ESSC 2022—Let’s Go Digital!

An IT Solution that social workers want to use — fantasy or a realistic possibility?
Signs of Safety, our practice model

To enable child protection agencies to deliver all their services with a **rigorous focus on child safety** and wellbeing, and to set up their practice, policy, procedures and organisation so that the practitioners can do everything possible to put the parents, children and everyone naturally connected to the children at the **centre of the assessment and decision-making**.

To give the family **every opportunity** to come up with and apply their solutions before the professionals offer or impose theirs.

**Full involvement of family and network** is always pursued, whether the child lives within or outside their family and kind, so that everything is done to sustain the child’s **lifelong connection** with their family, culture, and community of origin throughout children’s services involvement.
Our experience of many years of implementing Signs of Safety
Developing a system that practitioners want to use

- **2016**: Launched version 1 of the Solution
  - Created partnerships with first 2 IT suppliers

- **2017**: First 2 organisations go live in UK

- **2018**: 5 more organisations go live and user group established. First Learning Lab starts work

- **2019**: Version 2 of the Solution released. Partnership with Diona created on mobile, forward-facing solutions

- **2020**: First Diona implementation goes live in Canada

- **2021**: 23 organisations live with 4 different solutions
“Going through the Timeline and specifics of Safety Planning has been so helpful to get the workers to understand the practice and detail required within the forms.”
Improved collaboration

...the system changed hands and became owned by our practitioners.
## Saving time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work type</th>
<th>Average time before</th>
<th>Average time after</th>
<th>Average time saved</th>
<th>Average % saved</th>
<th>Number of cases tracked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Discussion</td>
<td>4h 4m</td>
<td>2h 29m</td>
<td>1h 35m</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>19 before 29 after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child and Family Assessment</td>
<td>7h 32m</td>
<td>3h 54m</td>
<td>3h 38m</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>113 before 73 after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection Investigation</td>
<td>3h 30m</td>
<td>24m</td>
<td>3h 6m</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
<td>30 before 24 after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection Conference</td>
<td>4h 17m</td>
<td>4h 1m</td>
<td>16m</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>16 before 38 after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Meeting</td>
<td>5h 49m</td>
<td>55m</td>
<td>4h 54m</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>19 before 27 after</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Particularly impressive is the way in which the local authority’s electronic case recording system has been adapted to ensure that it helps rather than hinders this approach. Equally impressive is the way in which senior leaders are leading by example, using the same simple methodology in reports and policy documents.”