



'Contextual Safeguarding' is a term used to describe measures aimed at protecting young people from risks outside of the family and home. A young person who becomes a victim can be considered to be at risk of significant harm and there can be significant long-term impact upon young people.

Contextual Safeguarding Risks include – Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, Youth Violence, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Risky Teen Relationships, Domestic Abuse, Radicalisation, Online Exploitation and Gang Involvement.

It's important to spot the signs that something may be wrong as early as possible. Some of these signs are perfectly normal in teenagers however, you as Parents/ Carers know your child best and are ideally placed to notice the sometimes subtle changes in a young person's presentation and demeanour.

Here is a list of signs that things might not be ok for your child:

- Becoming withdrawn
- Becoming secretive
- Becoming agitated/ aggressive if questioned/ pushed
- Not knowing who their peer group are/ possible introduction of new people in their lives and distancing from existing peer groups
- Spending more time online/ phone
- Accessing new online forums/ social media sites
- Change in presentation/ way of dressing
- Access to items with no explanation of where it's come from
- Experimenting with substances and/or alcohol
- Testing boundaries and curfews
- Spending more time away from home or in new places/ going missing
- Pushing new ideologies/ opinions
- Unexplained injuries
- Changes in mood

Be aware and trust your instincts as a parent. If you are concerned, talk to someone.

Immediate Concerns contact: 999

If a child goes missing and Police advice: 101

Concerns and Advice contact Sheffield Safeguarding Hub: 0114 273 4855