Pictures version

1. Everyone knows what good people Megan and Derek are and how hard they try to be the best mummy and daddy for Terry and Andy. They smile lots at the kids, cuddle them, play games, and feed them well when they are together. Everyone can see they're happy together.

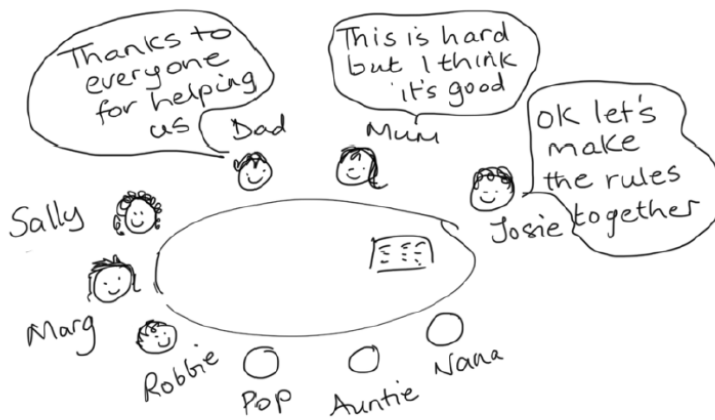


2. For the family to be together all the time they need to get people who can help them any time of the day or night. So they can ask questions and feel clear about what they need to do so that the kids are always okay, even when Megan and Derek are sad or tired.



3. The helpers will be called the network. They will make a plan with rules so everyone knows what they have to do to help.

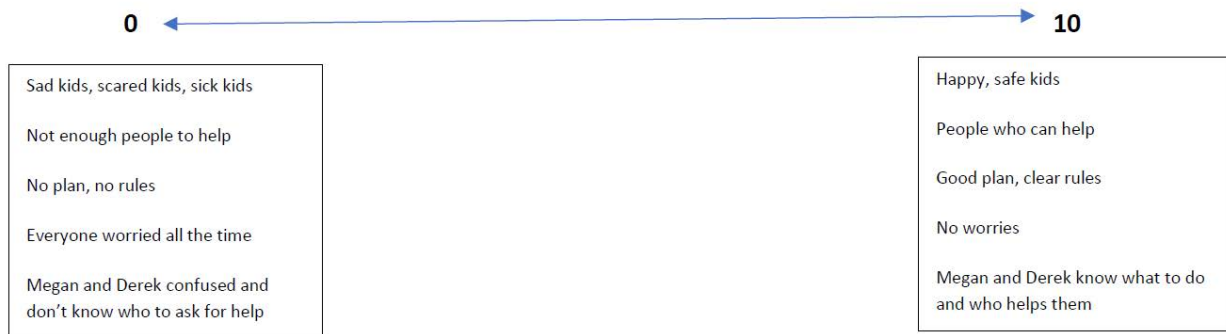




4. To help Megan, Derek, Andy and Terry when they are big to understand foster care, Josie will help them make a story together about their family and the good and worrying stuff that has happened. The story will talk about what will happen now, so no one worries about them.



## Safety scale



## **Example 5: Neglect**

### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker John from CSC is worried that the care of the children is not good enough. Like the time at the beginning of the year when Alfie was arriving at school smelling of faeces and urine. Or like on 30/03/22, when Police and the social worker found the home was in a bad state with dirty floors, clutter, lots of flies, dirty/no bedding and not enough food for Alfie. Mum was sleeping and no-one was looking after Alfie. If things get back to this, SW John is worried that Alfie could get hurt, be miserable and get teased and bullied by other children. He may grow up not knowing how to take care of himself and his home.

### **Safety Goal**

The plan will need to show that no matter what is happening for the mum and dad, whether they are happy, sad, sick or well, together or apart, that Alfie will get the attention and good care that he needs. This means he will have regular baths, clean clothes that fit, good food to eat, a clean bed to sleep in, and safe places to play at home. The plan will also include how Alfie will get to school each day and who will take him to health appointments. The plan would also need to show that there is at least one consistent caring adult that Alfie knows cares for him and that he can turn to if he is feeling sad or unloved.



## **Example 6: Contextual safeguarding**

### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker Josie, CSC knows that Liam is nearly 18 years old and wants to be treated like an adult without the Police or social workers telling him what to do and how to live his life.

Social Worker Josie, Paul from Police and Emma from Housing, and mum Sarah are worried that Liam was seriously injured when he was stabbed by two young men outside his house and had to spend 2 weeks in hospital. A few months ago before that, he was nearly hit by a car that was deliberately driven at Liam and his friend. His friend was so badly injured that he nearly died.

Josie, Paul, Emma and Sarah are worried that Liam may be being deliberately targeted by people who want to hurt him. They are worried that if nothing happens, the people who attacked Liam, or other people, could try to hurt him again. Liam could be injured perhaps more seriously than before and could even be killed. This would mean he may not have the opportunity to live a full and interesting life or be able to do everyday things like other young people of his age.

### **Safety Goal**

Josie, Paul and Emma want Liam and his family to be safe and for Liam to be able to live a full and interesting and exciting life, to be able to go to college next year as planned, to go out with his friends, to have fun and spend time with family and other important people in his life who love and care for him, even though there may be people who could want to hurt him or other people around him.

For Josie, Paul and Emma to no longer to have a worry, we would like to see Liam and the important people in his life to come together, and to build a safety network around Liam and his family. We would like this network group to come up with an everyday plan that will show everyone how Liam and his family will always be safe and who



will do what to support Liam, both at home and when he goes out, whether he is with friends, family or on his own.

Josie, Paul and Emma would like Liam and his family to think about who he and they trust the most and who are the best people who can help them to develop a safety plan.

## **Example 7: Fostering/drug misuse**

### **Danger Statement**

Whilst we recognise that Penny and Felix (foster carers) are really committed to caring for Violet and so far have done a great job, the fostering panel, the Social Worker and Manager are all worried that because Felix failed to tell anyone that he had been using heroin for years, he may start using heroin again and if he does, there will be times when he is not in a fit state to look after the children or keep them safe.

We are also worried that because Felix failed to tell the SW about his drug use during the assessment, he may lie about other things in the future and then the worker will not know what is really going on for the child and they could be unhappy or asked to keep secrets or be treated unkindly and no one will know.

### **Safety Goal**

CSC are really pleased that Felix is on a methadone programme and recognise that he and Penny are doing a good job looking after Violet. In order to be satisfied that Violet stays safe, we need to see that they continue to be looked after really well just as they have been for the past six months. Felix and Penny need to work with the Social Worker to write a Words and Pictures explanation with Violet about the worries and what everyone is doing now to make sure that Violet remains safe in their care. Because Felix and Penny have been approved as carers for Violet, we must also be confident that neither carer uses illegal drugs whilst caring for the children.

## **Example 8: Care leaver/mental health**

### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker Josie is worried that there are times when Jane feels really low and bad about her life and this means she sometimes hurts herself, by cutting her arms and legs, sometimes so bad that she has to go to hospital. Josie worries that Jane will one day hurt herself so badly that she could end up dying.

### **Safety Goal**

Josie wants Jane to feel more in control and better about herself and that she will stop hurting herself completely. Josie knows that this is unlikely in the short term, so her best hope is that Jane will start to feel better in her mind and that she will hurt herself less often and less seriously. Josie would like Jane to get together her best support people and work out how this might happen. Jane will know who she can call if she is worried about hurting herself and needs someone to help her.

## **Example 9: Early Help**

### **Worry Statement**

Mary, the Early Help Worker can see that mum Jane is doing her best to care for Sam and Sarah but sometimes this can be really hard. Sam and Sarah are fussy eaters and don't sleep well so mum Jane gets exhausted. Mum Jane has also been through a difficult time with dad Tom who used to shout and swear in a really loud voice. This got so bad once that mum Jane called the Police and dad Tom had to go to court. When dad Tom left the home, mum Jane was left with a load of debt. Because mum Jane is under so much stress, Mary the Early Help Worker are worried that if she does not get good support she could get so frustrated that she might hurt Sam and or Sarah like what happened 3 years ago when she smacked Amy and dragged her out of bed by the arm. If something like this happened again, Sam or Sarah might be hurt, in pain and cry. If it was really bad, they might have to go to hospital.



## **Wellbeing Goal**

Mary the Early help Worker knows that mum Jane loves her children loads and wants Sam and Sarah to get all the things they need to grow up into happy children. In order for this to happen, we would need to see mum Jane to find some family and friends who understand her struggles. These would be her support people and they would need to help mum Jane to come up with a plan so that even when money is running out there is always food for the children to eat. When Mum Jane is struggling and tired, mum Jane has people she can turn to so that the children are always looked after by adults who are calm and patient, even when the children are grizzly and demanding lots of attention. Mary the Early Help Worker would also like mum to write a simple story using words and pictures for all the children to explain to them what has happened and how come Amy and Lilly are living with their dad David.

## **Example 10: Sexual exploitation**

### **Danger Statement**

Social Worker John, dad and mum are really impressed with the changes Miranda has made recently like not going missing anymore, texting her dad to tell him where she is, and when she will be home, not getting into cars of boys/men she doesn't know, stopping using drugs, and cutting down on her drinking. These are really fantastic changes and Josie knows that Miranda is a very determined young woman so she has a great chance of sticking to this.

Because these changes are fairly new, John is still worried that Miranda could be influenced by other people to drink more, take drugs again, and sleep with men who are older than her and who don't really care about her. If this happens, Miranda could end up being forced to have sex when she doesn't want to, getting so drunk that she does things she wouldn't do sober, and this could lead to Miranda getting physically hurt and feeling bad about herself.



## **Safety Goal**

In order to be willing to close Miranda to CSC, John would need to see Miranda and her parents work with her to find at least three supportive people who know about the worries and help Miranda and her parents to get a plan in place so everyone involved with know she is always safe. The plan needs to show how Miranda will continue to make safe choices about where she goes and who with, not going missing from home and to use drink or drugs sensibly and safely for 6 months more. So that we know we have done what we need to do, we want to be sure that if things get tough or boring for Miranda and she feels wobbly, she has safe people around her and she will talk with them about what is happening.

## **Example 11: Physical abuse**

### **Danger Statement**

Josie Social Worker knows that mum and dad love Cindy and Johnny and they want to stay together as a family. Josie is worried that Cindy is getting more and more frustrated and angry, and she has got bruises where mum and dad try to control her. She is coping with this by being rough with her little brother Johnny, so that he is scared. Josie is worried that if nothing changes and mum and dad can't find ways of keeping Cindy and Johnny safe, Cindy will keep feeling scared and angry and out of control, and Johnny will feel sad and lonely and afraid of his sister hurting him. Cindy could get hurt again by being restrained by mum and dad and this could get worse potentially leading to a serious injury requiring medical treatment.

### **Safety Goal**

Josie knows that mum and dad are trying really hard to keep Cindy and Johnny safe and stay together as a family. To be confident the children are safe even when things get difficult, Josie needs to see mum and dad find a group of people who know all about the struggles and can help them to make a plan to show that even when mum and dad are struggling, Cindy and Johnny are always safe and get all the love and attention that they need. When the plan is working well, the



network will make a simple plan with pictures which Cindy and Johnny can understand. When the plan has been working well for 12 weeks, CSC will close the children.