

Social care planning in cases of extra-familial harm: considerations for senior leaders

Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection - what is the right plan for children experiencing extra-familial harm? How does plan type influence the response and safety that follow? Here we highlight key questions for leaders to consider - from understanding your role to working with the safeguarding partnership.

If you are thinking of piloting a different type of plan

Are you trying to improve the engagement of young people, families and/or partners?

Is the pathway, and associated threshold for using it, clear to all concerned?

Have chairs been given time to adapt their approach to chairing conferences?

What are the capacity implications; how will they be managed during the pilot?

How will plans be coordinated where significant harm is identified in both extra-familial and familial contexts?

For you safeguarding partnership

Partner agencies may need to provide information about, and intervene with, extra-familial contexts in these cases; do they understand this and is this possible?

Understanding your current response - and the rationale for it

If a young person is at risk of significant harm in extra-familial contexts, but relatively safe at home, how are current plans coordinated to build safety and reduce risk?

Do you currently offer a different response to young people who experience *significant* harm in extra-familial contexts from those who are *in need* due to extra-familial harm?

Do your social workers, young people, families and wider partners understand this approach and the rationale behind it?

Thinking about responses from the outset

Extra-familial harm may require a different set of interventions and responses to build safety.

Do your social workers know what these are, and do they have access to them?