Durham University

Building Safety and Fairness into the Missing Response for Young People in Care

Contextual Safeguarding

Overarching principles

The Next Chapter

Overarching Principles

Trusted Relationships

Include people and organisations that young people already trust and choose - trust them to be vital part of the safety plan. Build trusted relationships across the service by having well-resourced staff who remain in roles (out of hours, carers, residential); through training; co-creating plans with young people; and time together.

Risk-sensible

Avoid escalation to police unless real risk of harm; make collaborative decisions about risk with young people and their trusted network.

Guardianship

Increase the availability of trusted people (i.e. youth services) out of hours; increase access to safe respite spaces for overnights and weekends.

Equality and respect

Demand equitable treatment regardless of 'race', gender, class or care status. Have oversight of this through tracking trends and feedback from young people; training for staff including young people's voices.

Care

Resource, support and sustain caring and nurturing placements that treat teenagers like teenagers and consider community and cultural needs.

These findings are from The Next Chapter 'Building Safety' study (Wroe, 2024)