Changes to Conversations at the Front Door

From 1st November 2017, there will be some changes to conversations at the front door in line with our adoption of *Signs of Safety*.

**What will change?**

The types of questions you will be asked will change. These questions will be based around the Signs of Safety approach:

- What we’re worried about
- What’s working well
- Next Steps
- Scaling from 0-10

The questions will be used to try to build up a full picture of the risks that considers *both* the concerns *and* the strengths and protective factors in the family.

**What we’re worried about**

To understand the concerns for the child or young person, you will be asked about what has made you worried, and what is different today that has made you concerned. You will be asked about how often the issue happens, and what was the first, worst and last time this happened.

When talking about your worries, you will be asked about what the *impact* is on the child or young person.

**What’s working well**

You will be asked about the family’s strengths and what is working well for them. This might be positive aspects of their parenting, or the support they have through their family or community.

Again the key here will be what *impact* the strengths are having on the child/young person.

If the family is referred to a new service, when the new worker completes a visit this will allow them to reflect the positive aspects that you have noticed as well as the concerns.

**Scaling from 0-10**

You will be asked to scale how concerned you are *about the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person* on a scale of 0-10, where 10 is that you are confident that the child/young person is safe and well and we don’t need to intervene, and 0 is that things are so bad that they cannot live in the home anymore. The worker will also say where they are on the scale.

Scaling is used to help people understand each other’s viewpoint and
is used to start a discussion. There is no right or wrong answer, but you will need to say why you have chosen that number, and what you would need to see to increase the scale by one point. This starts the discussion about the next steps.

**Next Steps**
You will be asked what you think needs to happen next, and you will agree the next steps together with the worker.

A full list of the types of questions you might be asked is attached.

**Want to know more?**
For more information on why we are adopting Signs of Safety, what we want to achieve, and our plan for how we will do this please see our [Signs of Safety Strategy](#) on the new Signs of Safety page on the [LSCB Website](#).

Also the official Signs of Safety website at [www.SignsofSafety.net](http://www.SignsofSafety.net)

**Contact us at:**
[SignsOfSafety@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:SignsOfSafety@cheshireeast.gov.uk)