



Contextual Safeguarding Addendum

Contextual safeguarding recognises, assesses and seeks to respond wider environmental factors and influences that are present in a child's life, outside the home and family, which are a threat or pose a risk to their safety or welfare. All staff, but especially the DSL (and DMSs) should consider whether children are at risk of harm outside of their families, and should understand these extra familial issues.

Extra-familial threats and harms might arise at school, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. They can take a variety of different forms, and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation or serious youth violence. Harms may arise face to face and/or online. They can involve gangs, organised crime groups (including county lines) or extremist groups.

The school will contribute to assessments and mapping processes, taking those extra familial risks into account and sharing relevant information with social workers and other professionals in order to enable all such factors to be taken into account when risk to children is being assessed. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse. Children who may be alleged perpetrators should also be assessed to understand the impact of contextual issues on their safety and welfare.

Interventions should focus on addressing these wider environmental factors, which are likely to be a threat to the safety and welfare of a number of different children who may or may not be known to local authority children's social care. Assessments of children in such cases should consider the individual needs and vulnerabilities of each child. They should look at the parental capacity to support the child, including helping the parents and carers to understand any risks and support them to keep children safe and assess potential risk to child. Children's social care assessments should consider where children are being harmed in contexts outside the home so it is important that schools provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and enable a contextual approach to address such harm.

In relation to our local context, at BWA specific consideration is currently given to the following contextual safeguarding issues:

- Grooming for gang culture
- Robbery
- Anti-social behaviour on Northcote Road and Battersea Rise
- Children congregating at Clapham Junction railway station
- Railway safety – high level of trespassing on the tracks in our area
- Clapham Common West Side is a PSE (Public Sex Environment) – children walking through the common, particularly in the evening, have the potential to be exposed to this
- Substantial amount of cannabis and nitrous oxide is used by young people.
 - It is a way to coerce and control others for gang grooming. Young people can become indebted by having "free stuff" – which isn't free at all and needs to be worked off
 - Threat of telling on these young people is sufficient to force those caught up to do things
 - Exposure to those taking drugs
 - Summer holidays – spike of drug related robberies on Wandsworth and Clapham Common

- Exposure to those taking drugs
- Exposure to those with mental health conditions
 - When it happens in public, this can be distressing for people, especially young people, to witness
 - Young people are exposed to people with mental health issues on a more common basis and may not understand that the person is experiencing a mental health issue
 - Young people are exposing themselves to harm if they engage these people, often by poking fun etc.
- Female Genital Mutilation – London has highest rates per capita in the country