

DIRECTORS' REPORT SPRING TERM 2019	ITEM NO 16	FOR INFORMATION	ATTENTION OF: Secondary governors
TITLE	Contextual Safeguarding		
SUMMARY	Information on Contextual Safeguarding as an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.		
AUTHOR / TITLE	John Churchill, Head of Safeguarding, Review & Quality Assurance		
TELEPHONE NO.	020 8825 8364	EMAIL ADDRESS	ChurchillJ@ealing.gov.uk

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.

This approach is being guided by the work at the Contextual Safeguarding Unit at the University of Bedfordshire - <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Contextual Safeguarding Pilot

A Contextual Safeguarding pilot pod has been set up in the multi-agency support, MAST Adolescent Team. This will be reviewed after six months – April 2019. A research team from Cardiff University has expressed an interest in evaluating this work.

Trusted Relationship Team

This team is funded by the Home Office for three years 2018/19 through to 2020/21. The team will work with predominantly high schools and three sites, supporting pupils to reduce the risk of exclusion. The three sites chosen are Northolt High School, Brentside High School and the Ealing Alternative Provision. It is aimed at high schools, but we are looking at how to incorporate year six as the transition to high school is recognised as a particularly vulnerable time.

The team will also offer targeted outreach to young people 11-17 in Ealing, working in the community until 11.00pm and offering a 24/7 service to support young people in crisis and develop trusting relationships with young people who may otherwise be at risk of exploitation.

Ealing is part of a wider project of eleven authorities (four in London) that is looking at developing practice in this area. The projects are being evaluated by the Behavioural Insights Team who have been commissioned by the Home Office.

Although the funding from the Home Office is for three years Ealing and our partner agencies are exploring the sustainability of this model of working which in turn will be dependent on it being successful in its aims. The following link takes you to a page detailing the programmes of all the involved authorities.
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/735368/Successful TR Projects High Level Overview - Gov.uk .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/735368/Successful_TR_Projects_High_Level_Overview_-_Gov.uk_.pdf)

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)

MVP is a mentoring scheme that aims to train young people to safely challenge the 'false consensus' through challenging words and behaviour that are abusive. It has been successfully embedded in Scottish schools as part of the work of the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland. We are hopeful of attracting an independent research team from University of West London to evaluate the scheme in Ealing schools. Four High Schools attended training in January and currently there are four more High Schools due to attend in April. The following link is to the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland which MVP is part of - <http://actiononviolence.org/>