

Contextual Safeguarding in Wiltshire

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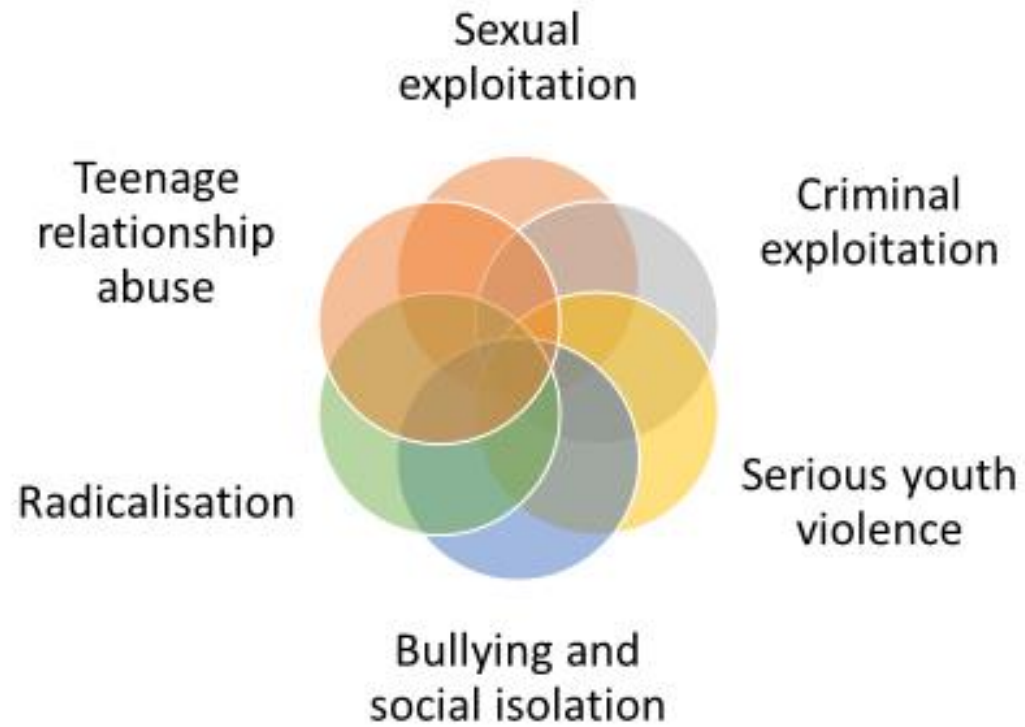
Wiltshire Council

The logo for Wiltshire Council features the text "Wiltshire Council" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a green, wavy horizontal line that tapers at both ends.

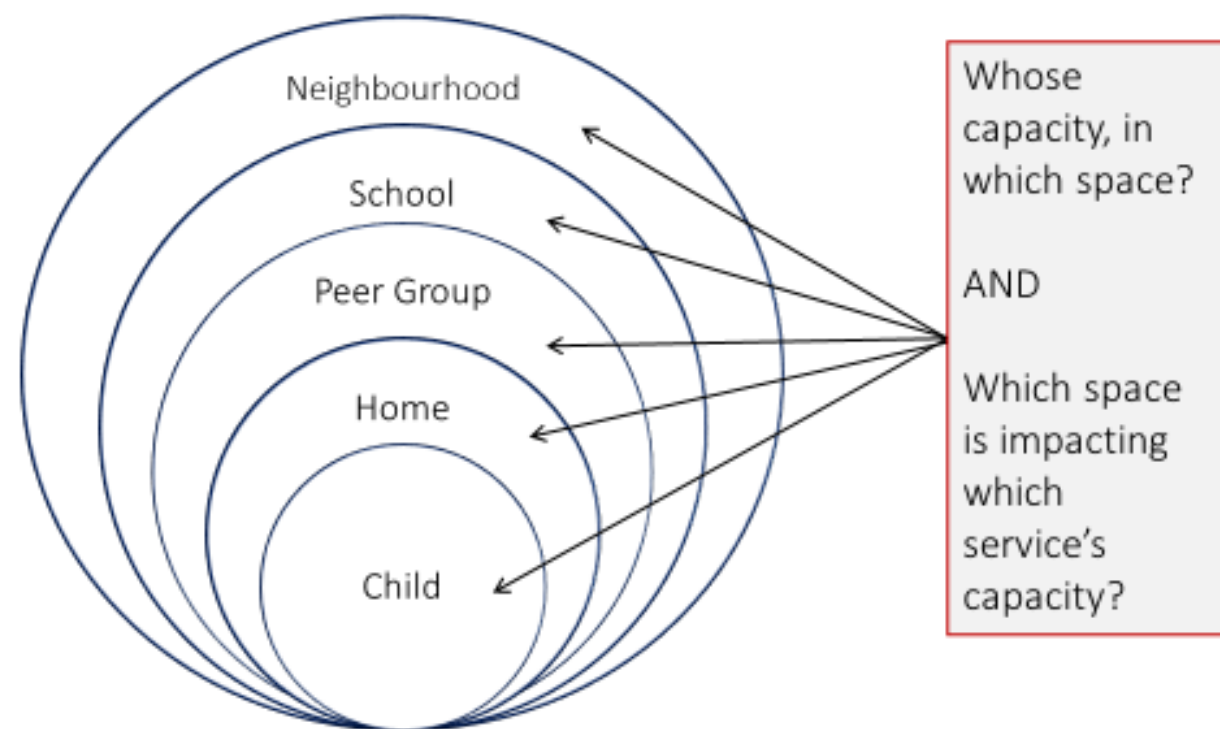
What is Contextual safeguarding - A Definition

- Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to the risks faced by children and young people beyond their families. Developed by Dr Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire, now Professor of Social Work at Durham University, the approach looks at how processes and environments can be made safer to protect children and young people from coming to harm.
- As children move from early childhood into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time independent of their families. Parents and carers have little influence during this time. The nature of young people's schools and neighbourhoods, and their relationships that they form in these places, inform the extent to which they encounter protection or abuse.

Extra-familial harm



A Contextual Safeguarding system will look beyond a parents' *capacity to safeguard*



(Firmin et al. 2016)

Developments in Wiltshire

- Development of Safer Young People Strategic Group (formerly VACS)
- Safer Young People context meetings (formerly VARMM)
- Peer group mapping
- Peer group assessments
- Context assessments
- Child Protection – Risk Outside the Home
- Social Care led response brokers relationships with non traditional safeguarding partners – Librarians, fast food shops, park wardens...



Information can be generalised /anonymised

Devizes- An Example

- Partnership Concerns Identified
- SYP context meetings Established
- Peer group assessment meetings commenced
- Weekly group work sessions planned and started
- Progress and feedback

**National Referral
Mechanism
James Biggs
(NRM Co-Ordinator for
Wiltshire & Swindon)**



Wiltshire Council

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Timescales and activity

Child	Time (days) taken for CG decision
Child A	36
Child B	37
Child C	7
Child D	12
Child E	19

- Children with conclusive grounds decision referred to escapeline.
 - Presentation to crown prosecution service.
 - 8 NRM panels held.
 - 11 referrals to date.
 - 5 children with conclusive grounds decisions.
- *Modern slavery National referral mechanism and duty to notify statistics UK quarter 2, April- June 2023: average time taken to make conclusive grounds was 451 days (this includes both adults and children).

Contextual safeguarding & NRM case study

- Contextual safeguarding cross border meetings held with Avon and Somerset and Dorset LA's.
- 16 year old male in a peer group of concern.
- Child identified through meetings as travelling to Exeter for the purposes of drug supply.
- NRM referral completed.
- Referral to escapeline with 'expert by experience' mentor.