



# Focus on...

## Local Themes - Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, on high streets, public transport, and other community spaces, from within peer groups and from the wider community and/or online.

Being drawn into exploitative situations where children can be both victims and perpetrators can have severe consequences for them, their friends, families and communities. These threats can take a variety of different forms including: exploitation by organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking; online abuse; teenage relationship abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Contextual safeguarding can involve young people perpetrating, as well as experiencing harm.

A theme across Lancashire is anti-social behaviour and specifically knife crime. A Knife Crime Strategy has been developed to provide the most co-ordinated approach. The county is working with Knife Angel for awareness and prevention raising. In addition, the use of knife safety kits is widely used. There are specific Contextual Safeguarding Multi-Disciplinary Teams across Lancashire to support young people who are most vulnerable to Contextual Safeguarding.

### Learn more about Contextual Safeguarding

[contextual-safeguarding-2021.pdf \(lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk\)](#)

### Where to go for support

[Nest Lancashire - Supporting young victims](#) can offer support for young victims of crime.

If you are worried about a child or young person who may be at risk, speak to your safeguarding lead to discuss what action to take.

Anyone with concerns about child sexual exploitation can contact police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Lancashire's multi-agency Exploitation teams can be contacted directly on Operation Awaken (North) 01253 477261, Operation Engage (East) 01254 353 525 or Operation Deter (Central) 01772 209122

