Webinar

Wednesday 9 December 2020
2.00 - 3.30pm

Contextual Safeguarding: Rewriting the Rules of Child Protection

Carlene Firmin
University of Bedfordshire

This is the first in a series of five webinars on Contextual Safeguarding. For more information about the series, click here.

While many have said to me that Contextual Safeguarding feels like a ‘seismic shift’ or ‘radical transformation’ in how we respond to extra-familial harm, it also remains aligned to both the core principles of social work and structural designs of child protection systems. We have some bridges to cross to get to Contextual Safeguarding systems in different parts of the country, but few unaided leaps into the unknown or wholly unfamiliar.

In this webinar Carlene Firmin, founder of the Contextual Safeguarding framework, will share and reflect upon the key messages of her book Contextual Safeguarding and Child Protection: Rewriting the Rules. In particular she will highlight how learning from the Contextual Research programme over the past five years has both rewritten and reaffirmed the ‘rules’ of child protection practices – particularly as they are applied to adolescents who are abused in extra-familial contexts or relationships.

The webinar will provide participants with the opportunity to deepen how they understand the values underpinning Contextual Safeguarding, and the practice approaches that have brought these values to life. Focusing on contextual assessment and planning practices, Carlene will demonstrate how social workers have used a Contextual Safeguarding framework to advocate, broker and coordinate plans to safeguard young people’s welfare. To do this they have needed to engage with peer, community and school relationships and environments, enhancing their practice skills and knowledge in the process. In doing so, they have worked alongside parents and communities to build safety. By highlighting these core elements of Contextual Safeguarding in practice, Carlene will demonstrate the opportunities and challenges that may come with embedding a Contextual Safeguarding approach into responses to extra-familial harm in the future.

Places are limited so you will need to book by 25th November 2020. Local authority bookings should be made via your Learning and Development Department. For all other bookings, please contact the MRC Events Organiser at University of Bedfordshire, Gemma Wilson, Institute of Applied Social Research, University Square, Luton LU1 3JU, mrc@beds.ac.uk, (01582) 743959.