

Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2021-2024 – Action Plan

| Prevention and Support | | | | |
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| Key Activity | Lead(s) | Supporting Partners | Timescale | Impact |
| 1. Establish a multi-agency Serious Incident Review Panel for 18–25-year-olds experiencing serious incidents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Community Safety/Safer Merton (LBM) - Detective Inspector, Public Protection Hub Southwest BCU (Police) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC Contextual Harm Manager - Catch 22, DWP, Redthread - Police - Probation services - Performance, Improvement & Partnerships (Performance Team) - Housing Providers - Public Health | March 2022 | <p>Partner coordinate early intervention, information sharing and prevent escalating risk.</p> <p>Understand the specific needs of young adults and improve interventions for better long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Identify and address gaps in provision of services especially with this age group.</p> |
| 2. Develop and deliver a hotspot engagement programme further focused on prevention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Education Inclusion (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Community Safety/Safer Merton - Police - CSC Contextual Harm Manager | March 2022 | <p>Improve Merton's prevention offer via planned work and interventions delivered on target (400 contacts per year, 200 for 3+ occasions)</p> |
| 3. Directory of services under youth partnership/Young Merton to include information about relevant local services that is used and promoted by professionals, families and young people. . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Merton Connected - Young Merton directory | December 2021 | <p>Support is easily accessible to young people when they need it, they know where it is.</p> <p>Enable a shared understanding of services that address contextual risk.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Surveys and related feedback mechanisms evidence that professionals are confident and able to promote the range of services that are available and effectively signpost</p> <p>Signposting to available services will increase, young people can access support</p> |
| <p>4. With support from all agencies responsible for ensuring attendance of relevant training, continue integration with Early Help Strategy/ work programme including clarification of pathways specifically for adolescents, and where gaps are identified consider how these can be best met.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - MSCP (Early Help & Neglect Subgroup) - Contextual Harm Manager and Contextual Safeguarding champions - Health - MASH Team manager - Commissioning - Police - MSCP Business Support | <p>Jan 2022</p> | <p>Young people with their families receive the right help, right time and at the right level, in context of a whole family model</p> <p>Young people receive access to early help services within their own right i.e. mentoring</p> <p>Integration between pathways exists to prevent service fatigue.</p> <p>Adolescents receive specific support to reduce escalation and vulnerability to risk.</p> <p>This strengthens safety planning which is led by the young person, family based and reflects those at risk of low to moderate harm</p> <p>MSCP agencies support and ensure staff attend training on Effective Support for Families in Merton to help gain an improved understanding of support and services across the continuum of need.</p> |

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| 5. Assess online safety against good practice and evidence-based guidance through Section 11 and 175 audits. | - Policy & Partnerships Manager (LBM) | - MSCP Business Support - Education (Head of Education Inclusion, Head of Merton School Improvement) | Dec 2021 | Young people remain safe online through the quality of information available to them from agencies. Consistent and high-quality approach towards online safety schools is key safeguarding measures. |
| 6. Consider targeted work in response to Section 11 online responses (including engagement of young people and parents where needed) | - Policy & Partnerships Manager (LBM) | - Commissioned Services - MSCP Business Support | Dec 2021 | Agencies to deliver a reflective and diverse offer of online safety work. |

Identification, Protection and Disruption

| Key Activity | Lead(s) | Supporting Partners | Timescale | Impact |
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| 7. Identify all location-based Boards, Panels and partnerships and establish a nominated contextual safeguarding representative from each with decision-making responsibility to champion, develop and embed Contextual Safeguarding practice and share research, developments and knowledge | - MSCP Business Support Unit (LBM) | - Head of Community Safety/Safer Merton (LBM) - Youth Service (Youth Service Manager) - All agencies/panels - Contextual Harm Manager and Contextual Safeguarding champions - Health, Education and Police | March 2021 | Clear and understood roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in locations. Robust multi-agency working and timely decision-making in response to location-based issues. Full range of partners attend meetings where representation is needed. Learning from young people's experience and views, drives services and interventions |

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| 8. Refresh and streamline inter-related multi-agency protocols with reference to contextual safeguarding to ensure terms of Reference for MARVE and Locations Board reflect location action planning and intervention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSCP (Policy & Training Sub-Group) - Head of Service Quality Assurance, Professional Development (QAPD) & PSW - Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership, PPYP Subgroup - Contextual Harm Safeguarding Champions | December 2021 | <p>Right decisions made at the right time for young people, their voice leads delivery of services and support</p> <p>Agency protocols are aligned to improve processes, effectiveness and reduce duplication.</p> <p>Roles, responsibilities and procedures are clearly understood, accountability is clear and accepted</p> <p>Information updated on Tri.X, practitioners can access practice requirements, young people know what to expect, can directly request support</p> |
| 9. Use of a multi-agency approach in supporting schools and youth centres to help young people feel safe to disclose concerns, particularly in relation to peer-on-peer abuse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Education Inclusion (LBM) - Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools - Commissioned Services - Social workers in schools - Contextual harm champions | Dec 2021 | <p>Increased disclosures by young people</p> <p>Increased school awareness of agency support</p> <p>Clear referral and information sharing protocol, feedback to PPYP on progress</p> |
| 10. Embed and review new CSC assessment tool and harm matrix to expand remit of safeguarding to contextual harm. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contextual Safeguarding Champions - Children's social care Heads of Service and Team managers - Education - Health | November 2021 | <p>Consistent and specific assessment in relation to contextual risk</p> <p>Appropriate referrals made in relation to contextual harm. Providing high quality consultations and support to all professionals that's makes a difference for young people</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police | | Dip sample and review referrals, consultations and process with young people and practitioners |
| 11. Youth service and other community partners to contribute to CSC safety planning and mapping. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Education Inclusion (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Service Quality Assurance, Professional Development (QAPD) and PSW - Virtual Headteacher - Health and community police partners - Youth services and community partners - Catch-22 - Contextual Harm manager and Champions | November 2021 | <p>Agencies have a fuller picture of presenting needs and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Able to identify and map the community support.</p> <p>Strengthening safety planning with the young person and their family, along with key partners and community support.</p> <p>Learning from young people's journeys, their voice loud and clear, informs interventions and positive outcomes</p> |
| 12. Triangulation of data and use of multi-agency deep dives to inform local intelligence profiles. | CSF Performance, Improvement and Partnerships (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of Community Safety/Safer Merton (LBM) - Contextual Harm Manager - Education - Catch-22 - Police | November 2021 | <p>Existing and relevant intelligence profiles and analysis will be used to highlight Contextual Safeguarding issues and drive actions. This will form part of MARVE and PPYP reporting.</p> <p>Analyse local intelligence profiles across the partnership to identify and support further understanding of multiple vulnerabilities and issues connected to contextual safeguarding.</p> |

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| | | - Health | | (e.g. Annual strategic crime needs assessment, crime and ASB, DV, Sexual violence profiles) |
| 13. Explore (in conjunction with the Front Door) the identification of referral pathways for locations and peer groups of concern including current MOSAIC capabilities. | - Head of Community Safety/Safer Merton (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSF Performance (Head of PIP Service) - Contextual Harm Manager, plus Champions - Team Manager of MASH and First Response Team - Youth Justice Service | November 2021 | <p>Central database captures peer group and location information</p> <p>Ability to extract data / intelligence and target resources.</p> <p>Stronger understanding of peer harm in locations, heat mapping and peer connections</p> <p>Develop systems around E-Cins and reporting, analysis of information, impact for young people</p> |
| 14. Have a quality assurance process around appropriate risk screening for referrals of contextual harm. | - Head of Service Quality Assurance, Professional Development (QAPD) (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSCP (Quality Assurance Sub-Group) - Health - Education - Police - Contextual Harm Manager | Jan 2022 | <p>Robust risk screening and confidence in response to contextual harm</p> <p>Upskilling of professionals in the use of contextual harm tools and understanding of contextual risk.</p> <p>Risk is understood and addressed, young person has a voice in the plan and support clearly evidence in their journey</p> <p>Thematic audit and practice weeks to include QA of risk screening of contextual harm.</p> |
| 15. Merton Effective Support Model to reflect contextual safeguarding priorities and services. This will strengthen community engagement, | - Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | - Head of Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help (LBM) | Dec 2021 | Embed the contextual safeguarding approach with consistency in thresholds and practice model, evidence in positive outcomes and interventions |

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| ensure the young person's voice informs interventions and safety planning | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC (Contextual Safeguarding champions, - Team manager MASH) - Health, Education | | <p>Young people/ leaders collaboratively lead presentation and sharing feedback.</p> <p>Robust prevention response for all areas of contextual harm (including peer groups, schools, locations)</p> <p>Key partners report on impact and strengthen training, advice and support</p> |
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Professional and Stakeholder Engagement

| Key Activity | Lead(s) | Supporting Partners | Timescale | Impact |
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| 16. Forums to be set up for practitioners and young people to share views, experiences and practice of contextual safeguarding. | Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (Participation Manager) - Health - Young Inspectors and participation leads - Bedfordshire University | Dec 2021 | <p>Broad range of stakeholders are engaged to discuss and feedback on contextual issues.</p> <p>Raise awareness and facilitate open communication.</p> <p>Young people lead and develop the safety plans alongside professionals</p> |
| 17. Deliver training on contextual harm tools and guidance for social workers and partners. | Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC (Contextual Safeguarding champions, TExT Manager) - MSCP - Participation Leads - Education - Health | November 2021 | <p>Practitioners are confident in using tools for consistent and specific assessment and make appropriate referrals in relation to contextual harm.</p> <p>Contextual harm risk is better recognised, safety plans are reflected, and there is improved understanding of the harms involved.</p> |

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| 18. An agency commitment pledge to be developed alongside a clear accountability framework around contextual safeguarding. | MSCP Business Support Unit (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC (CH Manager) - Education - Health - Police | October 2021 | <p>Agencies are committed to developing and embedding the contextual safeguarding approach in Merton.</p> <p>Agencies are clear on roles and responsibilities in relation to undertaking context-based safeguarding activity.</p> |
| 19. Roll out of awareness raising and training workshops for businesses in Mitcham and Wimbledon Town Centre. | Contextual Harm Manager (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC (Contextual Safeguarding champions, TExT) - Community partners such as police and health - University of Bedfordshire - MSCP Business Support Unit | January 2022 | <p>Businesses in the borough are engaged and informed of contextual safeguarding.</p> <p>Links with retail and hospitality sectors are established and strengthened.</p> |
| 20. Review, evaluate and strengthen transition systems for young people or closure of children's social care services. Continuity of services from across the partnership – disruption techniques, safety measures, information sharing. | Head of Service for Permanency (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSC & Children with disabilities services - Adult Social Care - Police - Youth Services - Public Health - Health - Education - Catch-22 - DWP - CAMHS | December 2021 | <p>Smooth transition from children to adults' services without 'cliff edge'</p> <p>Clarity around risks/needs and continuity in professional support to reduce likelihood of future harm.</p> <p>Legal framework understood by children's and adults' services.</p> <p>Services outside social care realm to be engaged in planning and support.</p> <p>Young people provide positive accounts of transition experience.</p> |

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| <p>21. Review funding opportunities to deliver community-based participation projects to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - location/detached work - young people's voice and positive activities - youth and community engagement - developing skills of police cadets to engage businesses in awareness raising | <p>Commissioning (Children, Schools & Families) (LBM)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (Participation Team) - MVSC (Head of MVSC) - Catch22 - Youth Service - Young Scrutineer, CiC - Health - CSC (CH Manager) - Police - Housing | <p>Jan 2022</p> | <p>Communities understand are empowered and strengthened to respond to contextual risks.</p> <p>Community capacity and resilience is increased to keep young people safer.</p> |
| <p>22. Schools to review/update safeguarding policies to ensure contextual safeguarding detail is incorporated.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of School Improvement (LBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (Merton School Improvement) - SWIS Team (LBM) - MSCP - Contextual Harm Manager - Police - Health | <p>Jan 2022</p> | <p>Consistency of contextual safeguarding policies in Merton schools.</p> <p>Clear approach to improving environments and cultures that engenders significant harm.</p> |