

A new approach to Child Protection Conferences



Aims and Outcomes

- Have a working knowledge of the new CP conference model in Bexley.
- Introduce the Signs of Safety approach
- Consider how we can strengthen the participation of children and parents in the conference process & identifying strategies for change to keep children safe
- Improved confidence in identifying risks and strengths
- Understanding outcome based safety plans

Context

Recommendation from an audit commissioned by the LSCB in March 2014;

“Bexley currently operates a very traditional model of CPCs and many Local Authorities have moved forward with other models that Bexley may wish to consider”.

Child & Family Experiences

Audit undertaken by LSCB March 2014;

- Some positive feedback
- Intimidating to be so 'outnumbered'
- Lack information about what would happen
- Feel unprepared
- Not listened to
- Low levels of child participation



Families want a more respectful, open, helpful, challenging, but less judgmental form of practice

Research suggests conferences should

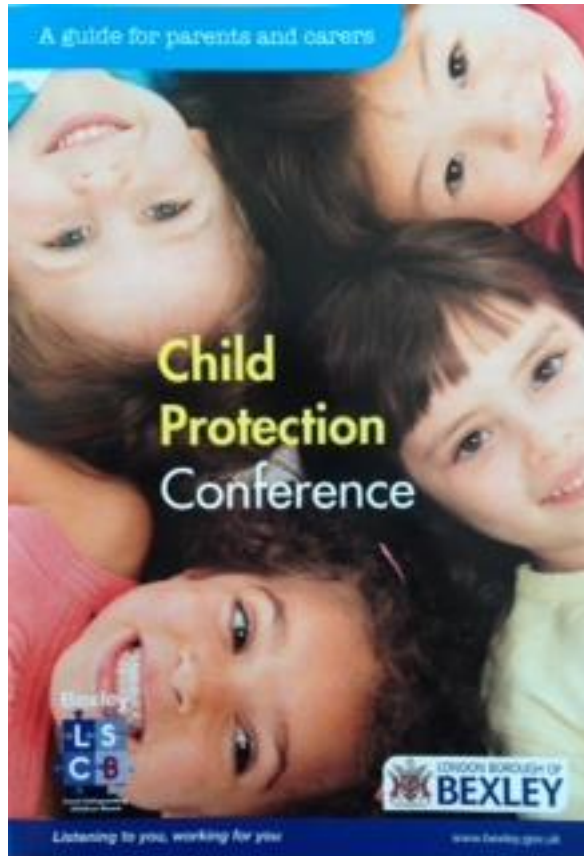
- Have a greater focus on planning
- Hear the child's voice (child focus)
- Enable families to present their views
- Ensure all views are grounded in evidence
- Promote discussion and explore dissent
- Place a strong emphasis on relationships
- Reduce power inequalities
- Build on strengths

January 2015 piloted a new model. Strengths based approach based on SoS



RISK SCALE **SAFE 0** **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10** **UNSAFE**





What's the difference?

DISTRIBUTION OF CP PLANS & MINUTES

Pre-pilot - CP plan: 48 hrs & minutes : 15 days.

Pilot - CP plan & minutes : 72 hrs.

Average distribution =
6 days (Feb-May)

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AT CPC	Sept – Dec 2014	Feb – May 2015
Attended	6	16
Views shared by other means	2	63
SW shared child's view in report	84	17

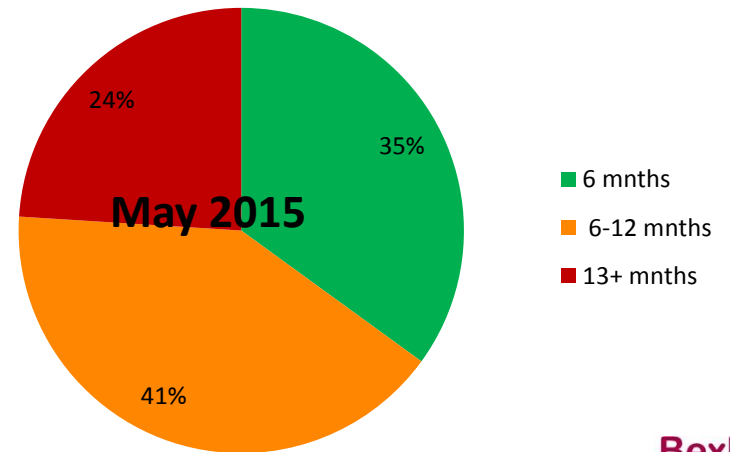
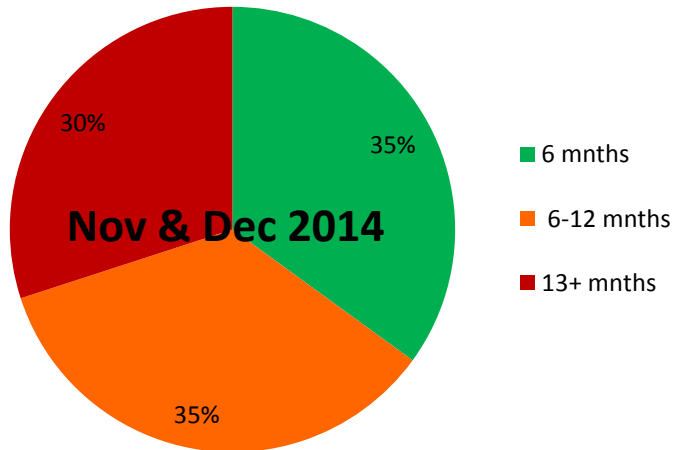
3%

25%



DECISION MAKING	Sept – Dec 2014	Feb – May 2015
ICPC - not made subject to plan	9%	15%
RCPC - stepped down to CIN plan	36%	40%

Length of time subject to CP plan



6% reduction in children being subject to plans for over 12 months.

Feedback...

62.9%

Professionals knew their families well enough

85.6%

Felt fully involved



92.1%

Listened to & treated with respect

75.4%

Made a +ve difference

264 parents.

Where next?



What is SoS?

- Strengths-based (focus on safety)
- Solution focused
- Purposeful
- Respectful
- Relationship-based (co-operation)
- Focuses on change behaviour
- Curious & analytical

What are we Worried About?	What's Working Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>Past Harm to Children: Action/Behaviour – who, what, where, when; Severity; Incidence & Impact.</p> <p>Danger Statements: Future Danger for Children. Worries for the future if nothing changes.</p> <p>Complicating Factors: <u>Factors which</u> make the situation more difficult to resolve.</p>	<p>Existing Strengths: Best attributes of parenting</p> <p>Existing Safety/Protection: The strengths demonstrated as protection over time.</p> <p>Must directly relate to danger.</p>	<p>Safety Goals: Future Safety/ Protection What must the caregivers be doing in their care of the child that addresses the future danger?</p> <p>Family Goals: What does the family want generally and in relation to safety?</p> <p>Next Steps: What are the next steps to be taken to move towards achieving the goal?</p>

Safety Scale:

On a scale of 0 to 10 where 10 means the children are safe enough and Children's Social Care no longer need to be involved and 0 means it is too unsafe for the children to stay at home, where do we rate this situation?

(If different judgements place different people's number on the continuum).

UNSAFE 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SAFE



Case Study : Jamie & Robert

- 1. ANALYSIS** : What are the risks and signs of safety in the case. Create a danger statement
- 2. JUDGEMENT** : How safe are these children on a scale of 1 – 10? The safety scale.
- 3. PLAN** : What needs to change? (goals/outcomes)
What is the next step to enable that change to happen? (Describe behaviour what would change look like)

Questions & Answers

- What will be different for you?
- Are you clear what is expected of you?
- What do you think, like and worry about in relation to adapting to this way of working?
- What else do you (your agency) need to know, and do, to be confident in playing a full role in keeping children safe in this way?