



Northumberland  
County Council

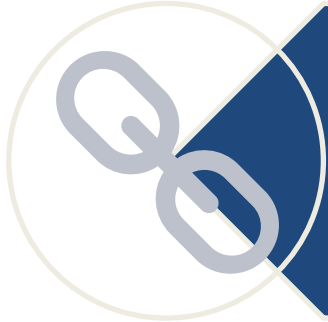
# SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS



March 2023



## Links to Corporate Plan..



Supports overarching aim to tackle inequalities within our communities and support our residents to be healthier and happier..



Links to the *Living, Learning* priority to care and support the most vulnerable in our society..

## Purpose of session..

Provide elected members with an overview of their role in relation to safeguarding adults and children and domestic abuse

Understand the terms used in Safeguarding and Child Protection

Know how to identify abuse, how to report it and access to support services.

Where to go for more information..

## Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

- Local authorities have duties to children in need and children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, under sections 17 and 47 of the Children Act 1989
- The Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services are the key points of professional and political accountability
- Local agencies, including the police and health services, have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions.

## The Care Act 2014

- Local authorities have duties to safeguard adults who have care and support needs, are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and are unable to protect themselves
- The Director of Adult Social Services and Lead Member for Adult's Services are the key points of professional and political accountability
- Agencies and providers have responsibilities to promote wellbeing and provide advice regardless of whether a statutory adult safeguarding duty applies or whether the local authority identifies an action for itself following a safeguarding enquiry.

## Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- Section 4 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to support victims/survivors and their children in safe accommodation.
- Local authorities must convene a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, prepare and publish strategies and commission support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation services.
- Victims and their children should have automatic 'priority' need for homelessness assistance.

## Duties for others to work together

- Under section 10, Children Act 2004, a range of agencies are required to co-operate with local authorities to promote the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults in each local authority area
- The 2017 Children and Social Work Act sets out how agencies must work together by placing new duties on the *police*, *Integrated Care Board* and the *local authority* to make arrangements to work together and with other partners locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.
- Under section 6 of the Care Act each relevant partner of the Local Authority must co-operate generally (and vice versa; the Local Authority co-operate with its Relevant Partners) in order to complete their respective functions relating to adults with needs for Care and Support or a carer with needs for Support.

# Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership



## Review of NCASP Partnership arrangements:

- The Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships integrated in April 2022.
- The new arrangements acknowledge that children and adult arrangements are underpinned by different legislation and statutory guidance, however, also recognise the similarities and shared benefits of a joint safeguarding approach across the life course.
- A joint Executive and Partnership Board have ensured the Partnership continues to meet its statutory requirements, whilst a full review has been undertaken to ensure the needs of both partnerships are met, and any new arrangements are carefully planned and implemented.
- Whilst the main focus has been on reviewing the current parameters, themes and reporting arrangements, consideration has also been given to the supporting structure of NCASP and its alignment to wider Partnerships.

## NCASP structure – April 2023:

- The new NCASP structure represents a streamlined approach to enable us to evidence value, offer maximum effectiveness, and meet agreed priorities.
- Fundamentally, this will also support the Partnership to meet the statutory requirements and needs of both children and adult safeguarding arrangements – including the statutory duty to undertake case reviews
- It is important to note this model will continue to evolve in line with the needs of the Partnership and the wider safeguarding context.

The NCASP vision is to work together and provide added value across the safeguarding system, to improve practice and outcomes, and safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, adults, and their families in our community.

# Statutory Case Reviews

## Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

- A multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the **death of a person aged 16 or over** has, or appears to have, resulted from **violence, abuse or neglect** by a person to whom they were **related** or with whom they were, or had been, in an **intimate personal relationship**, or a member of the **same household** as themselves.

## The purpose of a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is to:

- establish the lessons that can be learned from the homicide, apply these lessons to inform local and national policies and procedures, as appropriate, and to highlight evidence of best practice.
- The cases are referred to the Safer Northumberland Partnership - and although the progress of the review is managed through the SNP, learning dissemination is also shared with our Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (and NCASP, where relevant).

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

### Notification

- LA knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected
- AND
- The child dies or is seriously harmed

### Rapid Review

- Gather facts
- Identify immediate learning or action
- Determine whether a CSPR is appropriate

### CSPR

- Potential to identify improvements to practice
- Consider potential for national learning

## A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) must be undertaken when:

- An adult or adults with care and support needs die as a result of abuse or neglect and there is a concern that partnership agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult(s); OR
- An adult or adults with care and support needs has not died, but the NCASP knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect with a concern that partnership agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- **SARs are not enquiries into how an adult died and who is responsible. That is a matter for the Coroner or criminal courts.**

## The purpose of a SAR is to:

- Learn from cases where agencies could have worked together more effectively;
- Consider whether serious harm could or could not have been predicted or prevented, and develop learning that enables the partnership to improve its services, and prevent abuse and neglect in the future;
- Identify any issues in multi or single agency policies and procedures;
- Agree on how the learning will be acted on, and what is expected to change; and
- Publish a summary report, which is available to the public.
- *SARs help to improve services, multi-agency working, share best practice and lessons learnt, and to better safeguard adults from risk of abuse and neglect*

# Role of Elected Members in Safeguarding

Not all councillors will have direct contact with children or adults at risk as part of their roles. Some will be as part of their ward councillor role or for civic duties.

It is important that councillors operate within a safe working environment for children and adults at risk.

## Councillors have a responsibility to:



report concerns about a child or adult at risk to the appropriate service



inform relevant officers if concerned and need advice on reporting abuse, or concerned about a colleague potentially perpetrating abuse



**Immediate danger** - If a child or adult is in immediate danger then contact the police

# Key Legislation

1989 & 2004

Children Act

2005

Mental Capacity Act

2014

The Care Act & Children and Families Act

2018

Working Together to Safeguard Children

2021

- Domestic Abuse Act



# Definitions..

## Safeguarding Children (*Working together 2018*)

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

## Adult at risk (*Section 42: The Care Act*)

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs);
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

## Domestic abuse (*Part 1 Domestic Abuse Act 2021*)

- Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if: (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- This includes physical, emotional, economic, sexual abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour.
- 'Personally connected' means: intimate partners, ex-partners, family members or individuals who share parental responsibility for a child

What do we mean  
by abuse and  
harm?

Abuse is harm caused by an *act*  
or *failure to act*

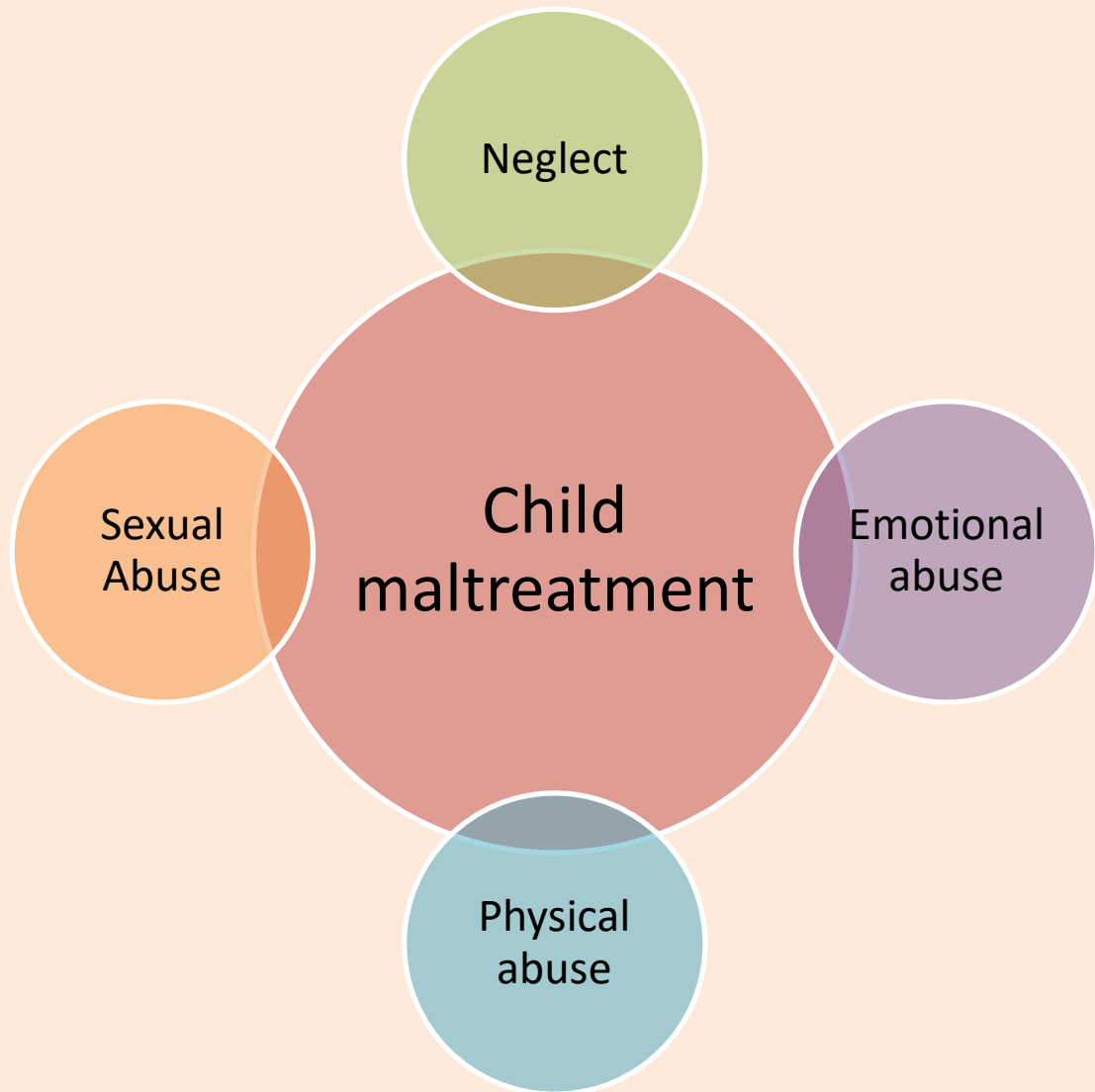
It may be *intentional* or  
*unintentional*

It may consist of a *single act* or  
*repeat acts*

It may cause harm *temporarily*  
or *over a period of time*

Remember **ANYONE** can  
perpetrate abuse

## Children



## Adults

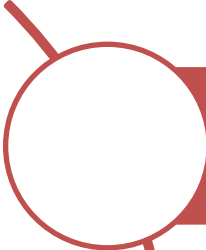


## Categories of abuse..

Within the relevant legislation and statutory guidance there are four known categories of abuse identified for children and ten categories of abuse noted for adults

# Different forms of abuse and the signs

*See: Recognising abuse – signs, indicators and types of abuse*



Evidence of any one indicator of abuse should not be taken on its own as proof that abuse is occurring. However, it should alert practitioners to make further assessments and to consider other associated factors.



The lists of possible indicators and examples of behaviour are not exhaustive and people may be subject to a number of abuse types at the same time.



The signs detailed may also be indicators of other medical factors and may not necessarily confirm abuse and neglect.

# Long term effects of abuse include:

emotional difficulties such as anger, anxiety, low self-worth

mental health problems such as depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self harm

problems with drugs or alcohol

disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories that cause distress or confusion

poor physical health

struggling with parenting or relationships

learning difficulties, lower educational attainment, difficulties in communicating

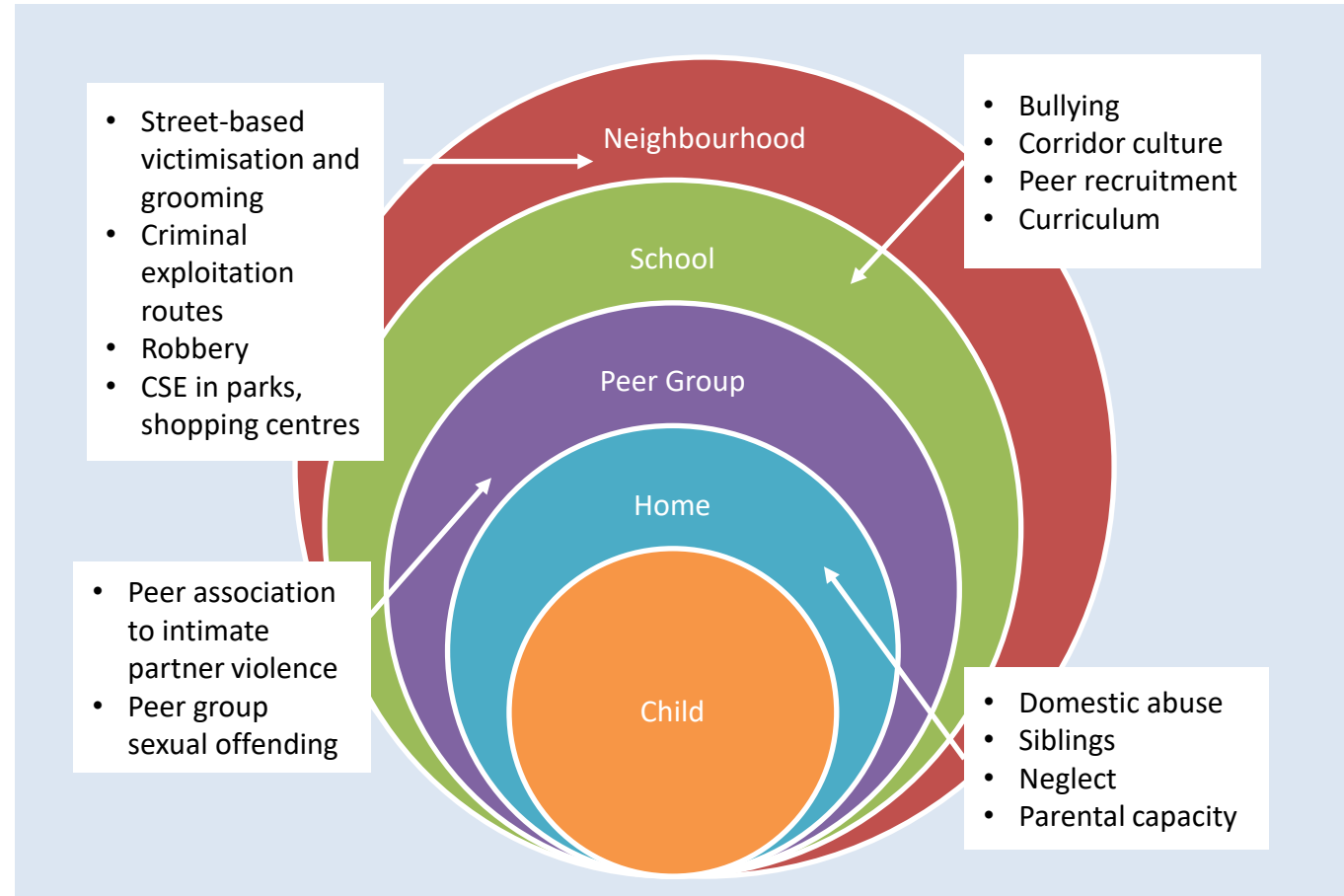
behavioural problems and criminal behaviour

# Contextual Safeguarding

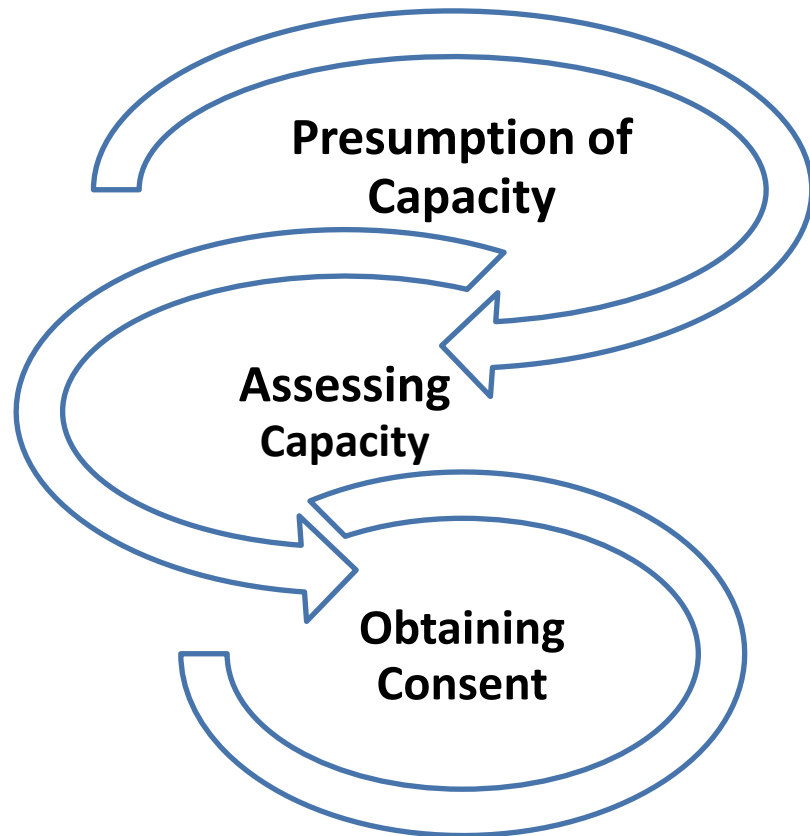
Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.

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.



# Making Safeguarding Personal - Adults



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Adults must be involved at all stages of the safeguarding process – including at concern stage

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Capacity and Consent are central to the safeguarding process

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Success of Safeguarding is measured upon whether the outcomes identified by the adult have been achieved

# Making Safeguarding Personal - Principles

“Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved”

## Empowerment

- I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens

## Prevention

- I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help

## Protection

- I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want

## Proportionality

- I am sure that the professionals will work in my best interests and will only get involved as needed

## Partnership

- I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me

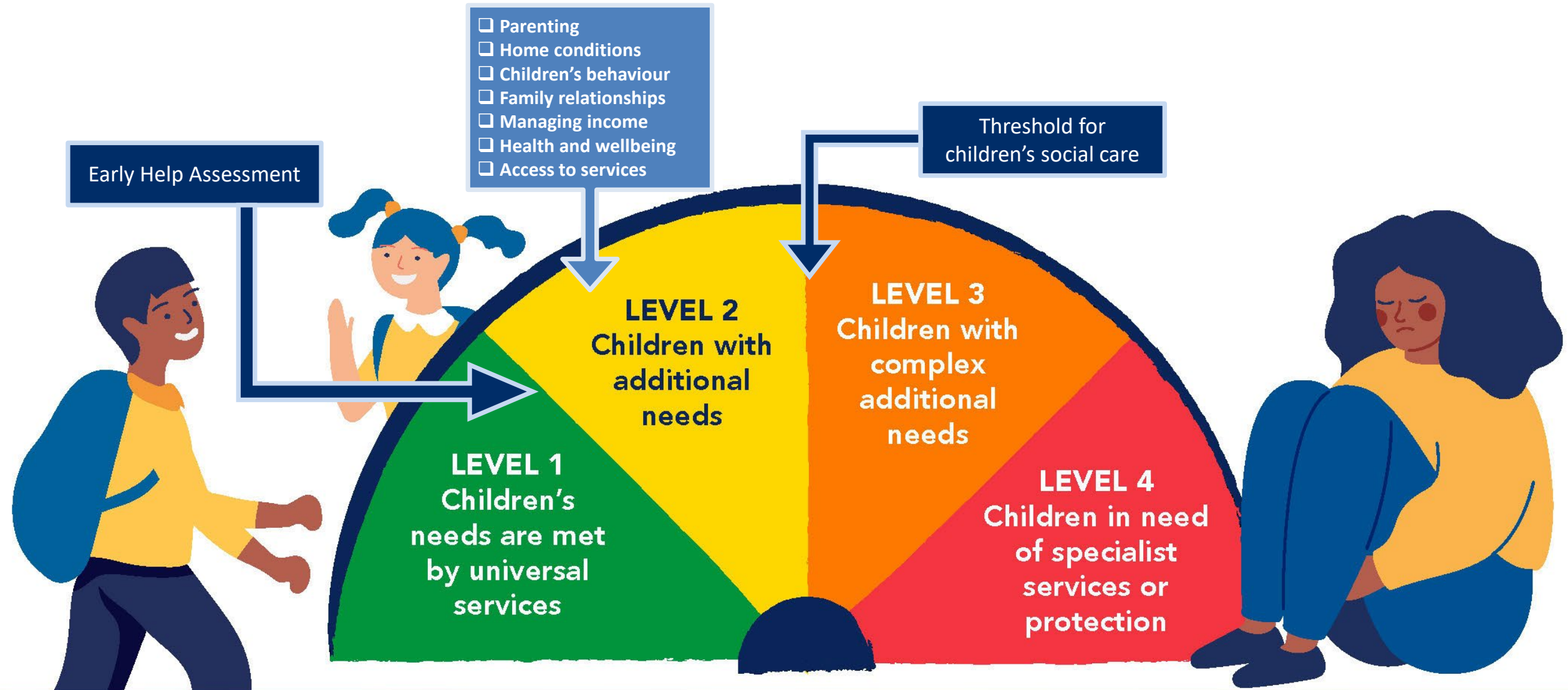
## Accountability

- I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they



# Thresholds of needs..

NOT a single service, but an offer, an environment, a continuum



# Domestic abuse

## Overview of the Domestic Abuse Act and Duties...

The Bill received Royal Assent in April 2021, becoming law

Establishes a legal definition of domestic abuse

Provides additional protections for those who experience domestic abuse

Strengthens measures to tackle offenders

Recognises children who experience domestic abuse as victims in their own right

Increases the responsibilities of local authorities to provide services for victims/survivors

Creates local and national governance roles

# Governance and Accountability

Domestic Abuse Act.. Local requirements..

A multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) that assesses the need and develops a strategy for service provision:

- ❑ Refuge & Specialist Safe Accommodation
- ❑ advocacy and advice
- ❑ specialist support for those with complex needs or protected characteristics
- ❑ housing-related support
- ❑ support for children
- ❑ counselling and therapy



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

## Northumberland DALPB

- meets quarterly
- is chaired by Children's Social Care Director
- has published a [needs assessment](#) and [strategy](#)

# Domestic abuse services..

## Five domestic abuse contracts awarded to provide an Integrated Domestic Abuse Service for Northumberland:

### DA Support Service

- **male and female over the age of 16**
- refuge
- dispersed properties
- sanctuary scheme
- IDVA service
- outreach, assertive outreach, groups & service user forum.
- Full time IDVA based in MASH.

### Counselling, Therapeutic & Outreach Service

- **for Children and Young People**
- counselling
- play therapy
- outreach support & service user forum.

### Changing Behaviour Service

- 1:1 & groups, based in MASH.
- Partner Safety work

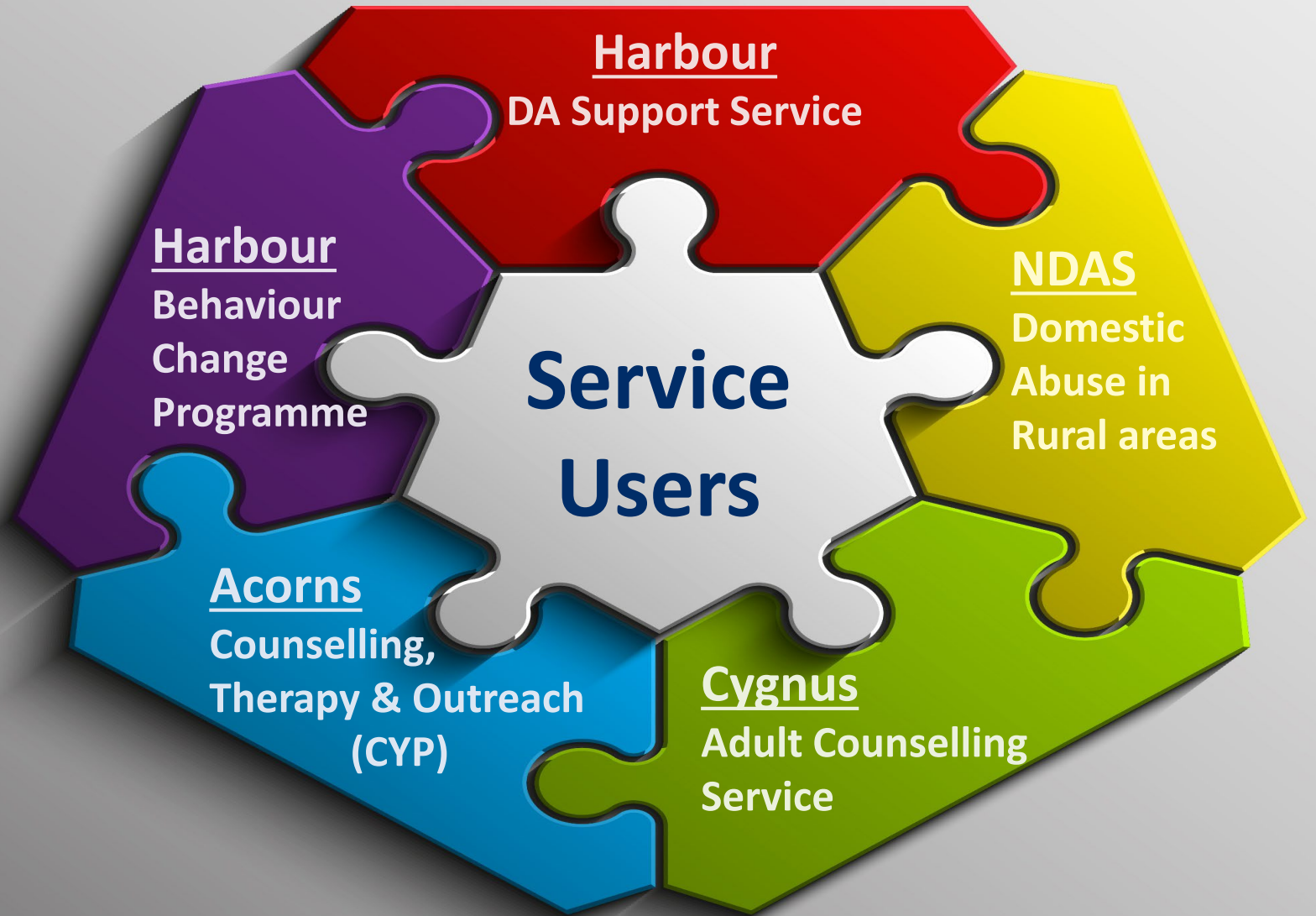
### DA in Rural Areas

- 1:1, group work and awareness raising in the North & West

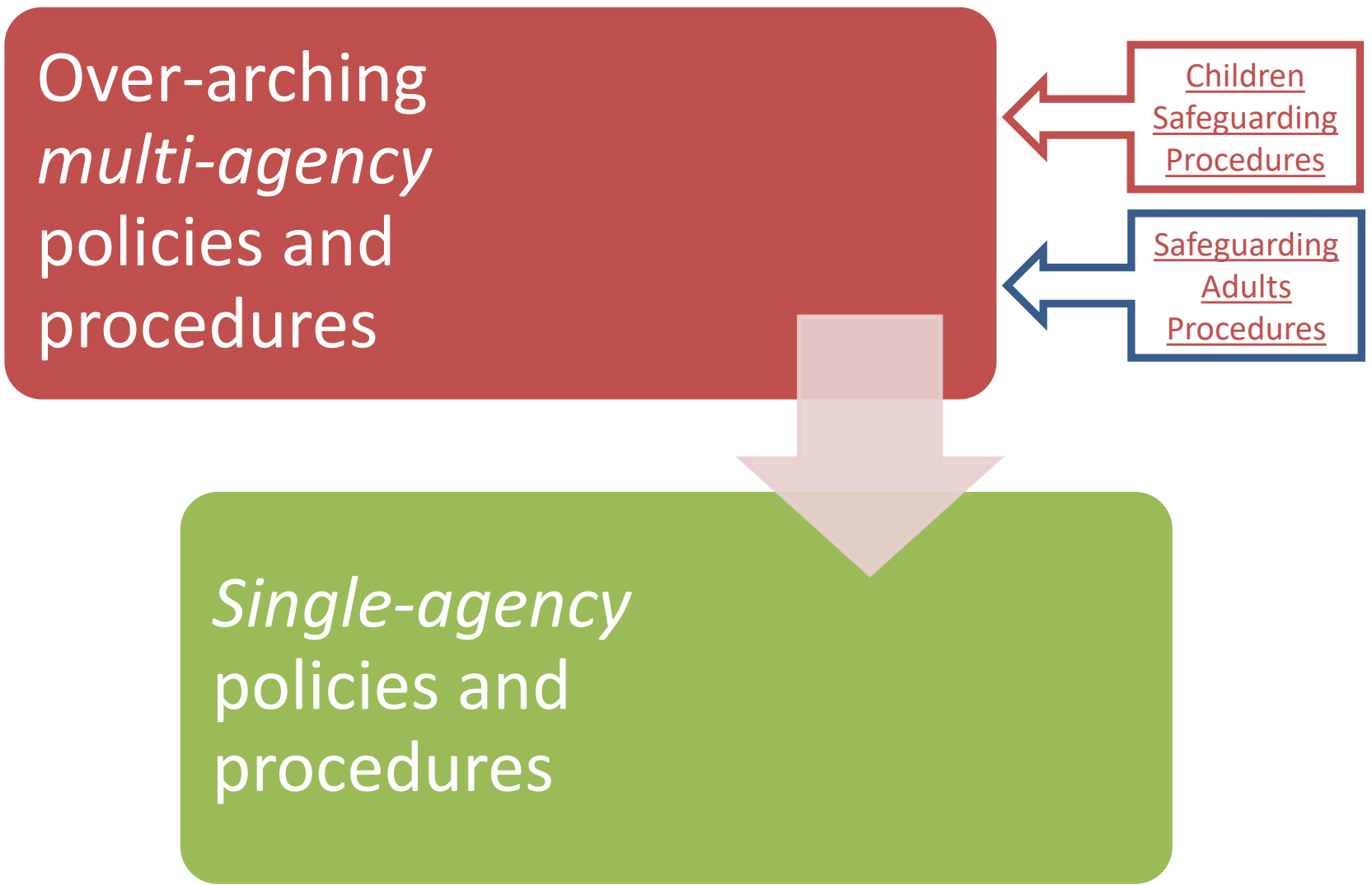
### Adult Counselling

- counselling for male and female victims of domestic abuse.

# Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service



# Policies and Procedures



# Allegations against staff and volunteers

*See: (LADO) - Information Sheet and Flowchart*

Statutory guidance requires every Council to manage allegations and concerns about any person who works with children, including staff and volunteers.

The LADO is the lead officer for this duty managing all child protection allegations, coordinating a multi-agency response and providing advice and guidance

The role of the LADO is set out in [WT2018](#) - The NCASP has [procedures](#) for managing allegations against people who work with children

The LADO should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk to children/be unsuitable to work with children.

Allegations procedures may also be used where concerns arise about:

- A person's behaviour in their personal life which may impact upon the safety of children to whom they owe a duty of care;
- A person's behaviour with regard to his/her own children;
- The behaviour in the private or community life of a partner, member of the family or other household member.

## Allegations against staff working with adults

Should be reported to the Safeguarding Adults team (who undertake a similar role to LADO for those working with adults)

# What if somebody tells you they are being abused?

## Do

- Stay calm
- Listen patiently
- Treat all information seriously
- Offer reassurance
- Consider any immediate risks
- Explain what will happen next
- Make a record!

## Don't

- Make comments or judgements
- Appear shocked, disgusted or angry
- Investigate!
- Promise to keep secret
- Give sweeping reassurances (e.g. this will never happen again)
- Put yourself at risk
- Tamper with evidence
- Put yourself at risk
- Talk in front of the alleged or suspected perpetrator

## Record Keeping

- Brief notes
- Date, time, place, signature
- Use the child's/adults words
- Recording should be unambiguous
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Body maps can be helpful
- Remember! Follow agency policies and procedures



# Remember...

**Don't think**  
*what if I'm wrong?*  
**think**  
*what if I'm right?*

Keeping children and adults at risk safe from harm requires professionals and others to share information

In many cases it is only when information from a range of sources is put together that a child or adult can be seen to be in need or at risk of harm



# Raising a safeguarding concern / referral..

For  
children

- it is the area that the child normally resides

For  
adults

- it is where the abuse takes place

How to report concerns..

Click on..

Report  
concerns  
about a child

Report  
concerns  
about an adult

OneCall is one number for all adult social care, children's services and community health enquiries helping the most vulnerable people to keep safe and well 24-7

**01670 536400**

# Where can I get further Training?

## NCASP provide number of E-Learning and training courses via Learning Together

- see: [Learning Together – Safeguarding Adults and Children](#)
- The training reflects lessons from case reviews and the outcomes of national enquiries.
- All training is multi-agency.

## How do I access the training?

- Application is via [ncc.learningpool.com](http://ncc.learningpool.com).
- or email: [learningandod@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:learningandod@northumberland.gov.uk)

# Useful links and resources..

## Local Government Association (LGA) Guidance

[Must Know: Safeguarding adults – How do you know your council is being effective in keeping people safe?](#) - This document sets out key areas for focus and specific questions to ask to assure you that your council is effective in keeping adults safe.

[Get in on the Act - Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) - This document summaries the CSW Act, which aims to improve support for looked after children and promote safeguarding. It sets out corporate parenting principles for the council as a whole to be the best parent it can be to children in its care.

[Must Know: Online harms](#) - This guide is to raise awareness about online harms, providing an introduction to online risks, an overview of the Online Safety Bill, key considerations, signposting to useful resources, as well as a checklist to support effective decision making.

# Questions

