

7 Minute Briefing – Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding

Engagement and Training

Importance of Staff

Engagement: To ensure successful implementation, staff engagement and training are crucial. We will be providing training sessions and resources to help staff understand and apply Contextual Safeguarding in their daily practice. Your feedback and active participation are vital in making this initiative a success.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK
[HERE](#)

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Definition: Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people's experiences of harm beyond their families: including their schools, neighbourhoods and online spaces. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools, and online can feature violence and abuse.

[Watch this Webinar on The Principles of Contextual Safeguarding.](#)

Why are we Implementing Contextual Safeguarding?

Rationale: Research shows that safeguarding young people requires addressing the wider contexts in which harm occurs, National research, published by the [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#), highlights evidence of improved outcomes. The implementation of contextual safeguarding has led to reductions in peer-on-peer abuse, increased safety in public spaces, and strengthened partnerships between agencies and families. These findings inform our approach.

Next Steps

Test of Change: The CPC has agreed, in principle a pilot implementation area, to explore a test of change. We are working in partnership with children, families, and key stakeholders to ensure the framework is co-developed and reflective of their needs and developing a bespoke assessment tool that will allow practitioners to effectively assess risk in the extra-familial contexts, drawing from local and national learning.

Integration with Existing Structures

Integration Plan: The rollout of Contextual Safeguarding will align with existing Child Protection (CP), Care and Risk Management meetings (CARM), and Child Wellbeing Pathway structures. It is designed to complement and enhance our current safeguarding frameworks, providing additional support and protection for young people.

Leadership and Governance

Mandate: Contextual Safeguarding is an approach supported by the [National Guidance for Child Protection 2021](#) and a key priority in the [CPC Improvement Plan 2023-26](#). A dedicated Contextual Safeguarding Group within the Child Protection Committee (CPC) is leading this work on behalf of our partnership. They are responsible for overseeing the implementation and integration of contextual safeguarding practices.

Learning from Reviews and Self-Evaluations

Learning Source: This initiative arises from insights gained through local and national Learning Reviews, self-evaluation, and audit reviews have highlighted the need to address the broader contexts in which harm occurs to support our children and young people beyond their home environment.