

Thank you for your interest in the scale up of Contextual Safeguarding. Until 2022 the Contextual Safeguarding team at the University of Bedfordshire will work with three local authority sites to create a Contextual Safeguarding system in their Children and Families services.

What support is available from the Contextual Safeguarding team?

Were your site to be one of the three selected to take part in the Contextual Safeguarding scale-up process you would receive support from the Contextual Safeguarding hub at the University of Bedfordshire to support you with a systems-change process. The team consists of a coordinator, researcher, social worker and administrator – overseen by Dr Carlene Firmin. The hub team would provide support to identified individuals or a team in a local area with whom they could work to deliver the change process – it is up to sites to identify and recommend a local working model for this purpose.

The team will provide support across four thematic stages:

- 1** Project set up 2018-2019
- 2** System review and adaptation 2019-2020
- 3** Pilot revised system response to risk within peer groups, schools and public places 2020-2021
- 4** System implementation 2021-2022

While the team will not be on site every day, there will be someone from the hub with the team on a minimum fortnightly rotation, and on some occasions more frequently. The support that the hub team will offer will consist of:

- a** A review of the existing operating model against a Contextual Safeguarding Framework (including meeting structures, policies and procedures, assessment tools and threshold documents and interventions available)
- b** The design of a system change intervention plan
- c** Support to design and pilot contextual assessment and intervention plans with peer groups, school and neighbourhood contexts
- d** Support to revise policies, assessments and threshold tools
- e** Research into practice challenges to provide enhanced evidence on intervention models that the site may want to utilise
- f** Design and co-delivery of staged training on the Contextual Safeguarding model, and the findings from pilots, to disseminate the learning from the change process internally
- g** Strategic advice on implementing the learning from the pilot processes into structures and systems

How will sites be selected?

Sites will be selected using a three stage application process.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest: **Deadline 18 September 2018**

At this stage we are keen to hear from sites who are interested in implementing Contextual Safeguarding in their Children and Families service.

We will be assessing expressions against three broad criteria:

- a** Local demographics: Who are your young people, what are the issues that affect their safety in your local area, what is the profile of your local area (resources, landscape)
- b** Local service model: What is your local operating model for safeguarding young people – within children's social care and the wider partnership
- c** Current engagement in Contextual Safeguarding: To what extent, and in what ways, have you already used Contextual Safeguarding to inform your local practices
- d** Demonstrable sign-up and readiness to engage with this work

Please note: we will be looking for diversity in the first three criteria in the sites that we select for stage 2

Stage 2: Application: **September – October 2018**

At this stage we will continue to assess applications against the four criteria outlined above but through more detailed questioning about your readiness to engage in this process. We will be seeking your views on the structures you may put in place to implement the process, who will project manage this from your site and be a single point of contact for the support team.

Stage 3: Site Visit: **October – November 2018**

At this final stage we will visit sites that we believe have demonstrated a readiness to engage in the Contextual Safeguarding scale-up project. During visits the head of the Contextual Safeguarding team, Dr Carlene Firmin, will meet with senior leaders, managers and practitioners who would play a role in the scale-up process to further explore commitment to engagement and answer any queries sites may have.

Sites will be selected and announced in **November 2018**

A project board will assist the project team in making its selection based on information gathered through these three stages. A scoring matrix will be drawn upon at this stage considering:

Demonstrable commitment of key strategic partners across social care, community safety, policing etc. to implementing Contextual Safeguarding	1 2 3 4 5
Network membership signup across staff and agencies within the local authority and wider safeguarding partnership	1 2 3 4 5
Ability of the local authority to host members of the Contextual Safeguarding hub i.e. desk space, access to professionals/paperwork	1 2 3 4 5
Level to which Contextual Safeguarding has been understood by the strategic leadership within the local authority	1 2 3 4 5
The feasibility of implementation based on the proposed team structure/support within the local authority	1 2 3 4 5

If our site applies but is not selected is there any other opportunity to be involved in the project?

If some applicant sites appear less equipped to be one of the three selected, but have demonstrated a strong interest in Contextual Safeguarding and willingness to use the model, there will a number of ways in which they may be invited to engage in the project:

- 1 Local authority learning group:** The project will meet with a local authority learning group twice a year to share thematic learning on the scale-up process and detail any challenges identified or resources produced. Members of the learning group will be selected from the applicants' pool.
- 2 Satellite sites:** While not yet confirmed we are considering offering some sites the opportunity to become a satellite of one of the three selected. In such an instance we would align sites with a similar demographic or operating model to one of the three selected. They may be invited to attend the local steering group meetings of the site they are associated with, engage in some of the training we deliver in that site and so on. Through this process they will receive some support from us during the scale-up process albeit at a reduced rate to the three participant sites.
- 3 Learning events and training:** We will invite professionals from applicant sites, who are also members of the Contextual Safeguarding network, to targeted learning events – hosted in our participant sites – to disseminate resources and approaches as they are developed through the scale-up process.

How else will you use the information gathered during the application process?

In addition to using it to inform site selection, the information gathered during this application process will be used to:

- a** Provide us with detail about the current challenges being faced when seeking to safeguard adolescents across a number of local areas, and the level of interest there is in using Contextual Safeguarding to enhance responses
- b** Indicate the types of resources that areas may find useful in developing their practice so that we can prioritise the design and dissemination of these in our wider work.