

Contextual Safeguarding Strategy

2024-2027

Barnsley's response to identification, intervention and management of contextual safeguarding risk



**Barnsley – the place
of possibilities.**



BARNSELEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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1) Introduction

This Contextual Safeguarding Strategy for Barnsley sets out the vision and priorities where we, our partners and communities will continue to work together to deliver the best outcomes for all children and young people within the borough, who may be at heightened risk of, or may already be subject to exploitation and harm from outside their families. This document outlines the response to children who are most vulnerable to these risks currently and provides the foundation of how we will strengthen the system wide response within the context of safeguarding and early help.

It is important that we work together as a partnership and pool our resources to make sure children and families in our communities get the right support, at the right time, in the right place as early as possible.

In March 2024, Action For Children published the report of the Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children (Shattered Lives, Stolen Futures). Criminal exploitation is a form of child abuse in which a young person is manipulated or pressured to take part in criminal activity, often through threats of violence alongside serious physical, emotional and sexual harm. The report concludes with 8 recommendations, some of which will need to be lead nationally in relation to statutory definitions of criminal exploitation, an overhaul of the legislative, policy and criminal processes, a need for less short term approaches to funding for early intervention and development of a national exploitation strategy.

However, we can respond as a partnership to ensure that we focus not only on criminal justice responses, but on child protection too to ensure children are treated as children in the first instance, and to advocate to their behalf where they are victims of exploitation and other contextual harms. In strengthening our approach to information sharing, data collection and analysis we can strengthen our ability at a local level to identify risks and proactively respond through disruption and preventative approaches. We also recognise the role of schools, colleges and other education employment and training providers as a protective factor and this is backed by our commitment to **every child in school every day** as a key factor in protecting and safeguarding children. We are also committed to ensuring that our local safeguarding arrangements support children at risk of exploitation, and that early intervention is utilised to minimise risk to children.

The nature of this kind of abuse means that often parents may not be fully aware of the full extent of what is happening to their children in the community, whilst others may feel powerless or helpless to intervene and break the cycle of exploitation. It is vital therefore that our approach is holistic and addresses support needs both with the child and their wider family and network through a coordinated multi-agency approach.

Child Exploitation includes any child at risk of suffering from any form of exploitation. CE is split in to two main forms of exploitation: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). There are similarities between the two forms of exploitation and they may overlap, with victims of child exploitation often subjected to both sexual and criminal exploitation. There are also similarities between other forms of exploitation, such as extremism and radicalisation, modern slavery, and serious violence, including gang violence.

It is important that Barnsley's Contextual Safeguarding response is flexible to the changing context in which our children are exposed to risk and harm, that we understand what each partner brings and develop specialist knowledge and skills to support the wider workforce in confidently identifying and intervening at the earliest opportunity to support children and families. This cannot be achieved by a single team or agency and will be reliant on a whole system approach to provide a team around the child and family. Central to our Contextual Safeguarding response is the commitment that **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**.

The voices of victims and survivors of exploitation should also shape our responses locally, and the voice of our children is paramount in this, if we are to fully understand risk and manage this. We are therefore committed to further strengthening and developing the ways in which we engage with children and families, to gain insight into their experiences as part of our developing response, across the partnership.

We are committed to being brave and creative and to challenging each other as statutory partners to do things differently, and try new approaches; as those who seek to exploit or harm our children are constantly adapting and will continue to do so. We established a multi-disciplinary team in 2023 (B SAFE) and remain committed to further development with wider partner involvement as we deliver further against this agenda in 2024-2027.

We look forward to working with you to make sure that the most vulnerable children and families in Barnsley receive the help they need as soon as they need it and guarantee that everyone can reach their full potential.



Carly Speechley,
Executive Director for
Children's Services



Cllr Trevor Cave,
Cabinet Spokesperson for
Children's Services

2) National & Local Context

As children grow, they invariably become involved in social networks, relationships and environments outside of their family network. The majority of children do this in a safe and fulfilling way. However, all children can encounter individuals who seek to exploit their vulnerability or environments that expose them to risk of harm outside of their family. This harm can take many different forms, with children often exposed and subject to multiple harm-types.

Abusers often use alcohol, drugs, actual or threatened violence, kindness (including provision of gifts and meeting basic needs) and affection to develop a connection with a child they intend to exploit. The manipulation at the core of exploitation is often a result of an imbalance of power, and children often do not recognise the fact that they are being exploited. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child or young person's limited availability of choice (as a result of social/economic/emotional vulnerability).

These environments and relationships can often serve to undermine and disempower parents and carers in the lives of children. The child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship – they do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation and this contributes to making such harm hidden from parents, carers and services.

The Jay Review 2024 considered evidence from a number of partners, organisations and victims and their families. Some of the key findings of the review identified areas for improvement across the UK in relation to how we can all consistently define child exploitation, and collect and share data on the size of the issue. Our starting point in Barnsley in 2023 was an acknowledgement that we were unable to fully quantify the size of the issue in Barnsley. This still remains a challenge nationally, however according to Professor Jay, the number of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) have increased by 45% between 2021 and 2023, with 7432 referrals being made in relation to children believed to have been subject to modern slavery and criminal exploitation in 2023. The majority of these referrals related to criminal exploitation and 40% related to County Lines activity.

The Jay Report also outlined key risks factors in relation to the majority of victims referred to the NRM which include:

- Previous contact with Youth Justice Services
- Child In Need or care experienced
- Experiencing poor mental health
- Have a special educational need or disability (SEND), and particularly may have ASD/ADHD
- Alcohol or substance misuse issues
- A history of adverse childhood experiences (ACE's)
- Living in poverty or homelessness
- Exclusion from mainstream education
- Unsettled immigration status in the UK
- Perceived sense of status/belonging and/or protection

Additionally, at a national level children from BME backgrounds are over-represented in this cohort of children, although this is not the case in Barnsley currently. It is vital that we have a clear understanding of how issues of exploitation, abuse and harm outside of the home, and serious youth violence manifest in Barnsley, recognising the influence of culture, environment and community and that we tailor our response based on this. This has been particularly at the forefront of reflections within our partners and community following recent civil unrest and disturbances within South Yorkshire and across the nation in the wake of the Southport attack.

3) Definition: What do we mean by Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual safeguarding is an approach to child protection that recognises that young people are influenced and affected by a wide range of environments and contexts beyond just their immediate family. Traditional child protection strategies often focus on the home environment, but contextual safeguarding broadens the scope to consider *harm outside the home*, in settings such as schools and neighbourhoods and within peer groups, and online spaces.

Our goal for children is to identify and address potential risks and harms that may arise from these broader contexts. This approach acknowledges that young people can be exposed to dangers outside the home, and these dangers can include things like exploitation, peer violence, online abuse, and more.

We also acknowledge the links between harm outside the home through serious youth violence and that for children who are involved with exploitation, the complex nature of risk that exists in their lives is such that harm types often entwine as they, and others, seek to exert power and control. Similarly, harmful sexual behaviour occurs in many different forms, though the drivers to it are themselves often very similar to other complex risk areas. As a result, these and other, less prevalent contextual risk areas are addressed in our strategy. The relevant harm types are:

- Child criminal exploitation
- Child sexual exploitation
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Missing (MISPER)
- Serious Youth Violence

4) Our Commitments

- To deliver responses which are grounded in **Child First, trauma informed approaches**, building consistent and trusting **relationships** with children to improve our responsiveness to them and treating them as children.
- All children in Barnsley who are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse are **effectively identified and protected** by their family, school, community and other key services.
- That an effective response is delivered in a **co-ordinated, informed and timely** way that consistently responds to risk and improves outcomes for children, families and the community, taking into account their lived experience.
- That we will work in partnership to identify perpetrators and utilise all police and partner powers to **disrupt exploitation** and secure appropriate responses against those who seek to exploit children, in line with the 4 P's - **Prevent Pursue Protect Prepare**.
- Recognise that children are still vulnerable beyond the age of 18 years and ensure that they have opportunities to shape and influence services.

Our approach to Contextual Safeguarding is aligned to our Children's Early Help Strategy 2022-27, and is based on a graduated response in the same way as early help. Therefore, our response to contextual safeguarding is integral in our early help systems and processes, our thresholds of risk and intervention and associated escalation processes.

Our success is dependent on all communities and partners working in collaboration to make the borough the best place that it can be in respect of early identification of risks, intervention and prevention through effective multi agency support and rigorous risk management for children and young people who are suffering or are at high risk of suffering harm as a result of contextual safeguarding risks.

It is an approach that is about making sure that through early identification, we can provide the **right support in the right place at the right time**. It's also about ensuring that children, young people, adults, families and communities are aware of the signs and risks and are able to identify when they need support and access appropriate services to meet their needs. If we are to identify children at the earliest possible point when they are exposed to risk outside their family, then we also need to build a strong culture of **professional curiosity**, across a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that we are proactively picking up **on risk factors and the changing indicators of exploitation**.

5) Our Multi Agency Collaborative B-SAFE team

Barnsley benefits from successful and longstanding multi-agency working across the diverse and rich partnership in the town. The Barnsley Trust Executive Group (TEG) is committed to providing the support that children, young people and their families need, as soon as they need it, when and where they need it and by the people who are best placed to help. We reconfigured our services in response to this group of vulnerable children and young people through the formation of a multi disciplinary team (B-SAFE) for vulnerable children at risk of exploitation.

We deliver this through a dedicated multi agency team (B-SAFE) which is co-located within Children's Services in the Town Centre. The team includes **Youth Justice, Children's Social Care, Early Help, Police, and Clinical Psychology** to offer a broad range of evidence-based services across the continuum of need). Crucially, South Yorkshire Police have collocated a dedicated Exploitation team (formed in August 2023) to create a fully functioning B-SAFE delivery model to support delivery across the **4 P's**.

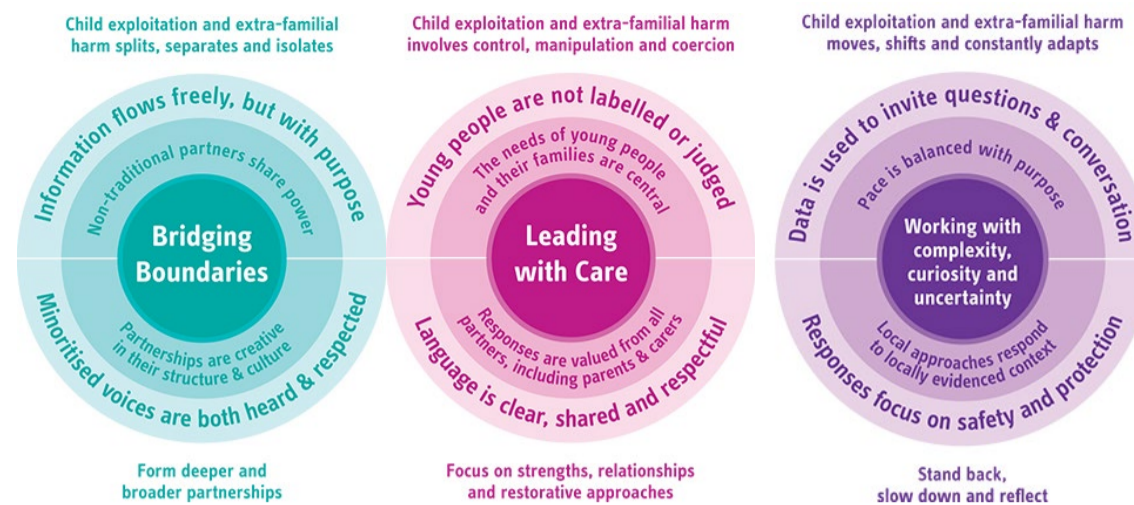
This core team is supported by a wider team of partners who are managed by substantive services but work closely with the B-SAFE team and (dependent on role) spend time co-located. Each service offers focused support, guidance, and intervention for child/family specific needs. However, we still need to further develop the responses from education and health partners within this coordinated approach, and work is underway to develop business cases where additional investment is required.

This partnership response to Contextual Safeguarding risks is a collaboration between Children's and Young People's trust partners and the wide range of organisations who work with children and families. Services which intervene to support children already exposed to complex risk and exploitation and those who are vulnerable to future risk should be seen as a flexible continuum of support ranging from universal services through to statutory or specialist provision, all of which are focussed on improving the lives of children young people and families.

6) The evidence base underpinning our response: Joining the Dots and Practice Principles

Research In Practice, The University of Bedford and The Children's Society have developed a structured framework of evidence-based practice principles that we have adopted in Barnsley as part of our commitment to ensuring practice is underpinned by what works for this specific cohort and, at a strategic level, aligned to the *Joining the Dots (JtD) framework*.¹

¹ <https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/joining-the-dots/>



This framework provides the structure for our partnership response, ensuring that all stakeholders fully accept shared ownership of the duty to protect children from harm. We will be able to hold each other to account, and where elements of the system are proving to be less effective, it is expected that the *Joining the Dots* framework will provide the focus to support improvement.

This will be achieved by embedding into our response a series of *Practice Principles*, designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts; providing a common language and framework to better respond to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

In Barnsley, this provides a coherent model from which to direct our improvement and development activity, ensuring that our overall response to complex risk and harm outside the home aligns at a strategic and operational level:



The work to embed these *practice principles* across every aspect of the delivery is ongoing and is in essence part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

7) Progress achieved through our interim strategy

The table below provides an overview of progress made to date and associated impact:

Practice Principle	Rationale	Progress made	Impact
Putting children and young people first	Putting children and young people first is at the heart of a child-centred approach. It means 'keeping the child or young person in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them and their families.' In practice this requires us to see beyond the presenting behaviours being	Our revised Integrated Front Door offer ensures children are accurately screened, using consistent screening tools. The implementation of the dedicated B-SAFE team is a clear commitment to this principle.	Effective screening directs children to the most appropriate service, ensuring children are more likely to receive the service they require, and risks are managed more effectively.

	displayed to the child or young person behind this.	By being placed as part of the wider Youth Justice structure, and with youth justice resource in the B-SAFE team, the ethos of ' <i>Child First</i> ' (YJB) is at the centre of the operational response.	NRM referrals are being utilised more frequently to support the right outcome within the youth justice system Clinical Psychology input is supporting workers to understand how to better support children in response to trauma
Recognise and challenge inequalities, exclusion and discrimination	Inequality and marginalisation can be both a driver for, and a consequence of, exploitation and extra-familial harm, and professional efforts can inadvertently reinforce inequity. An effective response therefore attends to both the interpersonal discrimination <i>and</i> inequalities facing children and young people, parents and carers, communities and many of the professionals supporting them.	Children's services is in the process of developing a diversity strategy that will align to wider corporate principles. The B-SAFE team advocates for children in relation to consistency and equity, and maintains diversity and inclusion oversight under our existing Youth Justice Service (YJS) strategy.	Staff have greater understanding of diversity, discrimination and exclusion, and the risk factors for exploitation. NRM referrals are being utilised more frequently to support the right outcome within the youth justice system for children who have been victims of exploitation
Respect the voices, experiences and expertise of children and young people	All children and young people have the right to have a say about matters that affect them and be heard in decisions made about them. Listening to, hearing and responding to what children and young people are communicating (remembering that communication does not have to be verbal) helps to build trusting relationships and helps professionals to better engage children and young people. This in turn can increase their safety; participation is a core part of protection.	All our screening and assessment activity is underpinned by the commitment to seeking and documenting the voice of the child and their family/care network. All planning processes will ensure this voice is heard and there is a commitment to co-producing and sharing all plans. This is being achieved through development of the Silent Voices group	Children (and families) are true partners in their own plans-this ensures increased engagement and impact. The B-SAFE model is relational in approach and the success of this approach is driven by the work completed to give children a voice in direct engagement sessions. Multi agency audits will identify where the voice of the child is evident/requires development across all partner agencies
Recognise and respond to trauma	An effective response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm requires a collective understanding of how trauma impacts on development and behaviour, and how individuals perceive and respond to threats and support. This means recognising the wide-ranging impacts of trauma and attending to non-verbal means of communicating an experience of trauma.	Our B-SAFE cohort of children has access to the YJS CAMHS team for direct intervention and/or signposting. Professionals will gain clinical oversight from forensic CAMHS for relevant children. Work is ongoing to commit the resource for a clinical psychologist to provide the B-SAFE model with capability for case formulation and clinical supervision; and to provide clinical intervention to the most complex children Trauma informed and bespoke training has been delivered across the PVP	Children who are being supported in respect of trauma and/or emotional well-being are able to begin to address the drivers to behaviours that may have contributed to risk and harm. Increased professional understanding of trauma has led to improved quality of assessment, planning and direct engagement of children and families
Be strengths-based and relationship-based	Being strengths-based and relationship-based means seeing a child or young person holistically and identifying their strengths and assets and the positive factors in their lives, rather than just seeing them as at risk, being harmed or causing harm to others. Working in this way, particularly in the context of child exploitation and extra-familial harm, requires professionals to exercise power with care, recognising that children, young people, parents,	B-SAFE are committed to a <i>Child First</i> approach which recognises the importance of identifying strengths to build on as a method of reducing risk. Our commitment to a <i>relational approach</i> is evidenced in our delivery model- however our CS social workers have responded to caseload pressures across the system which has impacted on the ability to co-allocate LAC children	Supporting staff with managed caseloads enables them to build key relationships as the foundation for sound plans and evidence-based interventions that reduce risks. The co-allocation model will be reviewed to enable us to demonstrate more impact through protection of the evidence based model

	carers and wider family networks may feel worried, upset or angry with professionals.	and the time they can spend gaining trust and providing evidence-based interventions that will reduce risk. Our <i>Hub</i> delivery space significantly enhances the ability of professionals to positively engage with children and families in structured and semi-structured sessions, leveraging in a variety of tools i.e. cooking, games, well-being resources, to support rapport building.	Children now have the <i>Hub</i> as ‘their’ safe space for use when they need it.
Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable	<p>This work requires curiosity, critical thinking and analysis skills, a commitment to reflection and learning, and the thoughtful use of evidence at all levels of the system.</p> <p>This approach means using data or research to ask questions, rather than expecting definitive answers.</p> <p>It means learning from children, young people, their parents / carers and other sources of knowledge and insight within their wider communities and paying attention to the potential for unintended consequences as a result of professional intervention(s).</p>	<p>We have strengthened our Integrated Front Door (IFD) and all enquiries and referrals are triaged upon receipt, enabling an integrated response to ensure that children and their families receive the appropriate interventions at the earliest opportunity, and that our partners are provided with quality advice, support, and consultation at the first point of contact.</p> <p>The IFD consists of co-located staff from children’s social care, early help, probation, education, health, and the police. supporting a conversational approach to ensure that screening of contacts is a collaborative process.</p> <p>The introduction of the CE screening tool for completion with all cases has further formalised the process, thus ensuring referring professionals reflect on their position using a single, consistent tool, enhancing the effectiveness of initial screening</p> <p>Significant investment in CBT and DBT practice and intervention techniques has been made into the B-SAFE team.</p> <p>Recruitment of highly experienced and skilled ‘risk professionals’ at advanced practitioner and manager levels has further ensured the B-SAFE team is equipped with evidence-based specialism in the key areas of complex risk and serious youth violence; criminal and sexual exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour. This will also support the B-SAFE team to provide advice and guidance to the wider partnership on the effective management of less complex cases</p>	<p>Contextual risks relating to children are now being more effectively screened and a timely and appropriate response.</p> <p>The screening tool demands referrers to fully consider information, intelligence and disclosure, and not make assumptions and judgements. This supports their professional development, ensures their curiosity is ‘tested out’ and reduces the pressure on the IFD.</p> <p>Staff are now using CBT and DBT approaches to increase self-awareness of well-being and impact of behaviours within families, thus supporting an increase in their resilience.</p> <p>The local authority has invested in the recruitment of highly skilled specialists across contextual risk areas and this ensures a key capability to directly intervene to reduce risk using <i>evidence-based approaches</i> and provide training and guidance to the wider workforce, reducing the reliance on 3rd parties for ‘expert’ support.</p> <p>A full review of the service will be undertaken to assess the initial impact of the model to date, identify areas of strength and development, and make recommendations for future shaping of the model. This will also align to proposed developments around Edge of Care services within the IFD</p>
Approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible	Recognising the expertise of parents and carers offers valuable potential gains for safeguarding partnerships, enhancing agencies’ abilities to support and protect individual children, young people and whole communities.	We are committed to placing parents and carers at the centre of our planning and intervention processes.	Parents themselves feel valued as partners and are more empowered to support their children and lead in the management of risks posed.

	They can hold invaluable information about their child and the contexts of their lives; about exploiters, unsafe places and community strengths and challenges.	Our commitment to a 'whole family approach' is further supported by placing <i>Early Help</i> resource into the B-SAFE model. This will ensure a flexible delivery model in which children and parents/carers can both be directly supported in an aligned response	Parents are committed to addressing their own issues as part of the wider understanding and acceptance of what is driving risk
Create safe spaces and places for children and young people	To effectively tackle child exploitation and extra familial-harm, safeguarding partnerships and wider professionals need to pay attention to the context of children and young people's lives – the spaces and places they spend their time, the potential for harms that can exist there and the actions that can be taken to mediate and address these. This Principle also emphasises the importance of a holistic understanding of safety, i.e. the need to think beyond the physical safety of the child to also support and strengthen their relational and psychological sense of safety.	The Hub in the town centre provides a uniquely bespoke and holistic resource for children and families. There is a wider network of family centres and IKIC centres across borough that provide further safe space. We have made links to youth voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in the town centre and engage in signposting. We have made progress in co-producing our Youth Services partnership/alliance model We have made links into the developing Youth Zone	As outlined, the Hub provides children with a key place of safety in the town centre that is 'their space' alongside other VCS managed resources. Linking in with VCS ensures a wider network of collaboration to support children in the community and increase their safety. Linking in with the Youth Zone to ensure that new facilities are accessible to all children in Barnsley, and meets diverse needs

8) Engagement with Young people and Families

Our adopted *Practice principles* outline the importance of recognising that children and families are experts of their own lives, experiences and of ensuring they are true partners in all our work. At partnership level, work ongoing work will be undertaken to embed this culture in practice through the guidance and support and associated development activity

Within the B-SAFE model, our commitment to a *relational approach* ensures that we are able to build the crucial rapport with children and families as the foundation to effective support and intervention. Individual plans (Child Protection, CIN, Early help and Youth Justice) will be co-developed and co-owned with children and families, and risks will be collectively acknowledged and managed.

We are committed to ongoing evaluation of our work and will seek feedback from all children and families, so this can then influence our continuous improvement journey.

9) Learning and Development

Workforce development is a key route through which we will empower and enable partners and staff to identify risk factors and ensure appropriate intervention is put in place through multi-agency working. By equipping the workforce with the expertise to challenge practice and drive continuous improvements, and by promoting a culture of learning and development, we will ensure that all professionals are cited on vulnerability factors and exposure to risk within their day-to-day roles, ensuring that professional curiosity is actively engaged in any contact we have with children.

It is important that all practitioners, including those in wider council and partner services, delivering statutory or universal services and those providing services to adults with children, understand their role in identifying emerging problems, assessing need, and raising awareness and sharing information with other practitioners and families and children to support identification of risks and vulnerabilities in a multi-agency context.

Effective protection of children can only be delivered by motivated, well-trained staff. Staff recruited into this area need to have a professional curiosity and understanding of vulnerability, embedded from the point of recruitment and through training and continuous professional development.

Led by the B-SAFE management team, our approach to learning and development,

We will:

- Be active partners with key sector development organisations across the breadth of *complex risk* i.e. The Children's Society, National working Group (NWG), NOTA.
- Track (and where possible, taking part in) learning from national and local reviews and ensure that learning is embedded into our practice.
- Provide a programme professional support, consultation and skills development for the wider workforce

We acknowledge that for staff, working in this area is challenging and staff are at risk of accumulating stress and trauma vicariously and this can lead to wellbeing issues and whilst the above provides a strong foundation for staff to develop the resilience to manage this work, we recognise the importance of good quality supervision and the access to occupational health services for all staff involved in working with this cohort.

Training:

A programme of dynamic training and skills development will be co-managed by the B-SAFE team and the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

10) Information, Intelligence and analysis

The importance of intelligence and data

The capacity of the partnership to work together to obtain, share and analyse Intelligence and data is key to success of our strategy. This has not been an area of strength and continues to be subject to significant improvement activity, however, we are able to now recognise a robust approach.

Intelligence:

We will continue to ensure intelligence is obtained and used to drive activity across *'the 4 P's'* and drive our action-led approach to practice. This will be achieved through:

- Continue to actively pursue intelligence by the B-SAFE team, supported by clear routes for partners to share intelligence and information.
- The co-location of the CE police team will enhance the ability of the partnership to share soft intelligence, details obtain through police investigation with direct impact on ongoing risk and respond to it through effective tasking.
- Structured review of intelligence in formal processes (MACE and CETG)
- The use of partnership *Daily Briefings* and both pro-active and responsive *mapping* to further understand at risk individuals, groups, perpetrators, and 'hotspot' locations.
- Reviewing and sharing disclosure from children, families, the wider community and other stakeholders
- Routine analysis and evaluation of data by the B-SAFE management team (including SYP DS) and key partners.

Data analysis and evaluation

The collation of data from across the framework is crucial if an informed evaluation of impact can be made. Data will be obtained through a variety of sources, though will include:

- South Yorkshire Police Child Exploitation Quarterly report (provided by the SYP force intelligence analysis unit).
- Youth Justice quarterly performance and cohort analysis report (including trends linked to offence-type; age; gender; ethnicity; local area)
- The capability to match and cross reference data recording across children's and education services.
- Qualitative data from quality assurance and audit activity of casework and also key processes i.e. MACE.
- Qualitative data from consultation with children and families.

We are committed to the continuous improvement of our capability to obtain, analyse and use data to drive better outcomes for children, and the CE Sub-Group provides the strategic oversight of this activity.

In respect of internal systems within the local authority, we have systems in place to actively flag children who are either at risk of exploitation or are being exploited on Mosaic and Synergy recording systems for children who are subject to EH Interventions and statutory intervention through Children's Social Care. We also record children who are reported missing and we are focusing on improving how we can share the outcomes of Return Home interviews with SY Police colleagues in a more timely and efficient manner to support effective recording on Police systems in relation to outcomes.

As part of our ongoing development agenda, tracking systems have been established to ensure that any children who need to access support in relation to Harmful sexual behaviour are also recorded. Once data is then available for all vulnerable children (Missing, Child sexual exploitation, Child criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, and serious youth violence) this will then be further developed to allow a comprehensive overview of all children who are exposed to contextual risk within these categories. This will result in the partnership developing its capacity to share data and have sufficient analytical capacity and capability to understand the scale and prevalence of exploitation within Barnsley. At a strategic level, key threats should be identified, and activity planned and delivered to reduce the threat.

We will use local data to fully understand themes, emerging trends and current threats facing the community and our children. This should include an understanding of particularly vulnerable communities, cohorts of children or prevalent risk factors within our locality.

We will:

- Use national and regional data to understand emerging threats and themes.

- Use partnership data to understand what, where and who poses a risk to communities and children at both a strategic and operational level, to sense check against perceived and actual risks at a community level.
- Ensure we understand where communities of children are especially vulnerable and target interventions at an early stage

11) Effective Investigations and outcomes

All partners have a part to play in supporting victims and the prosecution of offenders. Front line staff should have the skills to conduct early effective evidence gathering, with regard to an evidence-led prosecution if appropriate.

This includes ensuring staff are familiar with the rights and entitlements of victims and make best use of measures that support vulnerable people to give evidence. This also includes ensuring victims have access to appropriate support services, including therapy.

As a partnership, we will ensure the right resources are assigned to investigation of contextual risk and exploitation related crime and those staff are supported by effective supervision of cases.

We will:

- Ensure victims are supported to give their best evidence and when they cannot, seek evidence led prosecutions.
- Effectively use support services both inside and outside the criminal justice system, including therapeutic services.
- Ensure victims receive their rights and entitlements under the victim's code.
- Ensure that we have the capacity and capability to investigate effectively.

12) Communication

The partnership will design a communication strategy that ensures that children, families, communities and staff have access to information that enables them to protect children. This will be developed in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police and key partners across communities, health and education to ensure Barnsley has a single, effective vision for addressing complex risk and contextual safeguarding.

The strategy will:

- offer accessible information and appropriate toolkits to identify and manage risk for themselves or identify when they need support to do so.
- demonstrate to the community that we listen to their needs and concerns and are addressing them. This will foster confidence in accessing support and using services.

We will:

- Identify and promote number of communication channels for people and communities to raise concerns or share information.
- Develop a suite of resources for the community, partners and staff to identify, tackle and manage the risk associated with vulnerability to exploitation.
- Find ways to highlight case studies where intervention has led to improved outcomes for children.

13) Governance

There are in place key functions that ensure effective governance of complex risk and contextual safeguarding:

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership is responsible for monitoring and challenging agencies to ensure that they meet the objectives within the strategy. They will hold the Contextual Safeguarding (CS) strategic group and its members to account for delivery of this strategy through the work plan and will require updates on progress regularly through partnership meetings.

Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board (YCASBB)

YCASBB is responsible for the governance of Barnsley Youth Justice Service and the wider partnership response to youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Oversight includes resettlement, serious youth violence and is closely aligned to BSCP.

Barnsley Contextual Safeguarding Sub-Group

The Contextual Safeguarding Sub-Group of the BSCP is responsible for:

- Maintaining an overview of interagency working in the area of child exploitation, and extra familial harm/harm outside the home through a multi-agency group
- Implementation of this contextual safeguarding strategy
- Management of the contextual safeguarding work plan

The group was previously focused on child exploitation; however the decision was taken by partners to rename the sub group to take into the account the broader remit which includes not only sexual and criminal exploitation but also other contextual risk factors including missing episodes, harmful sexual behaviour, serious youth violence, and modern slavery and radicalisation

14) Key Performance Indicators

The following measures will be used to assess and monitor performance:

Exploitation

- Number of BACE assessments completed by IFD and Assessment team
- Number of BACE assessments completed by CYPF team
- Number of BACE assessments completed by BSAFE team
- Number of NRM referrals submitted
- Number of children assessed to have reduced risk judgments at 6 months review post initial MACE
- An increase in the number of NEET children who go on to access ETE following exploitation interventions by partners
- Number of adult perpetrators successfully disrupted and charged/prosecuted where appropriate

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

- An increase in the number of referrals into HSB panel from Children's Social care and other partners
- Number of children receiving direct intervention for serious HSB's
- Number of HSB trained staff across Children's Services able to deliver direct interventions and complete AIM3 assessment
- Number of consultations offered on HSB

Missing

- Maintain or improve the current acceptance rate for RHI's (baseline 80%)
- Increase the percentage of missing reports received by BMBC from SY Police within 24 hours (baseline 65%)
- Increase the percentage of RHI's offered within 72 hours (baseline 64%)
- Reduce the number of children triggering strategy meetings as a result of 3 or more missing episodes within the reporting period

Qualitative data will also be captured as outlined in section 10.