

SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

14 November 2019
Pembrokeshire College

Celebrating Signs of Safety across the
Mid and West Wales Region



PROGRAMME

09.30 - 10.00	Registration & Refreshments
10.00 - 10.05	Welcome to Pembrokeshire College - Dr Barry Walters, College Principal
10.05 - 10.15	Welcome & Introductions Cllr Tessa Hodgson, National Safeguarding and Board Member - Welcome to Pembrokeshire Jonathan Griffiths, Director of Social Services, Pembrokeshire and Conference Chair
10.15 - 11.00	How Signs of Safety Protects Children's Safety and Well-being - Dr Eileen Munro
11.00 - 12.00	Signs of Safety in Action across the Region Signs of Safety in Education - Cheryl Loughlin Signs of Safety in Drugs and Alcohol Services - Alex Panter Signs of Safety and Systemic Melding - Karon Oliver and Rhian Busby Network Meetings and Safety Planning in Child Protection Conferences - Phil Pike
12.00 - 13.00	'Grab a Bag' Lunch & Networking
13.00 - 13.10	Return & Welcome - Jonathan Griffiths, Director of Social Services, Pembrokeshire and Conference Chair
13.10 - 14.10	Signs of Safety in Action Across the Region Signs of Well-being, Supporting Individual and Community Resilience - Cyra Shimell Signs of Safety with Looked After Children - Helen Jones & Oliver Roberts A Social Work Journey - Lisa Turner The Use of Mapping, Networks and Words and Pictures in Family Work - Stephen Pearce
14.10 - 14:50	How Wales has Embraced the Signs of Safety Approach Manna van 't Slot, Bev Edwards with Andrew Turnell (via video)
14.50 - 15.00	Closing Remarks - Jake Morgan Director of Community Services, Carmarthen and Chair of CYSUR
15.00	Depart

KEYNOTE:

EILEEN MUNRO:

How Signs of Safety Protects Children's Safety and Well-being

Child protection work presents many challenges: in collecting information about a family, analyzing that information to form judgments about what harm, if any, a child has or might suffer, and deciding what action to take knowing that all the options available offer some benefits and some losses for the child or young person. This presentation will discuss how Signs of Safety methods seek to tackle all these dimensions of professional practice in an intellectually robust way that also aims to empower the family and their natural support networks as much as possible.

Eileen Munro is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. Professor Munro has written extensively on how best to combine intuitive and analytic reasoning in child protection risk assessment and decision-making and also on the importance of understanding how systems' factors

influence workers' actions. In 2011, she completed the Munro Review of the English Child Protection System. She has since been working with Andrew Turnell helping ten local authorities in England effect whole system re-design to support Signs of Safety practice with families, thereby testing the feasibility of implementing her Review recommendations. Returning to her roots in philosophy, Eileen is also working on a five year philosophy of social technology project that is exploring the implications of complex causality for using research findings in a new location and how this challenges traditional evidence-based practice.



Pembrokeshire



Presentation 1: Signs of Safety in Education

Pembrokeshire Children and Schools have embraced the Signs of Safety model. This presentation will illustrate the journey undertaken by Education to embed the principles and tools into education practice and demonstrate how the tools have been adopted for practical interventions with children and families.

About the speaker:

Cheryl Loughlin, Safeguarding in Education Manager, has worked previously in Health, in schools and in the Children and Schools Directorate for over 30 years both as a practitioner, working with families and young people and as a manager.

Presentation 2: Signs of Safety in Drugs & Alcohol Services

A focus on how Pembrokeshire have incorporated Signs of Safety into our work in the social care substance misuse team and how it links with other methods of intervention. The presentation will share how it is used within day to day practice and more broadly. It will include a case study to illustrate how the model has been used to assist a family to live with a loved one's alcohol use.

About the speaker:

Alex Panter is a senior social worker in community drug and alcohol team which is a health and social care team working closely with colleagues in third sector organisations Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service and CAIS. Alex has worked in the substance misuse field for about eighteen years and prior to this child care for about ten years.



Carmarthenshire



Presentation 3: Signs of Safety and Systemic Melding

A discussion between an experienced Signs of Safety practitioner and a systemic family therapist working in children's services, around the similarities and differences in approach and an exploration of how they can be mutually supportive.

About the speakers:

Karon Oliver is a Senior Educational and Child Psychologist and Systemic Psychotherapist working with the Long term Childcare Teams in Carmarthenshire. She is an experienced teacher and a published author.

Rhian Busby is an Assistant Team Manager, based in a Long term Child Care team. Rhian started her Signs of Safety journey in 2010 in Swansea Children's Services and has worked in Children's Services across Wales and Australia.

Presentation 4: Network Meetings and Safety Planning in Child Protection Conferences

Focus on the importance of developing meaningful relationships with families, their friends and community. This is essential in sustaining safety planning and achievable goals. What can we learn from each other?

About the speaker:

Phil Pike is a team manager in children's services who is responsible for the Integrated Family Support Team, Contact Service and the Family Intervention Team. He has assisted in delivering SofS workshops and he also chairs SofS case conferences. Phil has worked in children's services for 27 years.



Presentation 5: Signs of Well-being, Supporting individual and Community Resilience

Porth y Gymuned is Ceredigion Council's early help/intervention and prevention team which consists of four Community Connectors and a Team leader. They have adapted the Signs of Safety model to Signs of Well-being with success and this approach underpins all their working with people in the community.

About the speaker:

Cyra Shimell has been a State Registered Health Professional before moving into working with a third sector organisation in homelessness, offending, substance misuse where she developed knowledge in Solution Focussed Brief therapy and M.I. She became a Registered Health and Social Care Manager in 2015 and managed the care and support of a large extra care scheme. In 2017, she joined Ceredigion Council as a Social Care Transformation Officer and in 2018 became the Team Leader of the new Porth y Gymuned/Community Connector service.

Presentation 6: Signs of Safety with Looked After Children

A focus on how Ceredigion is incorporating Signs of Safety into working with looked after children. The presentation will share how it is used within review meetings, care planning and direct work. It will include some examples to illustrate how the model has made a difference in improving communication, participation and collaboration within care planning and the provision of services.

About the speakers:

Helen Jones is an experienced Independent Reviewing Officer in Ceredigion and has previously worked extensively as a practitioner and manager with looked after children teams and youth justice.

Oliver Roberts has worked as a qualified social worker since 2014 in the Looked After Children's Team where they are adjusting with the move from traditional social work to working in a SOS manner. He has dealt with longer term LAC cases, court proceedings and some child protection work.



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CEREDIGION
County Council



Presentation 7: A Social Work Journey

A Social Worker's own journey describing how she has been brave in her practice and used SofS to help guide her when working with children and families experiencing very complex situations.

The presentation will also provide some direct examples using the tools within the model to help her achieve some outstanding outcomes with children and families.

She will also talk about the importance of being responsible for her own learning and how she has supported other staff to use this approach.

About the speaker:

Lisa Turner has worked in Powys Children Services for 15 years. In this time she has been passionate in her desire to provide the best outcomes for the families and children she has been privileged to work with. In more recent times Lisa begun to struggle and went through a period when she questioned whether this vocation was for her. In her own words Signs of Safety has reignited her passion and although she would never say this about herself, the results are simply stunning.

Presentation 8: The Use of Mapping, Networks and Words and Pictures in Family Work

The presentation will look at the story of a young family who became involved with Powys Children Social Services because of a child protection concern linked to a Non-Accidental Injury to a 16-week old baby.

The presentation will show how the SofS Mapping Tool, Networks and Words and Pictures helped the family believe and remain hopeful in one of the most challenging times in their life.

About the speaker:

Stephen Pearce has been a childcare practitioner for nearly 30 years and has experience in a number of areas. He is a champion of Sign of Safety and strongly advocates for the approach at every opportunity.

KEYNOTE:

MANNA VAN'T SLOT AND BEV EDWARDS: How Wales has embraced the Signs of Safety approach

Child protection work presents many challenges: Mana and Bev will share their experiences and learning in how Signs of Safety has been supporting social work practice in Wales, they will reflect on achievements and progress in Wales and draw on their extensive knowledge of Signs of Safety developments in the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

Effective child protection practice is grounded in practitioners who can think through cases systematically and with depth — this happens most consistently where people work in strong teams, and such teams require strong leadership and structured individual and group supervision. Leadership, supervision and teamwork in using Signs of Safety as a parallel process is Manna's specialty. Manna wants people to understand the processes, ideas, and attitudes behind the Tools of Signs of Safety, so people can integrate them in their own system and thrive towards structural whole system learning.

About the speakers:

Bev Edwards is a registered Social Worker with over 25 years' experience of working within statutory Child and Family Services. Bev's career has been involved in child protection work and built a wide base of experience practicing in four different Local Authority areas in Wales. At the end of 2014 Bev became a licensed Signs of Safety Trainer & Consultant and since been working with Local Authorities in Wales and England to support them in their Signs of Safety implementation. Bev comes with passion and commitment to supporting workers be the best they can be by developing their confidence in working with families and their networks when assessing, planning and reviewing progress. Bev is keen to promote the voice of the child, family, community throughout the process.

Manna van 't Slot studied Child Psychology and has worked since 2008 as a supervisor at Bureau Jeugdzorg Drenthe, spending several years with the Referral and Assessment Team and several years with Long Term Child Protection Teams.

Manna has provided training in the Signs of Safety approach to workers, supervisors, and managers throughout The Netherlands and German speaking countries, as well as internationally. She has worked intensely with Andrew Turnell and knows the Signs of Safety approach inside out. Equally important is the fact that she is an enthusiastic leader and supervisor of front-line child protection workers. Manna has presented on this subject at several Signs of Safety Gatherings.

Andrew Turnell is the Director and Signs of Safety co-creator. Andrew is an independent social worker, brief family therapist and child protection consultant from Perth, Western Australia. As well as international consultancy and teaching work, Andrew maintains a clinical practice working solely with families where child maltreatment has occurred or is suspected but the parents deny responsibility.

Andrew has published extensively on the subjects of brief therapy and child protection, including his most well-known works: Turnell, A. and Edwards, S. (1999) Signs of Safety: A Solution and Safety Oriented Approach to Child Protection Casework, New York, Norton. Turnell, A. and Essex, S. (2006) Working with 'Denied' Child Abuse: The Resolutions Approach, Open University Press. Andrew is currently preparing his third book, Building Safety in Child Protection Practice: Working with a Strengths and Solution Focus in a Risk Environment, to be published by Palgrave-Macmillan. In 2007, Andrew completed his PhD at Curtin University which focused on practitioner and service recipient-defined constructive child protection practice.



Bev Edwards



Manna van't Slot



Andrew Turnell



To book your place email:

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01437 776052

VENUE

Merlin Theatre, Pembrokeshire College, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1SZ

PARK & RIDE

Park & Ride available from Haverfordwest Rugby Club, Pembroke Road,
Haverfordwest, SA61 1LY