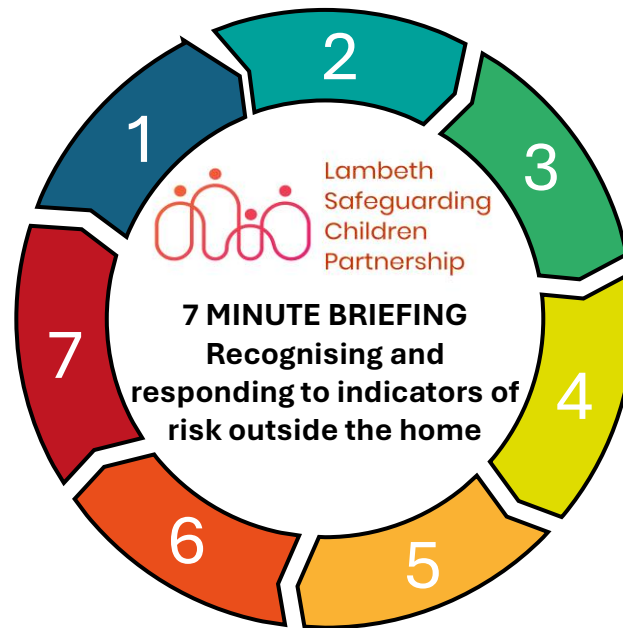


1) Definition (WTSC): Children may be at risk of or experiencing physical, sexual or emotional abuse and exploitation in contexts outside their families or homes they live in – which includes foster homes and residential care. Harm can occur in a range of environments like peer groups, school, community/public spaces and online. Children can be vulnerable to multiple forms of harm from both adults and other children and harm may be perpetrated or facilitated by individuals or groups. Examples of harm include: criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, serious violence, online harm, harmful sexual behaviour, teenage relationship abuse and radicalisation.

7) Resources and support: [LSCP Level 3 Training](#) – includes risk outside the home
[LSCP website](#) – for a range of further information and resources
[Safeguarding Adolescents in London](#) – multi-agency guidance
[Contextual safeguarding network](#) – practice resources
[NWG](#) – knowledge hub and resources

6) How to respond: you must exercise robust curiosity if you spot an indicator of concern. You must consider whether additional vulnerability factors exist, by seeking out information from your records and other agencies where appropriate. These factors must be given appropriate weighting, and should never be treated as background information. If one or more vulnerability factors exist, you must recognise there is an increased likelihood of future harm and take action.

2) The importance of early identification and prevention: learning from local rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews and audits repeatedly tells us that early warning signs are often missed which means preventative support is not always offered in a timely manner. As a result, interventions often start when risk has already escalated or harm has already occurred.



5) Disproportionality: Children from Black and Global Majority backgrounds are disproportionately more likely to experience harm outside the home. Several organised crime gangs operate in Lambeth, creating disproportionate risk at a local level. These gangs change their tactics, and might target children for whom no obvious concerns exist.

3) Indicators of concern: if any of the following factors are present, you must consider that the child might be at risk outside the home:

- Going missing (from education, home or placement)
- Getting arrested or being stopped and searched
- Involvement in anti-social behaviour or low-level offending
- Travelling to new areas or changing routines
- Presenting to hospital with injuries (especially if this is not their local hospital)
- Associating with peers involved in exploitation or violence
- Being in possession of unexplained money, gifts or new possessions
- Increased online activity, or secrecy around this
- Might be a victim of, or drawn into, crime

4) Known vulnerabilities: whilst all children can experience extra-familial harm, some children are more at risk. Vulnerability factors that increase the risk include:

- Children experiencing neglect
- Children who are victims of domestic abuse
- Children with ACEs or current / past experiences of abuse
- Children who are looked after
- Children not in full time education
- Children missing from home, care or education
- Children with SEND (diagnosed and undiagnosed)
- Children with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs
- Children living in poverty
- Children living with parents with mental health needs, or substance use problems
- Children coming from families who have been involved in crime (including adults and siblings)