

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE TEENAGERS FROM EXPLOITATION AND HARM: DELIVERING SYSTEM-WIDE CHANGE AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Online Live Webinar

Wednesday 11th May 2022



Key Speakers



Duncan Evans



Lucy Belcher



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE

DCC Ian Critchley



Junior Smart OBE



William Willson



Marc Stevens / Sarah Parker

Overview

The coronavirus pandemic and current cost of living crisis have directly contributed to one of the most challenging times faced by vulnerable children and young people in recent history. In the year 2019/2020, **The Office of the Children's Commissioner** identified 14,700 children's social care assessments, which included concerns about County Lines gang involvement, a 124% increase from 2019. This rise is mirrored by an increase in knife crime across the country, with London alone seeing its worst-ever annual death toll from teenage homicides in 2021. These statistics, however, only illustrate part of the challenges faced by existing child protection structures. There are thousands more young people who are experiencing greater exposure to domestic abuse, addiction, parental mental ill-health and poverty. Education, CAMHS and care systems have struggled to cope with not only the demand for services but also to properly identify and address the complex, changing and intersecting vulnerabilities suffered by teenagers at risk, leaving too many falling through the gaps and unable to access the help that they so desperately need.

To address this serious and growing challenge, the Government announced the launch of **The Independent Review of Children's Social Care** to develop a series of recommendations that will form a new approach to child protection that meets the scale and complexity of current need. Additionally, the Government has allocated £200m for the *Youth Endowment Fund* over the next ten years to prevent teenagers from becoming involved in violence. Whilst these initiatives are a positive move forward, they are not enough to bring about the systemic change that is needed to prioritise and safeguard vulnerable young people, improve multi-agency working and protect them from exclusion, violence and sexual/criminal exploitation.

This Policy Foresight live webinar offers a timely opportunity for key partners from education, social care, local authorities, police, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies to explore how to address the gaps exposed by the pandemic in existing early intervention frameworks, multi-agency working and violence reduction strategies. The webinar provides an ideal platform for participants to hear from experts and policymakers, learn from innovative best practice and share ideas with fellow participants to deliver lasting change that protects vulnerable teenagers from harm.

Why Attend?

- Live webinar featuring presentations and panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers, experts and key officials
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Identify gaps and explore solutions in early intervention strategies, local and national partnership working arrangements and youth violence reduction programmes
- Learn best practice from experts working to protect vulnerable teenagers from criminal exploitation and county lines gangs
- Gather knowledge to enhance existing frameworks, procedures, processes and toolkits
- Share ideas with fellow participants from education, social care, local authorities, police, youth offending, criminal justice, health, housing, third sector and other key statutory agencies
- On demand – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources

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Programme

| | |
|----------|--|
| 09:30 AM | Delegate Online Login |
| 10:00 AM | Introduction by Webinar Organiser |
| 10:05 AM | Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks |
| 10:10 AM | Morning Keynote Session: Delivering Systemic Change in Child Protection and Care Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exploring the current national picture and understanding the key factors for the recent increase of teenagers in child protection and care ➤ Driving system-wide change – Improving child protection strategies and care structures for vulnerable young people ➤ Ending the postcode lottery – Identifying and addressing the gaps in service provision |
| 10:30 AM | Morning Keynote Session: Questions and Discussion |
| 10:50 AM | Comfort Break |
| 10:55 AM | Panel Session One: Embedding Proactive Early Intervention at the Heart of Child Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising awareness – Upskilling staff and parents to be able to identify and intervene earlier ➤ Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach – Designing effective safeguarding strategies that take into account the existing vulnerabilities including adverse childhood experiences (ACES) ➤ Embedding culturally competent support into early intervention programmes to support young people and families ➤ Building relationships – Actively engaging parents and providing them with targeted support ➤ Preventing at-risk pupils from being permanently excluded – Exploring new strategies to keep in young people in schools |
| 11:40 AM | Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion |
| 12:00 PM | Comfort Break |
| 12:10 PM | Panel Session Two: Improving the Protection of Young People through a Joined-Up Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understanding the local picture of need – Enhancing data-sharing and partnership working between local authorities, social care, education, the police, health and the third sector ➤ Protecting young people from extra-familial harm – Implementing a <i>Contextual Safeguarding Approach</i> ➤ Utilising Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) – Tackling criminal exploitation and youth violence through a '<i>Public Health Approach</i>' ➤ Implementing a coordinated response to meet the needs of vulnerable teenagers in every area |
| 12:55 PM | Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion |
| 1:10 PM | Afternoon Keynote Session: Protecting Vulnerable Teenagers from Exploitation |
| 1:30 PM | Afternoon Keynote Session: Questions and Discussion |
| 1:50 PM | Comfort Break |
| 1:55 PM | Panel Session Three: Delivering Lasting Protection for Young People at Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensuring the safety and security of vulnerable young people in care placements – Eliminating poor-quality and dangerous provision, including the use of unregulated accommodation ➤ Effectively utilising current legislation and legal frameworks including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to safeguard young people from criminal exploitation ➤ Breaking the link between being in care or on the edge of care, and exploitation and criminalisation ➤ Ending the Cliff Edge – Using transitional safeguarding to ensure vulnerable teenagers are protected beyond the age of 18 ➤ Achieving better outcomes – Delivering interventions that permanently safeguard young people from harm |
| 2:40 PM | Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion |
| 2:55 PM | Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments |
| 3:00 PM | End of Online Seminar |

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

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I am authorised to register the delegate(s) as detailed above. I also agree to notify you of any cancellation in writing. Only cancellations confirmed in writing at least 28 days before the event date will be refunded, minus an administration fee of £50 plus VAT. Substitutions can be made at any time. Non-payment of an invoice does not count as cancellation and you will still be liable for the full cost. Non-appearances on the day are also liable for the full cost.
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