Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership

Implementing the Contextual Safeguarding model in practice

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Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership

Session overview

- Understanding contextual safeguarding and it's relevance to CSE
- Embedding contextual safeguarding within protection procedures – Wiltshire's approach
- Developing a multi agency approach to contextual safeguarding
- Resources to prevent and respond to extra-familial harm

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Contextual Safeguarding and CSE

- CSE is a form of extra-familial harm, which is highly contextual, online and in public spaces.
- Peer on peer abuse – schools, ‘corridor culture’, parks, shopping centres
- Norms and ‘rules at play’ within social spaces
- Do social conditions facilitate harm?

The interconnected conditions for CSE (Beckett 2011, 2016)

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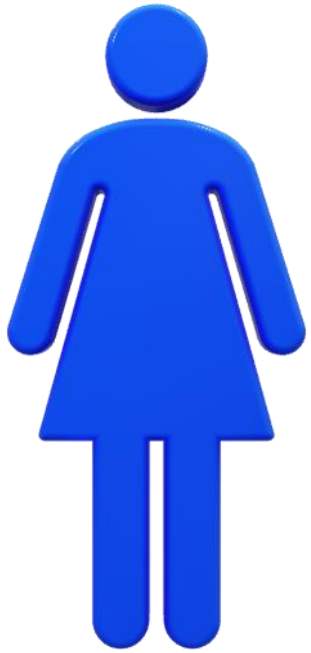
Contextual Safeguarding and CSE

- Referral
- Assessment
- Intervention



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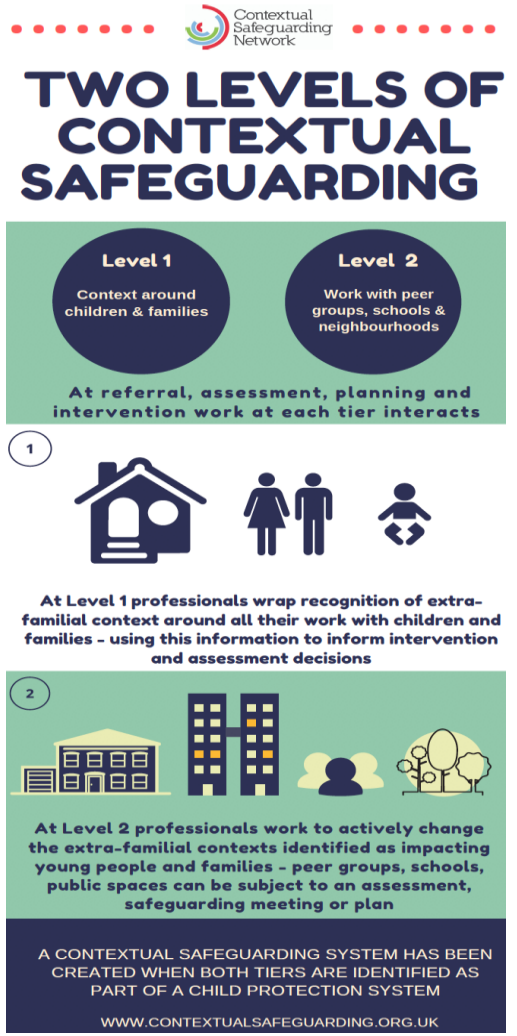
Implementing a CS approach in practice

- Steering Group – chaired by Director of Families and Children's Services
- System review – mapping our system, processes and response to EFH
- Plan – Test – Embed
- Development of Risk Outside the Home – ROTH pathway
- Level 1 - CP ROTH, ROTH assessment
- Level 2 – SYP context meetings and strategic group
- Oversight by Exploitation and Missing group and steering group
- Champions, training – changing how we think about things, the lens we use….



Contextual Safeguarding Team, 2020

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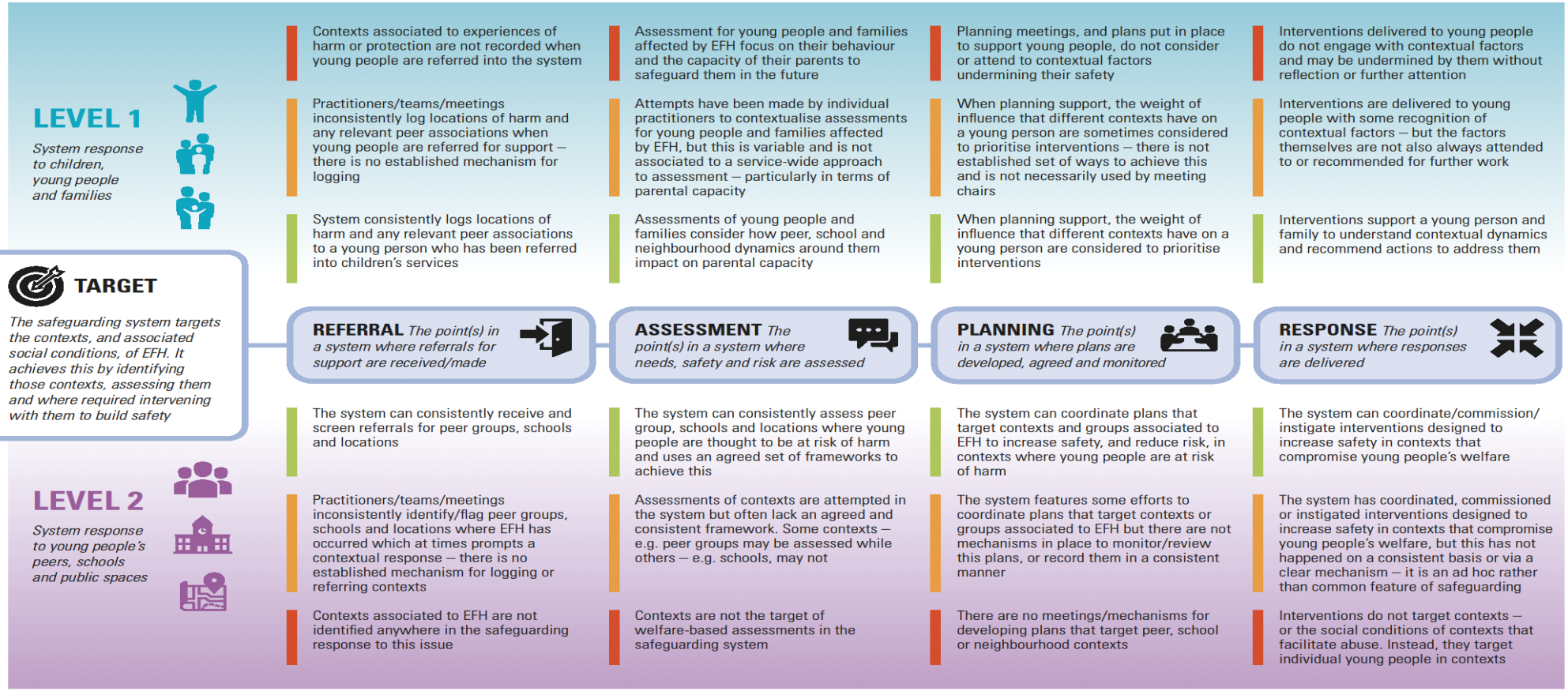
KEY		
	EFH	Extra-familial harm
	CSE	Child sexual exploitation
	CCE	Child criminal exploitation

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING
SYSTEM REVIEW TRAFFIC LIGHT TOOL

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING SCALE UP ↗ PROCESS



Firmin, C et al 2021

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Pilot 1 - Safer Young People Community Meetings

- Developed from joint work between secondary school and specialist CSE team
- Mapping meetings termly
- Opportunity to coordinate plans across groups of young people

- *Safer Young People Community Meetings aim to support schools to understand and address any concerns schools have in relation to exploitation and extra-familial harm. They are an opportunity to look at what is going on in and around the school and in the local community areas, and work collaboratively to identify any concerns around young people, their peer groups, adults, locations and contexts of concern, as well as strengths, leading to a plan to increase safety.*

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Learning so far – Safer Young People Community Meetings

- Helpful in identifying associations/ themes/ areas in common
- Align with peer on peer abuse in schools development work
- How can policies such as ‘zero tolerance’ impact on the safety of young people?
- How do meetings facilitate trust and engagement rather than surveillance and enforcement?

Lloyd, J, Walker, J and Bradbury, V, 2021

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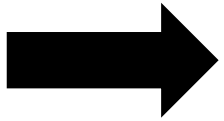
Pilot 2 - CP ROTH – an alternative Child Protection response

- Young people experiencing or at risk of significant harm outside the home, where this harm is not attributable to parents/carers. Parents may be doing all they can to safeguard their child, but they are unable to protect them from risk and harm in the community
- National challenge – where do these children fit? Do they meet threshold? Sec17 CIN? CP? We are piloting a different approach – CP ROTH

- Conferences will be set up differently, use of context weighting, Safer Me plan will address the risks outside the home and may include peer group work, disruption, location based intervention
- 5th category – Risk Outside the Home
- SWs working differently to engage the young person – consistent and persistent, youth work principles

Learning so far – Child Protection Risk Outside the Home

- Pilot is ongoing
- Considering ‘criteria’ for ROTH – where there are parenting concerns but the main presenting risk is outside the home
- Children who are in care
- Fluctuating risk, length of plans
- Escalation

- **Themes** 

- Building partnership and social work knowledge of CS interventions
- Required connections into Level 2 work with groups, education and public space locations
- Contextual approaches need to be integrated throughout the Level 1 pathway
- ROTH approach appears to be shifting the focus of conversations and planning processes (but further pilot period is required)

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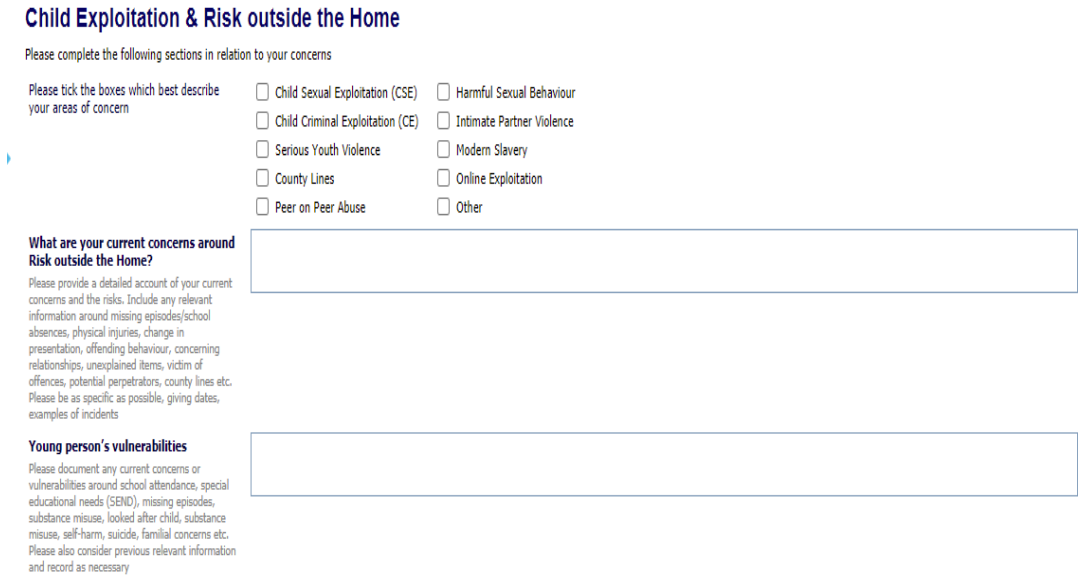
Risk Outside the Home pathway

- Developing the system response to risk outside the home
- ROTH assessment – an holistic overview of what is happening for the child



Child Exploitation & Risk outside the Home

Please complete the following sections in relation to your concerns

Please tick the boxes which best describe your areas of concern

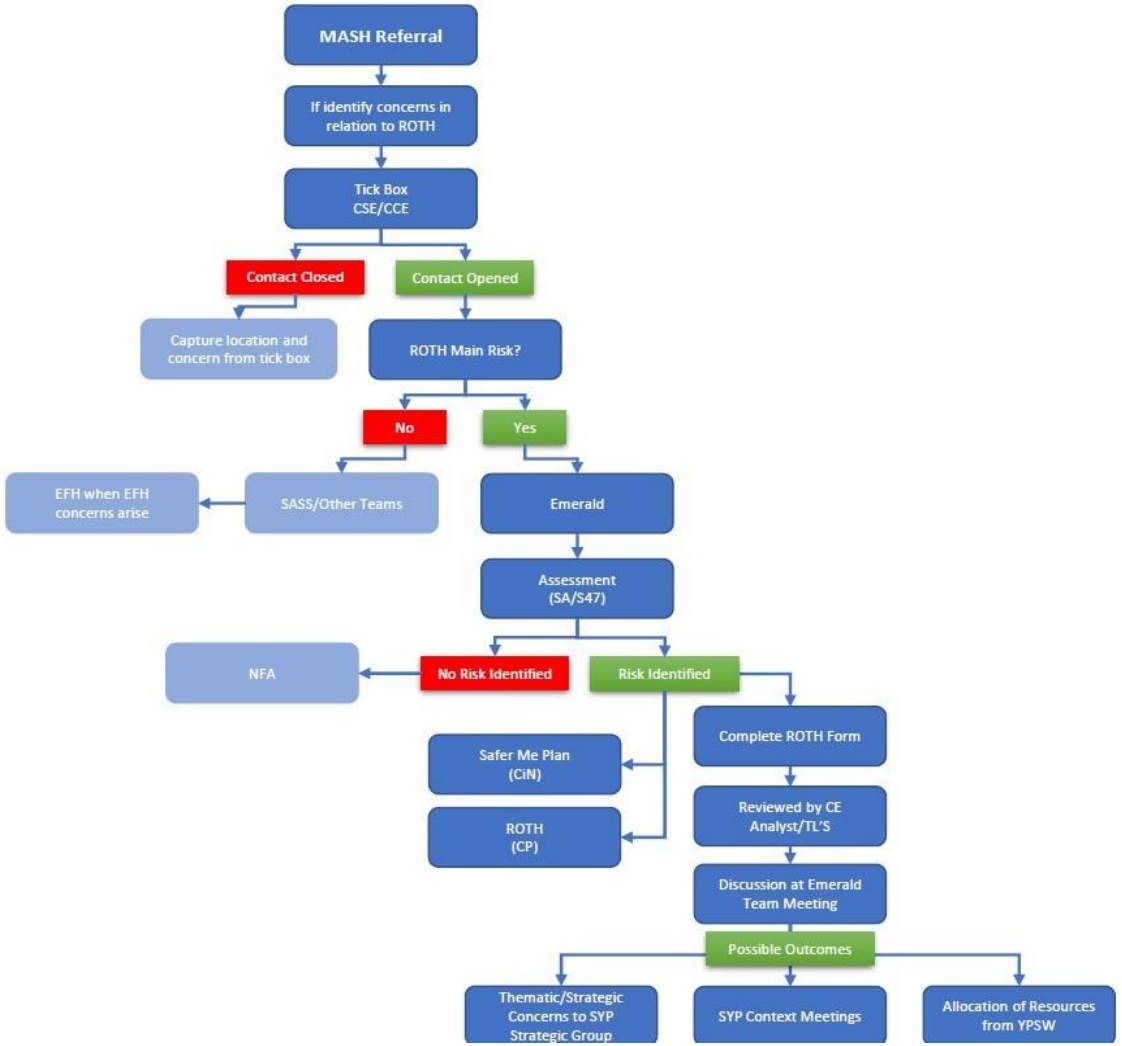
- ☐ Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- ☐ Child Criminal Exploitation (CE)
- ☐ Serious Youth Violence
- ☐ County Lines
- ☐ Peer on Peer Abuse
- ☐ Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- ☐ Intimate Partner Violence
- ☐ Modern Slavery
- ☐ Online Exploitation
- ☐ Other

What are your current concerns around Risk outside the Home?

Please provide a detailed account of your current concerns and the risks. Include any relevant information around missing episodes/school absences, physical injuries, change in presentation, offending behaviour, concerning relationships, unexplained items, victim of offences, potential perpetrators, county lines etc. Please be as specific as possible, giving dates, examples of incidents

Young person's vulnerabilities

Please document any current concerns or vulnerabilities around school attendance, special educational needs (SEND), missing episodes, substance misuse, looked after child, substance misuse, self-harm, suicide, familial concerns etc. Please also consider previous relevant information and record as necessary



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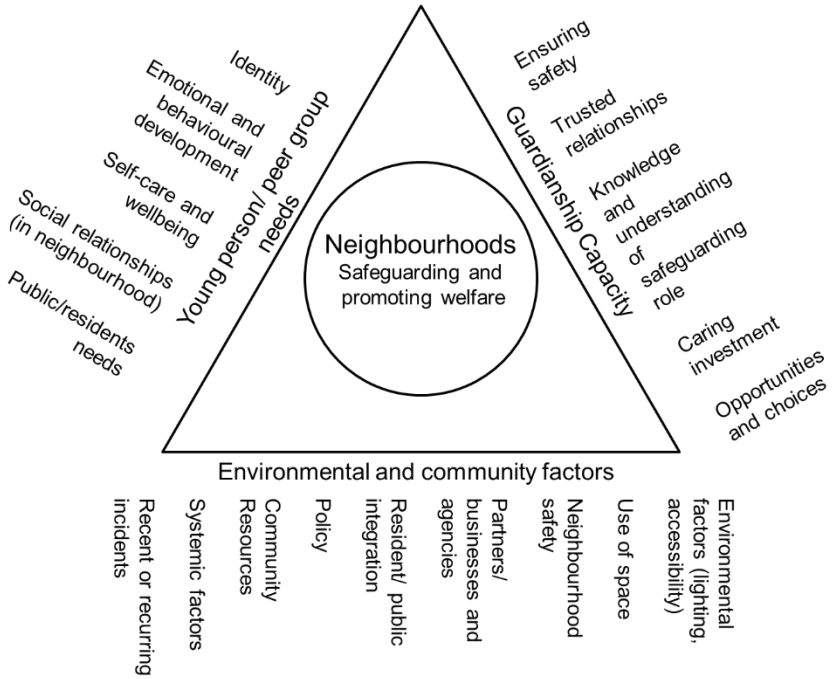
Context plans and interventions

- Development of Safer Young People Strategic Group
- Safer Young People context meetings
- Peer group mapping
- Peer group assessments
- Context assessments – case study
- Social Care led response brokers relationships with non traditional safeguarding partners – Librarians, fast food shops, park wardens…



Lloyd, Owens and Firmin, 2019

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SYP context meetings

- SYP context meetings are instigated when Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) concerns have been identified and involve peer groups, locations and other contextual elements which would benefit from a multi-agency approach in addition to individual safeguarding processes. The aim is to co-ordinate individual plans or formulate group/ location or issue based plans to reduce risk and increase safety. Meetings are held monthly for as long as issues remain live and are closed when it is agreed by the professional network that risks have reduced.
- Currently meetings are held for Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham where concerns have been highlighted around exploitation, drug use and youth violence. A meeting is being planned for Devizes where concerns centre on frequent high level ASB.
- Youth workers have started to attend and we are looking to increase engagement with community organisations who act as ‘community guardians’ in the places and spaces where young people spend their time.

Multi agency approach

Schools

Health

Police

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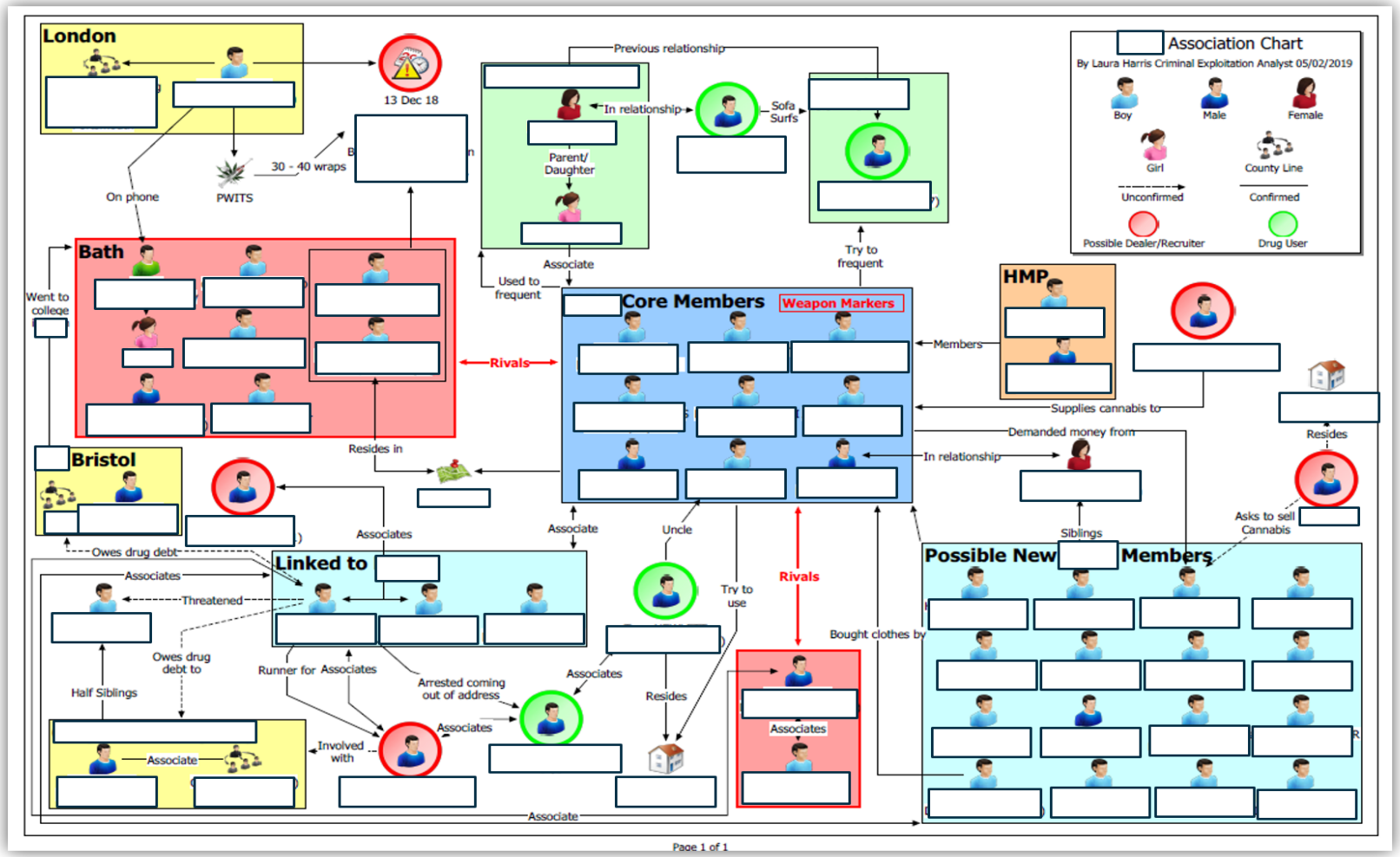
- Peer mapping
- Safety mapping
- SYP context meetings
- Location/ context assessment
- Peer group assessments
- Context weighting
- Think wider than individual risk reduction – what does safety look like for young person and context?



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Resources and further reading

- Practice guides and resources (csnetwork.org.uk)
- System Review Toolkit (csnetwork.org.uk)
- Toolkits (csnetwork.org.uk)
- Beyond Referrals - Schools (csnetwork.org.uk)