
To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

14 February 2019

Subject: Signs of Safety Implementation Manager Attendance at Conference

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board of the attendance of Signs of Safety Implementation Manager, at the Signs of Safety Conference held in Dublin on the 6th November 2018.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the report and the learning gained from attendance at the Signs of Safety Conference
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Signs of Safety approach to Safeguarding and Protecting Children is widely recognised internationally as the leading available participative approach to child protection casework.
- 3.2 Since 2017, there has been a significant strategic approach to embed Signs of Safety across all multi-agency Children's Services; and practice Signs of Safety as the overarching practice framework model within Coventry.
- 3.3 All Coventry Local Safeguarding Board Children's partner agencies are fully committed to have their staff trained in the use of Signs of Safety; and to use this in their direct practice with Children, Young People and their Families.
- 3.4 The Signs of Safety Implementation Manager takes the lead role in the implementation and the delivery of training through a bespoke model of half day/1-day and 2-day training programmes delivered to multi agency partners.
- 3.5 It is projected that by mid-2019, there will be approximately 2000 multi-agency and third sector staff who will have attended Signs of Safety Training.
- 3.6 Every 2 years, the Signs of Safety Practice Leads come together at an international gathering event. The purpose of the event is to showcase good practice, create learning opportunities, and network with Practice Leads from different countries and cultures.

4 Benefits

- 4.1 Attendance at the 2-day conference provided the opportunity for the Implementation Manager to attend presentations from across the world where Practice Leads discussed and shared their Implementation plans; what is working well in using Signs of Safety, and reflect on the outcomes for the Children, Young People and their Families.
- 4.2 There were workshops delivered by a range of Local Authorities and International Agencies that included Northern and Southern Ireland where they have recently embedded Signs of Safety as their Quality Assurance Framework for Safeguarding and Protecting Children. This learning will be used in the Implementation Plan and Training that is delivered directly to Coventry's Multi Agency Services and Practitioners.
- 4.3 North Yorkshire County Council shared their learning from practice in Complex Safeguarding and Female Genital Mutilation cases using a range of direct work tools to safeguard and engage with Families from different cultural backgrounds and heritage. This learning will be shared with Children's Services Practitioners in Coventry to develop their understanding and confidence in direct work and the help and support with Children and their Families that is provided.
- 4.4 Newcastle City Council facilitated a workshop and shared their learning from implementing new information technology tools and how this can help to improve services for Children. It outlined the difficulties in changing systems and how the practice needs to inform the system for children and their families.
- 4.5 There were also presentations from Canada and Sweden that focussed on preventing Children from entering care, this included learning from what works in practice with families in promoting and growing safety, and supporting families during emergencies and family breakdown. The knowledge and learning from these workshops has supported the Implementation Manager to look at different ways of prevention and working with risk. This learning will be shared with Multi Agency services through the learning and training programme.
- 4.6 Attendance at the event was an excellent opportunity to experience the international presentations, showcase Coventry and the journey of implementation, share practice, and bring back examples from practice to share and disseminate with practitioners; and multi-agency partners.

5 Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	720.00	720.00
Flights	30.00	750.00
Additional Travel Expenses		
Accommodation	354.00	354.00
Subsistence		

6 Overview Summary

- 6.1 The learning and knowledge from the conference has been included in the multi-agency training sessions to promote the continuous improvement work and the quality and consistency of practice and services provided to Children, Young People and their Families.
- 6.2 Networking with other Practice Leads from across the UK has enabled Coventry to lead on a new 'Signs of Safety East / West Midlands' Practice Development group. Telford, Solihull and Sheffield have all showed an interest in working with Coventry in sharing learning, supporting new initiatives and building confidence within children's services.

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