

Hello,

Welcome to **Week 16 MSCOS**. Please check out this week's news, features and of course, our online pages and moderated [discussion forums](#), where you can post anonymously – we need YOUR perspectives on practice.

Our weekly updates are best viewed on desktop versus mobile, however, we are now **attaching them also in PDF format.**, by popular request! 😊

This week our feature is on the core outcome, [Safety from Any Trafficker or Other Abuser](#), with specific focus on the critical need for **safety of children and equally, young adults** who often face withdrawal of support or inadequate support once they reach the age of 18. We will be conducting an **MSCOS online expert forum on this subject in November** (date TBC)

We would like to thank [Divya Emmi, Policy and Partnerships Officer at the Human Trafficking Foundation](#) who explains the work of the **London Modern Slavery Safeguarding Network** and its **Transitional Safeguarding Subgroup**; and [Delphine Peace, Researcher at the Contextual Safeguarding Research Programme, Durham University](#) who takes us through the **4 domains of contextual safeguarding** and explains its relevance to children and young adults who are survivors and/or are at risk of trafficking/modern slavery.

[THIS WEEK'S FEATURE](#)



The Human Trafficking Foundation coordinates the **London Modern Slavery Leads (LMSL) Network**, which has representatives from each of the **32 London boroughs**, the **City of London corporation**, **NHS**, **Metropolitan Police Central Specialist Crime team for modern slavery** and select partners from across London.

The partnerships formed through the **LMSL Network** have highlighted the urgent need for **transitional safeguarding** for young adults, recognising that the needs of young people do not *suddenly change or stop when they reach the age of 18, although the support provided to them often does*. Withdrawal of vital professional support during this transitional period increases young people's vulnerability to traffickers and other perpetrators. It is also recognised that

[Safety from any trafficker or other abuser](#)

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many factors that increase a child's vulnerability continue into adulthood, resulting in unmet needs and costly later interventions.

Divya Emmi, Policy and Partnerships Officer at the Human Trafficking Foundation, says:

*“The **LMSL Transitional Safeguarding Subgroup** was formed to strengthen practice within London local authorities and bridge the gap between services provided to child victims of exploitation as they turn 18. Membership of this subgroup includes professionals from **children’s** and **adults** services across London, with additional expertise from **The Children’s Society** and **Barnardo’s**.*

*When asked about challenges they are facing regarding transitional safeguarding, the response from **London Boroughs** was overwhelmingly the need to improve the relationship between **Children’s Support Services (CSS)** and **Adult Social Care (ASC)**. The aim of the **LMSL Transitional Safeguarding subgroup** is therefore to establish a clear pathway between the two services to ensure smooth transitions occur for young survivors, exploring options such as joint training and development of trauma informed approaches.*

Bringing these partners together to share the challenges and triumphs they face with regards to transitional safeguarding in the context of modern slavery provides the opportunity to learn from each other, replicate best practice examples, and most of all, ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and tools to best support child victims of trafficking transition into adulthood.”

Please contact divya@humantraffickingfoundation.org if you would like to hear more about this work.



Delphine Peace, Researcher at the Contextual Safeguarding Research Programme, Sociology Department of Durham University, says:

*I am very excited to join the **MSCOS community of practice!** My research focuses on safeguarding young people (**ages 10-25**) from harm that they experience outside of their*

families, such as harm from their peers or sexual or criminal exploitation by adults. It can feature child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation (child trafficking or 'County Lines'), harmful sexual behaviour or violence or abuse between peers. These forms of harm often take place in contexts away from young people's families and homes; in their peer groups, schools and neighbourhoods.

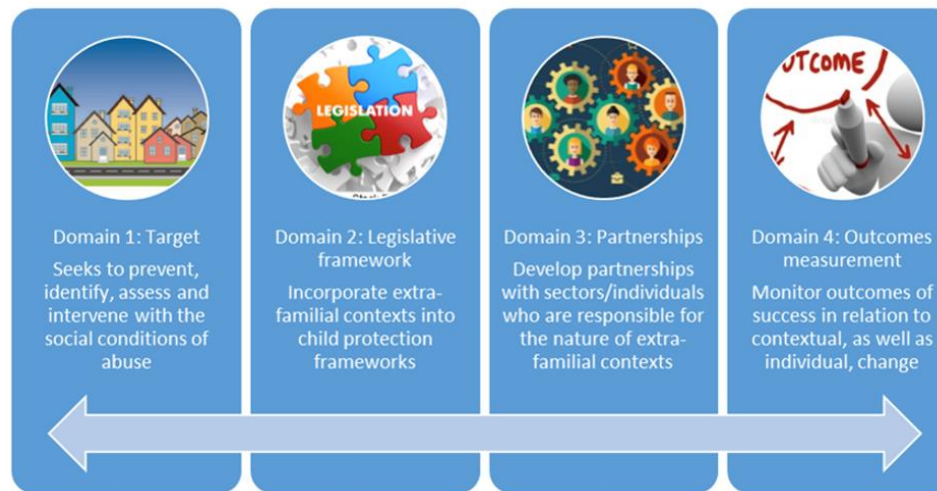
In the UK, harm that young people can experience outside of the family home is referred to as '**extra-familial harm**'. Since 2018, statutory guidance from the **UK Department for Education** has included '**extra-familial harm**' as a category of harm that the child protection system should be equipped to identify and respond to. It seeks to expand the traditional focus of child protection systems beyond assessment and intervention within the family home environment to contexts outside of the home. Because child protection systems have not been set up to respond to extra-familial harm, many young people's experiences of significant harm are understood and responded to as behavioural or youth justice issues, rather than a **child welfare issues, requiring a child protection response**.

Our **Contextual Safeguarding Research programme** has supported local authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and schools in England and Wales to make '**systems changes**' to their **child protection services** so that they are better able to identify and respond to instances of '**extra-familial harm**' experienced by young people.

We have produced a range of resources and practice tools drawn from our research that can be accessed for free on our [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#), a virtual network for practitioners and researchers that has over 11,000 members.

We want to start exploring the usefulness of the Contextual Safeguarding framework to practitioners working with young people (and/or young adults) who are at risk of or have experienced trafficking.

Please contact delphine.peace@durham.ac.uk if you would like to hear more about this work.



The Four Domains of Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding* is based on **four domains** which stipulate that for child protection systems to adequately respond to and create safety in the contexts where adolescents experience harm, they should:

- **Domain 1 (Target):** Design their services to **target** the contexts where adolescents experience harm (i.e., not just their families and home, but also their schools/parks/neighbourhoods);
- **Domain 2 (Legislative Framework):** Do this using child protection **legislative frameworks** (rather than crime prevention frameworks);
- **Domain 3 (Partnerships):** Work with a range of **partners** i.e. organisations and services that have reach into these spaces (beyond the usual statutory partners);

- **Domain 4 (Outcomes measurement):** Measure **outcomes** not just through changes to young people's behaviours but changes to the contexts where harm occurs.

The **Contextual Safeguarding framework** was developed by **Professor Carlene Firmin** in response to this challenge: *How can we design a child protection system that can appropriately respond to young people's experiences of harm beyond their families?*

DID YOU KNOW?

If you've joined our mailing list recently, over the last 15 weeks we have covered a variety of outcomes, highlighting best practice models and frameworks. You can access them all in PDF [here](#).

Please forward MSCOS to any colleagues or network connections that you think may be interested in our work, and they can sign up to receive newsletter invites via our contact form [here](#), or by direct email to mscos@kcl.ac.uk.

The MSCOS Community of Practice content is designed and directed by Queenie Sit and Rachel Witkin.



[Working with core outcomes as a set](#)



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[Safety from any trafficker or other abuser](#)



[Long-term, consistent support](#)



[Trauma-informed services](#)



[Finding purpose in life and self-actualisation](#)



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