

## 7 MINUTE BRIEFING

## **Contextual Safeguarding**

Find out more? Book onto one of the Contextual Safeguarding briefing sessions via KSCP Training Booking Portal: https://kscbtraining.knowsley.gov. uk/ or contact KSCP training on 443 - 2696 What is it? Contextual safeguarding differs to our current traditional model of safeguarding which focuses largely on the risks to the child within the family. Instead, a contextual approach focuses on those external 'contextual risks' that our children also face within the community, schools, public spaces, transport, peer group and online and considers interventions to change the systems and conditions in which this type of abuse occurs.

What should we do? Identify the ways in which children can change the social conditions where abuse has occurred and encourage selfresponsibility for making these changes. Engage with individuals and sectors that have a bearing on social contexts i.e. shop keepers, local police, community leaders and wider council departments such as parks and licencing.

> What should we do? A contextual safeguarding approach aims to disrupt harmful extra familial context rather than move young people away from them. The approach seeks to identify the ways in which professionals, adults and children can change the social conditions of environments in which the abuse has occurred.

What are the risks? There are a wide range of potential risks where the prime cause of harm is outside the family. All potential risks that contribute to the harm will be considered through the holistic assessment process, taking into account any parenting/carer issues and trauma the child may have experienced historically or as a result of Contextual safeguarding

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Why it matters? Organisations, professionals, and others play a role in shaping the environments in which this type of abuse is occurring. Rather than removing children from such harmful environments (unless absolutely necessary), a contextual approach seeks to identify ways we can instead use our knowledge, skills, expertise, influence and statutory powers to change the social conditions of environments which has allowed this type of abuse to occur.

Why it matters? As children move from early childhood into adolescence they spend increasing amounts of time independently of their families. Peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence. If a child forms friendships in contexts characterised by violence and/or harmful behaviour these relationships may be unsafe for the child.

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please call 0151 443 2696 Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA www.knowsleyscb.org.uk

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