

1	What is Contextual Safeguarding? Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to harm that occurs beyond the family home, including within peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods, community settings and online environments. It supports a coordinated response to extra-familial harm such as exploitation, peer violence and harmful relationships.
2	Why are we Implementing Contextual Safeguarding? Learning Reviews, quality assurance activity, self-evaluation and reflective practice have highlighted opportunities to strengthen our response to extra-familial harm. In response, the partnership has developed a Contextual Safeguarding approach to help identify, assess and respond to risks that occur beyond the family home.
3	Leadership and Governance The development and implementation of Contextual Safeguarding is overseen through Child Protection Committee governance arrangements. Learning from the pilot will support ongoing evaluation, quality assurance and future decision-making about wider implementation. For further information please see: CPC Improvement Plan
4	Integration with Existing Structures Contextual Safeguarding complements existing safeguarding arrangements and do not replace Child Protection, Care and Risk Management (CARM) or Child Wellbeing Pathway processes. These arrangements continue as normal. The only route into the Contextual Safeguarding process is through an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD).
5	Participation, Children's Rights and UNCRC Children, young people and families are partners in the Contextual Safeguarding process. In line with the principles of the UNCRC, they will be offered opportunities to participate, share their views and, where appropriate, attend part of the Contextual Safeguarding Panel.
6	Training, Resources and Support A dedicated multi-agency training programme has been developed to support implementation using a tiered approach for practitioners, IRD participants, CXS panel members and strategic leaders. The new Contextual Safeguarding Hub provides access to guidance, tools, templates, practitioner resources and information for children and families. For further information see: Contextual Safeguarding Hub / Training Schedule / Guidance
7	Next Steps The Contextual Safeguarding Pilot launches on 1 September 2026 within the Lochgelly High School Cluster and for those young people receiving support from the Youth Intervention Service. This pilot will test the model in practice, gather feedback from children, families and practitioners, and inform future development across Fife. For further information please see: Contextual Safeguarding Hub