

# Contextual Safeguarding and the valuable role youth work plays





- 20 plus years youth work experience  
International, centre / street based, digital
- MA Community and Youth work
- Safeguarding and behavioural psychology focus
- Research into peer education

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## Session overview

- Understand what is meant by the term contextual safeguarding, the value of youth work in keeping young people safe, and the role and responsibilities of individuals and organisations.
- Identify issues and trends in their own working practices
- Develop strategies and resources to ensure that they are able to appropriately respond to any concerns





## What is safeguarding?

**Safeguarding** is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and young people (Under 18 years old) and protect them from harm.



Safeguarding means:

- **protecting** young people from abuse and maltreatment
- **preventing** harm to health or development
- ensuring young people have the **provision of safe and effective care**
- **taking action** to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.

“Safeguarding” refers to measures designed to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals.

*Prevention is better than a cure*





# Contextual safeguarding



# Contextual Safeguarding

As young people grow and develop, they are influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside of their family

Young people may encounter risk (sometimes multiple) in any of these environments.

Contextual safeguarding looks at how we can best understand these risks, engage with children and young people and help to keep them safe.

It requires a community wide approach.



# As youth workers we need to know....

**WHO ?** - Are the young people? (Numbers, Demographics) **WHO** are the engaging with?

**WHERE?** – Are they going? **WHERE** are connecting with others?

**WHAT?** – Are there needs? **WHAT** support can we offer them?

**HOW?** Do we access them? **HOW** do we engage and build meaningful relationships?





What are some of the risk and trends you have identified in your work?

#simplifyingsafeguarding

**Recognise. Respond. Refer**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.





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keep young people safe?

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For further information please visit.



- E-mail:[contextualsafeguarding@beds.ac.uk](mailto:contextualsafeguarding@beds.ac.uk)
- Network Website:[csnetwork.org.uk](http://csnetwork.org.uk)



## Additional support

We offer a complete package of safeguarding, behavioural and youth work training and consultancy from audits, policy development, training and DSO coaching

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