| KEY | EFH | Extra-familial harm |

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING
VALUES CHECKER

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING
SCALE UP PROCESS

TARGET

The safeguarding system targets the contexts, and associated social conditions, of EFH. It achieves this by identifying those contexts, assessing them and where required intervening with them to build safety

THE SYSTEM IS STRENGTHS-BASED BECAUSE IT

Safety-profiles as well as risk-profiles. It builds on the strengths of contexts when assessing and intervening to create safety for young people

THE SYSTEM IS RIGHTS-BASED BECAUSE IT

Targets contexts in ways that build safety without displacing young people – unless it is a context where young people should not be (i.e. trap house). Risk sensible and proportional decisions are made balancing rights to privacy as well as rights to protection

THE SYSTEM IS ECOLOGICAL AND RECOGNISES THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN CONTEXTS BECAUSE IT

Considers the impact of wider systems/structures when contexts are targeted – (particularly during context-weighting/assessment activities and planning)

THE SYSTEM IS HOPEFUL AND ADOPTS A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH BECAUSE IT

Engages young people and their wider communities when targeting contexts – to identify routes for safety. No context is considered to be 'beyond help'

THE SYSTEM RECOGNISES THE INEQUALITY INHERENT IN ITS OWN STRUCTURES AND SO BUILDS EVIDENCE OF EFH BY

Identifying contexts to target for assessment/intervention through a myriad of sources, with information centred around proactive engagement with young people and communities

LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORK

The local response to EFH is overseen by a safeguarding partnership with a clear role for children's social care in coordinating responses to significant harm in extra-familial contexts

THE SYSTEM IS STRENGTHS-BASED BECAUSE IT

Avoids a deficit-based application of child protection approaches to EFH or extra-familial contexts – for example assessing safety and protection during assessments, and building on identified safety in the planning process rather than solely monitoring/ mitigating risk

THE SYSTEM IS RIGHTS-BASED BECAUSE IT

Explicitly grapples with a range of rights when designing approaches – including young people's right to have their views heard and considered, as well as their rights to privacy – not solely using the right to protection as a route to promoting child welfare

THE SYSTEM IS ECOLOGICAL AND RECOGNISES THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN CONTEXTS BECAUSE IT

Recognises the role of child protection, and wider safeguarding systems in addressing structural and contextual impacts on the behaviour of groups and families

THE SYSTEM IS HOPEFUL AND ADOPTS A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH BECAUSE IT

Sees a role for social workers, and wider child protection/ safeguarding systems, in advocating for child welfare and brokering plans to achieve this

THE SYSTEM RECOGNISES THE INEQUALITY INHERENT IN ITS OWN STRUCTURES AND SO BUILDS EVIDENCE OF EFH BY

Gathering evidence for the purposes of a welfare assessment and does not conflate this with intelligence gathering in terms of criminal investigations. Thresholds for concern are drawn from wider approaches to assessing child welfare in terms of familial abuse

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PARTNERSHIPS

Safeguarding responses to EFH are delivered in partnership with the people and organisations who can influence extra-familial contexts and relationships – including partnerships with young people and their families

THE SYSTEM IS STRENGTHS-BASED BECAUSE IT	THE SYSTEM IS RIGHTS-BASED BECAUSE IT	THE SYSTEM IS ECOLOGICAL AND RECOGNISES THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN CONTEXTS BECAUSE IT	THE SYSTEM IS HOPEFUL AND ADOPTS A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH BECAUSE IT	THE SYSTEM RECOGNISES THE INEQUALITY INHERENT IN ITS OWN STRUCTURES AND SO BUILDS EVIDENCE OF EFH BY
Utilises existing partnerships and maximises the potential of organisations/individuals already associated to the context	Engages with young people and their wider communities when contexts are identified, assessed, and intervened with so their views inform decision-making	Features partnerships that are drawn upon and can attend to contextual/structural factors that may undermine safety in a peer group, school or location	Features partnerships with organisations and individuals who are part of the contexts that are assessed and have a role to play in their sustained safety. Opportunities are created for young people and communities to identify which partners they would like to see involved in the delivery of plans	Engaging partners with a presence in, or reach into, extra-familial contexts as key to the delivery of contextual safeguarding. Their involvement ensures an accurate picture of safety/concern in any given context

OUTCOMES

The safeguarding system measures the contextual impact of practice/policy responses to EFH alongside impacts on individual young people

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Measures contextual impact with reference to building safety rather than solely reducing risk	Measures the extent to which safety has been achieved while protecting, and realising, young people's rights (or where it has occurred at the expense of their rights)	Can document the impact of interventions on wider structural and contextual factors (i.e. poverty) – as well as the extent to which these wider factors undermine impact for micro contexts or individual young people	Supports practitioners to focus on what is required to safeguard young people's welfare rather than on the risks they need to eliminate – and where possible identifies these goals with young people and the wider communities/networks of which they are a part	Measuring outcomes using similar/complimentary methodologies as are drawn upon during assessments. The system has the capability to reassess situations/contexts and identify if safety has increased – via direct engagement with those individuals in, or affected by, that context