

October 2020

Dear Safeguarding Children's Partnership colleagues,

We are pleased to share a pilot that we propose to introduce across Kingston and Richmond for six months, from 9 November 2020. The attached Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation Conference Process provides the full details.

There has been considerable work throughout the partnership focusing on contextual safeguarding and the exploitation of children (the harm which occurs outside of the family context in spaces and places often identified within community settings and from someone who is not a family member). We have developed a framework to respond to extra-familial harm that meets the threshold for level 4 significant harm with a response that is best suited to addressing the risk.

Support for children and families will take place across two interventions:

- Intervention A builds explicit reference to context in child protection conferences. This is appropriate when there are intra-familial significant harm threshold risks alongside spaces and places risks.
- Intervention B addresses extra-familial harm (where there is no significant intra-familial harm) by supporting the child and family to engage in a process which is more focused on teenagers and spaces and places risks. There will be contextual safeguarding & exploitation reviews and family and community network meetings to support the child and family.

To address risks identified from a space or place:

- Intervention C is a context conference to address the risks in the space or place. This will be held when the Multi Agency Risk & Vulnerability Exploitation (MARVE) Panel identifies a space or place as a risk for a group of children and a contextual safeguarding complex strategy meeting decides that the context threshold is met. An action plan is developed to increase safety in the space or place and this is attached to any relevant child's social care record.

All conference chairs have received specialist training in contextual safeguarding and exploitation to build explicit reference to context in child protection conferences.

We have a lead child protection conference chair who has developed expertise in contextual safeguarding and exploitation, and for the six months of this pilot they will chair meetings under interventions B and C. Despite these meetings not involving child protection planning, they are focused on safeguarding the welfare of a child or children within a community location and the use of a child protection conference chair strengthens this safeguarding ethos and independent oversight.

The pilot would be reviewed at one, three and six months and there will be a full evaluation at the conclusion of the pilot. Families who are already receiving support under child protection planning but who would have fallen into the intervention B category, will be offered the opportunity to transition from a child protection plan onto this pilot.

We hope that you share our enthusiasm and commitment to take forward what we think will be an innovative and impactful approach to supporting children and families.

Achieving for Children, Quality Assurance and Review Service