



Implementing Contextual Safeguarding In North Lanarkshire

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LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT

Addressing Contexts

- Findings from survey of all secondary school children through Realigning Children's Services
- Emergent themes in multi and single agency case reviews
- Increase in young people missing over three years
- Need to work more collaboratively and find common language
- Need to shift culture and ensure that all extra familial harm is dealt with as a child protection

Why Contextual Safeguarding

- approach and not a model
 - Underpinning values and alignment with other developments in embedding strengths- and rights-based working
 - fit with integrated approaches through 'Empowering Clusters'
 - Social workers 'get it'
- Strength of the CS Network and availability of tools
- Emerging evidence base

Work so far

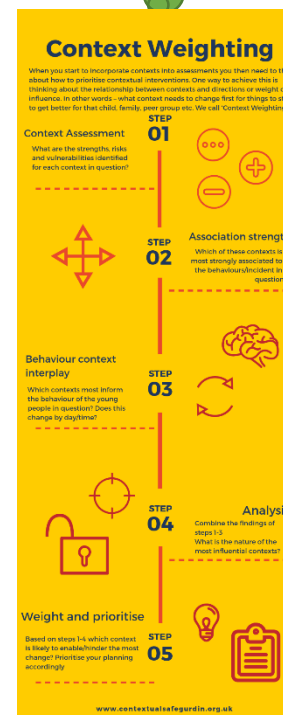
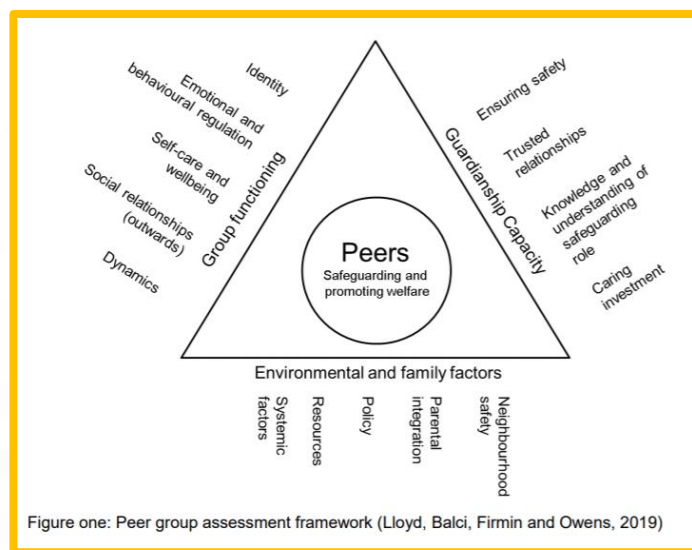
- Work with Contextual Safeguarding Network (summer 2020):
 - Focus Groups
 - Introductory training for practitioners
 - Introduction for senior managers across partnership
- Soft launch at level 1
- Practitioners Forum

Progressing work at Level 1

Safety mapping

Using peer frameworks with colleagues

Context weighting



Work So Far

- Shift in language and approaches among staff and within the partnership
- Use of tools to map extra-familial risks and combine information with police colleagues
- Changes to sharing intelligence
- Joint commissioning of Barnardo's to support return home discussions within CS approach

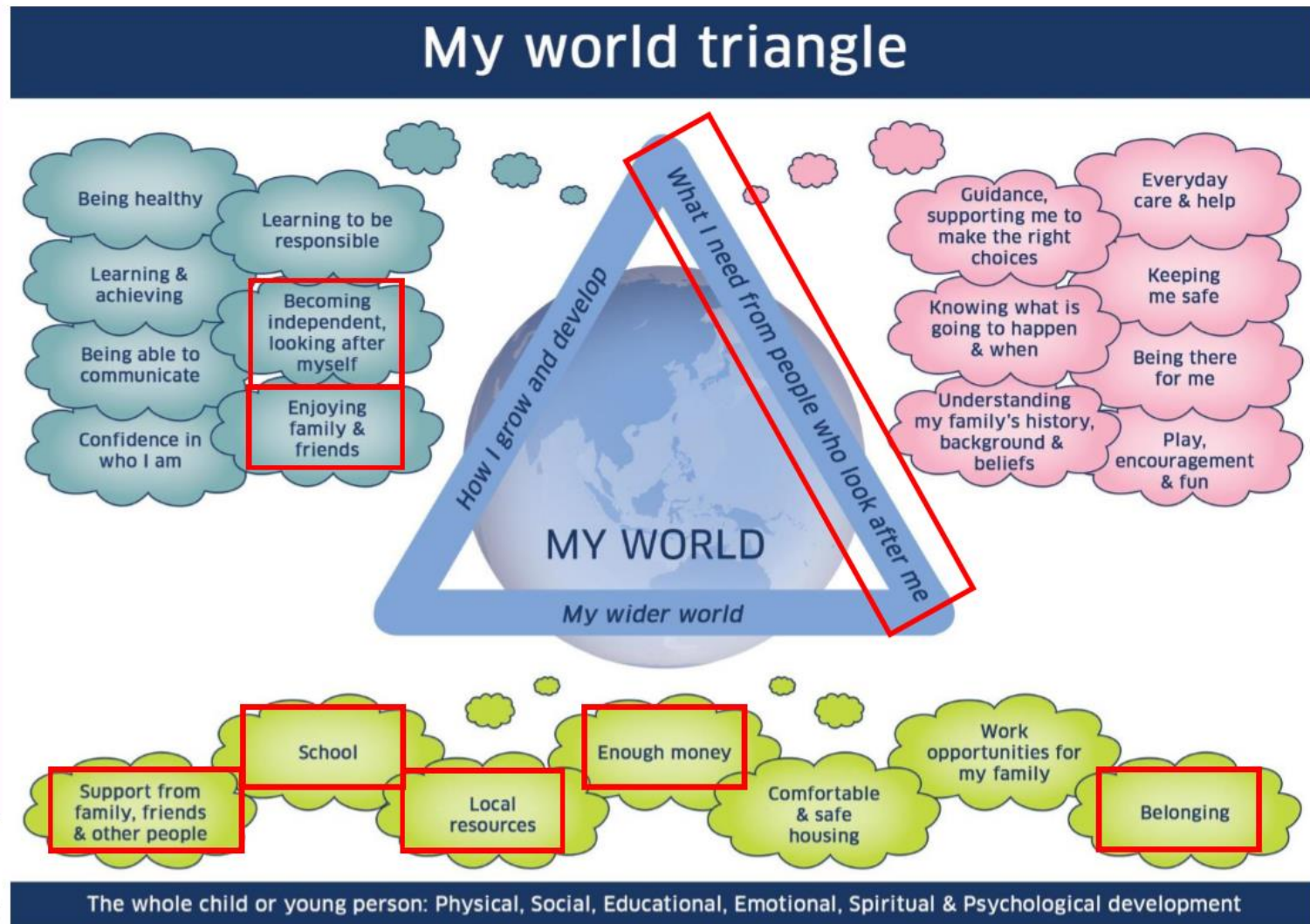
What practitioners have asked for to implement Contextual Safeguarding

- Capacity
- Culture Shift
- Consistency

Capacity

Practitioners asked for:

- Support for consistent application
- Time for reflection
- Additional prompts or quality assurance feedback



Culture Shift

- Children who put themselves at risk
- Promiscuous
- Manipulative
- Streetwise
- Risky choices
- Risky behaviour
- Absconder
- Sexually aware / experienced
- Aggressive
- Liar
- Boys being boys
- Glamour
- **Will not engage**

Practitioners asked for
a shared culture across
partners

Multi-agency training and a
shared commitment to build
a shared culture

Consistency

Practitioners asked for

Clear roles and responsibilities

Time to coordinate this type of response

A multi-agency structure to support progress

Information sharing agreements

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What have we learned

Need to increase
partnership working
around EFH cases-
shared language

Need for a cultural
shift as well as
structural one
“troublesome
children”

Meeting landscape-
develop structures
around EFH
meetings

Assessment for EFH -
higher thresholds for
older children
(resilience and
capacity)

Where to hold cases
like this in the
Scottish system
between CP and
Children’s Hearings?

Some feedback from managers

- From our work with teenagers we see the relevance and importance of fully assessing the contextual aspects relating to risk and prevention. Many have no significant risk factors in the home setting and therefore this is not or should not be the key area of focus. A refreshed partnership approach is needed to tackle these issues.
- It also details the things that we can do to shift and shape those things rather than us just continuing to work with individuals as individuals which is often pretty ineffective with adolescents.
- There are opportunities through multi agency forums and community boards to implement this approach, but this would need to involve all agencies to change culture and practice.

Partnership

- Agreement to implement at Level 2 – practices that address contexts
- Approach agreed by
 - the Senior Leadership Team in Education and Families
 - Child Protection Committee
 - Corporate Management Team
- Steering Group established

Level 2 Area for Development: The scaffold to hold a contextual assessment and plan

Recording
system

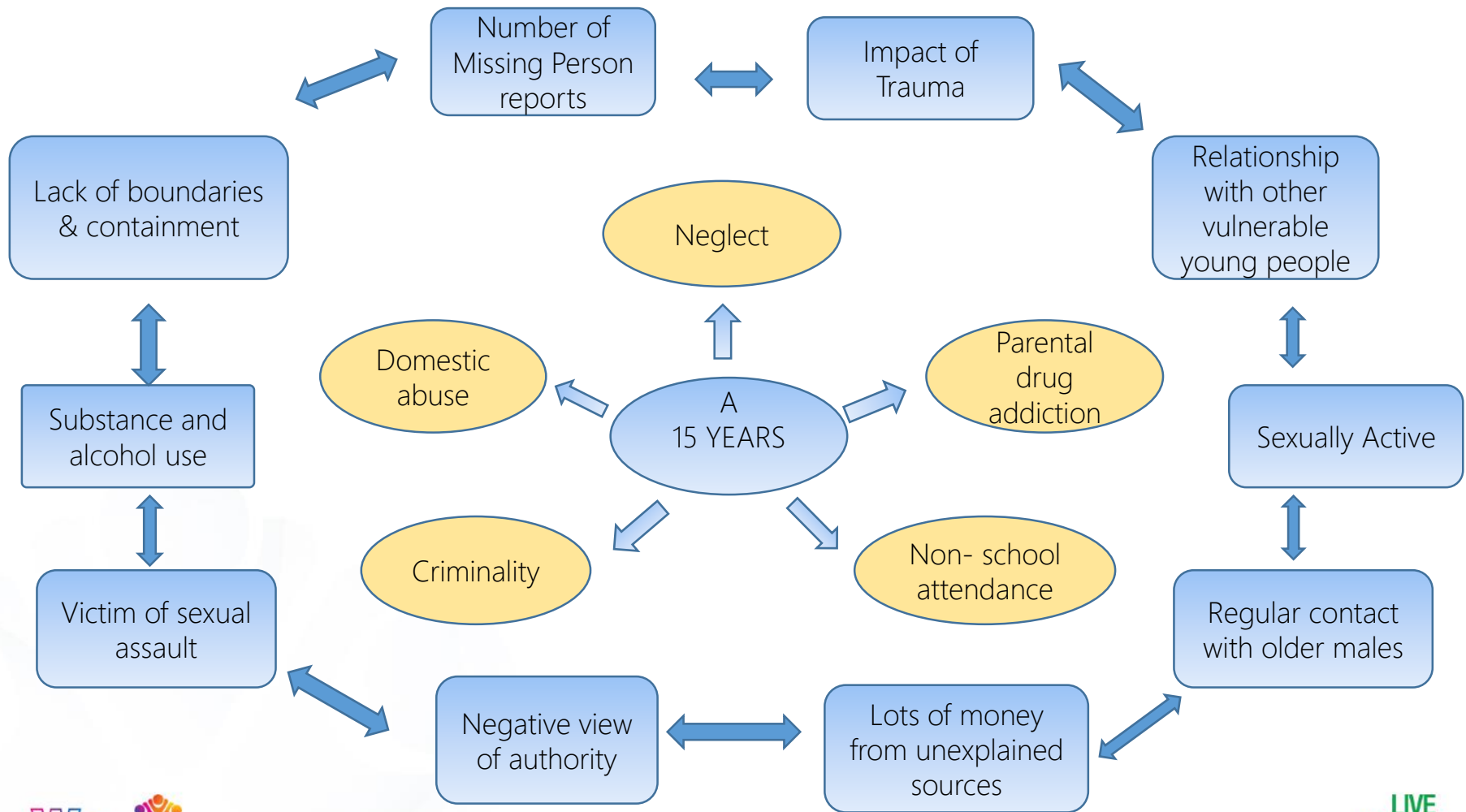
Meeting
structure
and chair



Managing
community
relationships

Association
to existing
meetings

Some early examples from practice in North Lanarkshire



Children's House B

- 5 Bedded unit
- 4 Males – 2 aged 15, 1 aged 16, 1 aged 18 (ASN)
- 1 Female – aged 15
- Drug & alcohol use, missing persons, criminality, traumatised YP
- Potential for grooming identified by CH staff

Work with staff teams

- CS Practice group identified
- Identifying extra familial risk from YP wider world
- Completion of Risk Matrix
- Sharing and Mapping- network of support
- Involving YP in planning

What next?

- Build on positive impact and share learning through forum
- Steering Group: Audit
- Discussion with external partners
 - Other local authorities/partnerships
 - Universities
 - CS network