The Safety House tool extends the Three Houses or Fairy and Wizard process, and visually engages children in creating the safety plan.

It explores five key elements with the child:

1. What life will look like in the child’s Safety House, and the people who will live there
2. People the child thinks should visit and how they should be involved
3. People the child sees as unsafe
4. Rules of the Safety House
5. Safety path: using the path to the house as a scaling device for the child to express their readiness to reunite or safety in the family.

Undertaking the Safety House process with children should be done with full knowledge of the adults. Children should be fully aware that their parents are working with ‘safety people’ to create a new set of rules for their family so that everyone knows the children are happy and safe. This creates a context where the child’s Safety House can readily be brought to the parents and network, and their ideas contribute directly to growing the plan. For parents and network this also emphasises that the people they are ultimately most accountable to are not the statutory authorities, but the children themselves.