

# CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING CHAMPIONS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Raise awareness. Share learning. Together we can make a difference.

Quote of the month:

**“Ubuntu: I am because we are.”**

**Welcome to Ealing’s first Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network newsletter.** Through this monthly communication Ealing’s Contextual Safeguarding Champions plan to raise awareness of Contextual Safeguarding in Ealing, share in any learning achieved and help everyone to pull together to help young people to be as safe as possible.

## Ealing’s Contextual Safeguarding Core Champions

Ealing has five Contextual Safeguarding Core Champions:

**Suzy Grihault:** Operations Manager, Youth Justice Service

**Hazel Hanrahan:** Team Leader, Safer Communities

**Catherine Imobeke:** Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

**Shannon Upton:** Senior Social Worker, MAST Adolescents Team

**Cat White:** Contextual Safeguarding Advisor, Contextual Safeguarding Team

The Core Champions have all attended a Contextual Safeguarding training course facilitated by a team at the University of Bedfordshire.

We’re all passionate about helping young people to be safer when they’re away from their families. We can’t wait to share the learning we’ve had the opportunity to receive and work with as many people across the borough as possible.

## Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people’s experiences of 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 (harm outside of the family home) can undermine parent-child relationships.

Within Ealing, Contextual Safeguarding concerns include (but are not limited to): Gangs; Serious Youth Violence; Child Sexual Exploitation; Child Criminal Exploitation; Harmful Sexual Behaviours; Missing from care, home and education; Radicalisation; Trafficking.

[You might find this video helpful \(featuring Dr Carlene Firmin\) as an introduction to Contextual Safeguarding:](#)



Core Champions clockwise from top left: Hazel Hanrahan, Suzy Grihault, Shannon Upton., Cat White and Catherine Imobeke.,



## Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network

We're setting up Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network which will meet every other month for 1.5 hours.

Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network membership provides an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge in safeguarding young people who are at risk of extra familial harm, an insight into the Contextual Safeguarding needs of Ealing and specialist support through Core Champions and other network members.

Sharing and modelling practice with team members who are not Network Champions is a key expectation of Network Champions. Network Champions will also be required to provide regular feedback on their use of any tools/methods/approaches shared through this process.

If you would like to become a Contextual Safeguarding Network Champion, we would love to hear from you. Please email:

[cschampions@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:cschampions@ealing.gov.uk).

## Vulnerability Screening Tool

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Team have developed a Vulnerabilities Screening Tool (VST) which is to be completed when there are concerns about the safety of a child/young person owing to risks outside of the family home. Examples of the types of extra familial harm have been highlighted on the previous page.

We encourage you to complete the VST when such issues arise. You are also welcome to contact the Contextual Safeguarding Team for a consultation if you are feeling stuck on a case: [VulnerabilitiesTool@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:VulnerabilitiesTool@ealing.gov.uk).

Social Care staff can access the VST on Mosaic and other teams/services can request the Word template by [emailing the team](#).

## Direct work tool: Push and pull factors

Each newsletter we plan to share a Contextual Safeguarding direct work tool with you.

This month, we're featuring push and pull factors. Creating this list with a young person can be a helpful way of exploring their priorities as well as forming the basis of any planning for that young person's safety.

Push factors are typically things going on for a young person that are causing them to feel they don't want or feel safe to spend time in their home and with family.

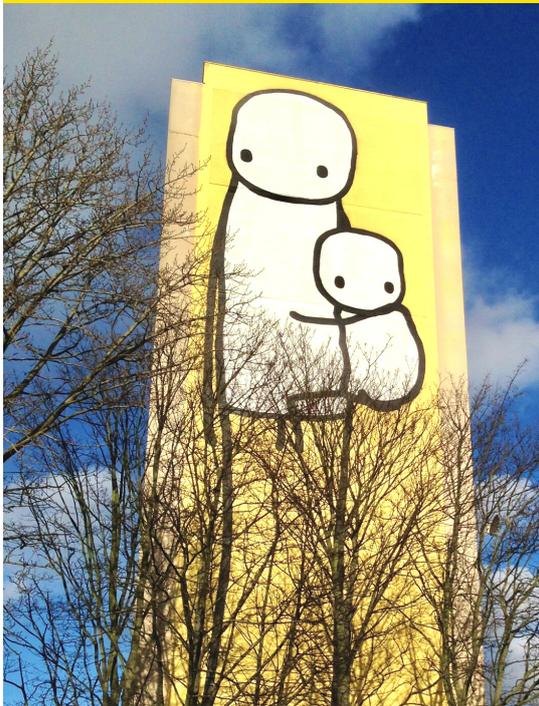
Pull factors are usually things that are either appealing about being away from the home or making the young person feel they have no choice but to be with unsafe people away from the home.

We are inviting you to have a go at creating a push and pull factors list with a young person you're working with and letting us know how you get on. We plan to include feedback in the next newsletter. We want to know what went well, what didn't go so well and what you might do differently next time. [Please send feedback to us here.](#)

PUSH	PULL
I don't get on with my parents.	I love seeing my friends.
I have no space at home.	Freedom - no rules.
I'm bored at home.	My friend gives me nice things.
I have to look after my little sister.	My friend understands me.
	I have a debt.

## Celebrating Contextual Safeguarding in practice

We want to honour and celebrate good Contextual Safeguarding through this newsletter. As such, please send your examples of excellent Contextual Safeguarding in practice to us at [cschampions@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:cschampions@ealing.gov.uk) including the name of the worker, team they're in and why you think the work they undertook was outstanding.



Big Mother by @stikstudio in South Acton.  
Photo credit: Louise Morgan,  
Youth Justice Service

## Safer Communities

Ealing's Contextual Safeguarding Core Champions are very fortunate to have Hazel Hanrahan amongst us. Hazel is a Team Leader in the Safer Communities Team who play a key role in Ealing Council's approach to Contextual Safeguarding.

For those who are not familiar with them, the Safer Communities Team was set up to investigate reports of anti-social behaviour in the community and to provide a solution-focused response in conjunction with the Police and its partner agencies. This can include a wide range of partners such as Housing Officers, Mental Health Services, Social Care and the Youth Justice Service. The Safer Communities Team have a strong working partnership with the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams which continually sees positive outcomes for families in need and vulnerable individuals at risk of harm.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) covers a wide range of behaviour and activity that is persistent in nature and that is having a harmful effect on a person(s) quality of life. Examples of the types of anti-social behaviour investigated by the team:

- verbal abuse
- harassment/intimidating behaviour
- drug use
- drug dealing
- neighbour disputes
- suspected cuckooing
- vulnerable Individuals causing ASB

The Safer Communities Team will undertake a risk assessment to determine the potential risk of harm caused by the anti-social behaviour. The Safer Communities Team also acts in the interest of all members of the community who live, work and visit the borough of Ealing and not just Council tenants and leaseholders.

**Reports of ASB can be made to the Safer Communities Team by:**

- **Completing the referral form;**
- **Contacting our Safer Communities Duty Team on 020 8825 5994 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday**

You can also report anti-social behaviour to the police on the following telephone numbers:

- Non-emergency number - 101
- Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111
- If there is an immediate risk contact the Police on 999.

Fearless is a service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously <https://www.fearless.org/en>.

### Contact:

If you have any questions about this newsletter or the proposed Contextual Safeguarding Champions Network, [please email us](#) and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.