

1. Context

As children move from childhood into adolescence they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. During this time the nature of relationships that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter protection or abuse.

2. Peer Relationships

Peer relationships are increasingly influential during later childhood and adolescence, setting social norms which inform young people's experiences, behaviours and choices and determine peer status. So if young people socialise in safe and protective settings they will be supported to form safe and protective peer relationships. However, if they form friendships in contexts characterised by violence and/or harmful attitudes these relationships too may be anti-social, unsafe or promote problematic social norms as a means of navigating, or surviving in, those spaces.

3. Areas of Risk Contextual Safeguarding

Is applicable to a wide range of risks which can potentially cause significant harm to children and young people outside of the family. This can include:

- *peer on peer and relationship abuse
- *criminal/ sexual exploitation/ online abuse
- *missing episodes
- *risks associated with gangs
- *risks associated with radicalisation
- * safeguarding risks in public spaces
- * trafficking and modern slavery

4. The child protection system, and the legislative and policy framework

This was designed to protect children and young people from risks posed by their families and/or situations where families had reduced capacity to safeguard those in their care. Extra-familial risks can reduce/undermine the capacity of families/carers to safeguard young people .

5. Families become critical partners in the safeguarding agenda

A Contextual Safeguarding system supports the development of approaches which disrupt/change harmful extra-familial contexts rather than move families/young people away from them. While parents/carers are not in a position to change the nature of extra-familial contexts those who manage or deliver services in these spaces are; and they therefore become critical partners in the safeguarding agenda.

6. Changing the social conditions of environments

Contextual approach seeks to identify the ways in which professionals, adults and young people can change the social conditions of environments in which abuse has occurred and then hold them responsible for making these changes.