



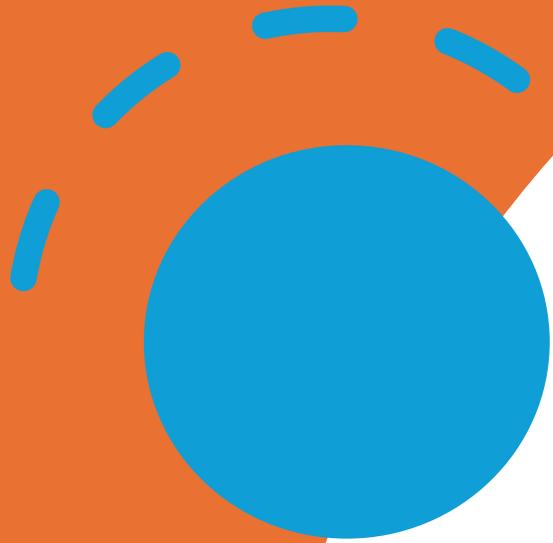
Transitional Safeguarding and EMRAC

Rebecca Berry
Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Adult Social Care
Wokingham BC



Objectives

- Awareness of exploitation
- Awareness of Transitional and Contextual Safeguarding
- Statutory Framework
- Have clarity as to the role/purpose and function of EMRAC.
- Be aware of expansion in Wokingham to include 18 – 25 year olds



What do we mean by
exploitation?

Criminal Exploitation

- Organised Crime inc County Lines
- Gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK,
- They use dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.
- They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money
- They will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons



What is Child (or Young Person) Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. It happens when a child or young person is coerced, manipulated or deceived into sexual activity in exchange for things that they may need or want like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection.

Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship so the sexual activity may appear consensual.

This is called grooming and is a type of abuse. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.

CSE does not always involve physical contact, and can also occur through the use of technology

What is cuckooing?

- A form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing, sex work and other illegal activities.
- Often features use of violence and drugs to control and intimidate people.
- People at high risk include
 - People with substance misuse issues - past / present
 - People with physical and or mental health problems
 - People with learning difficulties
 - People made vulnerable by living alone, or age
 - Survivors of Domestic abuse

Missing Adults

‘A missing person is anyone whose whereabouts can’t be established and:

- The context suggest the person may be a victim of crime; or
- The person is at risk of harm to themselves or another; or
- Where there is particular concern because the circumstances are out of character, or there are ongoing concerns for their safety because of a previous pattern of going missing’.

This is not the national police definition – a need has been identified for a more specific version for the purpose of multi-agency understanding.



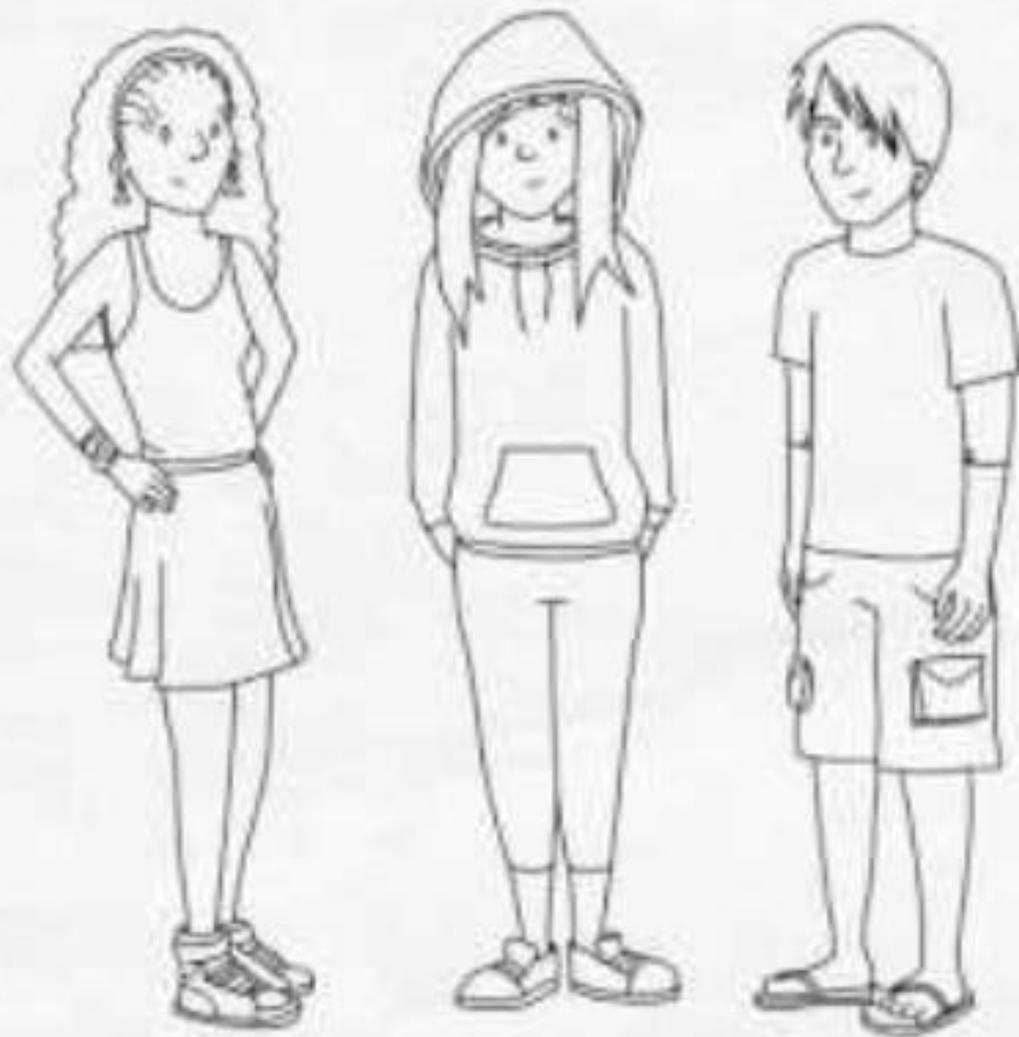


Missing

Are they escaping abuse or neglect at home, community or care setting?

Are they going towards abuse (grooming)?

Were they able to go missing as a result of neglect?





Contextual Safeguarding

Is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

It recognizes that the different relationships young people form in their neighborhoods, schools, and online can feature violence and abuse.

The approach was developed by Dr. Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire in the UK

Transitional Safeguarding

BRIDGING THE GAP
TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING
AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK WITH ADULTS



A knowledge briefing

What we have learnt so far....

✓ Strategic buy in is key
– capacity and
resources

✓ Start with small
steps...but start the
journey

✓ Multi-agency
engagement needed

✓ Recognise and
understand the
barriers

✓ Be trauma informed
and legally literate

✓ Do not use non-
engagement as a
reason to close cases

✓ Requires creativity
and **culture change**

✓ Its an **ongoing
journey**



What is Transitional Safeguarding

“An approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children’s and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives”;

Transitional Safeguarding is not a prescribed model. It is a joined-up approach to policy and practice that is applied according to local circumstances;

It goes beyond transition planning for people moving from children’s services to adult social care. Proponents see it as a challenge to silo-based working in local authorities

It is a system-wide issue, going beyond social care functions;

Some young adults might require help to be safe and healthy, even if they don’t have formally defined care and support needs;

What Transitional Safeguarding is and why it is needed

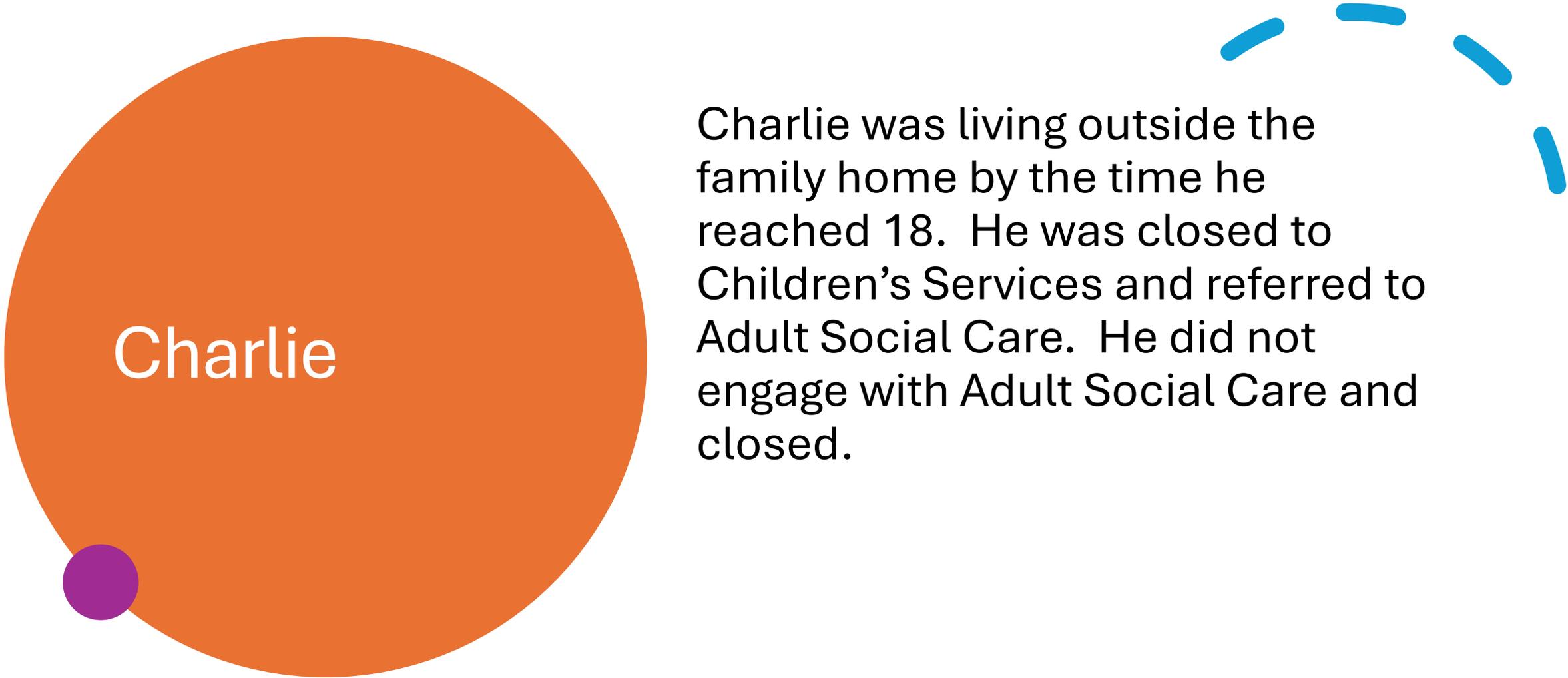
- *‘safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children’s and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives’ (Holmes & Smale, 2018)*
- Reflects evidence that the current binary approach bears significant **human and economic costs**
- **Not just transition planning** from Children’s Services → Adult Social Care.
- **Extends beyond statutory duties** – holistic, creative, flexible and person-centred
- Interconnectedness of harms and adversities requires a highly **integrated system** of support: social care, health, justice, education... **whole place whole person**
- **Safeguarding is a verb, not a noun**
- **Systems leadership**: collective, participative, boundary-spanning

Charlie

Charlie was born in withdrawal from heroin in prison. He was exposed to Domestic Abuse in his early childhood. Charlie was adopted at age 2.

In his teens Charlie started to use drugs and there were concerns that he was being used to run drugs and steal by other young people older than him.

He was involved with multiple services.



Charlie

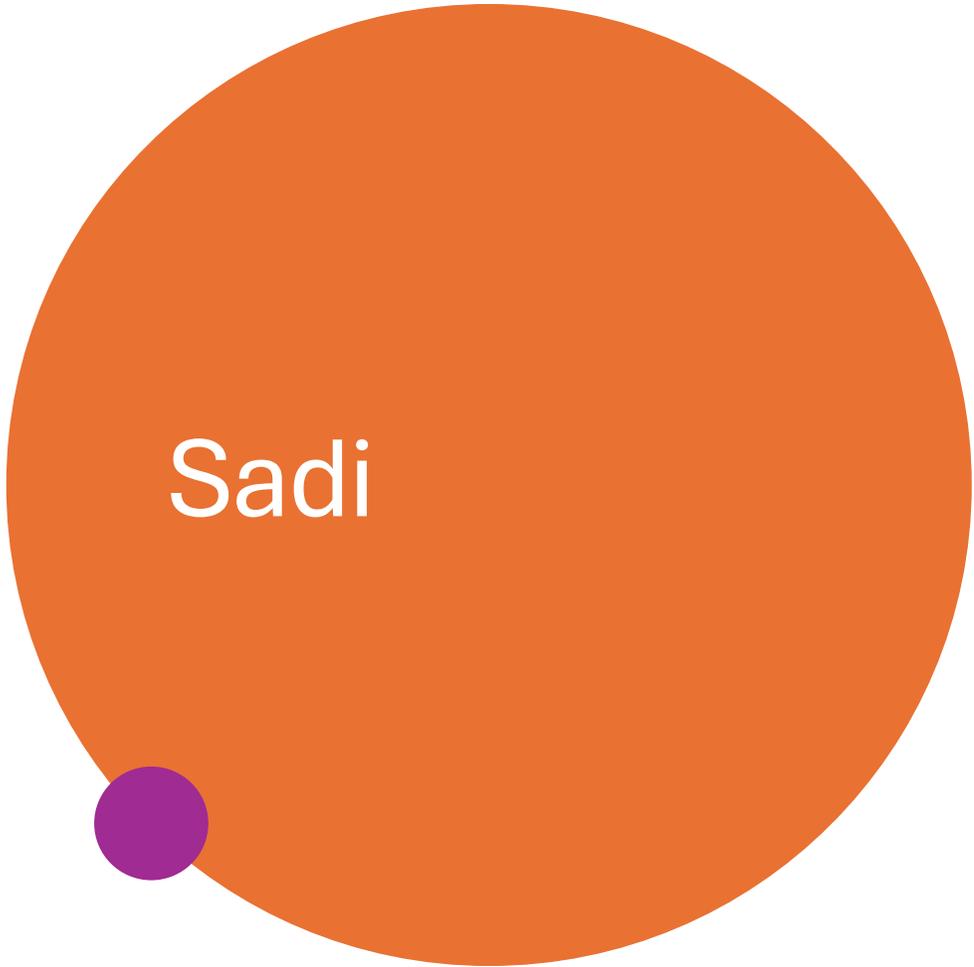
Charlie was living outside the family home by the time he reached 18. He was closed to Children's Services and referred to Adult Social Care. He did not engage with Adult Social Care and closed.

Charlie

Charlie continued to be exploited by people in the local area both criminally and sexual humiliation, his drug addition impacted every aspect of his life whenever he was housed people moved in with him, he broke his tenancy rules and was evicted.

He became street homeless.

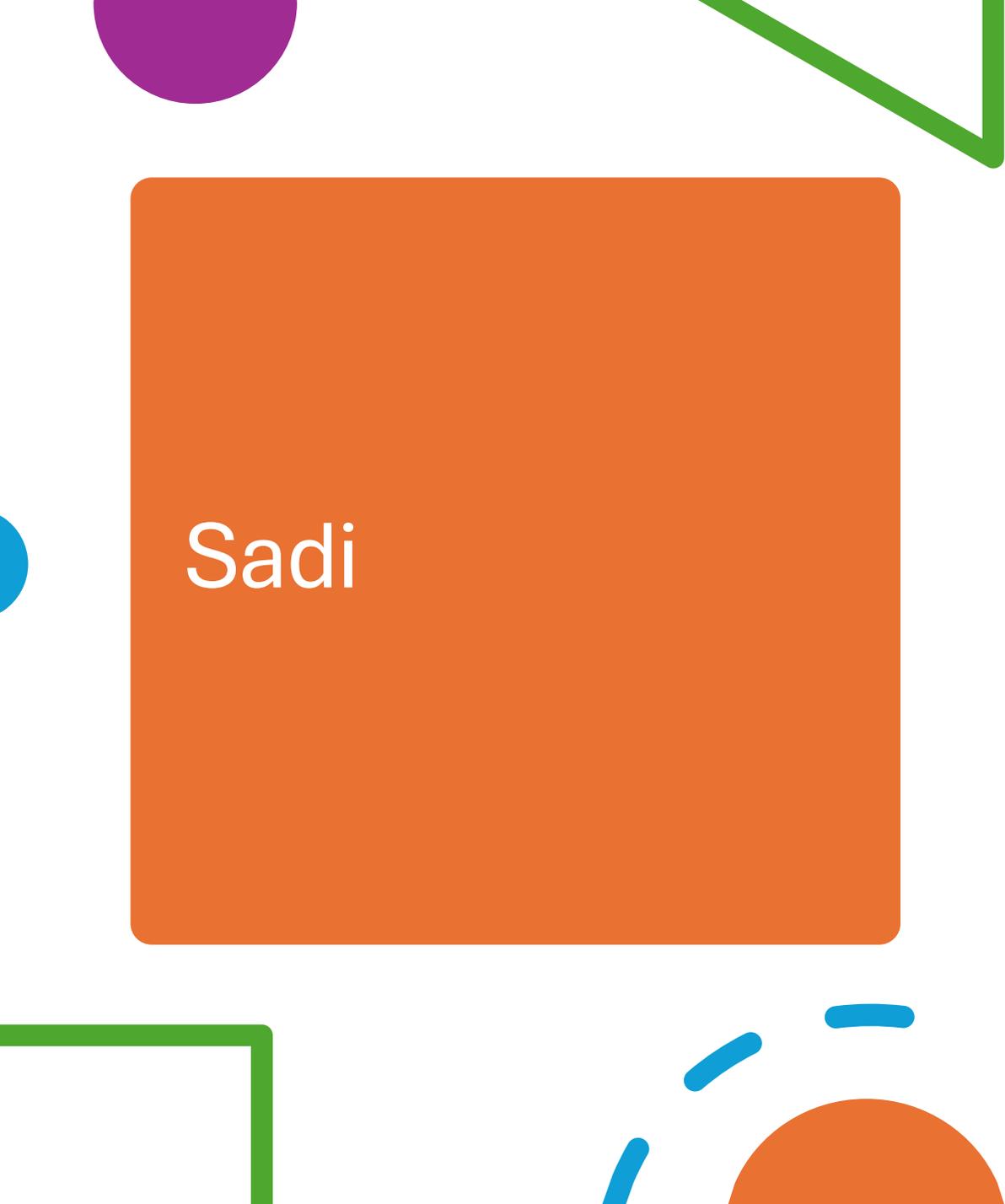




Sadi



Sadi lived at home with her parents. She was sexually abused by a family member. Amy was groomed and sexually abused over a long period by a local group of men in her teens.



Sadi

Sadi has periods of going missing, she is open to Children's Services. She is referred to Adult Social Care who decline the referral as she has no appearance of care and support needs. At 18 she is closed to Children's Services.



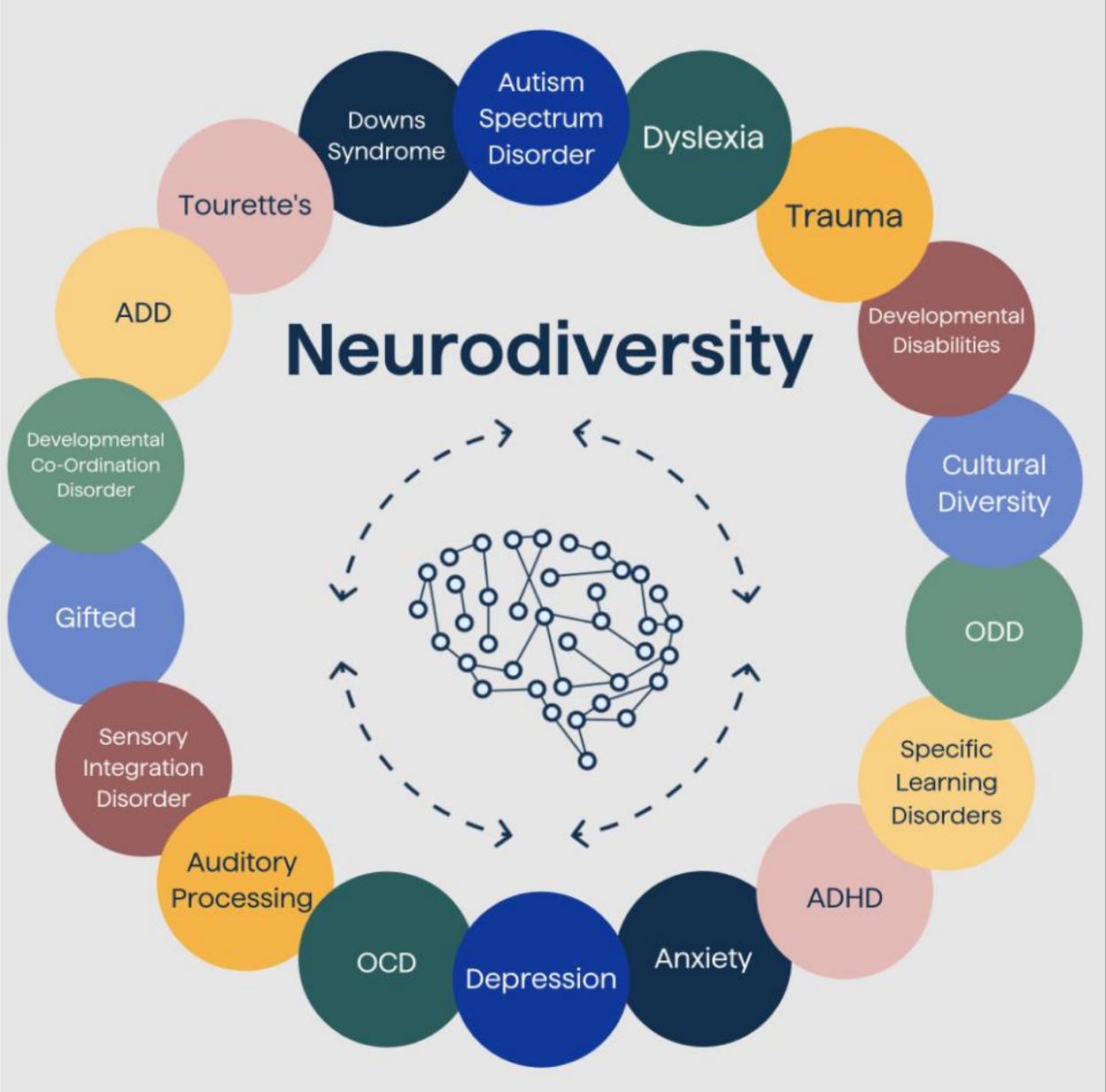


What is the relevance of
Prevention?



1-Sentinel markers of adverse childhood experiences from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Source: Felitti V et al 2 .

Adverse Childhood Experiences - ACES





Relationship to the Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 guidance emphasises the importance of **preventing or delaying the development of needs** for care and support and the importance of reducing needs that already exist. This principle can be applied to those young people whose experiences and trauma mean they may need support to live safely, without them having formally defined care and support needs.



The **wellbeing principle** within the Care Act 2014 applies equally to those who do not have eligible care and support needs but come into contact with the system in some other way.



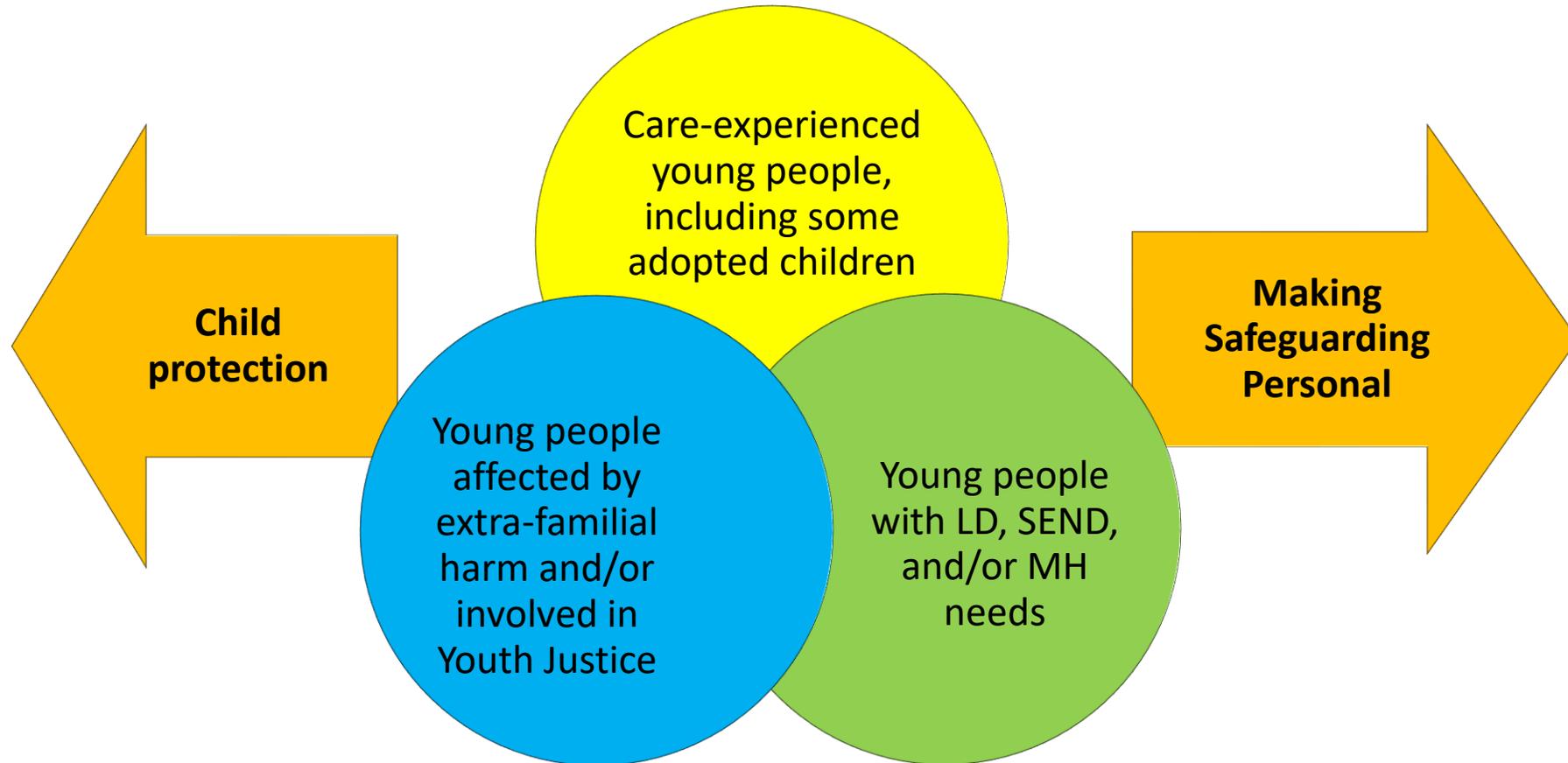
The Care Act 2014 guidance also requires us to ensure that decisions **take account of the individual's circumstances**, rather than basing decisions only on a person's age or appearance, any condition they have, or any aspect of their behaviour. This is important in ensuring that needs and vulnerabilities are recognised amongst young people who might be assumed to be ineligible for support.



Power to undertake enquiries – Prevention

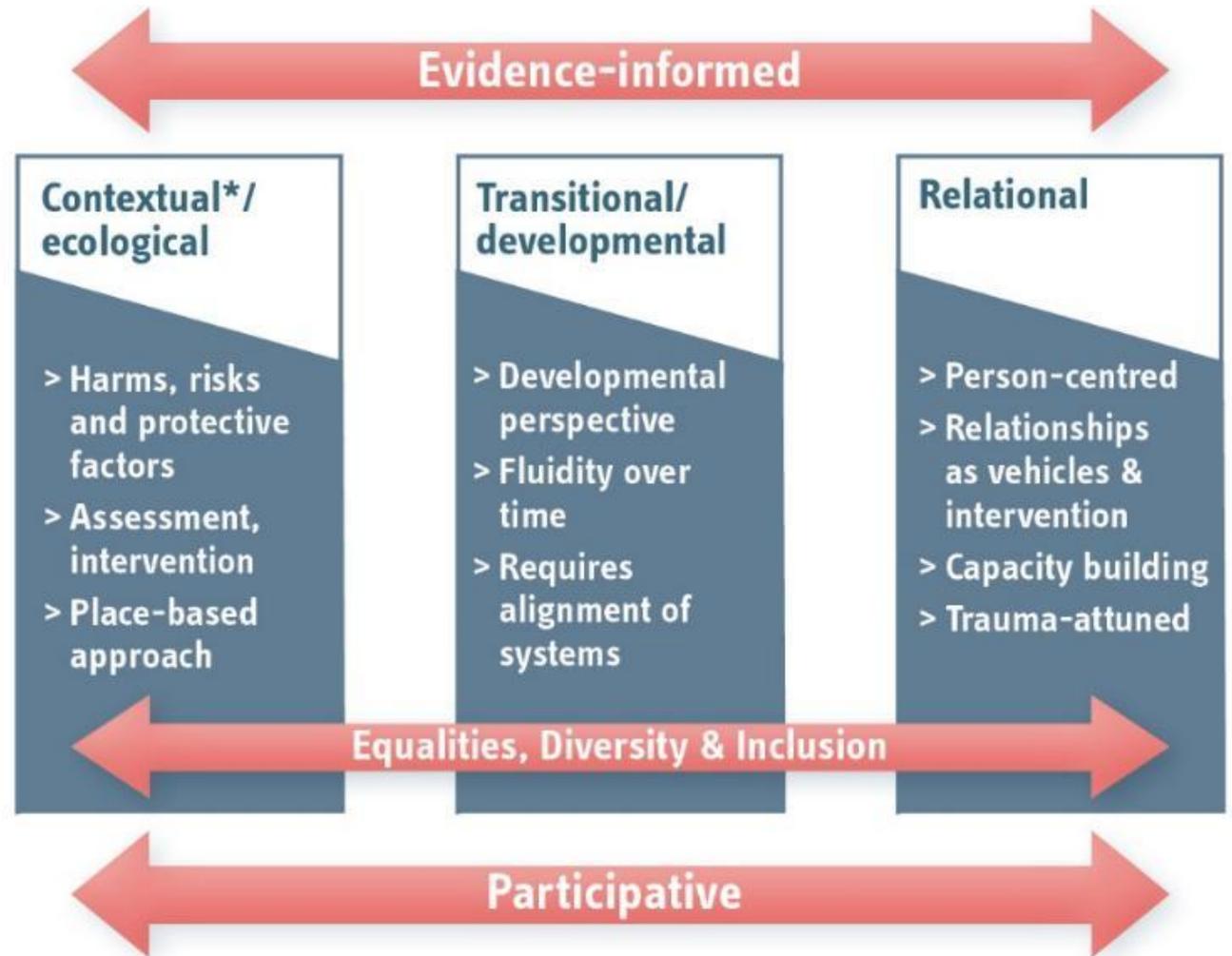
- 14.44 Local authorities may choose to undertake safeguarding enquiries for people where there is not a section 42 enquiry duty, if the local authority believes it is proportionate to do so, and will enable the local authority to promote the person's wellbeing and support a preventative agenda.

Mind the gap...



Credit: C. Cocker

Key
(non-negotiable)
principles
(Holmes, 2018)



See Firmin's work:
www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk

Challenges:

- Restrictive Care Act eligibility – screening out
- ‘Needs for care and support’
- Preparing for adulthood post 18
- Understanding impact of trauma prior to 18
- Leaving care status
- Language/jargon
- Risk adverse v risk enablement
- Consent
- Wider adult vulnerability/ exploitation
- Vulnerability and abuse do not stop cease at 18
- Engagement

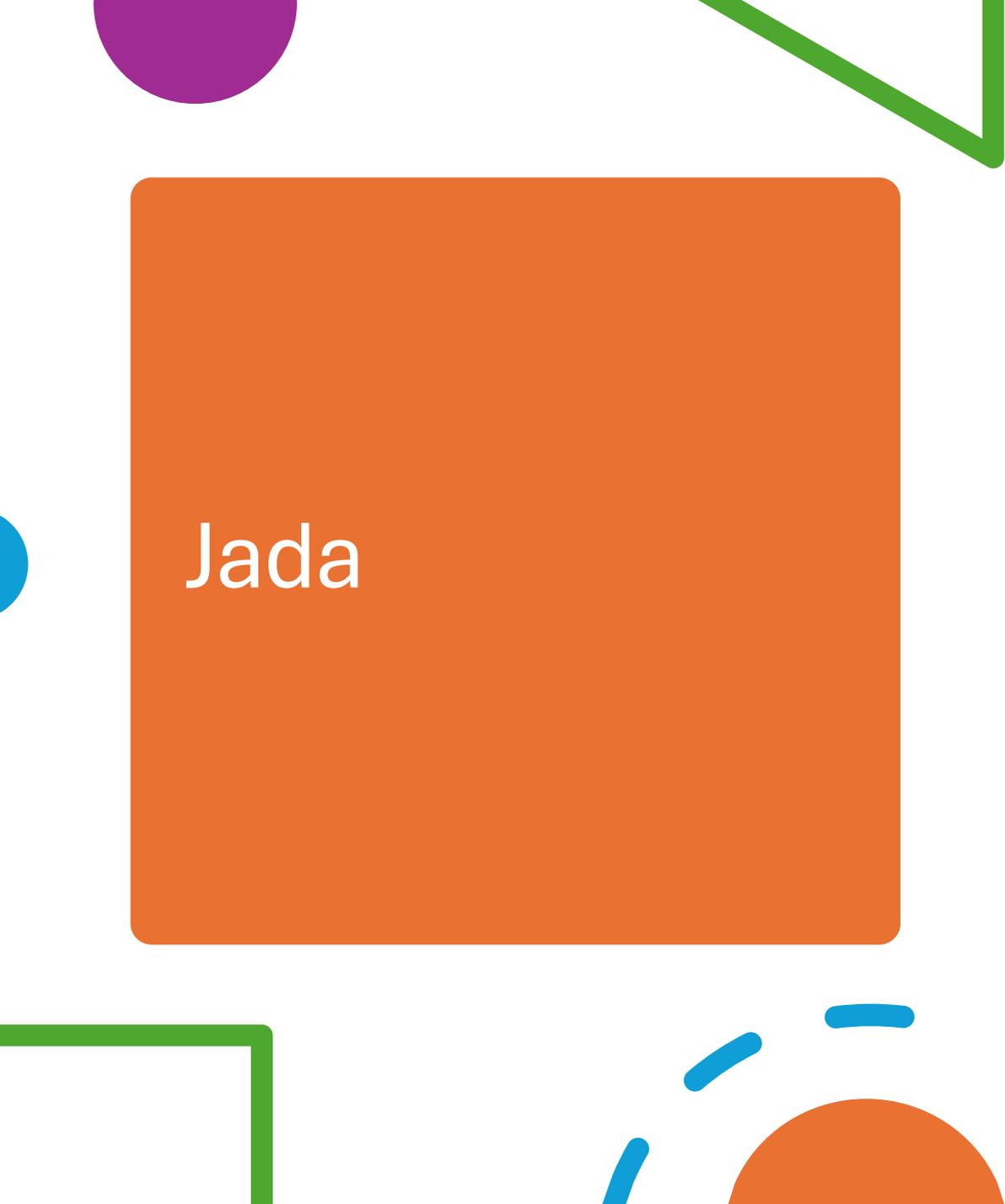
Joint working:

- 6 Care Act principles: e.g. Prevention
- Making Safeguarding Personal, co-production
- Understanding roles, team structures
- Early, clear communication and pathways
- Tenacity, flexibility, strengths based, responsive to need
- Knowledge of local services
- Share information/assessments
- Reaching back to childhood/forward planning to adulthood
- Understanding of MCA
- **Culture change**

Jada

When she was 17 police discovered Jada living in a shed in the garden. She had a neglected appearance and was under weight. She told police that she was made to go out to work for no money, complete all domestic tasks in the house and look after all the multiple animals. Jada was supported to go and stay with her Paternal Grandparents, she could not stay for long due to tenancy. She turned 18, Children's Services closed involvement and referred to Adult Social Care.





Jada

Jada had no diagnosis of a Learning Disability. Jada did not know how to use money, transport, she had very limited reading and understanding of self care.

Adult Social Care undertook SG Enquiry and S9 Assessment.



Jada

SG enquiry found years of abuse, and attempts to continue coercion and control and financial abuse from Jada's family and others in the community.

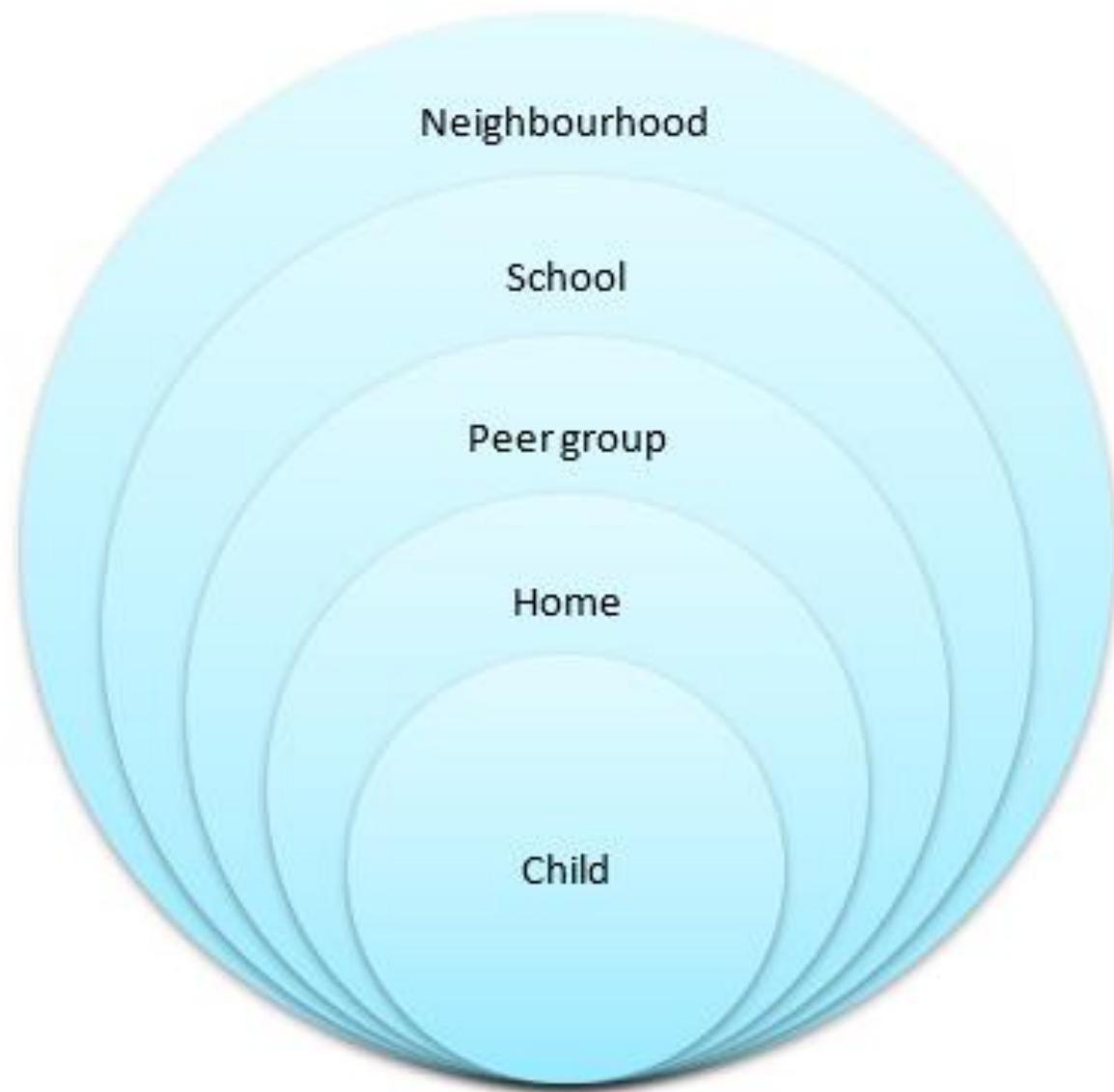
Police Involvement

Safeguarding Plan

Innovative Practice – Application of S9.

Supported Living with skills gain programme.





Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference - EMRAC

This meeting has been established to share information regarding vulnerable children and young adults up to the age of 25 in Wokingham who are exposed to, involved in or victims of sexual or criminal exploitation, as well as those who frequently go missing. The aim of the conference is to ensure that information is used to protect those children and young adults highlighted to be at risk of exploitation, through a coordinated approach to ensure that: multi-agency interventions are offered at a strategic level to strengthen pre-existing safety plans; those involved in exploiting children and young adults and the locations where exploitation is taking place, are being identified and targeted in a coordinated way to reduce risk; and prosecutions can be supported as appropriate.

Meetings of EMRAC will:

Ensure that individual assessed cases of suspected or actual sexual/criminal exploitation are well-managed and coordinated and that all possible actions have been taken to protect the victims; raise concerns as appropriate to the relevant agencies; follow up any procedural issues and assist with 'problem solving'.

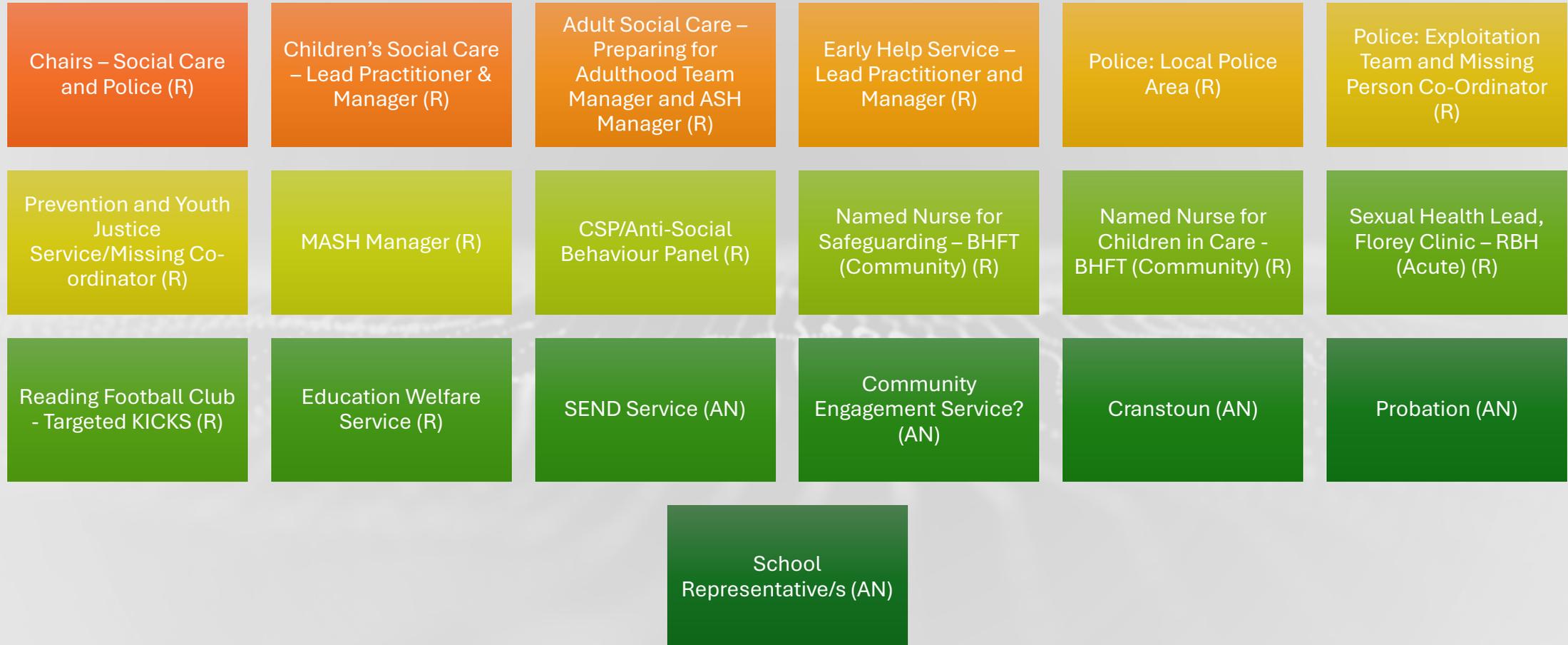
Ensure that all cases are considered by a single group who are then able to identify any links between individual cases.

Ensure that intelligence relating to patterns of sexual/criminal exploitation of children or young adults in the Borough can be identified and action taken where necessary. This will include the mapping and sharing of intelligence relating to suspected groups of victims, perpetrators and locations of concern occurs in a timely fashion.

Support the development of good practice in terms of robust and effective interventions across all relevant agencies.

Create a secure and confidential environment to learn from previous practice and share information.

Key members of EMRAC will be practitioner/manager representatives from the following organisations:





Examples

A young person reaching 18 who is already on the EMRAC agenda can remain to allow ongoing coordination of support.



An adult between 18 – 25 already working with Adult Social Care due to their care and support needs and there are concerns about exploitation.



A 18 – 25 year old is referred to Adult Safeguarding Hub where there are concerns about exploitation and a safeguarding enquiry is triggered (not S42, 14.44)



Further Reading and Resources

Transitional Safeguarding audio-visual resources

A short animation that explains what Transitional Safeguarding is about (RiP 2023)

[What is Transitional Safeguarding and why does it matter? on Vimeo](#)

Animation introducing Transitional Safeguarding with Dez Holmes (RiP & Camden 2022)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7jsZ5NoChw>

Risks, Resilience and Relationships: Safeguarding adolescents into adulthood with Dez Holmes (RiP 2020)

A digital briefing for those working with adolescents (10-24 years old).

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/content-pages/videos/risks-resilience-and-relationships-safeguarding-adolescents-into-adulthood/>

A conversation between Ann Graham and Beverley Tarka, Directors of Children's Services and Adult Social Services (RiP & Haringey 2022)

About joint leadership, working together and Transitional Safeguarding

<https://vimeo.com/770791854/5b80707cc5>

Transitional Safeguarding and the role of health, (NWG 2022)

A conversation with Sarah Cerioli, designated safeguarding transitional nurse (Sussex)

[Transition and Transitional safeguarding and the role of health part 2 – YouTube](#)

Transitional Safeguarding key resources

- Mind the Gap: Transitional safeguarding – adolescence to adulthood: Strategic briefing (2018) D. Holmes & E. Smale, Research in Practice <https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/publications/2018/august/transitional-safeguarding-adolescence-to-adulthood-strategic-briefing-2018/>
- Bridging the Gap – Transitional Safeguarding and the role of social work with adults (June 2021) Chief Social Worker for Adults/DHSC https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990426/dhsc_transitional_safeguarding_report_bridging_the_gap_web.pdf
- Transitional Safeguarding Blog – National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum <https://nlcbf.designintegrity.dev/bridging-the-gap-with-transitional-safeguarding-blog/>
- Safeguarding during adolescence– the relationship between Contextual Safeguarding, Complex Safeguarding and Transitional Safeguarding (2019) C.Firmin, J.Horan, D.Holmes & G.Hopper Research in Practice https://csnetwork.org.uk/assets/documents/Safeguarding-during-adolescence-Briefing_Jan19_v1.pdf
- Transitional Safeguarding: Academic insight, Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Prisons Inspectorate of Probation (March 2022) D. Holmes & L. Smith <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/03/Academic-Insights-Holmes-and-Smith-RM.pdf>
- Practice: Social Work in action (2022) Special Issue on Transitional Safeguarding Vol 34, Issue 1 Eds. C. Cocker & A. Cooper

More publications and resources

Holmes, D. (ed) (2022) *Safeguarding Young People: Risk, Rights, Resilience and Relationships*. London, Jessica Kingsley Publishing

Webinar on Transitional Safeguarding and Homelessness 26 September 2022 – presentations <https://www.local.gov.uk/transitional-safeguarding-and-homelessness-26-september-2022>

Cocker, C., Cooper, A., and Holmes, D. (2021) Transitional Safeguarding: Transforming how adolescents and young adults are safeguarded. *British Journal of Social Work* 52 (3) pp.1287-1306 <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcaa238>

Cocker, C., Cooper, A, Holmes D, and Bateman F. (2021) Transitional Safeguarding: Presenting the case for developing Making Safeguarding Personal for Young People in England. *Journal of Adult Protection* 23 (3) pp.144-57 <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/1466-8203/vol/23/iss/3>

Preston-Shoot, M. Cocker, C. & Cooper, A. Learning from Safeguarding adult reviews about transitional safeguarding: building an evidence base (2022), *Journal of Adult Protection*, 24(2), 90-101 <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-01-2022-0001>

Making Safeguarding Personal – Adi Cooper (2019 film) Introduction to making Safeguarding Personal <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gthKiJ3Vdrw>

Safeguarding Adult Review – Croydon (Madeleine) Final report (2022): <https://www.croydonsab.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PDF-Madeleine-SAR-Final-Report.pdf> 7-minute briefing: <https://www.croydonsab.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Madeleine-7-Minute-Briefing.pdf>

Transitional Safeguarding – some local resources

Transitional Safeguarding - Norfolk Safeguarding Adults board (7 minute briefing)

<https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/document/618/7-Minute-Briefing-Form-Transitional-Safeguarding-28.7.21-V2.pdf?t=b8931e11de59f519d353eb13c563d841b657723d>

Northumberland Transitions safeguarding protocol (2021)

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/Care%20support%20for%20adults/safeguarding%20adults/Northumberland-Safeguarding-Transitions-Protocol.docx>

Transitional Safeguarding Task Group Brent (Scrutiny Committee Report)

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s120895/6.1.b.%20Appendix%202%20-%20Transitional%20Safeguarding%20Task%20Group%20Report.pdf>

South Gloucestershire Missing from home, school and care policy – <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/wp-content/uploads/sites/221/2017/11/Children-Missing-from-Home-Care-and-School-Multi-Agency-Protocol-April-2022.pdf>

7. What sort of services can help?

- ❑ Transitional safeguarding approaches better align services for child and adults and encourage partnership cultures to respond better to the changing needs of adolescents and young adults.
- ❑ These might include, for example, improved responses to young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) at the point of transition. They may involve drug or alcohol support services, life skills training, healthy relationships and preparing for adulthood services.
- ❑ Transitional safeguarding is an emerging area of interest, and area for service development.
- ❑ For local information see [Northumberland Safeguarding Transitions Protocol](#)
- ❑ For further information see [Transitional safeguarding & the role of adult social work](#) and [Transitional safeguarding | adolescence to adulthood](#) (researchinpractice.org.uk)

6. What might this mean for adolescents entering adulthood?

- ❑ An adolescent engaged in 'county lines' or other gang-associated harm, may find they receive a criminal justice response rather than being recognised as a victim of criminal exploitation.
- ❑ A young adult experiencing sexual exploitation may not be eligible for a safeguarding response unless they have needs for care support, such as a formal mental health diagnosis or a diagnosed learning disability.
- ❑ A young person who is subject to a child protection plan may find that support stops abruptly as they turn 18, despite their experiences of maltreatment leaving them just as vulnerable as a child leaving care who would be entitled to ongoing support.
- ❑ A young adult experiencing domestic abuse and poor mental health may be offered little or no support for their own safety unless the circumstances become critical. Upon becoming a parent, they may find that children's services consider their child to be at risk.

5. Why is transitional safeguarding important?

- ❑ The wider child safeguarding system does not always work well for adolescents, often designed to meet the needs of younger children.
- ❑ Adolescents are thought to need distinct services and professional approaches in line with their developmental needs, recognising that harm and its effects do not stop at age 18.
- ❑ Many of the environmental and structural factors that increase a child's vulnerability continue into adulthood, resulting in unmet needs and costly later interventions.
- ❑ The children's and adults' safeguarding systems have developed from different theories, come under different laws, and have different processes as a result.
- ❑ This can make the transition to adulthood harder for young people facing ongoing risk and mean that young people entering adulthood experience a 'cliff-edge' in terms of support.

A system..
not a
service



1. What is transitional safeguarding?

- ❑ Transitional safeguarding is about recognising that the needs of young people do not change or stop when they reach 18, although the laws and services supporting them often do. It is about making sure they have the help they need to keep themselves safe and as independent as possible.
- ❑ It is an approach to safeguarding that moves through developmental stages, rather than just focusing on chronological age, building on best practice and learning from both adult and children's services.
- ❑ *"Those working with adults should be curious about the childhood of the adult they are supporting. And those working with children should be ambitious about the adult they are helping to create"* (Dez Holmes, 2021)

2. It says 'safeguarding' does that mean a safeguarding adults / s42 enquiry?

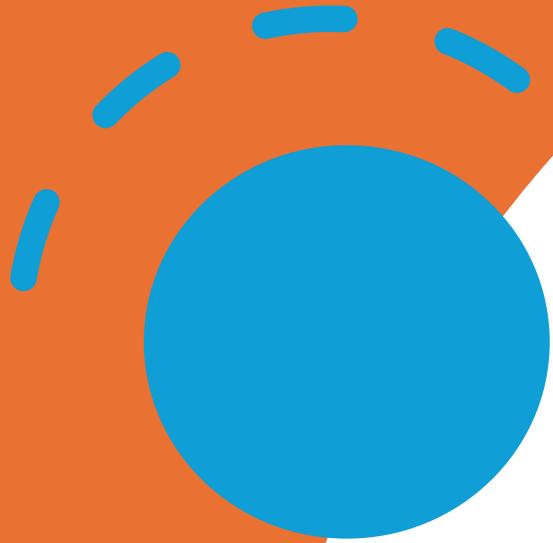
- ❑ **No** – transitional safeguarding is about safety in the more general sense, not just formal safeguarding investigations.
- ❑ The Care Act 2014 definition for safeguarding adults can apply to young people of age 18 and above, just as the children's legislation can apply to those under 18.
- ❑ If a young adult (18 or over) meets the Care Act definition, formal safeguarding duties will apply.
- ❑ If they are still receiving children's services, they are considered to have needs for care and support, even if these are not eligible needs under the Care Act – safeguarding adult duties apply.

4. How does it link with safeguarding adults?

- ❑ The Making Safeguarding Personal approach (set out in the Care Act) means recognising an adult's rights, freedom of action, choice and control; and the right to make decisions that may seem unwise where mental capacity is not in question.
- ❑ It is about understanding that adulthood gives degrees of personal responsibility, and respecting people's preferred outcomes.
- ❑ It is about risk enablement taking account of an individual's preferences, history and circumstances to achieve a proportionate tolerance of accepted risk.
- ❑ From 16yrs+ mental capacity assessments are a valuable tool for consideration when supporting a young person's ability to make best interest decisions.
- ❑ Many young people who received a service through children's services, will not meet the criteria for Adult Social Services intervention.

3. How is this different to safeguarding children?

- ❑ Transitional safeguarding uses aspects from both adult and child approaches in organisations, to offer more tailored support as a young person moves into adulthood.
- ❑ It does not expect that all young adults experiencing risk will have this removed or lessened by formal services in the same way that safeguarding children focuses on explicit protection from harm.



Questions / Examples