

# Relationship-based Practice

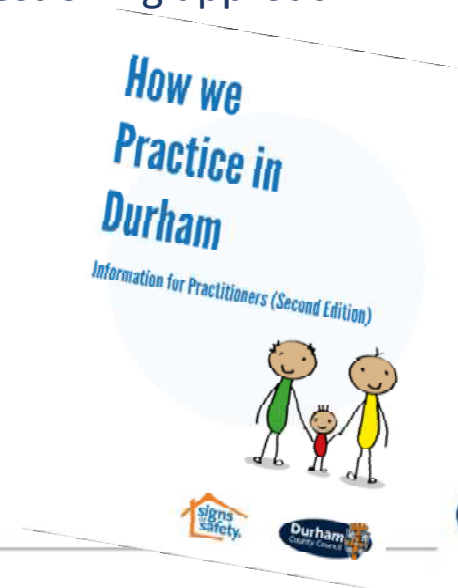
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# Background and key developments

- Began implementing Signs of Safety practice framework in 2018
- Practice framework providing a method and suite of tools for practitioners
- Vision to help children and families remain within their families and networks where it is safe and provide a secure and stable home when it is not possible
  
- Focus in 2021-22 on Networks, Mapping, Words and Pictures and Questioning approach
- Significant IT developments
- Launch of Practice Guide
- Use of practice framework across wider Safeguarding Partnership



# Impact

## Sustainable outcomes

- 883 families achieving significant and sustained outcomes
- Sustained improvement in re-referral rate (28% in 19/20 – 18% in 21/22)

## Relationship-based practice is a continued strength of audit programme

- *“XX on speaking about her Social Worker described XX as the best Social Worker that she could have had. She saw her through some dark times and offer her support which was a million percent, stating that she could not have done it without her.”*



# Impact



- **Words and Pictures** – undertaken with parents and shared with children
  - Providing explanation to children following suicide of their father
  - Providing explanation of why a father is not in the home in context of domestic abuse



*“Something so hard yet this was so simple”*

*“it feels like I have my little boy back”*



# Impact

- Successfully returning 3 children home who had been in Foster Care for over 3 years. Using the framework to work in partnership with the network, focusing on strengths, building hope and achieving successful outcomes.

*“Once the kids were removed, I knew I needed to put some trust in services. Charlotte was easy to communicate with. She was responsive. If I needed advice, I could ask her. I trusted her and I could talk to her.*

*Now the children are home, every night I feel accomplished. I’ve waited 4 years to get my children back. I worked so hard to get here. It feels like my life is complete. I feel content and relieved. Everything is how it is meant to be.”*

# Impact

- Golden thread through OFSTED ILACS May 2022 inspection report:
  - Real sustainable change
  - Culture of working in partnership with families
  - Effective use of network meetings
  - Trusting and enduring relationships

*“Children in need of help and protection, and children in care, are benefiting from relationship-based practice that focuses on children’s needs. The approach is to work in partnership with families to achieve change that can be maintained over time. This is leading to children and families making sustainable progress.”*

# Next steps

- Continued alignment of framework to practice across all services
- Specific focus on describing adult behaviours impacting on children
- Explore how framework can support development of Family Hub model
- Continued review of IT system
- Continued feedback from children, young people and their families