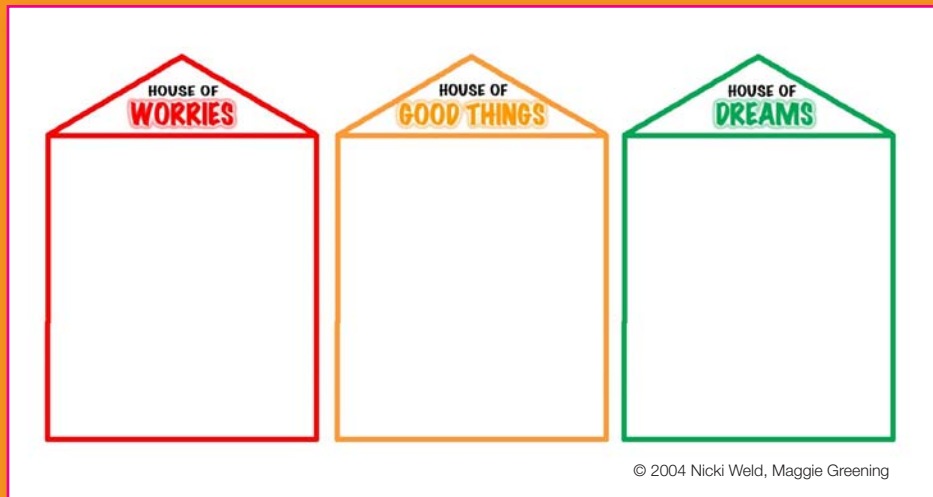


Talking to children

It is important that children have an opportunity to talk about what they are worried about, and what makes them happy, and what they would like to see happen in their family and community to keep them safe. What do you think makes your child happy?

The **Signs of Safety and Wellbeing** approach uses a tool called *The Three Houses* to talk to children and ask them their views:



Signs of Safety & Wellbeing

There is nothing more important
than the safety and wellbeing
of our children

For further information please contact:
Wandsworth Family Information Service
(020) 8871 7899
fis@wandsworth.gov.uk
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



Tracey Hill
Training & Consultancy

Wandsworth's Safeguarding Board and Children and Young People's Partnership expects that all professionals will use a single approach to assessing children's needs called the **Signs of Safety and Wellbeing**.

This means that if a child needs help (because they have additional needs, for example) or needs protection from abuse and neglect, parents and carers can expect professionals working with their children to use the same assessment format and the same approach to running meetings. This includes Team Around the Child meetings, Child Protection Conferences and Reviews for Looked After Children.

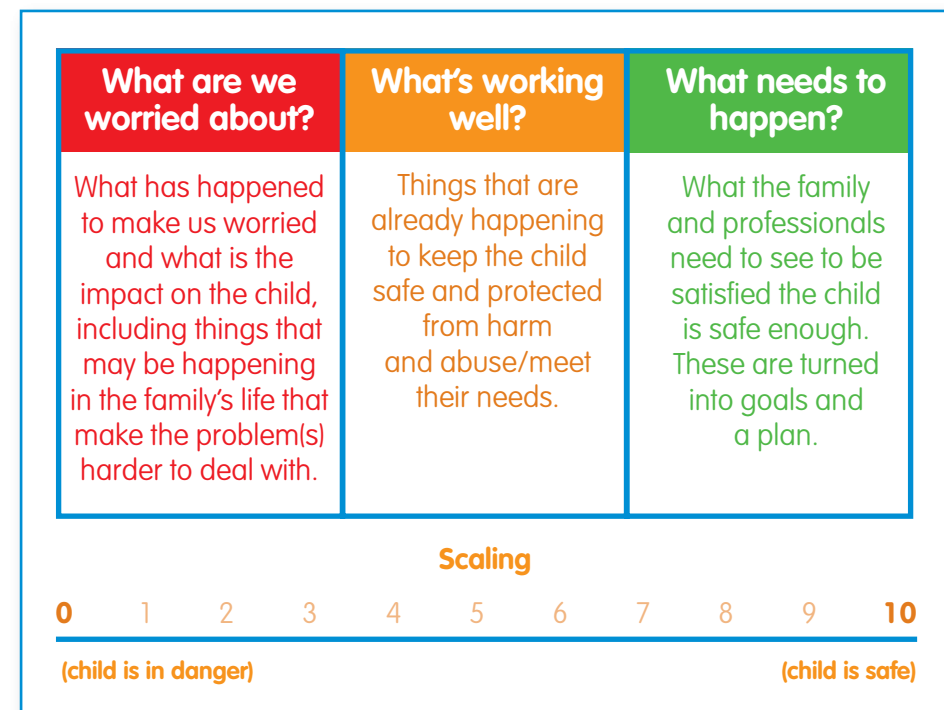
Guiding Principles

- Children and Young People's views will be asked and listened to.
- The child and young person's parents or carers should be part of making the decisions and plans about what needs to happen next.
- The child and young person's parents or carers have the main role in ensuring the child is happy and doing well.
- Plain language to be used in assessments and meetings so that everyone understands and can join in.
- Only one set of notes will be recorded in meetings.
- The plan will build on what is already working well.
- The meeting will focus on the important things that are happening now.

During an assessment four key questions are asked of the child and their family and anyone who cares for the child. The assessment will also include professionals working with the child, such as teachers, nurses, doctors, police:

1. What are we worried about for the child in their family?
2. What is working well in the family?
3. What needs to happen to make sure the child is safe in the future?
4. How safe is the child on a scale from 0 to 10?
(0 meaning the child is in danger, 10 meaning the child is safe)

This becomes a visual document which looks like this:



A copy of the assessment document will be given to the child and their parents and carers. The same document will also be used in meetings held and led by children's social workers. Your child's social worker will review progress against the plan of what needs to happen, with the aim of increasing safety for the child.