

Contextual safeguarding and exploitation reviews

A guide for parents and families



**achieving
for children**

Contents

1. What is a contextual safeguarding and exploitation review	1
2. Who attends	2
3. What happens at the contextual safeguarding and exploitation review	4
4. What happens after the contextual safeguarding and exploitation review	5
5. How to prepare for contextual safeguarding and exploitation review	5

1. What is a contextual safeguarding and exploitation review

Contextual safeguarding and exploitation is harm which occurs outside of the family in spaces and places often identified within community settings and typically from someone who is not a family member.

A contextual safeguarding and exploitation review is a meeting between a child, parents, their family, their family friends and professionals when there is a concern about the safety of the young person in a place or their exploitation outside of the family.

The focus of the meeting is the support and planning around your child by engaging in a process which is more focused on teenagers and spaces and places risks.

The professionals will be people involved with you and your child.

We welcome you bringing family members and adult friends who you think can help but please remember they will hear all your family information.

When we describe your child's experiences, any language that implies that a child or group of children are complicit or responsible for the exploitation they may suffer, or crimes they may be victim to, will always be challenged. We should use language that reflects the presence of coercion and lack of control children have in abusive or exploitative situations and must recognise the severity of the impact on children.

Here is a [General Language Guidance tool](#) that everyone who is invited is asked to read to assist.

2. Who attends

Can my child come to the meeting?

Yes, it's really important that your child comes. We want to work together.

Chair

The chair is an experienced social work manager who is independent from your child's social work team. Their job is to run the meeting. They will meet you just before the meeting to talk about how they can support you to take part.

The chair will give everyone a chance to speak and will help to build a plan of what needs to happen.

Social worker and social work manager

You have already met your child's social worker as this will be the person who completed the assessment with you and your family. Sometimes the social work manager attends.

Which other professionals might attend

Education: If your child is at school or college they will be invited.

Health: If your child attends school the school nurse might attend.

Your GP will be invited to share relevant health information about you and your child, usually in a written report.

Police: A representative from the police will attend. They send the chair written information and their report is shared verbally in the meeting.

Other professionals working with you and your child would be invited. For example someone supporting mental health, substance misuse or a youth worker. Or someone from the community, such as a shop owner, who the child identifies as a safe person.

They will be asked to attend to share information about your child and to see how they can help with the plan.

Reports

All the professionals invited to the meeting write a report about how they support you and your child, what they think is working well and what they are worried about. The social worker writes an assessment.

Each professional is responsible for their own report and will try to share this with you two working days before the first contextual safeguarding and exploitation review, and five working days before any other contextual safeguarding and exploitation reviews.

Recording

The meeting will be audio recorded and this recording will be held securely on your child's record. We can share the audio recording with you, you just need to let the chair know that you would like it.

A written summary of the meeting and the plan will be typed by the chair during the meeting and will be sent to you within two working days of the meeting.

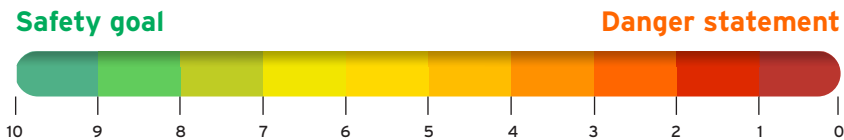
3. What happens at a contextual safeguarding and exploitation review

The chair will ask everyone to say their name and how they are involved with your child.

They will ask the social worker to read out the danger statement from their assessment and explain why everyone is there.

They will ask your child, you and your family members what they think. The professionals will share their views.

The chair will type the key points on a board for everyone to see and ask what safety goals we should work towards.



Everyone in the contextual safeguarding and exploitation review will be asked to use this scale to think about how confident they are that we have achieved the safety goals for your child. The chair will ask everyone for their reasoning.

The plan

In the meeting everyone will agree a plan of what needs to happen next to achieve your child's safety goals. Everyone will think about what things may help. It is important to make sure that the plan is right for your child, you and your family.

4. What happens after a contextual safeguarding and exploitation review

The written summary and plan will be sent to you within two working days of the meeting.

The social worker will visit your child at least every 10 working days, usually at home and the key group of people should come together regularly to see how everything is working.

Another contextual safeguarding and exploitation review may be held in three months, but the chair will think with you about whether it's needed anymore.

5. How to prepare for a contextual safeguarding and exploitation review

It might be helpful for you to think about the strengths of your family. Invite your family to come and be part of helping.

What you are worried about. It might help to write these things down before you come to help you remember.

What the next steps might be for you and your family. Think about what might help make things safer for your child, who would this be and where.

You can always put your thoughts in writing and send these to the chair before the meeting.

6. Your right to complain

If you are concerned about something that happened in the contextual safeguarding and exploitation review, please talk to the chair as soon as possible. We want to work with you and it's important that you are comfortable with all the support that is being provided.