



Arun District Council

Arun Peer Group Conference- Terms of Reference (DRAFT)

Purpose and accountability

The Arun Peer Group Conference (PGC) has been set up to ensure that local authority and third sector partners work together collaboratively to proactively safeguard children and young people in Arun in a safe, secure and efficient way.

Whilst Children's safeguarding has traditionally focused on harm and neglect occurring within in the home, the concept of Contextual Safeguarding lends itself to risks occurring in the community as a place-based harm approach, beyond the family home. Developed by Dr Carlene Firmin as a holistic approach to tackling peer on peer exploitation and gang-violence in London, Contextual Safeguarding considers the context beyond individual children and their families such as those related to schools, peer groups and neighbourhoods.

Contextual Safeguarding recognises that children and young people may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from:

- Their peer groups
- The wider community
- Online
- Adults

The Arun PGC seeks to offer the opportunity to build upon existing partnership working but focused more at a local level to include Community Safety, Police, Education, Youth Justice and Children's Social Care and Community partners to look through the lens of children and young people in a school and community setting to help understand the push and pull factors that can increase the risk of exploitation.

The Arun PGC will meet on a monthly basis.

Objectives

1. To share information regarding young people who may be causing anti-social behaviour, participating in drug or alcohol consumption and/or activity or be at risk of experiencing or perpetuating harm.
2. For partners to nominate concerns regarding locations and spaces coming to notice in which they are spending time, what they are doing in those spaces, and the risk posed to them (and the rest of the community).
3. To minimise the risk of harm and community impact
4. To tackle any unlawful/inappropriate activity using all tools and powers available
5. Ensure that agencies work together in reducing the risk and harm that our young people may be exposed to.



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Core membership

This group will be overseen by the Arun District council Community Safety team, but all partners have equal ownership of this group to meaningfully engage.

The meeting has identified key communications leads in all key organisations and these leads will work together to provide proactive and reactive media messaging as required.

Sector	Organisation / role	Email
Arun District Council	Arun District Council- Chair	Cathryn French cathryn.french@arun.gov.uk
	Community Wellbeing Manager	Georgina Bouette georgina.bouette@arun.gov.uk
	Senior Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Caseworker	Lee Matthews lee.matthews@arun.gov.uk
	Bognor ASB Caseworker	Justine Moore justine.moore@arun.gov.uk
	Littlehampton ASB Caseworker	Matt Rookes matt.rookes@arun.gov.uk
Police	Chichester Prevention Inspector	Sharon Sawyer sharon.Sawyer@sussex.pnn.police.uk
	Youth Prevention Police Officer	Dan Siburn daniel.c.sibun@sussex.pnn.police.uk
	Arun Prevention Sergeant	Matt Phelps matthew.phelps@sussex.pnn.police.uk
West Sussex County Council	Missing & Exploitation Co-Ordinator (MEOG)	Jan Hawkins jan.hawkins@westsussex.gov.uk
	Job title? Adolescent Family Resource Service	Jos Pigott jos.pigott@westsussex.gov.uk
	Job title? Adolescent Family Resource Service	Matt Pollard matt.pollard@westsussex.gov.uk
	Job title? Youth Justice	Lorna Vincent lorna.vincent@westsussex.gov.uk
Schools Littlehampton	Assistant Head The Angmering School	Jo Neville jneville@theangmeringschool.co.uk
	Assistant Principal Littlehampton Academy (TLA)	Duncan Jack DJack@tla.woodard.co.uk
	Assistant Head Teacher Littlehampton Alternative Provision (APC)	James Walters jwalters@wsapc.co.uk
	Attendance Officer (APC)	Clare Christian cchristian@wsapc.co.uk



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	Cornfields School	To be confirmed
Schools Bognor	Lead Child Protection Officer The Regis School	Will Knight William.Knight@theregisschool.co.uk
	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer	Debs Robson Deborah.Robson@theregisschool.co.uk
	Assistant Headteacher Felpham Community College	Jamie Harrocks jharrocks@felpham.org.uk
	Job title?	Sally Covill scovill@felpham.org.uk
	Assistant Headteacher Sir Philip Howard	Adam Collyer acollyer@sphcs.co.uk
Arun Church	Job title? Arun Church	Emma Biffi emma.biffi@arunchurch.com

Functionality and Support

The Arun PGC will meet on a monthly basis

It is recommended that E-CINS will be the adopted case management system to enable multi-agency partnership working and information sharing as a single system and that this is secure, encrypted, cloud-based central hub.

PGC will be administrated by ADC Community Safety team to include actions arising, updates within meeting structure and E-CINS administrative support and ISA governance.

Information Sharing

The legal basis for sharing information during this meeting is under Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, 'where disclosure is necessary or expedient for the purposes of the Act (reduction and prevention of crime and disorder)' in an attempt to safeguard and prevent any further crime or ASB.

The legal frameworks allow for information sharing in relation to children, young people and adults:

- Children Act (1989)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Care Act (2014)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)



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In addition to the above, all attendees at the Peer Group Conference are agreeing in this virtual meeting (to be reviewed after Covid-19 current working arrangements) to verbally adhere to the Confidentiality Agreement.

Information discussed by the agency representative within this meeting is strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties who have not signed up to this protocol without the agreement of the partners of the meeting.

It should focus on case management, risk management and assessment of need. A clear distinction should be made between fact and opinion.

All agencies should ensure that the minutes are retained in a confidential and appropriately restricted manner. These minutes will aim to reflect that all individuals who are discussed at these meetings should be treated fairly, with respect, and without improper discrimination.

Appendix

Contextual Safeguarding: An overview of the operational, strategic and conceptual framework' (Firmin, 2017:3)

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Therefore, children's social care practitioners need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

<https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

<https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CS-Briefing-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Video of Carlene Firmin talking about Contextual Safeguarding
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCFZQcalgDM#action=share>



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Extra Familial Harm Definitions

It occurs when a child or young person is exploited and provided with things – such as gifts, drugs, money, status, affection – in exchange for performing sexual activities or becoming involved with offending.

Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur through the use of technology. Young people of different gender, ethnicity and class can all equally be victims.

Criminal

CE is a form of exploitation where children are forced to into committing crime or being controlled by someone else to carry out certain activities. Young people who are victims of CE may not even understand that they are victims, or they may have been groomed into carrying out certain activities.

Some examples of CE include:

- Forced begging
- Shoplifting
- Trafficking
- County lines drug running
- Cannabis cultivation
- Financial exploitation

Sexual

- Types of CSE include, but are not limited to:
- Sexual activity
- Young people posting or sending explicit images of themselves
- Filming and/or streaming sexual activities
- Engaging in sexual conversations

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

This is where sexual behaviour expressed by children or young people under the age 18 years old is developmentally inappropriate. This sexualised behaviour may increase risk and harm towards the young person themselves or others. It may also lead to the young person being abusive towards another person.

Modern Slavery (MS)

Modern Slavery is where a victim is, or is intended to be, used or exploited for someone else's gain. This is done without any respect for the victim's human rights. It is where a group or individual recruits, moves, harbours victims through the use of force, coercion, abuse or deception. Often these victims will be promised something in return for their service (such as accommodation or money) but this often will not come to fruition.



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Version	1.0
Date	29/09/2020
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Reviewed by	Georgina Bouette, Community Wellbeing Manager
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