

# Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Contextual Safeguarding and Extra Familial Abuse

19 October 2021

### Recommendation

1. OSC note these developments and approach within the Children and Families Services.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached briefing provides a comprehensive outline of the principles and issues that underpin a Contextual Safeguarding Approach which seeks to address the extrafamilial abuse that increasingly confronts older young people.
- 1.2 It will be noted that the concept of Extrafamilial abuse where parents find themselves at a loss as to how to address the extremely strong influences and abuse their children are experiencing outside the home in respect of violent coercion, drug portage, sexual abuse, forced labour and other factors presents a challenge to existing Child Protection legislation and procedures which places emphasis on parents taking responsibility for their children and their duty to protect them. A Contextual Safeguarding approach seeks to understand the abuse that occurs outside the family and support parents in offering the best forms of protective behaviour and care possible.
- 1.3 Many Local Authority areas are increasingly adopting this approach and the Warwickshire journey is outlined in the briefing paper. The approach is anticipated to require persistence and a long-term view before it is fully embedded. The attached briefing explains the staged approach and how Warwickshire is approaching this. This work builds on the initiative and success demonstrated in the Child Exploitation Team and will work to improve our understanding and ability to protect young people caught up in this cycle of control.

### 2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are some short-term financial costs associated with the development and roll out of this approach, but over time it is anticipated that this understanding and the consequent method of working will be business as usual for all social workers across the workforce. The training programme that is already financed and agreed in relation to the Trauma Informed Approach and Restorative Practice provides excellent foundations for this new approach.

### **3. Environmental Implications**

3.1 None

### **4. Supporting Information**

4.1 This approach requires a wholesale review by all C&F staff in respect of their understanding of how extra familial abuse occurs, how we support parents and how we create protective factors to enable better outcomes for children and young people

### **5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

5.1 It is recommended that OSC call in a review and update of the progress in this work in twelve months' time.

## **Appendices**

### **1. Children and Families Contextual Safeguarding Briefing**

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