

# Transitional Safeguarding London Safeguarding Adults Board Conference

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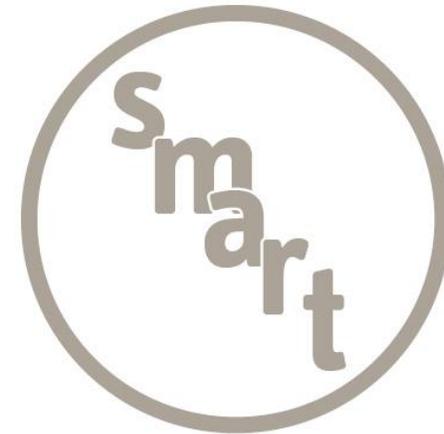
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## Objectives

- > To describe what is meant by the term Transitional Safeguarding
- > To review what has been done in London since the Dez Holmes spoke at the 2019 Conference
- > To consider what could be changed to develop Transitional Safeguarding approaches across London



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## Three core questions for all breakout sessions

1. Why are we here?
2. How will this conference make a difference to people with lived experience?
3. How would professionals know it has made a difference to people with lived experience?





## Legal frameworks and statutory guidance

- > These underpin multi-agency roles and define responsibilities
- > Divergent legal frameworks have determined policy and practice since the Children Act 1989 and NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- > Differences between inspection, regulation and sector led improvement and these have had a differential impact on public services for children and adults
- > Differences between the Department for Education, the Department of Health and Social Care, Home Office, Department of Justice: approaches; priorities; resources
- > Different approaches to safeguarding adults and safeguarding children, including rights and responsibilities

## Legal frameworks - Age

Age	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CA1989 (looked after children)											
CA1989 (CP)											
CSWA2017 (looked after children)											
MCA2005											
MHA2007											
Care Act 2014											
C&FA2014 C&SA2014 (SEND)											

## Transitional Safeguarding: Current system context

- › Complex, contemporary risk – and ever-evolving
- › Emerging agency and our conflicted notion of choice / autonomy makes teenagers 'imperfect victims'. (Rees and Stein, 1999)
- › Working within a child protection system that is designed primarily to meet the needs of younger children maltreated within the family. (Bilston, 2006)
- › Recognised (healthy?) tension re adults' autonomy / capacity and the societal imperative to enable people to be safe whatever their 'entitlements'.



## The case for change

- › Adolescents may have **distinct** safeguarding needs, harms - and routes to protection - are often 'contextual' / extra-familial and are underpinned by complex social and biological drivers
- › Harm and its effects do not abruptly end at 18; support may do
- › **Transition** to adulthood is a particularly challenging and vulnerable time, we may need care and support without having Care & Support needs™
- › Need to consider promoting **resilience** and their changing **developmental** needs
- › There are **moral** and **economic** drivers for a reimagined safeguarding system which is contextual, transitional and relational.

(Credit: Dez Holmes)

## Redefining adolescence and transition

- › Some studies into brain development and effects on behaviour show some elements of brain growth – eg development to more mature affect regulation, social relationships and executive functioning - continue into the 20s. (Sawyer *et al*, 2018)
- › “An expanded and more inclusive definition of adolescence is essential for developmentally appropriate framing of laws, social policies, and service systems. Rather than age 10–19 years, a definition of 10–24 years corresponds more closely to adolescent growth and popular understandings of this life phase”. (Sawyer *et al*, 2018)
- › BUT biological studies to define capabilities of adolescents should be treated with caution, not misinterpreted in reductionist ways. (Moshman, 1999).

(Credit: Dez Holmes)

## Divergence

- › Neither system specifically designed with adolescents' developmental needs/behaviours in mind, nor do existing approaches reflect evidence that adolescence = 10-24.
- › Systems have developed in accordance with different legislative and policy frameworks and arguably divergent conceptual frameworks.
- › Child's consent is not required to initiate a safeguarding response; broadly considered essential that an adult's consent is sought before making a safeguarding referral unless they are found to lack capacity.
- › Has implications where a young adult is facing a high degree of coercion and control, and may not be able to make free informed choices about their safeguarding needs but does not lack capacity in the formal sense.

(Holmes and Smale, 2018)

(Credit: Dez Holmes)

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## Dez Holmes Director of RiP and RiPfA

- > Dez Holmes sets out the case for a different approach to safeguarding adolescents and young people.
- > <https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/blog/bridging-the-gap-transitional-safeguarding/>

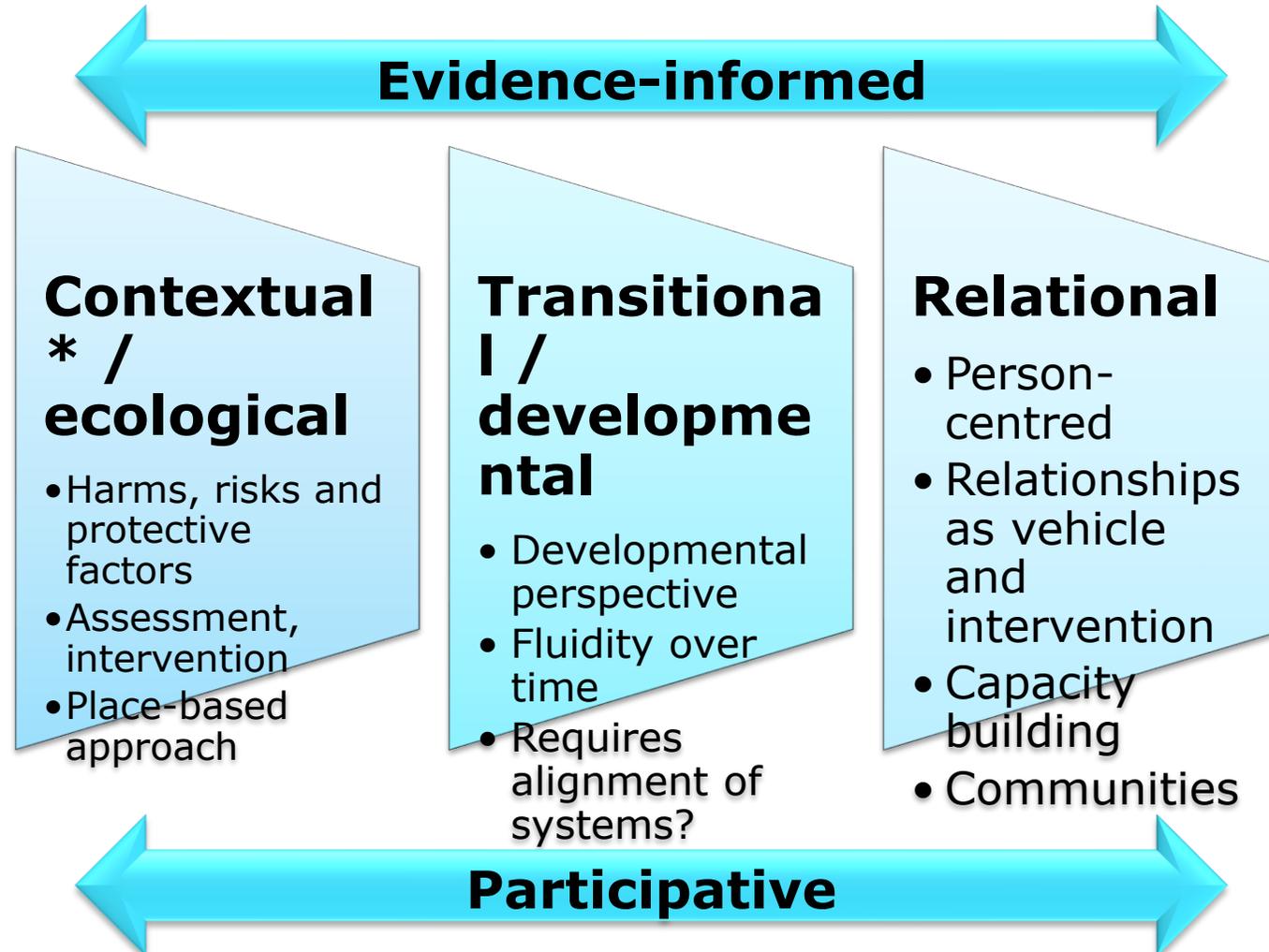


## Mind the gap...



These are the young people we know, but we need to consider those we don't already know too

## If we designed from scratch...?



(see Firmin's work - <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>)

## Innovation: Contextual Safeguarding

- › Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.
- › It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.
- › Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.
- › The approach requires practitioners to engage with individuals and sectors who have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognises that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices.
- › Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands child protection systems to recognise that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.
- › Carlene Firmin and Colleagues at the University of Bedfordshire
- › <https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

## Messages from the national workshops

- > We want to do this better.
- > We want to innovate, and we want to be able to work better across children and adults services to minimise the 'gap(s)'.
- > We recognise that as children become adults, some young people have particular support needs due to the risks in their lives, that continue during their transition into adulthood and we want to be able to support them.
- > Give us permission and trust us to do this.
- > We need leaders to take us through the challenges that will arise from addressing this (e.g. please deal with the organisational and institutional barriers).
- > We need leaders to create a joint vision across partnerships, communicate it to all staff working in that area, and support us to work together so we can be more effective and achieve better outcomes for these young people.

## Key messages between Adults and Children's Services

### Children's services to Adult services

- > How can we develop a shared culture and shared values that meet the legislative and regulatory requirements for both agencies?
- > If moving to a 15-25 integrated service, can we pool budgets?
- > How can we help you develop early help for adults/adolescents?

### Adult services to Children's services

- > Identify young people in transition – tell us who is coming through
- > Joint work on cases
- > Information about adolescent development – tell us what you know, share your knowledge and listen to us about positive risk taking approaches
- > You need better mental capacity literacy – we can help with this

# Implications

- > This is a SYSTEMS AND LEADERSHIP ISSUE - 'Whole Person, Whole Place'.
- > Any changes have to be done jointly by senior leaders (Children and Adult services)
- > The pockets of innovation in some areas are at a practice level, not at a systems level.
- > It needs to involve all, including Children's Partnerships, Safeguarding Adults Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards

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## Questions and answers



What have local Safeguarding Adults Boards been doing on Transitional Safeguarding since the 2019 London SAB Conference?



# City and Hackney SAB Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish Group

- The CHSAB has undertaken a joint piece of work with the Community Safety Partnerships in City and Hackney and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- The group is using a Public Health approach to identify what provision is in place locally for 16 – 25 year olds and the key challenges impacting this group
- The aim is to undertake a gap analysis which will allow the group to construct an options appraisal with recommendations on what could be done to improve the transitional safeguarding of young people

# Enfield Transitional Safeguarding

- Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation strategy 2019 to 2022
- Mapping existing services to identify gaps
- Analysis of demographic, health outcome and Children Services data
- Consideration of a team in Adult Social Care/Children Services to support 18 to 25 year olds who may otherwise not have met statutory thresholds

# Islington Safeguarding Adults Board

- 'DD' – an unpublished case has brought Transitions work to the fore in Islington
- 7-minute summary of the DD case to be shared locally
- Scoping a joint piece of Transitions work with the Children's Safeguarding Board and Public Health
- Pulling together data sets to analyse needs of transitions cohort

# Response to 'Ms A' SAR findings



- Following a successful £2.4m bid to the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme run by the DfE, Havering Council made additional investment in services for young people to bridge the gap between Children's Services and Adult Services.
- Co-production with young people, supported by mental health charity MAC-UK;
- Aim of the new services to support young people to have the best chances in education and employment as they move away from the care system.
- This work resulted in:
  - a new multi-agency planning forum, the **Transitions Panel**; and
  - a new 'one-stop shop' (multi-agency) service provision, **The Cocoon**.



# Haringey's Transitional Safeguarding journey

- Chief Executive invited Dez Holmes to speak about Transitional Safeguarding in Spring 2019 to joint adults and children's social care managers, with SAB and LSCB partners and commits to taking this forward in Haringey
- Partnership/Board Chairs agreed to a shared joint objective for 2019/20 Strategic Plans on Transitional Safeguarding
- Assistant Directors from Children's and Adults Social Care developed scope for the project and attended RIP/RiPfA Transitional Safeguarding workshop in September 2019
- HSAB Chair spoke about Transitional Safeguarding at the Launch of the new Children's Partnership Arrangements November 2019
- Further work agreed to be developed on designing responses for people with safeguarding needs but who may not be Care Act eligible
- Children's and Adults PSW to develop joint Vulnerable Peoples policy February 2020
- Summary paper, evidence gathering and analysis over 2 years, to be completed March 2020 and presented to HSAB and Children's Partnership with recommendations for milestones and success factors to deliver against vision and purpose for next steps
- Transitions Panel outcome report to be 6 monthly from April 2020

## Table Discussion

- > What is helpful in bridging the gaps between children and adult's safeguarding?
- > What is challenging?
- > How are the voices of adolescents and young people being heard?
- > Is there anything that the London SAB can do to support this work?



## Further reading

- > Cocker, C and Cooper A (2019) *Transitional safeguarding – bridging the gap between Children’s and Adults’ Services*. Available at: <https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/blog/bridging-the-gap-transitional-safeguarding/>
- > Firmin, C, Horan, J. Holmes, D and Hopper, G. (2019) *Safeguarding during adolescence– the relationship between Contextual Safeguarding, Complex Safeguarding and Transitional Safeguarding*. Dartington, Research in Practice
- > Holmes D and Smale E (2018) *Mind the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding – Adolescence to Adulthood*. Dartington, Research in Practice

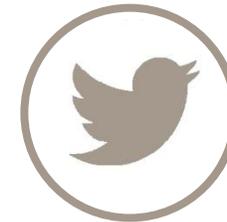
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