Contextual Safeguarding

Warwickshire Safeguarding

Background

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises the different relationships that young people form outside of the home, in their neighbourhoods, schools/colleges, online and that these can feature violence and abuse. Sometimes the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people may encounter multiple risks.

Where can I find further information?

- Contextualsafeguarding.org
- Resource for Practitioners to use with Young People
- NSPCC Contextual safeguarding: what is it and why does it matter?
- WM Safeguarding Procedures - 2.1 Children affected by Exploitation and Trafficking (including Gangs)
- Partner Agency form – This form is a sharing information with Warwickshire Police about perpetrators and concerns of Child Sexual Exploitation occurring that is NOT an emergency and does not require immediate action.

Why does it occur?

As children progress into adolescence, they spend more time socialising independently from their families. It is understood that the nature of the relationships they form in these environments could determine the extent to which they encounter protection or abuse.

What should I do if I have concerns?

If you have concerns that about a child/young person is at risk of abuse, contact the Children & Families Front Door:

- 01926 414144
- Out of hours: 01926 886922

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 999

Who is responsible?

We all have a responsibility to safeguard young people but there are more prevalent areas in which we need to recognise as higher risk for contextual safeguarding. As practitioners, it would be beneficial to engage with local shopkeepers, community leaders and local policing to share the potential risks and work collaboratively to reduce them.

Why are peer relationships important?

According to research, peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence. If a young person forms friendships in contexts characterised by violence and/or harmful attitudes these relationships will be anti-social and unsafe.

What are the potential risks?

- Peer on peer abuse
- Exploitation
- Online abuse
- Missing episodes
- Gang involvement
- Radicalisation
- Trafficking and Modern Slavery