

Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2026-2027

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



Introduction

This Contextual Safeguarding Strategy sets out the vision and priorities for tackling harm outside of the home, in Barnsley. The document details how we, our partners and communities, will continue to work together to prevent exploitation and harm outside of the home, and to deliver the best outcomes for all children within the borough, who may be at risk of, or may already be experiencing exploitation and harm from outside their homes.

In Barnsley, our culture and model of practice ensure that we provide services that work together to support children and families in our communities to get the right support, at the right time, in the right place and as early as possible to prevent harm and respond robustly to those exposed to harm. Working with families and communities to ensure Barnsley is a place children can be safe, healthy, grow, learn and achieve.

The nature of this kind of abuse means that often parents and carers may not be fully aware of the extent of what is happening to their children in the community, whilst others may feel powerless or helpless to intervene. 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, bringing parents in, as partners and having equal influence in being able to achieve safety for their children. Our response is bespoke to the individual child and the harm they are exposed to, pulling in the strengths of the networks around our children, and central to our Contextual Safeguarding response is the commitment that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In Barnsley, this is embedded within our 4 P Plans to Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

The voices of victims and survivors of exploitation should also shape our responses locally, and the voice of our children is paramount in 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 and have families as 'experts by experience' shaping our local operational, strategic and partnership responses, to harm outside of the home.

We are committed to being bold, ambitious and tenacious in supporting our children. As a partnership, we are creating a culture of high support and high challenge, learning from one another, from national and pioneering practice and constantly striving to deliver the best service and outcomes with our children and to try new approaches; as those who seek to exploit or harm our children are constantly adapting and will continue to do so. We continue to grow and shape the multi- disciplinary specialist contextual safeguarding team (B-SAFE) and remain committed to further development with wider partner involvement as we deliver further against this agenda in 2026-2027.

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



Alun Windle
Deputy Chief Nurse
SY ICB, Director of
Nursing Sheffield &
Barnsley



Simon Wanless
Chief Superintendent
& District Commander
South Yorkshire Police
Barnsley

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

Contextual safeguarding is an approach to child protection that recognises that children 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 neighborhoods and within peer groups, and online spaces.

Our goal for children is to avoid being harmed or exploited through our preventative and universal offer, creating safer communities, with children who are safe and able to enjoy and thrive. When there are risks identified for children and communities, we will assess, address and robustly respond to potential risks and harm that may arise from these broader contexts. This approach acknowledges that dangers outside the home can exist within our communities and without preventative work, children can be exposed to this, these dangers can include criminal and sexual exploitation, peer violence, and online abuse.

We also acknowledge the links between exploitation and serious youth violence and that for children who are exposed to 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. Therefore, our prevention for children and communities, that addresses community risk and vulnerability for our children, is key to prevent and protect children from experiencing harms outside of the home, before it takes place. Similarly, harmful sexual behaviour occurs in many different forms, though the drivers to it are themselves often very similar to other complex risk areas. Our work seeks to educate and support children with their relationships, social and sexual development, to prevent harmful sexual behavior from occurring and to prevent children from experiencing sexual harm.

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.
- Online Harm and Internet Abuse.
- Trafficking and Modern Slavery.
- Missing from home, care and education.
- Risks associated with gangs (also referred to as Organised Crime Groups – OCG's)
- Serious Youth Violence
- Harmful Sexual Behavior

National best practice, and Working Together 2026 highlight the following as creating the best outcomes for children:

- Where there are concerns that a child is experiencing extra-familial harm, practitioners should **consider all the needs and vulnerabilities of the child**.
- Vulnerabilities that can be exploited by others and will require support appropriate to their needs to minimise the potential for exploitation. All children, including those who may be causing harm to others, should **receive a safeguarding response first** and practitioners should work with them **to understand their experiences and what will reduce the likelihood of harm** to themselves and others.
- Where children may be experiencing extra-familial harm, children's social care assessments should determine whether a **child is in need under section 17** of the Children Act 1989 or whether to **make enquires under section 47** of the same Act, following concerns that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.
- Where there are concerns that more than one child may be experiencing harm in an extra-familial context, practitioners should **consider the individual needs of each child as well as work with the group of children**.
- Practitioners will need to build an **understanding of the context in which the harm is occurring** and draw on relevant knowledge and information from the children.
- This may **include working across safeguarding and community safety partnerships** to agree a plan for keeping children safe.

In Barnsley, we recognise the need to respond to harm outside of the home by; protecting children and communities, pursuing perpetrators of harm and creating safe places and spaces for children to grow, thrive, achieve and live.

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 and coercion at the core of exploitation is often a result of an imbalance of power, and children often do not recognise they are being exploited. Exposure to exploitative relationships is characterised by children's limited availability of choice (as a result of social/economic/emotional vulnerability). We recognise that no child can consent to their own abuse and absence of acceptance of exploitation does not indicate it is not present.

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

At a national level, children from Black, Asian and mixed 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.

Nationally:

The report on group based exploitation, by Baroness Casey highlighted the following, with regards to statistics about child exploitation nationally:

- Around **500,000 children a year are likely to experience child sexual abuse** (of any kind). However, for the vast majority, their abuse is not identified, and it is not reported to the Police either at the time or later.
- Police recorded crime data shows just over **100,000 offences of child sexual abuse and exploitation recorded in 2024**, with around 60% of these being contact offences (and the remainder online offences).
- Of these contact offences, an estimated **17,100 are 'flagged' by the police as child sexual exploitation** in Police recorded crime data.
- The only figure on group-based child sexual exploitation comes from a new Police dataset (called the Complex and Organised Child Abuse Dataset - COCAD) which, while suffering a number of limitations, has identified around 700 recorded offences of group-based child sexual exploitation in 2023.

Baroness Casey goes on to highlight that 'Given how under-reported child sexual exploitation is, the flaws in the data collection and the confusing and inconsistently applied definitions, it is highly unlikely that this accurately reflects the true scale of child sexual exploitation, or group-based exploitation.', identifying a clear flaw in the way child exploitation is recorded, understood and identified, nationally.

The National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes Report 2023 identified the following trends nationally for children experiencing exploitation:

- **A total of 115,489 Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) offences were recorded by Police in 2023**, reflecting the consistent growth in CSAE and the long-term trend of increased reporting to Police. Evidence continues to suggest many crimes remain unreported, with an estimated **500,000** children experiencing CSAE every year.
- **Sexual Assault on a Child** was the most common crime type recorded in 29% of CSAE crimes, followed by Indecent Imagery of Children (27%) and Rape of a Child (18%).
- **Contact abuse against children remains consistently high compared to that seen in crimes recorded in 2022**, accounting for 68% of CSAE offences in 2023.
- **CSAE remains a heavily gendered crime** with males (82%, of all CSAE perpetrators) predominantly abusing females (79%, of victims).
- A relationship between victim and perpetrator was recorded for 44% of offences. Of those, **80% of victims knew their abuser**.
- **Group-based CSAE accounts for 4.6% of all CSAE in 2023** with **contact offences accounting for 3.7%** and group-based non-contact offences accounting for just under 1% This is consistent with 2022. Group-based CSAE ranges from unorganised peer group sharing of imagery, to more organised complex high harm cases with high community impact.
- At least 35% of Police recorded CSAE has an online element, 76% of which relates to IIOC offences **The online space plays a role in facilitating contact abuse of children, though under 5% (n.3,610) of contact offences were flagged for having an online element**. Of concern is the rapidly emerging threat of the sexual extortion of children. Policing and partners continue to work together to understand this threat in more detail.

Both data sets highlight the prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, an increase in reports of these crimes impacting children nationally and a clear need to develop practice, insight and understanding into the scale of the issue, and our joint response to this nationally and locally.

Locally

Our children typically become exposed to child exploitation in some form from the age of 12, within their school or local community, predominantly in the town centre area, and this escalates to its highest risks around the 15/16 age range. Children 16-17 years typically have longer exposure to criminal exploitation and are at higher risk of becoming exposed to serious youth violence and go on to be exploited children who then exploit others.

Females in the area, who have been exploited are more likely to experience sexual exploitation either through online means or through targeted group-based grooming. Males who experience exploitation and more likely to be exploited criminally, through local drug supply and distribution, theft to order and incitement into criminal activity. In some cases, this has included organised crime groups from out of area influencing, grooming and exploiting Barnsley children. In both experiences of child exploitation, children are groomed and accessed via social media, the Barnsley offer is focusing on an early intervention roll out to address issues around social media and increasing awareness for children and families around keeping themselves safe online. A secondary focus of the service is to develop our data collection and analysis processes to ensure we are capturing the stories and experiences of our children, with regards to their experiences of exploitation and ensure we are offering targeted prevention work, to disrupt patterns and themes of exploitation, within our local context at the earliest point.

For many of our children, there are challenges around education and missing out on education through attendance issues and/ or exclusions and suspensions, this creates an increased vulnerability to child exploitation. Many of our children who experience child exploitation also have diagnosed and undiagnosed SEN needs, this is a focus of our ongoing work, to ensure we are addressing health and education issues, early, to prevent children becoming vulnerable to and experiencing child exploitation.

Children who experience missing episodes can experience increased risks of harm outside of the home, when they are missing. Children in Barnsley who experience missing episodes will be offered a return home conversation with a missing practitioner to understand the push and pull factors that contributed to the missing episode, to offer support and safeguarding responses to missing episodes and any harm they may have been exposed to, and to offer follow up support to prevent missing episodes from occurring in the future. This service is offered through the Targeted Early Help Service. For any children who experience missing episodes, multi-agency discussions are held at our daily briefing meeting, to offer joined up support and responses to children and their families. This information is also considered and discussed at the MACE meetings, to ensure that children experience robust safeguarding responses and that any thematic issues are captured and considered by agencies collectively, to reduce the risk of harm outside the home, for all Barnsley children, this includes places and spaces that are exposing children to harm and perpetrators of harm.

Our Offer:

This strategy will set out our approach to working with children and families vulnerable to or experiencing all forms of harms outside the home which are detailed under our 4 P Plan, with the headings: Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue.

This strategy will underpin and guide our robust and focused contextual safeguarding approach to children's safety, supporting, encouraging and enabling our children to have the right help to be safe in our communities as they become young adults. Recognising and understanding those factors that may increase vulnerability and risk in the community and working across partnerships to prevent our children experiencing harm in the first place. Safeguarding services have been structured to address familial risk or risks within the home. Children's needs and experiences are very different as they get older, and risks outside the home or family (extra familial risks) become more significant. These are sometimes referred to as 'contextual' risks. These types of risk require a different and specific response that recognises that traditional safeguarding systems cannot deliver and require a partnership, coordinated response across agencies.

Our interventions are focused on:

- Creating safety within children's contexts and environments, intervening where places and spaces are identified as being risky or harmful in our communities.
- Relentlessly pursuing those who pose risk or cause harm to our children, in their communities and contexts, working closely with the Police to pursue perpetrators of harm and preventing harm from occurring.
- Protecting children through supporting them and their families and networks to prevent children from being harmed and supporting them to recover, when harm has occurred.

Our child first approach means that our children, families and communities shape our offer with us, ensuring our offer is visible and accessible to all children in Barnsley, offering the right help to children at the right time, to prevent harm and support children living safe and prosperous lives. Prevention and diversion requires a systemic, multi-agency approach with collaboration across partners, to drive this repose within our communities and for our children. Our Borough wide response to contextual risk ensures a consistent approach across Barnsley. Underpinning our offer are the 'Child Exploitation Practice Principles' ([Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm](#)), designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts; providing a common language and framework to prevent and better response to harms outside the home. In Barnsley, this provides a coherent model from which to direct our service delivery at all levels, 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, as a partnership.



Our success is dependent on all communities and partners working in collaboration to make the borough safe, with a focus on early identification of risks, early intervention and disruption and prevention. Our approach supports that through early identification, we can provide the **right support in the right place at the right time**. It is also about ensuring that children, 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 the home, then we also need to build a strong culture of **professional curiosity**, across a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that we are attuned to emerging risk and recognise vulnerability factors **and the changing indicators of exploitation and harms outside the home**.

Responding to Serious Youth Violence – A partnership approach

South Yorkshire Police (SYP), Barnsley Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Safer Barnsley Community Teams lead on the partnership response to serious youth violence. In recognising the link between child exploitation and the prevalence of violence experienced by children who have been exploited, services work closely alongside our BSAFE exploitation team.

From April 2024 to March 2025, Barnsley YJS recorded 150 offences of violence (including robbery and racially aggravated offences) committed by 117 children.

Whilst locally, the prevalence of serious youth violence is relatively low, our response reflects a determined and coordinated response at a strategic and operational level. A key development in this response has been the development and launch of the Youth Violence Tactical Group (YVTG). The YVTG uses a data-led approach to develop and maintain a tactical response to the challenge of youth violence in Barnsley, responding to the strategic objectives set out in the Barnsley Violence Reduction Plan and Youth Justice Strategic Plan. The YVTG functions as part of the commitment of the Safer Barnsley Partnership (SBP), the statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a partnership plan which contains community safety priorities based on the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) for Barnsley.

The Barnsley Violence Reduction Plan has a specific priority focused on reducing youth violence and this directly aligns with the 2024-2026 Youth Justice Plan. The YJS leads the innovative prevention response diverting children identified through behaviours that act as ‘future indicators’ of violence (i.e. ASB and criminal damage), whilst children who do commit and receive formal outcomes for violence are engaged in a *Child First, risk focused* response that levers in a partnership response to reduce risk and give children an opportunity for a positive future.

Responses to Harmful Sexual Behavior (HSB)- B-SAFE HSB Service.

Barnsley’s HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour) Pathway is a preventive model with an emphasis on early identification and supportive responses to children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour, by ensuring that children and families receive the right response, from the right practitioner, at the right time.

For most children and families, they will continue to receive support across the continuum of need from professionals they are already familiar with and have an established relationship. Specialist advice, guidance, and consultation are available from the Harmful Sexual Behaviour co ordinator to support the lead practitioner with the assessment, safety planning, and intervention support needs of children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour to significantly increase the resilience and capability of the workforce to respond to harmful sexual behaviour concerns within the graduated response model. For the small number of children where there are more complex concerns about harmful sexual behaviour, additional specialist provision is available from B-SAFE, with the referring service retaining the role of lead practitioner and responsibility for statutory duties.

The core components of Barnsley’s HSB Pathway include:

- Initial screening of sexual behaviours embedded across practice for all children’s services and partner agencies.
- Initial advice discussions available to all practitioners in Children’s Social Care and Targeted Early Help, including regular liaison with the Integrated Front Door to support screening decisions.
- HSB Panel – an inter-agency approach to information sharing, reviewing initial screening decisions, and providing recommendations on support and safety needs for children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour and who are receiving services and support from Children’s Social Care (getting risk help) or Targeted Early Help/Youth Support (getting help/more help).
- A HSB case consultation is available to the allocated practitioner to provide more detailed discussions, guidance, and resources for assessment and intervention responses.
- Specialist HSB provision from B-SAFE for those children and young people where contextual risk is identified
- A comprehensive multi-agency training programme available through Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The HSB offer to children of Barnsley spans the 4 tiers and includes:

- Tier 1: A universal training offer to increase the confidence and skills across safeguarding partnership members in their identification and initial responses to problematic and harmful sexual behaviour concerns displayed by children and young people.
- Tiers 2 and 3 advice and consultation to support lead practitioners responding to children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour.
- Tier 4: Multi-agency HSB Panel review and recommendations for assessment, safety planning, and intervention needs of children allocated to TEHS or a social worker. Specialist HSB provision for children with complex HSB needs; co-allocation to a lead social worker/TEHS practitioner retaining case management responsibilities.

Responses to Child Exploitation: Our Specialist, Multi Agency Contextual Safeguarding Team- B-SAFE:

Barnsley B-SAFE service is a specialist child exploitation service. The team comprises of social workers, exploitation workers, early help practitioners and police officers. The team also has access to an educational link through virtual schools to reengage children back into education, training and employment and to a clinical psychologist for consultation, advice and support. The service supports children who are exposed to risk and harm through exploitation pursuing perpetrators of harm and working within communities, where harm occurs. The BSAFE team is a specialist service that works collaboratively with partners and operates in the 4th tier responding to moderate and significant harm, working alongside our communities and partners, who provide early prevention and diversionary interventions at a universal and targeted level. Additionally, BSAFE offers consultation, advice and guidance for children at emerging risk of harm.

B-SAFE Police – Will undertake disruption work to make it difficult for those that would seek to exploit children to operate in Barnsley. They are committed to investigating any circumstance where a child has or is likely to be exploited relentlessly pursuing preparators of harm, working with children who have been victims of exploitation and where risk is ongoing and considered as high. B-SAFE Police will assess and investigate where there is evidence of child exploitation using all tools at their disposal, with partners, to disrupt and divert harm children are exposed to in their communities. Gathering and sharing intelligence will be key to this, supporting wider partners to target places and spaces of concern.

B-SAFE Health - Within the 0-19 service, health visitors and school nurses play a pivotal role as the universal front line for identifying and responding to risks that exist beyond the family home. They are often the first point of contact for children and young people, and their engagement enables them to detect early signs of vulnerability, neglect, or potential exploitation that may not be apparent within the home environment. Through routine health assessments, developmental reviews, and collaboration with other agencies, health visitors and school nurses are ideally placed to recognise issues and initiate timely interventions. The development of link workers from the 0-19 service into the BSAFE team further strengthens this approach, offering tailored advice, guidance, and training to ensure a more effective and responsive health focus for children and young people in Barnsley where there are concerns in relation to exploitation. Link workers act as a bridge between health services and the BSAFE team, facilitating communication and supporting multi-agency working.

B-SAFE Exploitation Team- Will directly or indirectly support any child who is at risk of child exploitation. The focus of the work from B-SAFE is:

- Consultation.
- Advice, support, sign posting.
- 1-1 direct work with children who are victims of exploitation.
- Mapping and peer assessments.
- NRM support and referrals
- Group work
- Parenting support/direct work.
- Contextual Safeguarding assessments
- Risk assessments/planning
- Community Outreach work
- Parent and sibling support

Tier 1 - Universal Prevention	Tier 2 - Targeted Prevention and Diversion	Tier 3 - Contextual Support	Tier 4 - Contextual Safeguarding
Community based and universal offer, Embedded within children's daily experiences of services. Offered in schools, colleges, health providers, youth settings and in community places and spaces. BYOUTH • Junior and senior youth club provision in each locality (term time)	Universal + - Community and universal offer. Additional services/ support- Group work, targeted clubs, mentorship. BYOUTH • Response led detached youth work in each locality (MAG led insight) • Ozone Inclusion hub – SEND and LGBTQIA offer 4 nights a week	Targeted response- supported by BSAFE, alongside partners. • BSAFE- Consultation, advice and guidance. Trauma informed responses increase insight and capacity for networks to influence children and recognise the signs/ symptoms of exploitation and trauma responses	Complex and High-Risk Specialist and Tailored response. BSAFE statutory intervention under CIN/ CP/ CIC. Co allocated with Children’s Social Care. • Oversight at MACE for multi-agency risk assessment and planning.

- Variable holiday provision across each locality - Thematic school drop in activity BASE 71: 7 day a week offer- 20 activities per evening children 8-19 years - Project/ thematic sessions around topics of concern- violence/ drugs / CCE - Local provider led sessions 1 night per week - Satellite offer in hotspot areas- engagement with young people and activity offer to divert children YMCA: - All ages safe spaces groups - ages 5+ / play groups, junior groups and senior groups - open access - Youth work- street based engagement - targeted - Youth work - Youth hub-based engagement - Family work and parenting support - Young volunteer groups / Youth Ambassadors and youth consultation groups - Schools based open access youth club - Peer mentoring - Emotional health and wellbeing hub (linked with Chillipep) Sexual health services – Spectrum The general offer is for children and adults, 13 and above, however they will support children under 13, on referral. Any child, under the age of 13 who presents to the service will automatically lead to a safeguarding referral to police and Children's services. The service offers 2 'walk ins' for under 19 per week Mon/ wed (3-5) – Offering sexual health advice, any contraception, sexual health screening and condoms. The service runs a C CARD scheme so service users can access condoms for free. Children 16+ can access 'drop off testing' packs where they can self-administer testing and drop into the service for processing as well as a 'Test no talk' service for blood test screening – including HIV. There is also a booking service for apartments available throughout the week, including telephone/ same day and next day appointments. All children Under 16 who access the service will be offered a CE screening screened by specialist practitioners. Anyone under 18 – always receives a safeguarding assessment to identify any exploitation and to assess Fraser competence. For those who access the service regularly, these are done every 3 months as a refresher. SPACE – Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service- Community outreach alongside YJS/ EH/ Youth clubs. Compass Be - support, help and advice for young people, schools, professionals and parents/carers for issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing. Healthy peer relationship assemblies, group work, 1-1 intervention and hold awareness events in both primary and secondary schools.	- YWiS mentoring, targeted and universal offer - Thematic group work offered in schools and colleges via health providers and Byouth according to identified need - Ozone Inclusion hub – SEND and LGBTQIA offered across 4 nights a week BYouth/ YJS Prevention- Outreach in 'hot spot areas' - engagement with young people, understanding their context, diverting them to more structured youth offers around the borough and influencing ASB/ engagement with services. Youth Alliance: A range of commissioned and externally funding projects and detached work that cover: Misogyny, Knife crime, Thrive 360, criminal exploitation, street safety and county lines. HAF offer - recreational and engaging activities to occupy FSM children's time in a more structured way- funding provided by HAF team- but delivered by VCS / LA YJS prevention (Voluntary OOCd) - 1-1 work and group delivery with children and families who are identified as emerging ABS risks. Neighbourhoods police- Engagement in community and moving them to focused activities/ preventing harm / diffusing tensions. Chilypep - Commissions ICB Emotional support hub - Targeted and open access- counselling/ group work/ wellbeing programmes (1-1 and group) - Boys programme - LGBTQ participation and support group - Collaborations with compass and CAMHS - Start well group SPACE – Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service Brief interventions delivered in community venues (ie: corridor workshops, fairs, community venues, schools.) SPOC – access to duty worker during weekdays for any young person, parent/carer or professional. Group work delivery tailored to need identified Drop ins at all Family Hubs across the borough. Drop ins at various venues alongside partners - YJS, B-Safe, CIC, Centrepont, Schools, education providers. MPACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) Group work programme. Access to Family support worker who works in Waythrough with parents/carers/significant others of those who are affected by a young person's use who isn't accessing service. Sexual health services – Spectrum - RESPECT programme- Referral only- 1-1 and group work offer- relationships based support sessions.	Oversight at MACE for multi-agency risk assessment and planning. BSAFE community outreach work and group work with BYOUTH and YJS - Civil measures to protect children -e.g. CBO via Community safety and CE Police Witness and Victim protection - Community safety team - re; ASB, Neighbourhood disputes, community safety issues. Acting as the spoc for housing, community safety, enforcement, target hardening and Key work. Preparing for adulthood team- to ensure that children and young people have or are likely to have care and support needs as adults, transition safely and effectively into Adult Social Care. HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour): B-SAFE advice and consultation to support lead practitioners responding to children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour. B-SAFE online is an educational prevention programme providing a non-criminal response to support young people develop knowledge, skills, and confidence to explore key issues about nude image sharing and online safety SPACE – Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service - Comprehensive holistic assessment into structured treatment. Access to therapeutic interventions related to substance use. Utilising a strengths-based approach. Risk Management Planning/ Safety planning re drug use. Access to substitute prescribing. Access to needle exchange-Support for parent / carers to increase awareness around substance use in young people and support around recognising signs and symptoms of those who are working with service. Access to Family support worker who works in Waythrough with parents/carers/significant others of those who are affected by a young person's use who isn't accessing service. -Access to coffee mornings with other families / carers / significant others. Access to support group with other families / carers / significant others. Consultation, advise and support to professionals who work with young people who are accessing service / or not accessing service. Spectrum - Sexual health services, attendance at MACE meeting and HSB panel.	1-1 work with children, 1-1 work with parents/ networks around children and can include a combination of the below through a BSAFE worker: Oversight at MACE for multi-agency risk assessment and planning. Family work: - Support for parents re parenting programme, can be delivered 1-1 or as a group - Tailored 1-1 safety planning/ parenting support to increase insight and capacity for parents to influence children and recognise the signs/ symptoms of exploitation and trauma responses - FGC allocation and intervention - Safety panning with families Work with networks: - Mapping – mapping of peers, victims and perpetrators including adults - Mapping of community places and spaces - Direct work tools – support to networks to use direct work tools with a young person - Safety planning Work with young people: - Safety planning – in terms of physical safety maps of areas and safety plans for risk management. - Mapping – mapping of peers, associates, those with influence and those who pose a risk/ conflict - Mapping of community places and spaces - NRM referrals and investigation support - Direct work focused on increasing insight and capacity to recognise the indicators of exploitation or exploitative behaviours 1-1 direct work focused on creating safety, understanding the child's lived experience, world, wishes and feelings. Assessments and planning: - Peer assessments - Contextual Safeguarding assessments to include peer assessments and Place and space-based assessment and planning. - Safety planning – individuals or peer groups. - Court assessments/ statements/ reports to consider risk of exploitation to children - Child exploitation chronologies. - Support to social work teams to support police investigations, gathering of information and intelligence. - Gathering and analysis of intelligence and information with police and networks to understand risks and lived experiences of a child – to plan for safety in response to this. - Assessment and planning in response to perpetrators of harm- reviewing disruption opportunities, including legal diversion and use of civil orders (e.g. CAWN) - Multi-agency HSB Panel review and recommendations for assessment, safety planning, and intervention needs of children allocated to TEHS or a social worker.
---	---	---	---

HSB (Harmful Sexual Behaviour) - A universal training offer to increase the confidence and skills across safeguarding partnership members in their identification and initial responses to problematic and harmful sexual behaviour concerns displayed by children and young people. Family Hubs - Talking Teens to help parents deal with the challenges that raising teenagers can bring. Parents will explore what role they play in their teenager's life, how to improve communication and how to manage conflict with their teenager.	- Professional training around sexual health and the offer in clinic- talking about sex with young People. - RSE (relationships sexual education team)- delivery of programme in schools (all schools) starting in year 8. - Clinics out of area- Grimethorpe/ Brampton / Hoyland - LARK fitting clinics (implant) on GP practices. Pharmacy scheme – anyone under 16- 25 – Able to access to emergency contraception for free (Pharmacies across Barnsley) – Pharmacy's in the bus station and Superdrug (town Centre).		Specialist HSB provision for children with complex HSB needs; co-allocation to B-SAFE and lead social worker/TEHS practitioner retaining case management responsibilities. BSARCS- Wellbeing support, Support to navigate legal processes and court. therapy and support to recover from sexual trauma. Reflective minds clinical support and therapeutic intervention including clinical and group supervision.
---	---	--	--

Our Commitments

- We will reduce the risk of our children experiencing harms outside the home.
- We will identify children at risk early, to prevent harm from occurring.
- We will safeguard our children from harm and support children who are the victims of harm.
- We will pursue offenders and those who exploit our children ensuring they are prevented from causing harm to others and justice is sought for harm they cause.

Engagement with children and Families

Our Practice Model highlights the importance of recognising that children and families are experts by experience, Children and families will tell us about the service, and offer honest, open feedback about their experience of the service they are receiving. Our partnership is committed to preventing harm outside the home and collectively we are committed to identifying and responding early to contextual safeguarding risks, intervening early, utilising disruption and diversion tactics and providing children with safe spaces where they can thrive, recognising safeguarding is a collective responsibility. We will continue to do this through engagement with children, their families and their wider communities.

Prevention work will support communities to understand and raise awareness of contextual risk, to equip children with the skills needed, to stay safe in their communities and online. This includes working with local businesses and the nighttime economy to embed that safeguarding is a role everyone in Barnsley plays to protect our children.

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.

Governance

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Framework describes arrangements in Barnsley for responding to the challenge of children vulnerable to or experiencing exploitation where a risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Modern Day Slavery and/or Trafficking, and where Serious Youth Violence has been identified.

The Bronze, Silver, Gold, tiered approach offers a line of sight for leaders from strategy through to practice and allows a golden thread from frontline, to safeguarding policy makers, to ensure our response is robust, bespoke and serves the needs of our Barnsley children and communities.

The MACE Framework has three interrelated steps:

- Bronze Group – Operational Management of exploitation risk.
- Silver Group- Strategic Management of exploitation risk.
- Gold Group- Senior Leadership oversight of critical risk.

The Child Exploitation (CE) Subgroup will manage the strategy response and report directly to the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive Board. The Subgroup meets bi-monthly and is jointly chaired by South Yorkshire Police and Barnsley Head of Safeguarding, with membership made up of senior professionals from across the partnership and community. The Executive group challenges and scrutinises activity of the

subgroup to get the reassurance required for communities that the priorities are being delivered against, and this is done through the use of key professionals and an independent scrutineer.

The CE Subgroup works in collaboration with other local partnerships, including the Safer Barnsley Partnership, and the Safeguarding Adults Board, with all the chairs recognising that a cooperative and holistic approach is required to address contextual risk in Barnsley. Regular meetings of the chairs support activity across the partnership and community, providing reassurance whilst holding each other to account. In doing this, all agencies are individually and collectively responsible for ensuring our children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded against violence and exploitation

Our Strategic plan:

Our plan below sets out the partnership vision for the service and how we seek to identify, assess and response to contextual harm through the 4 P approach- Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue.

Priority	Detail	How will we achieve this?
Priority 1: Prepare – to have an effective response to tackling exploitation in Barnsley, from prevention to safeguarding systems and identification of offenders to victim support.	Partnerships working is a strength in Barnsley and supports us in all our activities to safeguard against all forms of exploitation.	We will continue to work together, have a multi agency approach to tackling exploitation through our B-SAFE child exploitation team, and joint operational and strategic meetings across the partnership. Our communities and partners will take ownership over the safety for our children in places and spaces. We will have feedback from our children and families that they feel safe, recognised through the annual community safety engagement survey and through a reduction in ‘hot spot areas’ being identified in Barnsley.
	Ensure we have effective early identification services.	Promoting early intervention through universal services and use of early help assessments and the child exploitation risk assessment tool to support the early identification and intervention by universal and targeted services.

	Ensure we have effective interventions embedded within the communities to minimise the occurrence and harm linked to child exploitation.	Children and families are telling us they feel safer in their communities, and this is recognised through the annual community safety engagement survey. Our engagement and participation groups will influence our strategy and will inform the support to our Barnsley children and communities. They will be included in our response to harms outside the home. Developing, informing and empowering communities to have an empowered and active role in the prevention of exploitation. Provide continuous targeted education and training in priority areas. Development of a child exploitation pathway for practitioners across the partnership workforce.
	Promote our successful and established systems and interventions to install confidence in our partners and communities on the work undertaken.	Communicate our successes and activities through awareness raising, including training events, Makesafe and Duxford. Work with community groups, the voluntary sector and elected members to link in with the communities and engage them in feedback.
	Promote safeguarding is everybody's business.	Promotion of awareness raising and training by B-SAFE, BCSP and including Makesafe and Duxford.

Priority 2: Prevent – We will reduce contextual risk happening in Barnsley.	Our partnership will be skilled in recognising and responding to harms outside the home - driven through our multi-agency Learning and Development offer. This will ensure risk and children exposed to risks are identified earlier and receive the right support at the right time, to prevent them coming to harm.	The partnership will be trained to identify and act on early indicators around child exploitation and harms outside the home to understand their role and responsibility in safeguarding. Partners will have an increased understanding and awareness as a result of attending our multi-agency partnership training, and we will have a joint approach and response to harms outside the home. We will measure this through training feedback. Use data to identify high risk areas of vulnerability. This will enable us to target intervention/prevention activity, including identification of emerging themes to support early intervention and longer-term problem solving. Work with organisations, community groups and businesses that work with or provide a service to children to improve their knowledge and understanding and practices in spotting the signs of exploitation and taking appropriate action.
	We will have a robust and diverse diversion offer that reaches into children's contexts to support them at the right time, ensuring there is an offer for children to access to divert them away from harm and to address the root causes of harm and risk, early, to prevent harm for occurring. these offers will be jointly delivered by our multi-agency partnership and with communities.	Our partnership 4 tier offer will be embedded into practice and children will have access to the right support at the right time, we will measure this through a reduction in the number of reported concerns around exploitation in our communities, and a reduction in the number of children exposed to moderate and significant risk.
	We will recognize and challenge systemic influences of contextual risk including inequality, exclusion, poverty and discrimination and seek to reach into spaces where children experience these vulnerabilities to harm, working alongside them to divert them from risk and prevent harm occurring.	Themes around child exploitation will be tracked and monitored through the MACE process, with active tasking. Supporting communities to safeguard and support our young people. We will measure this through feedback from our children and families and through the feedback from the yearly community safety survey, school exclusion numbers locally and the number of children accessing support through the B-SAFE service. Work with children and young people in communities, youth groups and schools to provide education and awareness raising of the risks and empower them to keep themselves and their peers safe.

Priority 3: Protect – We will safeguard our children from harm and support children who are the victims of harm	Children in Barnsley will experience places and spaces of safety. Where risks are identified in an area/ location - the partnership will consider these risks at a strategic level to ensure a robust wrap around response to target the cause of harm and mitigate and/or reduce this, working with communities to make and sustain these changes.	Our communities and partners will take ownership over the safety for our children in places and spaces. We will have feedback from our children and families that they feel safe, recognised through the community safety engagement survey, yearly and through a reduction in ‘hot spot areas’ being identified in Barnsley. We will use the MACE process to track and respond to places and spaces of concern as well as those who pose a risk to our children proactively responding to risks identified through police and enforcement activity.
	We will take a welfare approach when working with children who are exposed to contextual risk and harm- Ensuring we secure children and families' safety and welfare above all else. We will practice with caring intention, considering children's needs and best interests when responding to risk and planning for service delivery. Our actions and support will be focused on impact for our children and ensuring children are protected from harm.	South Yorkshire Policing is child centred and ensures the child is firstly seen as a victim.
	We will recognise parents as partners when it comes to tackling harm outside of the home. We will invite them to be an active partner in planning and responding to harms outside of the home as well as building on the strengths and safety they can offer to their children, peer groups and communities.	Children and families will tell us about the services they receive, and will offer honest, open feedback about their experience. Parents will voice they feel included in the care planning for their children, and they will be actively involved in meetings, recognising their influence and power. Quality assurance activity will evidence good practice around this, capturing the experience and voice of those we support. We will review our current child protection processes and develop a Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Model recognising parents and carers as safeguarding partners, working with them to identify risks, provide support and build safety.
	We will provide support to victims and survivors of exploitation and those affected by wider contextual harms, recognising the importance of trauma informed practice ensuring their needs are met. We will recognise that exploitation does not end at 18 and the need to create a fluid system not a sudden stop in support.	We will develop a transitional safeguarding offer to ensure that children who are victims of contextual risk are supported post 18. We will provide support to victims and survivors of exploitation ensuring they have access to the right support and services.
Priority 4: Pursue – We will pursue offenders and those who exploit our children, ensuring they are prevented from causing harm to others and justice is sought for harm they cause.	We will be relentless in pursuing those who post a risk to children and communities ensuring we are proactive and diligent in our approaches to disruption of organised crime, individual perpetrators and those who expose children to criminality, violence and exploitative environments. Police will lead on investigation and prosecution of these individuals, to prevent these people causing risk and harm to our children and communities.	The Police with the support of partners will pursue offenders who cause the most harm. We will see successful prosecution of those who harm or pose risk to children in Barnsley. We will see the use of legal orders and enforcement to disrupt those who harm our children. This will be evidenced through Police data and outcomes from investigations.

	It is the shared responsibility of the partnership to gather and share intelligence around places and spaces or persons who may pose a risk to children and our communities. All intelligence will be submitted through the police central intelligence pathways and reviewed via the police teams with tasking and actions led by police team and shared in multi-agency oversight meetings (MACE, CETG).	We will use the MACE process to track and respond to places and spaces of concern as well as those who pose a risk to our children, proactively responding to risks identified through Police and enforcement activity and disruption activity across the partnership.
	We recognise that responses to harms outside of the home, must be developed as a partnership to garner the strength and influence that service are able to have for children and communities.	Our Contextual Safeguarding subgroup, alongside our governance structures, will drive our strategic responses as a partnership and be our forum to hold one another to account and drive best practice and robust responses as a partnership.