

NSCP

Extra Familial Harm Briefing

5. What Should we do...

Any approach should aim to disrupt harmful extra-familial contexts rather than move young people away from them. Our approach seeks to identify the ways in which professionals, adults and young people can change the social conditions of environments in which abuse has occurred.

We need to do this by identifying ways in which young people can change the social conditions where abuse is likely to occur and encourage self-responsibility for making these changes. By engaging with individuals and sectors who have a bearing on social contexts, i.e., shopkeepers, local policing, community leaders, we can all play a part in helping to make environments safer.

1. What is it...

Traditional Safeguarding systems focus on harm that occurs inside the home.

Extra Familial Harm refers to harm and abuse that is posed to young people outside their home, either from adults or other young people.

2. Why it Matters...

As children move from early childhood and into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. The nature of young people's relationships that they form in these settings inform the extent to which they encounter protection or abuse.

4. What are the risks...

There are a wide range of potential risks where the prime cause of harm is outside of the family. This list isn't exhaustive but includes:

- peer on peer abuse
- exploitation and online abuse
- missing episodes
- gang involvement
- radicalisation
- trafficking and
- modern slavery.

3. Peer Relationships

Research tells us that peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence. If a young person forms friendships in places outside of the home characterised by violence and/or harmful attitudes these relationships will be anti-social and unsafe.