|  |
| --- |
| **A brief introduction to contextual safeguarding:**   * Contextual safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people’s experiences of harm beyond their families. * It recognises that the different relationships young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. * Parents and carers typically have little influence over these contexts and young people’s experiences of extra familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. * As individuals move from early childhood and into adolescence, they spend greater amounts of time socialising independently of their families. * During this time, peer relationships are increasingly influential; setting social norms and informing young people’s experiences, behaviours, choices and peer status. * These relationships are shaped by, and shape, the school, neighbourhood and online contexts in which they develop. * The current child protection system and legislative/policy framework which underpins contextual safeguarding was designed to protect children and young people from risks posed by their families or situations where families have reduced capacity to safeguard those in their care. * Contextual safeguarding supports the development of approaches which disrupt/change harmful extra familial contexts rather than move families/young people away from them. * The approach extends the concept of ‘capacity to safeguard’ beyond families to those individuals and sectors who manage extra familial settings in which young people may encounter risk. |

|  |
| --- |
| **The role of professionals:**   * Those working with young people need to engage with individuals and sectors who *do* have influence over/within these extra familial contexts and recognise that intervention with these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding. * The interplay between extra-familial contexts and relationships is crucial. If young people socialise in safe and protective schools and community settings, they will be supported to form safe and protective peer relationships. * Conversely, if they form friendships in contexts characterised by violence and/or harmful attitudes relationships may become anti-social, unsafe or promote problematic social norms. |

|  |
| --- |
| **What we are doing to develop contextual safeguarding in Sussex:**   * A pan-Sussex contextual safeguarding working group was set up in March 2019 to look at how we can work together with this approach to agree a set of pan-Sussex principles, share good practice and to deliver a pan-Sussex launch event to engage professionals * The working group is made up of representatives from local authorities across Sussex, Sussex Police and Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How you can find out more about contextual safeguarding:** | |
| Simone Nyarko (2018) *‘Languaging Child and Adolescent Vulnerability’: A Guide For Professionals and Practitioners supporting children and families in community settings* |  |
| Contextual Safeguarding Network (2019) implementation toolkit: Context assessment triangles |  |
| Contextual Safeguarding Network (2019) implementation toolkit: Legal framework for implementation |  |
| Contextual Safeguarding Network (2019) implementation toolkit: Context weighting infographic |  |
| Contextual Safeguarding Network (2020): Operational, strategic and conceptual framework update |  |
| Contextual Safeguarding Network (2020): Two-tiers of contextual safeguarding infographic |  |
| Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships’ (2020) principles of contextual safeguarding infographic |  |
| Click [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf) to read *Working Together* *to Safeguard Children 2018* guidance in relation to Contextual Safeguarding (p22) | |
| Join the [Contextual Safeguarding Network](http://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/) | |
| Click [here](https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/blog/2019/it-takes-a-village-contextual-safeguarding-and-public-health) to find out more about the intersection of contextual safeguarding and Public Health approaches and what insights it offers for keeping young people safe | |
| Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_jgQMtpztE&feature=youtu.be) to watch a one-minute film about safeguarding teenagers from sexual exploitation and violence outside the home | |
| Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0lE-XENewM) to watch a two-minute film about what contextual safeguarding is | |
| Click [here](https://vimeo.com/269625673) to watch a four-minute film about the principles of contextual safeguarding | |
| Click [here](https://vimeo.com/427653341) to watch a 30 minute presentation about some of the principles and theory of contextual safeguarding | |