

Pam Gartland

SAFEGUARDING FIRST

Signs of Safety Guidance to Scoring and Scaling

As part of a Signs of Safety conference, the expectation is to score a family from 0-10 around the level of risk of harm to children, balanced against the strengths and protective factors the family can demonstrate.

0 is deemed to be highest risk and 10 is deemed to be lowest risk. As you can see moving through number from 0-5 is the balance of improved strength in safety planning and immediate safety and well-being of children. Moving through 5-10 is parent's recognition of the risk of harm to themselves and others, reflective and meaningful engagement where parents begin to lead on what will make a safe family life sustainable without professional intervention.

The following scale can be used to support you with your decision making on the level of risk of harm. It is Safeguarding First's interpretation of the scaling and is for guidance only. You must use the evidence you have and hear at the conference to make your final decision on the level of risk to the child/ren in the family home.

Assessing level of risk:

0 = There are no or limited strengths to outweigh the level of concern. Parents/carers do not take on board the concerns or are unwilling to make changes or recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is high and significant intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

1 = There are limited strengths that do not outweigh the level of concern. Parents/carers do not take on board the concerns or are unwilling to make changes or recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is high and significant intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

2 = There are 1-2 strengths that do not outweigh the level of concern. Parents/carers do not take on board the concerns or are unwilling to make changes or recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is high and significant intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

3 = There are 2-3 strengths that do not outweigh the level of concern. Parents/carers may have some recognition of the concerns or are willing to make some changes to or recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is high and significant intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

4 = There are 3-4 strengths that do not outweigh the level of concern. Parents/carers may have increased recognition of the concerns or are willing to make some changes to or recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is moderate to high and significant intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

5 = There are 4-5 strengths that begin to provide some balance to the level of concern. Parents/carers may have recognition of the concerns and are willing to make some changes and recognise risk in their behaviours. The risk of significant harm is moderate and additional intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

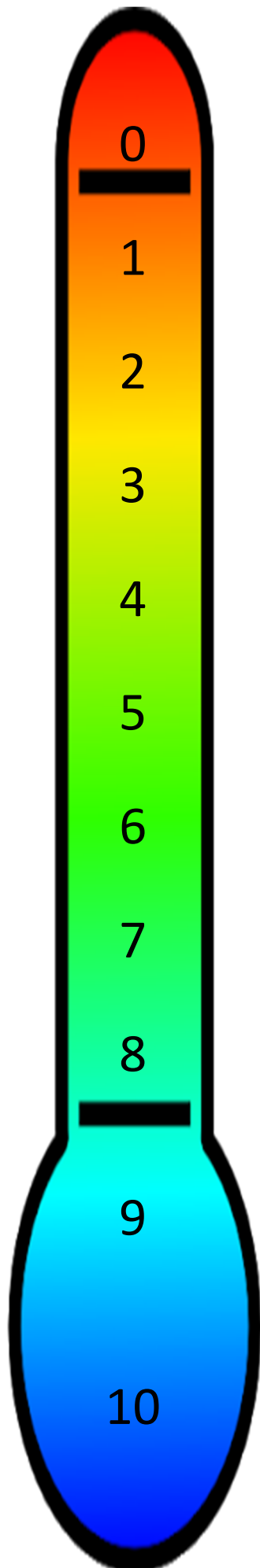
6 = There are 5-6 strengths that can provide balance to the level of concern. Parents/carers may have recognition of the concerns and are willing to make changes and recognise risk in their behaviours. Parents may volunteer information and show depth of understanding of risk. Parents are open to intervention and support. The risk of significant harm is moderate and additional intervention is required to reduce professionals concerns.

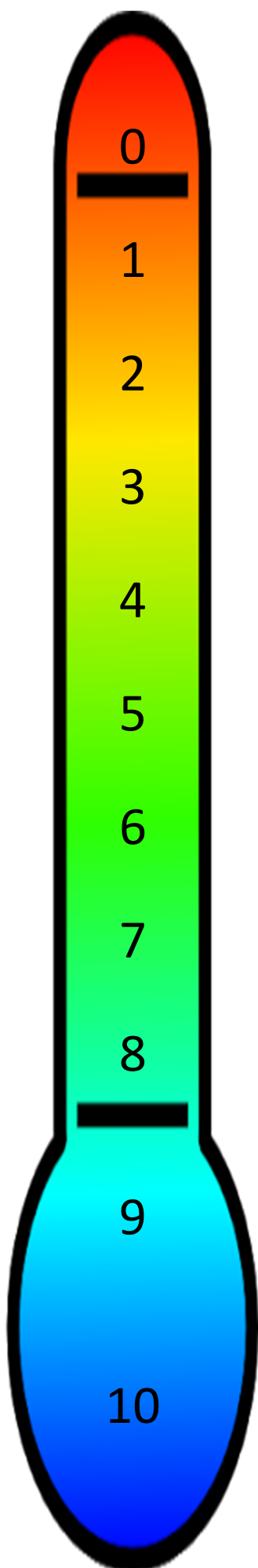
7 = There are a number of strengths that mitigate against the level of concern. Parents/carers have good recognition of the concerns and are willing to make improved changes and have a good understanding of the risk in their behaviours. Parents may talk positively about what and how they will change. Parents are willing to engage with intervention and support. There is an indicated risk of significant harm that is well balanced by the intervention and support available.

8 = There are a number of strengths that mitigate against the level of concern. Parents/carers have good recognition of the concerns and can demonstrate the ability to change and have a good understanding of the risk in their behaviours. Parents can talk positively about what and how they will change. Parents are willing to engage with intervention and support. There is an indicated risk of significant harm that is well balanced by the intervention and support available.

9 = There are several strengths that counterbalance the level of concern. Parents/carers have excellent recognition of the concerns and can demonstrate the ability to change and have a good understanding of the risk in their behaviours. Parents have already demonstrated change in their behaviours and may have sought help directly themselves. Parents are actively engaging with intervention and support. There is a lower risk of significant harm well balanced by the intervention and support available.

10 = There are several strengths that counterbalance the level of concern. Parents/carers have excellent recognition of the concerns and can demonstrate the ability to change and have excellent understanding of the risk in their behaviours. Parents have already demonstrated change in their behaviours and may have sought help directly themselves. Parents are actively engaging with intervention and support. There is a lower risk of significant harm well balanced by the intervention and support available.





Factors to support decision making:

0 = High level of risk in the family home e.g. DV, mental health, substance misuse. High number of referrals/police reports. Previous intervention has been unsuccessful. Parents don't take on board concerns, lie or minimise the level of harm. Parents are unwilling to engage with support and services. Parents don't see behaviour as concerning or having impact on the child/ren. Child/children are vulnerable (age, resilience, additional need), children don't have a voice or are voicing huge concerns and risk in the family home. Evidence of impact on the children e.g. learning, progress, development, physical and emotional well-being. No safety plan e.g. no extended family, no contingency plan for risk taking behaviours.

1 = As above, however strengths may include – family member non using, supportive and acting to safeguard the child.

2 = As above, however strengths may include- family member non using, supportive and acting to safeguard the child or child may have a secure relationship with another family member.

3 = As above, however strengths may include- family member non using, supportive and acting to safeguard the child or child may have a secure relationship with another family member. Also parent may begin to recognise the risk of behaviour.

4 = Moderate level of risk in the family home. As below, strengths may include- family member non-using, supportive and acting to safeguard the child or child may have a secure relationship with another family member. Also parent may begin to recognise the risk of behaviour and the impact on the child.

5 = Moderate level of risk in the family home e.g. one significant risk factor e.g. DV, mental health, substance misuse, that is under control/being managed and parent/carer is able to recognise the level of harm or risk the child is exposed to. Parent/carer may be working towards positive safety planning or achieving sustainability in managing the concerns raised. Child's vulnerability is managed through existing safety plan or positive safety plan. Evidence of some contribution to managing safety and well-being of children. Some strengths in the safety plan.

6 = As above. Although strengths now will involve more than immediate safety and protection of children and include parents full comprehension of the risk of harm to themselves and to their children.

7 = As above. Strengths increase as parents can reflect on how their behaviour has negatively impacted on their child and how they will work to prevent this in the future.

8 = As above. Strengths will outweigh the concerns and parents should be participating fully in the safety plan and commitment to safeguard their child.

9 = As below. Commitment and safety is increasing.

10 = Low level of risk in the family home. Issues of concern are being well managed or balanced by the strength of the safety plan. Parents/carers recognise the concerns and issues, show resilience and reflection of their behaviours on their child's well-being. Extended family live near or in the family home to support the concerns. The child/ren show low vulnerability and are achieving well physically and mentally. The safety plan is secure and robust, led by parents and carers positive motivation.