

A Comparison of Safeguarding and Contextual Safeguarding Responses

Issues of safeguarding and child protection and the positive role of The Student Voice

Contextual safeguarding seeks to understand safeguarding risks that are beyond the family, which is especially relevant for young people in contexts that are away from the family and are under the influence of peers. Young people can be exposed to a wide array of experiences in a variety of spaces that all need to be assessed and understood, if we are to successfully safeguard young people.



Current Safeguarding Approach

How do we safeguard the individuals at risk of harm or who have been harmed?

IDENTIFY

Information is shared about concerns that individuals are being harmed or are at risk of harm and that there is a safeguarding/child protection issue.

A SAFE SPACE

The Student Voice Provides a brave space for young people to share concerns and worries about harm they have experienced and/or witnessed.

LEVEL OF NEED

The organisation follows statutory safeguarding procedures to safeguard the young people, including identifying level of need: Universal, Early Help, Targeted Help and Specialist support from social care, police and health.

IDENTIFY SUPPORT TO ADDRESS CURRENT ISSUES OF HARM AND ABUSE

The Student Voice links to local authority guidance and allows the DSL to ID the level of need and to document date and time stamp actions taken.

SUPPORT

Those directly involved receive support in line with identified level of need until the issue is addressed.

PROVIDE SUPPORT, RECORD ACTIONS, AND SHARE INFORMATION

Any actions taken can not only be recorded but also downloaded as a pdf, and/or excel spreadsheet and uploaded to the student's safeguarding file and shared with local authority services.

OUTCOME MEASURES

The outcomes for success in relation to the individuals involved is monitored by the organisation. Are the individuals who were originally experiencing harm now safe?

TRACK AND ASSESS YOUR INTERVENTIONS

DSLs can monitor future referrals via The Student Voice about the young people who were harmed to assess outcome measures.



The Student Voice

Mission

Creating brave spaces that empower young voices and inspire society to develop safer communities

Vision

Safe communities safeguard futures

How The Student Voice can benefit both approaches

Contextual Safeguarding Approach

How do we safeguard young people from future harm?

TARGET

Identify, assess, and intervene with the social conditions in which harm is taking place. This will provide the opportunity for organisations to prevent future harm.

A BRAVE SPACE

The reporting tool allows young people to provide context to the harm that they have experienced and/or witnessed, inclusive of location and time and people involved. This allows organizations to recognize the extra-familial contexts that need to be addressed in order to prevent further harm.

LEGISLATION

Incorporate extra-familial contexts into child protection frameworks with a view to preventing further abuse for young people, inclusive of those that have suffered harm. This will be especially relevant for contexts that are beyond the direct supervision of adults responsible for caring for young people.

IDENTIFY AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT TO PREVENT FUTURE HARM

Young people have an anonymous reporting opportunity that provides contextual information and an insight into the varied life experiences of young people.

This information will positively influence policy development and related procedures that impact the entire community.

PARTNERSHIPS

Work with sectors/individuals responsible for the nature of the extra-familial contexts. This is fundamental to providing safeguarding measures that are often beyond the normal sphere of influence/level of care provided by organisations.

ENGAGE WITH PARTNERS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING THE CONTEXT

Due to information being shared about time and location of harm it will be possible to identify key partners who can contribute to changing the context of the site where harm takes place. This is fundamental to preventing further harm.

OUTCOME MEASURES

Monitor outcomes for success in relation to contextual, as well as individual change. Have interventions successfully impacted and changed the environment in which harm originally took place?

TRACK AND ASSESS YOUR INTERVENTIONS

DSLs can track interventions and attempts to prevent future harm due to the students being able to report what is working well, as well as being able to share concerns.