The WSCP Briefing
Wirral Safer Adolescence Strategy 2021-2023

1. Introduction
• Adolescence starts when we are around 10–12. This is when we go through huge changes—emotionally, physically, and socially.
• It is an impressionable time—when we take risks, but we struggle to manage the aftermath or the consequences.
• Adolescence can be a challenging time for many young people. Due to experiences or circumstances beyond their control some young people may be more vulnerable than others.
• How well we deal with this period depends on so many different things, e.g. who we have around us; at home and outside, and what support we get when we need it most.

2. Wirral Picture
• Wirral has over 30,000 11–17 yr olds. These are some key statistics for 19/20:
   8 per 10,000 had a gang association
   There were 166 contacts for CSE and 142 for CCE
   1761 crimes against 11–17 year olds were recorded—65% was violence. 81 hate crimes were recorded
   1526 crimes were committed by 11–17 years olds—61% was violence and 170 crimes were drug related
   66 young people entered the justice system for the first time
   293 11–17 year olds were reported missing at least once and 1120 missing episodes were recorded
   14% of A&E admissions were for mental ill health

3. Risk Factors
• Key risk factors for adolescents:
  Preventative Safeguarding
   Health, education and development needs
   ACES, parental domestic abuse, parental mental health, parental substance misuse
   Not being in education, employment and training, involvement in ASB
   Involvement with harmful substances
   Permanent exclusion
   Missing from home or care
   Persistent neglect or homelessness
   Wider contextual harm
   Criminal or sexual exploitation

4. Strategy Aims
• In delivering this strategy we aim to:
   Promote a strategic preventative approach to adolescent safety
   Enhance our collective understanding of what is meant by contextual ‘extra-familial harm’, or ‘risk outside the home’.
   Embed a shared set of partnership principles and values developed in partnership with young people and including: Work With Us; We Can Help; Stay With Us; Help Us Build Relationships; Listen To Us; Help Us Dream And Achieve
   Develop a Wirral contextual safeguarding framework.

5. 4 P’s Approach
Prevent
• The work we do to reduce vulnerability. How we identify issues earlier to try and prevent harm

Prepare
• How we understand issues for young people. How we work together with other agencies and volunteers

Protect
• If harm has happened, how we recognise, respond and support young people

Pursue
• What we do with people, places or issues that have or might cause harm

6. Delivery Plan
• To achieve the strategy aims we will:
   Co-ordinate activity through the WSCP’s multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding Committee
   Create a performance framework to monitor activity and evidence positive outcomes
   Create awareness raising resources, deliver training and briefings, and identify, highlight and share good practice
   Create a workforce who understand and respond to contextual risks facing adolescents
   Ensure the voice of young people informs our work and be held accountable by them for its success

7. For further information:
wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/contextual-safeguarding

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