

Communication – Context - Curiosity

Child Protection and Safeguarding responses have historically focused on abuse which occurs within the family home. Therefore services have often focused interventions on parents, the family home and younger children. This has led to difficulties in responding to the needs of older children, particularly those who experience Risk Outside The Home (ROTH).

Over the last 10 years greater awareness of the risks and harms children face in their communities have emerged. These include:

- ❑ **Peer-on-peer abuse:** Peer-on-peer child abuse is a term used to describe children abusing other children. Peer-on-peer child abuse can include: bullying, threats, violence and sexually harmful behaviour. This abuse can occur in many contexts including schools, the community and online.
- ❑ **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** Child sexual exploitation involves situations, contexts or relationships in which a person under 18 is given something, such as food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts or money in return for performing sexual activities or having sexual activities performed on them.
- ❑ **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE):** Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into criminal activity.
- ❑ **Gang related harm:** Young people may experience violence, threats or intimidation from gangs. This can include physical, sexual and psychological harms.
- ❑ **Trafficking:** Involves the recruitment or movement of people for exploitation by the use of threat, force, fraud, or the abuse of vulnerability.
- ❑ **Knife Crime:** Knife crime is any crime involving a knife or sharp object. This includes: carrying a knife, owning a banned knife, trying to buy a knife if you are under 18, and/or threatening, injuring or fatally wounding someone with a knife.

National Response

In response to these sources of harm services are increasingly focusing on new approaches to support children and young people who face risk in their communities. The Contextual Safeguarding Network has produced a wide range of research, briefings, guides and resources to support services. They are evaluating services piloting new approaches to Risk Outside The Home.

Local Response

Newcastle has developed its own responses to supporting young people who experience risk outside the home. These include:

- ❑ **Operation Sanctuary:** This was a police led operation in Newcastle into the sexual exploitation of young people, which expanded its focus on exploitation beyond child sexual exploitation to also focus on vulnerable adults and other forms of exploitation, including criminal.
- ❑ **Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked (MSET):** This is a multi-agency team of professionals chaired by the police to develop coordinated support to children at risk of significant harm in the community and to develop robust disruption plans
- ❑ **Newcastle Exploitation Hub:** This is a dedicated first-of-its-kind hub set up by Northumbria Police, Newcastle Council and a number of other partner agencies to offer victims a unique support network.
- ❑ **Risk Outside The Home Pilot:** This is a specific model being adopted by Newcastle Children's Social Care to provide a response to young people who experience harm in their community.