



## Herefordshire Council Children and Young People Services

### What is Signs of Safety?

#### Information for Families

This leaflet aims to give you, your children and your family information about Signs of Safety in Herefordshire and what it means for you.

#### What is Signs of Safety?

The Signs of Safety model is about family members and professionals (social workers, teachers, health professionals, police and early help) working together to meet children and young people's needs in the best way possible.

It puts children, young people and their parents at the heart of the work. Families play a key part in working alongside professionals, making it clear about the worries and concerns that are identified for their child, (who is worried and why), identifying the things that are going well in the child's life (strengths), and agreeing what needs to be done (goals), to build on the strengths and reduce the worries.

#### What's different about Signs of Safety?

The whole point of Signs of Safety is to make sure that the views of children, young people, their parents and network of family and friends are fully heard. The model ensures that the strengths within the family are clearly identified and included in the plans and actions to keep the child safe and promote their wellbeing. We will make sure this happens by asking questions like:

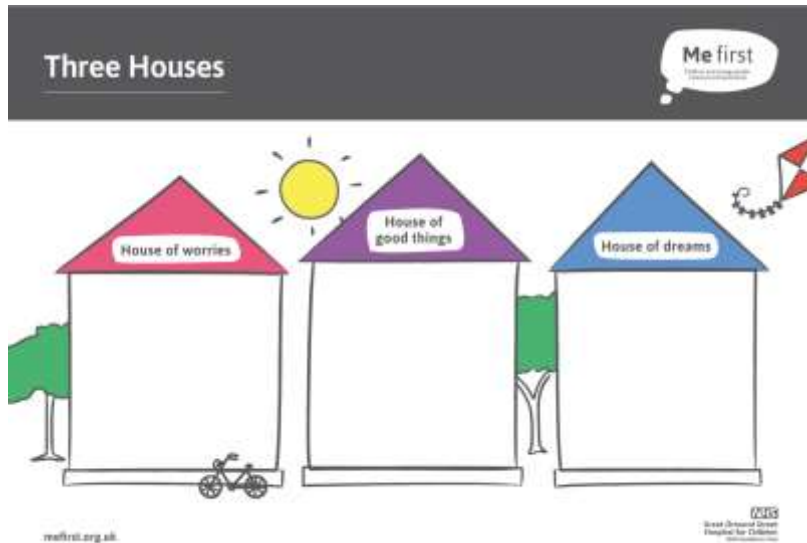
- "What do you think is going well?"
- "What are you worried about?"
- "What needs to change?"

Signs of Safety is a way of making sure that everyone involved in a child's life has the same understanding of the strengths and the worries, and agrees the goals that need to be reached to make sure that your child is safe and well at all times. We will all use the same language to talk about our worries and our goals for the children.

### Talking to Children

Talking directly to children to get their point of view is at the heart of the Signs of Safety model. It is important that children, as well as adults, have an opportunity to talk about what they are worried about, what makes them happy, and what they would like to see happen in their family and community to keep them safe. If we need help to make sure we understand clearly what you children want to tell us, we will find someone who can help us talk to each other, for example an interpreter or signer.

The Signs of Safety approach uses tools called The Three Houses, The Three Islands or Wizards and Fairies when social workers, early help or other professionals talk to children to capture their views:



(or similar design)

## Moving Forward

You will be given a copy of your child's Child and Family Assessment. The same plan will also be used in meetings between you and your children's social workers. Your child's social worker will review progress against the plan of what needs to happen and how well the plan is working with you and your safety network (family members, friends and other professionals).

It is all about working together with you to increase safety and wellbeing for your child. If you have further questions about Signs of Safety that this information doesn't answer then please discuss these with your child's social worker.

Name of Social Worker:

Phone number:

Email address: