



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership



Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy 2019-2021

1 Our Vision

Our vision for Kirklees is that people live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are protected from harm. That we provide high quality, joined up and accessible services which safeguard children and adults from harm.

We aim to make it clear that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, by working with partners to ensure children and adults have good access to well informed advice, support and decision making from across the partnership, and that services provide timely, proportionate and effective responses when exploitation, and harm occurs, ensuring a child/person centered approach.

The world of Safeguarding is ever changing, becoming increasingly complex and is under intense scrutiny through the media, inspections, and inquiries. Child sexual exploitation, peer on peer violence and abuse, modern day slavery, harmful sexual behavior, gang and group activity, criminal exploitation, and going missing from home or care should not be seen in isolation as they often overlap, creating a set of harmful circumstances and experiences for children, young people, families and communities.

Working Together 2018 reflects the changing nature of child abuse, the required changes to the more traditional child safeguarding practice and provides an overview of the is a need for agencies and partnerships to adopt a contextual safeguarding approach:

“As well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.” (pg. 22)

This document provides the strategic framework to further develop and strengthen our response in the identification, assessment and intervention with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

2 A Contextual Safeguarding approach

Contextual Safeguarding has been developed at the University of Bedfordshire over the past six years to inform adolescent safeguarding policy and practice. Initially emerging from a three-year review of operational responses to peer-on-peer abuse, Contextual Safeguarding provides a framework to advance child protection and safeguarding responses to extra-familial risks that compromise the safety and welfare of young people.

“It is important that practitioners engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over and 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 in a range of social contexts.”

(Firmin, 2017, University of Bedfordshire)

The approach provides an understanding of, and response to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. Traditional child protection approaches have focussed on the risk of violence and abuse from inside the home, usually from a parent and carer or other trusted adult. They have not necessarily addressed the time that young people spend outside the home, the spaces they frequent, the influence of peers and young people’s safety in their relationships and environments.

Contextual Safeguarding takes account of the impact of public and social contexts on young people’s lives, the interplay between these different contexts and relationships, and how they can impact on their safety. It recognises that the different relationships that children form with their peers and adults in their communities, schools and online can feature violence and abuse, and that parents and carers may have little influence over these contexts, with the ‘weight of influence’ often being outside of the family. Whilst at the same time, experiences of extra-familial abuse can weaken parent-child relationships.

During adolescence, peer relationships are increasingly influential informing young people’s experiences, behaviours, choices, social norms and peer status. Peer group relationships are influenced by a young person’s, neighbourhood, school, and online contexts in which they develop, and in turn shape these. (Figure 1).

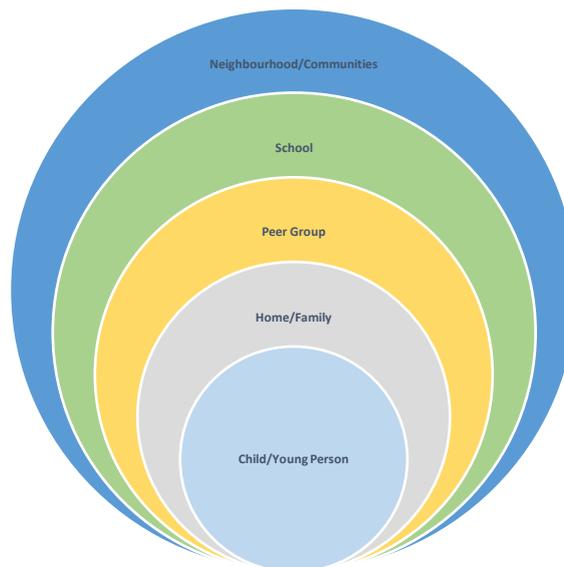


Figure 1: Contexts of Adolescent Safety and Vulnerability (Firmin, 2013)

If young people experience and socialise in, safe and protective neighbourhoods, schools and community settings, these will support them to form safe and protective peer relationships. Alternatively, if young people form friendships and relationships in contexts characterised by violence, abuse and/or harmful attitudes, which may also be anti-social, these may promote problematic social norms in those contexts and relationships; as a means for young people to navigate and /or survive in, those spaces.

A Contextual Safeguarding approach therefore focuses on how multi-agency interventions can change processes and environments, working with young people, families, organisations, services, communities and others, to address the contexts of young people's lives which can influence their behaviours and the ability of parents and carers to protect. It extends the focus of interventions from an individual child and their family, and in doing so, can make spaces safer for all young people

3 The Local Context

Locally, there have been a number of significant non recent investigations into the criminal and sexual exploitation of children, particularly young girls. In addition we have seen an increase in the affiliation of our children and young people to Urban Street Gangs and as a consequence, involvement in Organised Crime and criminal exploitation, particularly with regards to movement and supply of controlled drugs.

The strategy's overall objective is focused on safeguarding young people from exploitation. It recognises that to do this effectively, a range of other vulnerabilities need to be better understood and interventions need to adapt, with partners, peers, families and communities being better placed to respond.

As young people get older and their experiences of abuse are often associated with the public environments in which they spend their time, a critical focus of this strategy will be on how young people can be better protected and supported by a wide range of individuals and services in a variety of contexts. This will include ensuring we enable young people to engage with these services when they need them.

Widening the strategic scope reflects the fact that young people often face multiple risks. Dealing with the response to certain threats in isolation can potentially hinder the understanding of vulnerabilities that frequently overlap and hence limit the effectiveness of intervention. We are committed to seeing the child in the context of their lived reality and not simply in the context of their presenting risk, vulnerability or harm they have suffered or are exposed to.

We are committed to ensuring that collectively we safeguard our children and young people and work continues at pace to develop a comprehensive partnership

Contextual Safeguarding approach, coordinated through the multi-agency Children's Social Care Front Door. We recognise that it is those children, young people and vulnerable adults that have multiple vulnerabilities who are most likely to be sexually and /or criminally exploited.

In order to do this effectively, children and young people need to be seen, heard and supported:

- Seen: in the context of their lives at home, friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (including social media).
- Heard: to effectively protect children and young people, professionals need to take time to hear what children are saying, put themselves in the child or young person's shoes and think about what their life might truly be like.
- Supported: by remaining professionally curious and by implementing effective and imaginative solutions that help children and young people.

Child exploitation by any individual, or group of individuals who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, coordinating and or taking part in the exploitation of children and young people, in either an opportunistic or organized way will always be a priority for the Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership.

4 Strategic Aim and Objectives

This aim of this strategy is to support Kirklees Safeguarding Partners to work more effectively together, through intelligence gathering and analysis, common working arrangements, and joint learning and development opportunities.

The strategy outlines the Kirklees approach to:-

- Prevention, early identification, and support for children and young people, vulnerable adults, families and communities.
- The protection of children and young people, to ensure positive outcomes for all, whilst empowering individuals and building resilient communities.
- The early identification of locations of concern where exploitation and abuse is perpetrated and action to make these places safe spaces.
- Disruption, diversion and prosecution of individuals or groups who seek to facilitate and/or exploit, abuse and harm children and young people.

Our Strategic Objectives are:-

Objective 1 Prevent

To prevent children, young people and vulnerable adults experiencing or continuing to experience, exploitation, harm and abuse by ensuring effective awareness-raising and preventative work is in place across the locality, staff benefit from quality learning and

development opportunities and that there is an effective response to information and intelligence, that identifies individuals, groups or locations of concern, and highlights patterns or trends.

Objective 2 Prepare

To develop a comprehensive and accurate intelligence picture which will inform local partnership understanding of context, and locations of concern to enable swift coordinated multi-agency responses to safeguard children and prevent, divert or prosecute those who seek to facilitate and /or perpetrate exploitation, abuse and harm.

Objective 3 Protect

To develop effective child centered practice and service provision, to protect children, young people, vulnerable adults, families and communities, and ensure positive outcomes for all, whilst empowering individuals to build resilient communities.

Objective 4 Pursue

Use information intelligently to assess and intervene with contexts and groups, to safeguard children and young people and prosecute those who seek to facilitate and /or perpetrate exploitation, abuse and harm; ensuring that a holistic, person centered approach, from intervention, to where necessary prosecution, is adopted and employed.

5 Partnership Commitment and Governance Arrangements.

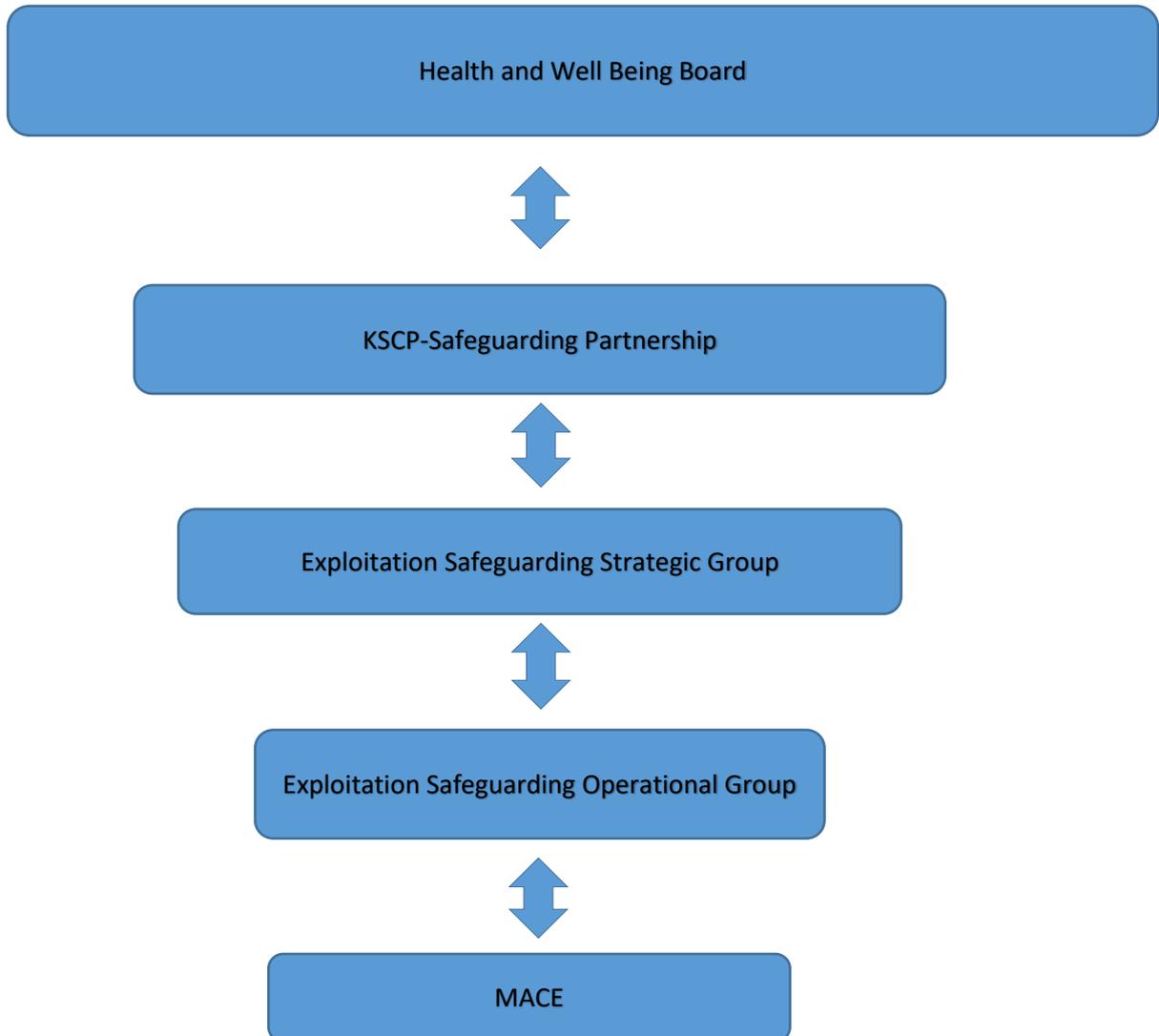
To achieve the strategic aims and objectives, we will:

- Influence and inform the development of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children multi-agency procedures, protocols, and practice guidance. Taking account of new legislation, national and local research, and policy, guidance, and inspection frameworks.
- Ensure that the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic Group is appropriately resourced to implement the strategy.
- Ensure that the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Operational Group is appropriately resourced to deliver against the action plan.
- Ensure that progress of the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy and Action Plan is driven by the Chair of the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic Group, with the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive providing oversight and accountability.
- Develop our relationships with Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnerships

Multi-Agency Arrangements, Communities Board and Safeguarding Adult Boards, to maximize opportunities for learning and development.

- Ensure that Lead Officers commit to, support and deliver the work of the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic and Operational Groups.

6 Governance



7 Terms of Reference

Health and Well Being Board

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires local authorities operate a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) as a committee of the council. The Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is different from a normal council committee as it functions as a forum for collaborative and local leadership, enabling key leaders from the health and social care system in Kirklees to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

The Board is made up of elected members, clinical leaders and officers from Kirklees Council, North Kirklees and Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England and Healthwatch Kirklees. Local providers of health and care services are represented by the Chair of the Kirklees Integrated Provider Board. Kirklees Council Overview and Scrutiny are invited observers along with the Chief Executives of all major NHS providers and West Yorkshire Police.

The Board has three key responsibilities:

- developing a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of communities in Kirklees through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) - which is known locally as the [Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment](#) (KJSA).
- developing a [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) (JHWS) for how those needs can best be addressed, the implementation of the JHWS happens through a range of organisational and partnership plans, particularly the [Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Plan](#)
- promoting integration and partnership working with the NHS, social care, public health and other bodies in the planning, commissioning and delivery of services to improve the wellbeing of the whole population of Kirklees, including as part of regional working.

The HWB strengthens democratic legitimacy by involving democratically elected members and patient voices (through Healthwatch) in decisions, alongside commissioners and providers across health and social care. In Kirklees it provides a forum for challenge, discussion and the involvement of local people's experience.

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership Terms of Reference

Overview functions: providing challenge and assurance of practice in relation to safeguarding children outcomes and the effective response of the system

The Safeguarding Children Partnership Board has been developed in response to Working Together 2018.

The Partnership in Kirklees is an inclusive one, building on past arrangements to have all agencies represented in some way. The core partnership of the Local Authority, West Yorkshire Police and the CCGs is supported by a broad network of agencies involved in subgroup work on key priorities and providing specialist advice where necessary. The multi-agency network in of organisations in Kirklees believes that every child, young person and adult , regardless of their age , culture , sexual orientation , gender identity , disability , ethnicity or religious belief , should be able to participate in a safe society without any fear , violence abuse , bullying , discrimination of exploitation. The Partnership provides the framework for ensuring that effective safeguarding services are provided across the Kirklees system. This includes:

- developing and implementing inter-agency policies and procedures
- promoting effective partnership working

- undertaking practice reviews and effectiveness audits to scrutinise and challenge work undertaken to safeguard children and promote their welfare
- provision of a range of training opportunities for all levels of staff and volunteers
- Raising awareness of safeguarding within the wider community.

Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic Group Terms of Reference

1. Contribute and work in accordance with the Partnership Business Plan to drive forward the work on risk and vulnerability, and ensure effective cooperation between agencies and professionals.
2. To develop/review the implementation of the Exploitation safeguarding strategy and action plan in conjunction with the West Yorkshire Policies and Procedures Group
3. To collate and analyse data and identify any patterns, trends and issues in relation to risk and vulnerability.
4. Identify commissioning opportunities and interventions to address trends, patterns, and contexts, to increase safety in settings
5. To identify learning and development needs, to ensure that all staff are confident in how to identify and respond to risk and vulnerability, and support practice development activities.
6. To develop local strategies to address risk and vulnerability in conjunction with the regional Risk and Vulnerability safeguarding steering group.
7. To ensure effective links are established with safeguarding in schools, Learning and Development Sub Groups, Community Safety partnership and other relevant groups.
8. To provide update reports to the KSCP Executive Group, highlighting work plan progress and challenges.
9. The Sub group will be composed of managers nominated by each of the member agencies and other relevant local agencies or organisations.
10. The Chair will be a Partnership member.
11. The Sub Group will meet bi monthly to discuss risk and vulnerability.

Accountability

The Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic Sub Group are accountable to the KSCP Executive Group and will report to the Partnership through the Chair of the Sub Group. The Chair will

provide update reports to the KSCP Executive Group, highlighting work plan progress and any problems encountered with implementing actions.

Individual members take responsibility for reporting through and to their own organisation. If members are unable to attend meetings for any reason they should send, a nominated representative.

Membership

Chair (Partnership Member) Children’s Social Care	Chair (Partnership Member) Police	Operational Group Action plan work stream lead, (Prevent) Safer Kirklees
Designated Nurse CCG	Operational Group Action plan work stream lead Children’s Services	Children’s Services, Education Safeguarding and Inclusion
Operational Group Action plan Sub group lead Children’s Services	Operational Group Action plan Sub group lead, (Prevent) YOT, Children’s Services	Operational Group Action plan Sub group lead, (Protect) Health
Adult Social Care and Safeguarding	Operational Group Pursue Action plan Sub group lead, Safeguarding Police	Children’s Services Principle Social Worker
	KSCP business unit BSO	

Chair

The Exploitation Safeguarding Strategic group will be co-chaired by the Police and Children’s Social Care.

Management and administration

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership will provide administrative support to the group.

Frequency of meetings

The Operational Group will meet every 2 months in advance of the Strategic group meetings.

Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Operational Group Terms of Reference

1. Contribute and work in accordance with the Partnership Business Plan to drive forward the work on Exploitation, risk and vulnerability, and ensure effective cooperation between agencies and professionals.
2. To develop/review the implementation of the Exploitation safeguarding strategy and action plan in conjunction with the West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Group.

3. To collate and analyse data and identify any patterns, trends and issues in relation to risk and vulnerability.
4. Identify commissioning opportunities and interventions to address trends, patterns, and contexts, to increase safety in settings.
5. To identify learning and development needs, to ensure that all staff are confident in how to identify and respond to risk and vulnerability, and support practice development activities.
6. To develop local strategies to address risk and vulnerability in conjunction with the regional West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Group.
7. To ensure effective links are established with safeguarding in schools, Learning and Development work stream, Community Safety partnership and other relevant groups.
8. To provide update reports to the KSCP Exploitation Strategic Group, highlighting work plan progress and challenges.
9. The Operational Group will be composed of managers nominated by each of the member agencies and other relevant local agencies or organisations.
10. The Operational Group will meet quarterly to discuss exploitation, risk and vulnerability.
11. Representative leading on areas within the Exploitation Action plan are nominated as follows and will present reports on progress against the action plan.

Prepare - Sara Miles

Prevent – Richard Smith and Lee Hamilton

Protect - Ian Mottershaw and Nominated Health Lead

Pursue - Richard McNamara

Accountability

The Exploitation Safeguarding Operational Group are accountable to the KSCP Exploitation Strategic Group. The Exploitation Strategic group will report to the Executive Group Chair. The Chair of the Exploitation Operational Group will provide update reports to the KSCP Strategic Group, highlighting work plan progress and any problems encountered with implementing actions.

Individual members take responsibility for reporting through and to their own organisation. If members are unable to attend meetings for any reason they should send, a nominated representative.

Membership

<p>Chair of Sub Group Service Manager, Children Social Care, Kirklees Council</p> <p>Detective Chief Inspector, West Yorkshire Police</p>	<p>Kirklees Children Social Care Principle Social Worker (Children), Kirklees Council</p>	<p>Risk and Vulnerability Transitions Senior Manager, Kirklees Council</p>
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Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership Partnership Manager and BSO	Community Safety Safer Kirklees Manager, Kirklees Council	North Kirklees & Greater Huddersfield CCG Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Head of Adult Safeguarding & Quality, Kirklees Council	Youth Offending Team YOT Service Manager, Kirklees Council	Kirklees College Safeguarding Lead
KSCP Lay Member Lay Member 1 & 2	CGL - The Base Service Manager	The Brunswick Centre Youth Worker
Health (Locala) Designated Nurse for LAC	Voluntary/Community, Kirklees	Youth Offending Team, Kirklees Council Youth Offending Team Social Worker Youth Service Manager
Gang Prevention, Community Safety, Kirklees Council Youth Engagement Officer	Faith & Community Integration, Kirklees Council Manager	Probation and CRC Safeguarding Officer
Housing Services, Kirklees Council Commissioning Manager (Access to housing)	Front Door SPOC Risk and Vulnerability Team Team Manager CPRU Team Manager	Safeguarding Children South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYFT) Named Nurse
CHFT	Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Safeguarding Quality Lead	LOCALA Sexual Health Advisor
Licencing, Kirklees Council Senior Licencing Officer	Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust	Early Support, Kirklees Council Head of Service - Early Support

Chair

The Exploitation Safeguarding Operational group will be co-chaired by the Police and Children's Social Care, Deputy Chair Principle Social Worker

Management and administration

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership will provide administrative support to the group.

Frequency of meetings

The Operational Group will meet every 3 months in advance of the Exploitation Strategic group meetings.

Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Group

MACE process



Single Point of
Contact - MACE pro

References

1. <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/assets/documents/Contextual-Safeguarding-Briefing.pdf>
2. Firmin 2013, <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/assets/documents/Contextual-Safeguarding-Briefing.pdf>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>