



Cumbria County Council
Contextual Safeguarding
Local Committee Chairs
Meeting

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

- Developed by Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents.
- An approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

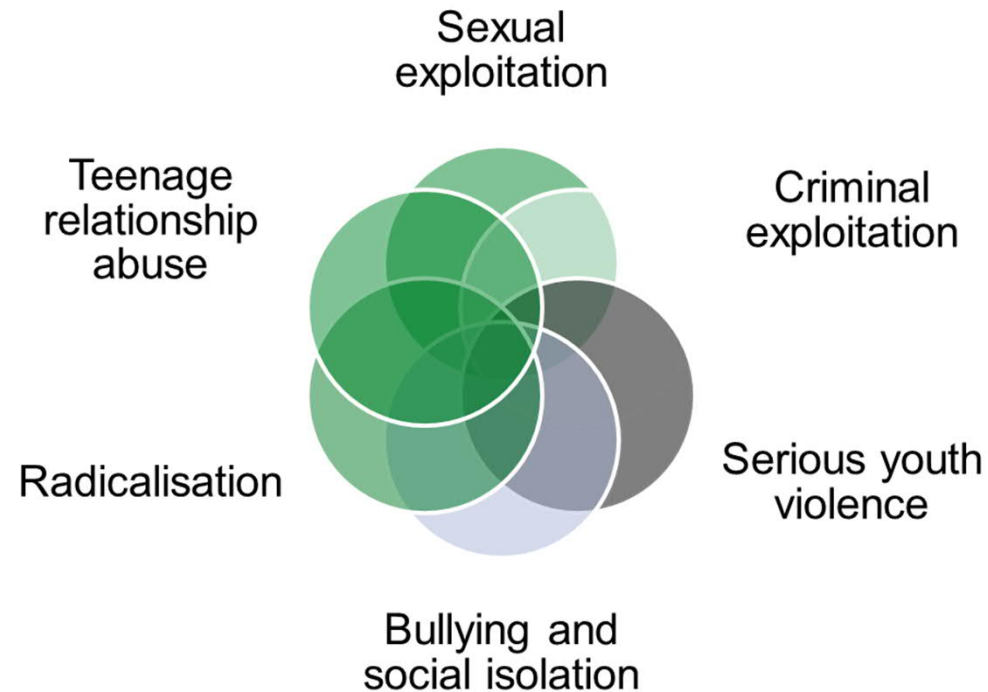
What is Contextual Safeguarding contd.

- Recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.
- Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

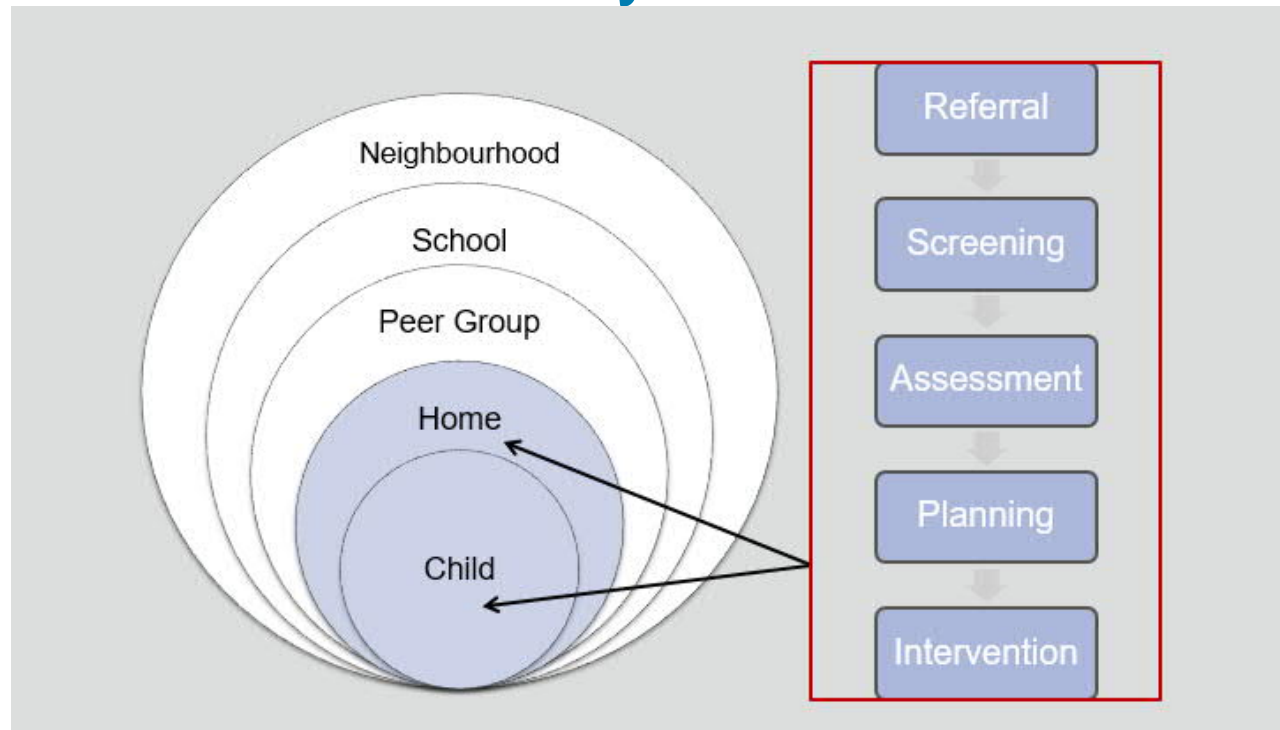
Statutory Guidance on Contextual Safeguarding

- Working Together to Safeguarding Children
July 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education September
2019

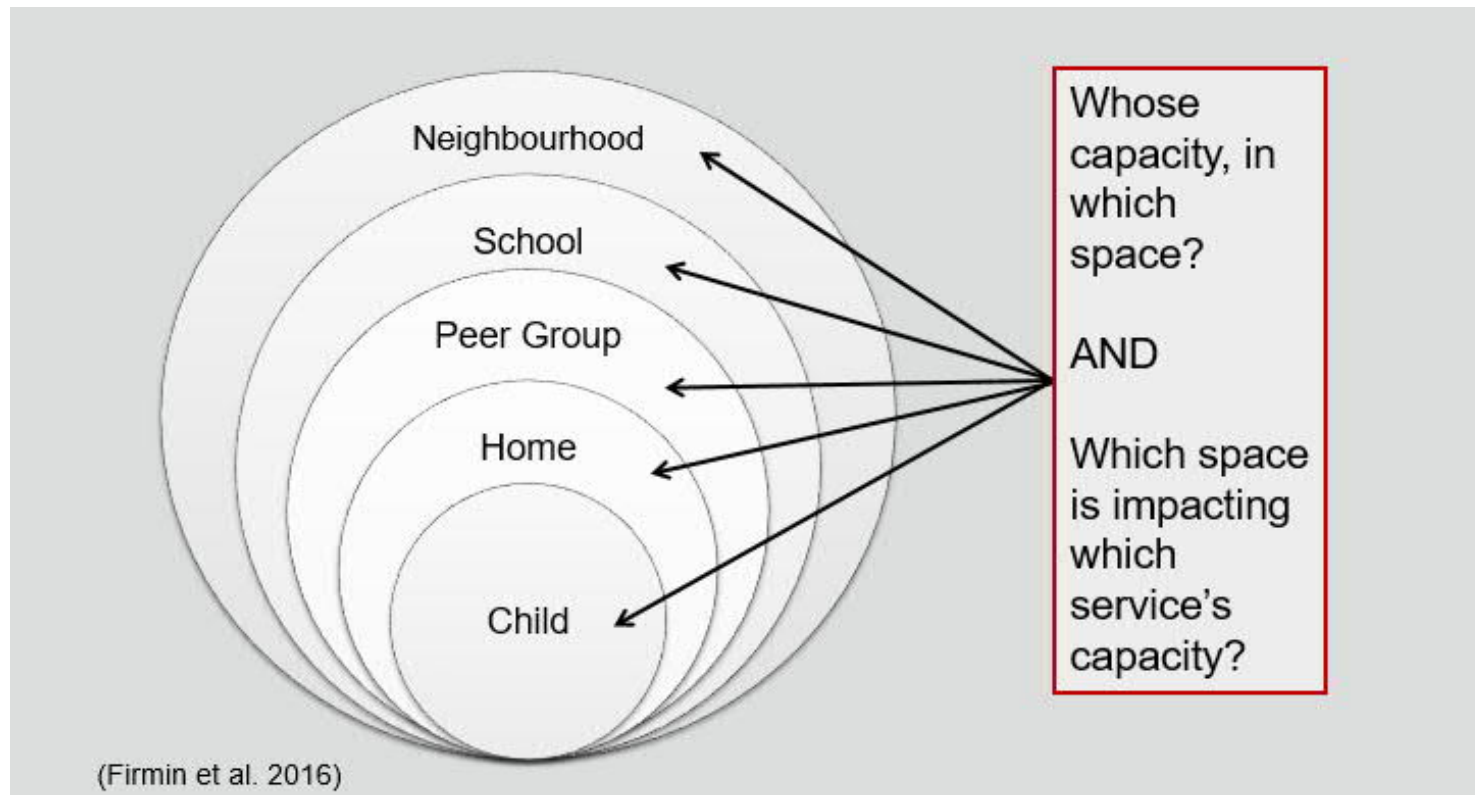
Children and young people can experience various forms of extra-familial harm



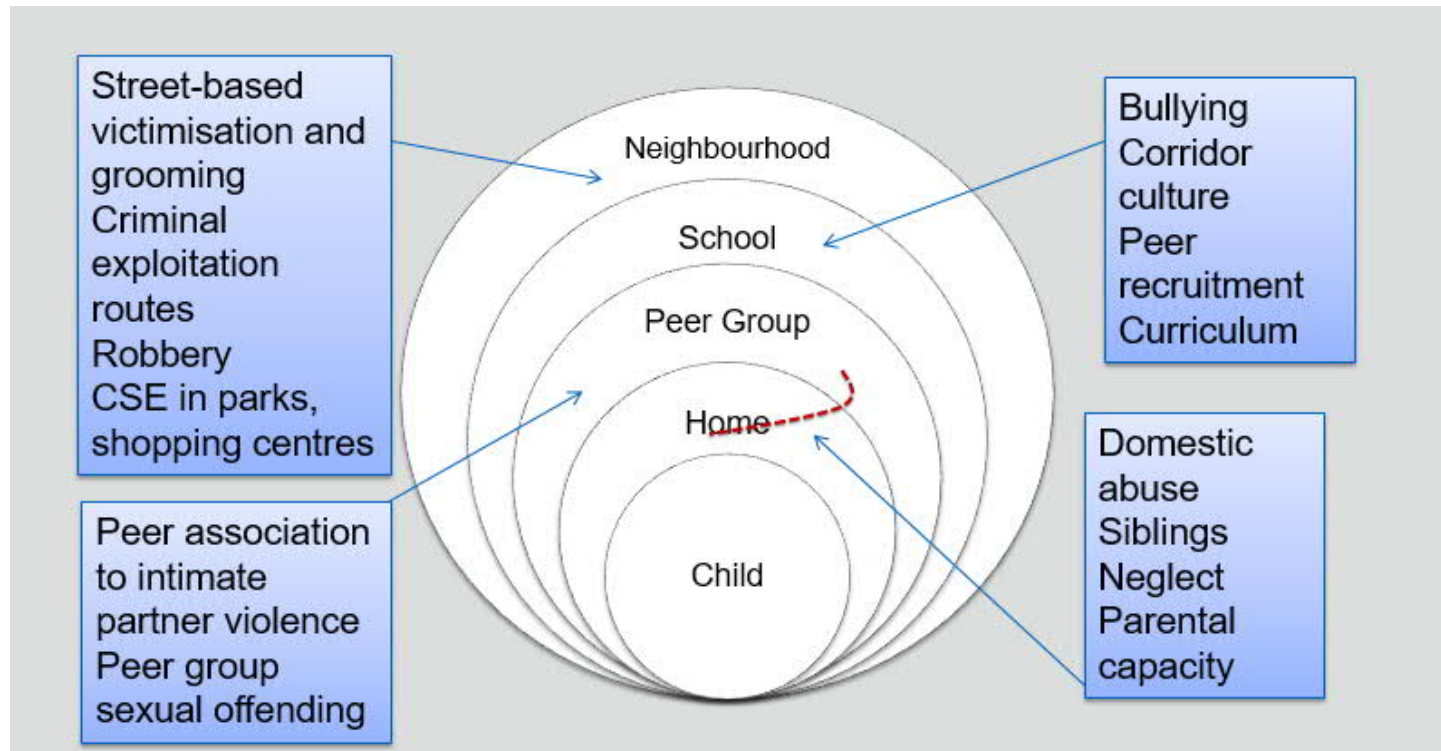
Traditionally, child protection systems address and respond to risks faced within a family / home



Response needs to look beyond the parents' capacity to safeguard



To address these forms of harm, we need to look at the context of risk and vulnerability (Firmin, 2015)



Contextual Safeguarding in Cumbria

- Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) – Missing Exploited & Trafficked strategic group
- Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meeting – Partnership operational group
- District based working
- Current Picture

Current Picture

31 Dec 2020

	Cumbria	Allerdale	Barrow	Carlisle	Copeland	Eden	South Lakeland
CSE1 - Category 1 Child Sexual Exploitation	26	8	6	7	2	2	1
CSE2 - Category 2 Child Sexual Exploitation	10	2	3	3	0	0	2
CSE3 - Category 3 Child Sexual Exploitation	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
CSE - Evidence or Suspicion of other forms of Exploitation	22	4	10	2	2	0	3
Total	60	14	20	13	4	2	6
Early Help	10	3	2	4	0	1	0
Open case	4	1	1	1	0	0	1
CiN plan	12	3	4	2	1	0	2
CP	15	5	5	1	3	0	1
CLA	17	1	8	5	0	1	2
Not open	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	60	14	20	13	4	2	6
No. with up to date risk assessment (within the last month)	20	4	10	5	0	0	1
No. with overdue risk assessment	40	10	10	8	4	2	5
% with up to date risk assessment	33.3%	28.6%	50.0%	38.5%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%

Peer Challenge Key Findings

Leadership and Management

- Growing recognition of Child Exploitation and commitment to improving our response
- Need a renewed partnership strategy, a consistent understanding and response to Child Exploitation and align service improvements for best use of resources

Peer Challenge Key Findings

Effective Practice and Impact on Outcomes

- Some examples of excellent practice and Early Help innovations
- Need to ensure all agencies recognise their responsibility and embed in thresholds
- Simplify processes and guidance with consistent standards and focus on impact

Peer Challenge Key Findings

Understanding and Reducing Risk of Child Exploitation – Contextual Safeguarding

- Information and knowledge about Child Exploitation informs risk assessments and is shared at MACE
- Need local multi-agency arrangements to be established to support and action the Central MACE decisions.
- Limited multi-agency intelligence and mapping of the problem
- Risk assessments and return home interviews to be completed with young people and families as well as professionals and inform individual safety plans and wider intelligence

What's next?

- Implementation of CERAR (Child Exploitation Risk Assessment and Review)
- Changes to MACE as part of CERAR and implementation of vulnerability tool
- Developing a new strategy
- Philomena protocol
- Missing from Home process review
- Delivery of 'IT'S NOT OK' and associated learning & development offer

Considerations for Local Committee

- How do local committee want to receive updates on contextual safeguarding to support their engagement?
- How could local committee members further support community awareness of child exploitation?

Any questions?



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