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PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships
Link Officer/s:	Dave Willingham/Nicole Wilson/ Darran Hope
Action Plan Agreed:	July 2023

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	That a strategic partnership approach to Contextualised Safeguarding is agreed and monitored through existing established multi-agency partnerships such as Safer Stockton Partnership, YOT Board, HSSCP and the Children and Young People’s Board.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Risk Outside the Home presentations to create discussion and ownership. Ambition is to consolidate this as both a child safeguarding and community safety priority
Agreed Measure:	Strategic Partnerships incorporate Risk Outside the Home in their plans and activity
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	Work has been undertaken with Cleveland Police and other partners through YOT board and SSP to develop a strategic partnership approach to Risk Outside the Home and particularly youth violence. Progress and development will be monitored and updates will be provided to both boards.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2 On Track - Since the development of this plan the awareness of child and young person exploitation has increased. Work has been undertaken across the partnership to understand the scope of the challenges and receive feedback from communities and young people.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Exploitation is now included on strategic boards, regular reports to boards are expected from August 2024. Examples include the partnership work within Clear Hold Build.
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	The Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) agenda is now embedded within the wider Tees safeguarding partnership arrangements through the implementation of the Tees HOTH Strategy 2024-2027. Strategic partnership activity is supported by a Tees-wide approach, including shared procedures, screening tools, information sharing arrangements and operational guidance. Risk associated with

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	exploitation, serious youth violence, missing and online harms are recognised as partnership priorities across safeguarding and community safety networks.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Harm Outside the Home is now established within strategic safeguarding arrangements and there is clear evidence of multi-agency ownership across the partnership. Activity is monitored through established governance structures and supported by shared regional procedures
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	A consistent partnership response has improved strategic oversight of exploitation, serious youth violence and associated risks. Agencies are working to common procedures and referral pathways, creating greater consistency in safeguarding responses and disruption activity across the Tees area.

Recommendation 2:	That a consistent definition of child criminal exploitation and contextual safeguarding is developed and adopted by all Stockton-on-Tees partners.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Rollout of our new Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance. The document provides a working definition to be used across Children's Services
Agreed Success Measure:	The definition of Risk Outside the Home is shared and understood within the children's partnership
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	The Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance has been developed and is currently under review. Since scrutiny the terminology has reverted back to exploitation as this was more consistently used amongst partners.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped - progress has been made on the awareness of exploitation of children and young people across the partnership.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	This is evidenced by the additional investment and contribution from partners to the MACE Hub and the creation of additional teams, including a dedicated SW Team and Adolescence Team.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Partners are now working to a shared definition of Harm Outside the Home that encompasses child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, online exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, serious youth violence, radicalisation and missing episodes. This definition is supported by a practitioner language guide which promotes consistent understanding and application across agencies.

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Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - A common language and shared understanding of Harm Outside the Home has been established through Tees-wide procedures, guidance and training resources
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	The adoption of a shared definition has improved multi-agency communication, referral quality and professional understanding of the range of harm experienced by children and young people outside the home.

Recommendation 3:	That clear outcome measures are defined to measure success of interventions and approaches.
Responsibility:	Miriam Sigsworth Service Lead
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Amendments have been made to the children's social care assessment document to better capture those children and young people who are at risk Multi-agency working group to be established to explore performance indicators across the children's and community safety system
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of children and young people at risk of harm outside the home is routinely quality assured
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	We now have the ability to capture High risk CE CSE through the Screening Tool, Initial ETAC's and ETAC Reviews. Once the Screening tool is incorporated fully, Low to Medium cases will also be able to be captured through Targeted Youth. In addition, there is also a report generated regarding Missing from Home. Exploitation is now also considered within Early Help and Family Work Teams
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2- On Track - In addition to this there are now specific reports that can be ran on exploitation through the work of the dedicated SW Team, MACE and Adolescence Team. These teams are also support others to improve awareness and practice.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Reports are now generated through the teams created, this has also improved oversight in case management and planning and support packages have improved significantly since the development of this action plan.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The introduction of the Tees Harm Outside the Home Screening Tool has strengthened the identification, assessment and recording of extra-familial harm. The screening tool provides a consistent mechanism for recognising risk and informing decision making across agencies. Within Stockton there is a mechanism to record and monitor HOTH via children's services system. Hoth

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	data is monitored weekly via the senior management team key performance indicator report.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Systems are now in place to identify and track children affected by Harm Outside the Home. Work continues to develop performance measures and evaluate outcomes across the partnership.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved identification of vulnerability has supported more timely intervention and strengthened oversight of children affected by exploitation, serious violence and other contextual safeguarding concerns.

Recommendation 4:	That support is provided for schools, in partnership with Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP), to promote understanding of contextualised safeguarding and relationships through the development and delivery of a programme of awareness raising and training supplemented with advice and guidance and clear routes into support.
Responsibility:	HSSCP
Date:	Ongoing rolling training
Agreed Action:	Contextual Safeguarding / Risk Outside the Home training is freely available and promoted by HSSCP.
Agreed Success Measure:	School staff are knowledgeable, skilled and are confident in how to identify and support children and young people at risk from outside the home. Increased knowledge and understanding is visible in referrals from schools to children's services and in how schools support children as a single agency or as part of multi-agency plans
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	This work has not developed significantly through SSP. However work has continued to develop through SBC Education, Inclusion and Achievement. Working with Police and other partners presentations have taken place relating to exploitation and youth violence and how this relates to exclusions and absence.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	Closer working relationships and support has been developed between EIA and the teams directly working with exploitation and youth violence. This has enable EIA to deliver presentations and support within schools In addition to the presentation, training to be rolled out regarding the Screening Tool in order for referrals to be strengthened by the specific concerns regarding CCE and CSE, this would provide clarity regarding CCE and CSE concerns and develop a targeted response to risk. Around Midnight interactive tool will be rolled out to schools in September.

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	A school risk indicator has been developed to identify those schools most at risk of exploitation and youth violence. This has been a partnership between SBC and CURV (Cleveland Unit for Reduction Of Violence) School navigators have been piloted in some schools to support early identification of vulnerable young people and help facilitate support. A bid is currently considered to add a specialist youth violence navigator who will cover exploitation. The vulnerable children data base has been further developed and is now used in all schools and colleges to support a multi agency response.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	2. On Track - Schools have recognised the need for training and support and engaged fully with the EIA team. A reporting framework has been agreed for school navigators.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Schools continue to have access to multi-agency safeguarding guidance and resources through the Tees HOTH framework. The availability of common screening tools, language guidance and procedural documentation has supported awareness raising and strengthened referral pathways into specialist support. HOTH have been part of the Safeguarding in Education & the Community Meeting which are run throughout the year and attended by all schools in the Borough. Training and resources have been highlighted through this meeting. Schools also have access to Pol-Ed a police education resource aimed at the DfE curriculum framework, with specific resources around contextual safeguarding and Harm Outside of the Home.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Partnership arrangements continue to strengthen the understanding of Harm Outside the Home within education settings and support a more consistent safeguarding response, development and close links with schools will continue.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Schools report greater clarity regarding indicators of exploitation and extra-familial harm, enabling earlier identification and more informed referrals to children's services and safeguarding partners.

Recommendation 5:	That a training and support programme is delivered to Children's Services staff to enhance understanding of contextualised safeguarding and to help recognise and support young people who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.
Responsibility:	Tanya Evans, Contextual Safeguarding Team Manager
Date:	September 2023

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Agreed Action:	Additional bespoke training has been developed for the Council's children's workforce. Content and approach has recently been tested through a pilot to a children's social work team Learning gained had been incorporated into the rollout of training to staff across social work teams, Help & Support and SEND planned from July 2023
Agreed Success Measure:	Children's service staff are knowledgeable, skilled and confident to support children and young people and families. This is visible in children's assessments, plans and how we support children, young people and families.
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	We now have the Initial ETAC's and reviews, this requires further development as to content that is easily understood by families and young people. The document also requires some revision regarding the plans being SMART. There is still a gap in the workforce regarding understanding of contextual safeguarding, NRM's, partnerships working, signs and indicators of CE/CSE.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped - The dedicated teams developed are now educating and supporting staff in awareness of exploitation and progress will be monitored through the quality assurance framework . Exploitation will be now be included in the new workforce development offer.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	At a strategic level the acknowledgment and support required to embed a partnership approach to exploitation. This does need to be developed further.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Children's Services staff now have access to a wider range of Harm Outside the Home resources including a practitioner language guide, standard operating procedures and screening tools. The workforce development offer has increasingly aligned with the Tees HOTH approach. The Stockton HOTH team are working with the learning and development team to roll out regular briefings around HOTH and also explore mandatory training in relation to contextual safeguarding. The HOTH team have worked closely with the Iveson Trust who provide wider training opportunities via their community guardian's programme. Specialist training regarding contextual safeguarding has been provided to front facing workers, from children's social care, housing and adults.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Practitioner understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding has improved, although continued workforce development remains necessary to embed practice consistently across all teams.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved practitioner confidence is evident through stronger assessments, enhanced multi-agency planning and increased consideration of extra-familial risks within intervention plans.

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Recommendation 6:	That a programme of awareness raising is developed for key partners and elected Members.
Responsibility:	Tanya Evans, Contextual Safeguarding Team Manager
Date:	November 2023
Agreed Action:	This will be achieved through presentations to key strategic partnership groups and HSSCP training programme
Agreed Success Measure:	Risk Outside the Home is recognised as a safeguarding and community safety priority
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	The priority over the past 12 months has been to develop our approach to the exploitation of children and young people. Although there have been elected members involved in the discussions and strategic boards. A plan for further awareness and involvement has not been developed.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The publication and implementation of the Tees HOTH Strategy 2024-2027 has raised awareness of Harm Outside the Home across safeguarding partnerships and strategic boards. Elected Members will receive updates through existing governance and scrutiny arrangements.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Awareness has increased considerably through the development of the HOTH strategic framework, and a dedicated programme for elected members will further strengthen this area.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	There is increased recognition of exploitation and extra-familial harm as both a safeguarding and community safety issue, supporting greater partnership ownership and accountability.

Recommendation 7:	That a community guardian programme is introduced within schools and communities across Stockton-on-Tees to provide wider community support.
Responsibility:	HSSCP
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	To identify, liaise and take learning from those LAs where community guardian programmes have been introduced

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	Identification of services that are best placed to lead on this work
Agreed Success Measure:	This will be scoped and developed
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	2 On Track - meetings have taken place so far, one was the presentation and the other was in regards to the development of clusters within the community which is being developed by Westlands School and the plan is to role their model out to other schools. In this meeting Community Safety feel they were best to lead on this as they have allocated Community Officers for set areas. I believe that Children's Services should be the custodian of this for the purpose of full oversight and being able to record progress, direct responses. The Harmony (Clear Hold Build) project is being used in some areas and again the plan is to use the learning to be mirrored within other localities as it mainly focusses upon one area at present. Visits to be arranged to other LA's where they have Guardians in place to see if this can be replicated or developed within the LA.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	This are is still at the initial stage of development.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	As above.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	Since the previous update, development of the Community Guardians programme has progressed through partnership discussions with Community Safety, schools and safeguarding partners. The Cleveland-wide Community Guardians model delivered by Ivison Trust has provided a clear framework for implementation, recruiting and training community members, business owners, volunteers and frontline workers to recognise indicators of exploitation and share safeguarding concerns. The development of locality-based safeguarding approaches, including community clusters and Clear Hold Build activity, has created opportunities to embed the Community Guardian approach within communities most affected by harm outside the home. The HOTH team are currently exploring how this can be used as mandatory training for specific sectors in particularly via licensing
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved – Significant progress has been made in identifying a recognised Community Guardian model and establishing partnership arrangements to support implementation. There is now a defined framework, training offer and partnership commitment to strengthening community-based safeguarding responses to exploitation and youth violence.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	The Community Guardians approach has strengthened awareness of child exploitation beyond traditional safeguarding agencies by engaging trusted adults who are active within local communities. This supports earlier

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	identification of concerns, improves the flow of community intelligence and contributes to a wider safeguarding network around children and young people. The approach complements Stockton's Harm Outside the Home strategy by supporting the identification of locations, peer groups and community contexts associated with exploitation and serious youth violence.
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Recommendation 8:	That multi-agency capacity to support our MACE approach is strengthened to meet need.
Responsibility:	Miriam Sigworth and Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	December 2023
Agreed Action:	Analysis of the current / emerging gaps in MACE capacity with our partners
Agreed Success Measure:	MACE has the capacity to perform its core functions to identify children at risk and the sources of harm to them; and to coordinate targeted activity to disrupt harm and achieve safe spaces for children
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	This area has now developed in a wider approach to the exploitation of children and young people. The development of a dedicated area and a Head of Service was implemented through the recent review within Childrens Services. This area includes, YOT, MACE, Dedicate SW Team and the Adolescence team
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	2. On Track - There has been an improvement in the way approach and deliver since the development of the new teams. This has improved practice and oversight, aligned the missing from home work and ensured all identified children and young people have worker.
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	Evidence of impact is currently being collated and reviewed.
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The implementation of a Tees-wide HOTH framework, supported by screening processes, information sharing arrangements and standard operating procedures, has strengthened the operational capacity of partnership arrangements that support MACE activity.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully Achieved - Significant developments in structure, governance and dedicated exploitation services have strengthened the partnership response and enhanced HOTH oversight.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Improved coordination between agencies has enhanced identification of children at risk, disruption of harm and the ability to develop targeted safeguarding responses to emerging threats.

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Recommendation 9:	That an options appraisal is undertaken on how Children's Services can achieve the best outcomes for young people through improved practice and additional capacity and focus, including through the use of voices of experience. This will include options for structure and effective multi-agency working.
Responsibility:	Nicole Wilson AD
Date:	November 2023
Agreed Action:	Appraisal Paper to CSLT about how we support children at risk of significant harm from risk outside the home
Agreed Success Measure:	Practitioners and managers know what is expected of them. They are supported to practice with confidence and are able to build strong trusted relationships with children and families.
Evidence of Progress (July 2024):	There has been improvement in this areas with the implementation. This area is included in workforce development. The creation of new teams and a dedicated area should improve outcomes.
Assessment of Progress (July 2024): (include explanation if required)	3. Slipped
Evidence of Impact (July 2024):	
Evidence of Progress (TBC):	The development of specialist exploitation services, the introduction of dedicated operational procedures, and the publication of the Tees HOTH Strategy have provided greater clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and pathways for supporting children experiencing harm outside the home. Audits and quality assurance of the service is undertaken at a 6-month period to ensure the impact and effectiveness of the service is understood.
Assessment of Progress (TBC): (include explanation if required)	1 Full Achieved - Structural changes have enhanced capacity and strengthened practice. Further evaluation of outcomes and the continued incorporation of lived experience will support future development.
Evidence of Impact (TBC):	Practitioners are better supported through clear procedures and partnership arrangements, contributing to more coordinated interventions and improved safeguarding responses for vulnerable children and young people.

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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