



Central Bedfordshire



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Luton



Public Health England

YouTurn

Restore, Reform & Reintegrate

VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION REDUCTION UNIT

Contextual Safeguarding



What is 'Contextual Safeguarding'?

'Contextual safeguarding' is a theory devised by Dr Carlene Firmin. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and Carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.



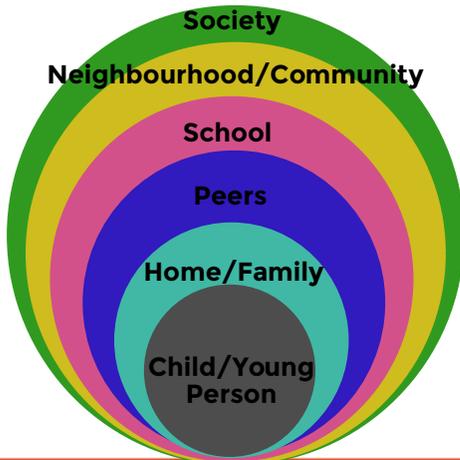
What can we do?

Children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors. A Contextual Safeguarding Approach supports the development which disrupt & change harmful extra familial context rather than move the concern elsewhere. Parents and Carers can be critical partners in this Safeguarding approach.



What are the risks?

There are a wide range of potential risks where the prime cause of the harm is outside of the family and includes; Peer on Peer abuse, on line abuse, missing episodes, gang involvement, county Lines, trafficking and modern slavery.



Partnership Approach

Contextual Safeguarding is the ability of local areas to work with multiple partners to safeguard and protect children. The ability to work with, share information and develop interventions across all partnerships.

Contextual safeguarding provides a framework to advance child protection and safeguarding responses to a range of extra familial risks that compromise the safety and well-being of young people. It can be illustrated as; (see attached illustration)

Contextual Safeguarding Network:
<https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>



Contextual Safeguarding

Click the title above to visit the contextual safeguarding website. You will gain access to latest publications, video links and further information.