

NSCP 'AT-A GLANCE': STRATEGY TO PROTECT VULNERABLE ADOLESCENTS FROM EXTRA-FAMILIAL HARM



AIMING TO GIVE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE PROTECTION, GUIDANCE AND EXPERIENCE OF POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

AWARENESS RAISING	EARLY HELP & IDENTIFICATION	SAFEGUARDING EXPLOITED YP	DISRUPTION
<p>We will raise awareness across Norfolk of the risks of extra-familial harm posed to children and young people.</p> <p>In order to support the prevention from harm agenda, communication campaigns will be co-ordinated with a robust training offer on all aspects of extra-familial harm to support both the young people, parents/carers and the professionals responsible for ensuring their safety. This will include a better understanding of adolescent development, targeted services and services for teenagers transitioning into adulthood.</p>	<p>The multi-agency partnership will work together to ensure early identification & intervention for children and young people at risk of exploitation, individually or in cohorts.</p> <p>Partnership activity in Norfolk will engage a broad range of organisations and individuals in the protection of vulnerable adolescents in extra-familial settings. This will enable the NSCP to ensure young people vulnerable to exploitation are identified early and supported by their families/carers, professionals, and their community to prevent and build resilience against exploitation.</p>	<p>We will improve the multi-agency safeguarding response to children and young people who are known to be exploited.</p> <p>We will ensure that the support provided is enduring and delivered for as long as they need, ensuring that what is offered is appropriate to the assessed needs of each individual young person and based on their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and the nature of the exploitation that they have experienced.</p>	<p>We will identify exploiters and disrupt their activity through the use of Modern Slavery legislation and other tactics.</p> <p>The partnership will work together to ensure that those who seek to harm or exploit young people are identified, disrupted and convicted.</p>
<p>AWARENESS RAISING</p> <p>Resources and signposting to specialist services - including Targeted Youth Support Service and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Team - pulled together into a dedicated online platform on the NSCP website.</p> <p>Communication campaign highlighting the risks and opportunities faced by adolescents in this phase of their development</p> <p>Consultation with young people on direct messaging</p> <p>Communities are part of the solution. Communities, including local businesses, schools and residents, are enabled to identify adolescent vulnerability and the signs and symptoms of exploitation;</p> <p>Multi-agency and single agency training offer developed in contextual safeguarding and adolescent brain development with a focus on trauma informed practice and developing positive relationships.</p>	<p>EARLY HELP & IDENTIFICATION</p> <p>Joint risk assessment Support is provided in relation to the level of risk of extra-familial harm rather than protective factors in the home. Parents/carers, including absent parents, are considered as safeguarding partners and part of the solution.</p> <p>Supporting schools to provide whole school and individual programmes that address the links between young people missing education (in particular those excluded from mainstream school) and increased safeguarding risk, including the risk of exploitation.</p> <p>Responses for young people who go missing from home or care are swift and effective in reducing associated risk.</p> <p>Positive Relationships Professionals engaged in providing universal and targeted services to young people, are empowered to identify harmful behaviours and support young people to build positive and healthy attitudes towards relationships and friendships.</p> <p>Research based interventions that reduce risk and vulnerability are delivered to individuals and groups, with a particular focus on building trusting relationships.</p>	<p>SAFEGUARDING EXPLOITED YP</p> <p>Contextual Safeguarding creating safety for adolescents in the contexts within which they may find themselves at risk of extra-familial harm, rather than removing them from harmful contexts by relocating them.</p> <p>Relationship based practice underpins work with children who are known or believed to be exploited</p> <p>Voice of young people is clearly recorded in plans and their feedback on interventions is used to inform service development.</p> <p>Comprehensive Multi-agency assessment identifying risk within families and contextually, especially within extra-familial relationships, peer groups and potentially harmful environments</p> <p>Sharing management and review of risk to the young person' in partnership with the parent/carer, the young person's natural and professional network and most importantly the young person themselves</p> <p>Single process ensures victims and families affected by exploitation are identified, referred and assessed.</p>	<p>DISRUPTION</p> <p>Effective multi-agency engagement, joint planning and information sharing enables application of the full range of disruption tactics available through both criminal and civil routes to protect young people, including powers available in relation to modern slavery, licensing, health and safety, fraud, housing provision and other related legislation.</p> <p>Leadership and resources Leaders, managers and practitioners from across the partnership understand the local problem profile and intelligence picture to support disruption: analytical support is coordinated across a range of agencies to identify themes, patterns and trends relating to exploitation activity and adolescent vulnerability.</p> <p>Stronger intelligence gathering and sharing across the partnership on individuals, peer groups and geographic hotspots engages a tactical response, to both disrupt perpetrators and target interventions that make young people safer.</p>

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LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Child Exploitation is a Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership priority ensuring this strategy has the full commitment from strategic leaders across the partnership.

The Vulnerable Adolescents Group (VAG) has been established to deliver against the strategic objectives set out above. Four separate workstreams have been established to sit underneath VAG to address targeted youth support services, contextual safeguarding, partnership working through a dedicated forum and a child exploitation operational oversight forum. VAG has clear Terms of Reference and representation from strategic leaders from across the partnership.

The VAG Chair reports regularly to the NSCP Partnership Group, with appropriate links made to relevant partnership boards.

Links to other strategies

- Neglect Strategy Implementation Group
- New Roads Implementation Board
- County Lines Strategy Group
- Youth Justice Board Pathfinder Project
- Project ADDER
- Prevent Delivery Group (Vulnerability to Radicalisation)

Principles:

Principles that relate directly to young people	Principles that relate to services and systems intended to support young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation of young people is a child protection issue. • Young people who have been criminally exploited are often themselves the victims of crime. • Young people are children first and offenders second; their behaviours are a form of communication. In exploitation scenarios, their choices and sense of agency are influenced by external factors. • Young people's involvement in decisions about their lives can increase safety. • The importance of school life and access to education is paramount to the young person's sense of identity and belonging • Young people can encounter significant harm in a range of settings beyond their families. An understanding of where harm emanates from should inform the focus of safeguarding activity. • Parents/carers are key partners in helping to mitigate risks posed to young people. • All young people are vulnerable to exploitation, not just specific groups. • Early childhood trauma impacts on adolescent development; children and young people need help to understand both counter-intuitive survival techniques as well as resilience factors in order to overcome adversity, build trusting healthy relationships and fulfil their potential. • Young people's needs and behaviours should be understood in the wider context of their lives at home, friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (including on line) and in the context of the vulnerabilities that impact on them such as criminal and sexual exploitation. • Young people's needs and safety must come first. Professionals need to work flexibly, even when the child is unwilling to engage. • Relationships between young people and professionals that are based on consistency, stability and respectful communication have the most impact in supporting effective interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear systems must be in place at the 'front door' of services so that young people at risk of exploitation are identified and receive a prompt and appropriate response. • Existing working processes should be enhanced to enable swift, flexible and effective safeguarding responses for young people who are being exploited. Services must be coordinated and easily accessible. • Multi-agency assessment, planning and intervention is critical to achieving good outcomes for vulnerable young people. • We will work together to address perpetrators through a range of disruption tactics • A whole system approach will protect and support victims. • Schools and colleges are essential partners in a whole-system approach, particularly in the context of awareness raising, identification of those at risk and safety planning. • All agencies in Norfolk must share their information to enable them to recognise, understand and respond to the risks of exploitation to young people in the local area. • Safeguarding vulnerable adolescents requires prevention and intervention activity beyond individual work. This includes a range of contexts including peer groups, spaces and communities. • Professionals need to understand the impact of exploitation and patterns of engagement and disengagement of vulnerable young people. They need to 'stay with the child' • Young people do not cease to be vulnerable when they turn eighteen. Transitional safeguarding is required to support Norfolk's young people into safe successful adulthood. • Professionals will use appropriate and respectful language in relation to young people exposed to extra-familial harm. • In all cases the impact of extra-familial harm on children and young people's mental & sexual health should be considered.