

## Safety and Wellbeing

### Practice Guide

This section focuses on the child or young person's safety and wellbeing and involves identifying possible circumstances or events which could lead to adverse outcomes.

This section looks ahead in a similar way to the 'Future Behaviours' section but this time with a focus on the child or young person's safety and wellbeing.

### What is an adverse outcome?

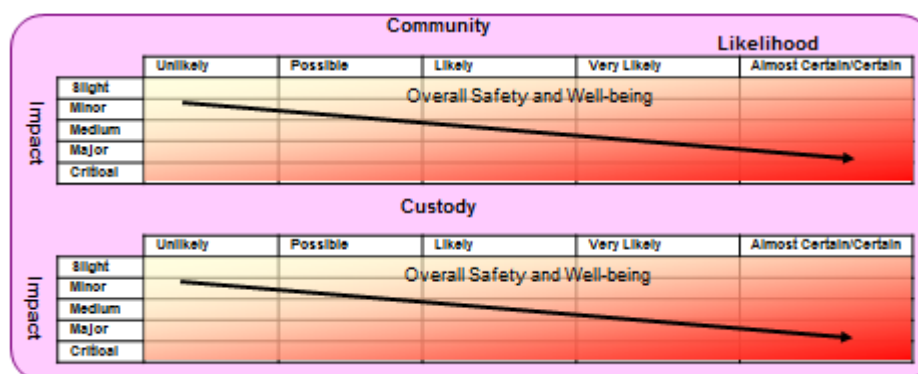
An adverse outcome is the consequence of a behaviour/situation. A child or young person can experience an adverse outcome as a result of their own behaviour or because of the actions of others.

**Examples of adverse outcomes can be found in Appendix 1.**

### Safety and wellbeing assessment

As with future behaviours you are asked to break down adverse outcomes into the component parts of their 'impact' on the child or young person, the context and environment where they will happen and the 'likelihood' and 'imminence' of their occurrence.

Adverse outcomes are also mapped to a community and/or custody matrix, similar to that shown below, based on their impact, likelihood and where they will happen.



You will use this matrix along with other relevant information in your assessment to arrive at a judgement for your overall safety and well-being concerns for the child or young person.

Unlike RoSH, when making decisions about a child or young person's safety and wellbeing you should consider both dimensions (likelihood and Impact) equally, with outcomes in the bottom right corner likely to lead to the highest judgement rating.

### Safety and wellbeing judgement definitions (also found in Appendix 2)

- Low: any risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing that have been identified are **unlikely** to occur and/or would **not impact on the young person's immediate safety**.
- Medium: some risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified and are **likely** to occur; however, the child or young person's **immediate safety is unlikely to be compromised** provided specific actions are taken.
- High: clear risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified, are **likely** to occur and the **impact would compromise the child or young person's safety and wellbeing**. Actions are required in the **near future** and are likely to involve other agencies in addition to youth justice services.
- Very High: clear risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified, are **imminent** and the **child or young person is unsafe**. **Immediate actions** are needed to protect the child or young person, which will include (or have already included) a referral to statutory child protection services.

### What do HMIP want to see from an assessment of the risk posed to a child or young person as a result of their own behaviour or because of the actions of others?

HMIP expect an assessment to:

- clearly identify and analyse any risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing;
- draw sufficiently on available sources of information, including other assessments, and involve other agencies where appropriate; and
- analyse controls and interventions to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person.

### What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children and young people from abuse and maltreatment;
- preventing harm to children and young people's health or development;

- ensuring children and young people grow up with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

## What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to children and young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships children and young people form in their communities, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Children and young people may encounter violence and abuse in any of these environments. Sometimes the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people may encounter multiple risks. Contextual safeguarding looks at how we can best understand these risks, engage with children and young people, and help to keep them safe.

## Safety and wellbeing risk management planning

Risks can not necessarily be eliminated but they can be reduced. Risk management should therefore be understood as risk reduction rather than elimination. Risk management should reduce:

- the factors that lead to risks occurring; and
- the impact of the risk once it has occurred.

Risk Management strategies are grouped into three broad categories:

- **External controls** are strategies aimed at reducing triggers to and opportunities for harmful behaviour. For example, a child or young person may be the subject of a Child Protection Plan to monitor and (hopefully) reduce the level of harm posed to them.
- **Internal controls** are strategies that focus more on developing an individual's ability to avoid and manage risky situations. For example, children or young people who use self-harm to manage stressful situations may be encouraged, by a trained professional, to find alternative ways to cope with difficult feelings (i.e. holding an ice cube to their arm).
- **Building protective factors.** Reinforcing, developing or using strengths and resources to build a positive life. For example, supporting a child or young person to join a football team or secure work experience at a riding school.

The children and young people we work with may often be subject to multiple plans to manage risk and safety. You should know the rationale and content of other agencies' plans and integrate them with your own.

## What do HMIP expect from a safety and wellbeing management plan?

HMIP expect a plan to:

- involve other agencies where appropriate and align sufficiently with other plans concerning the child, such as child protection or care plans;
- set out the necessary controls and interventions to promote the child's safety and wellbeing; and
- set out the necessary and effective contingency arrangements to manage the risks that have been identified.

## Be aware of potential escalation

Risk assessment is dynamic. Be mindful of potential changes in the risk a child or young person poses to himself or from the behaviour of others as you manage them.

As part of the risk assessment you will have developed an understanding of the circumstances likely to give rise to increased risk. Common signs of deteriorating circumstances and behaviour that have been linked to increases in risk are:

- lifestyle deterioration (i.e. increased alcohol/drug consumption, staying away from the family home/current placement, significant loss/bereavement etc);
- psychological factors (i.e. change in usual mood); and
- breakdown in supervision (i.e. deterioration in school attendance, reduced compliance with Court Order, being reported as 'missing', change in placement for children and young people looked after by the local authority etc).

**How to respond to increased risk is covered in the Practice Guide titled 'Contingency Planning'.**

## What do HMIP expect from a review when there is an escalation or reduction in risk?

HMIP expect reviewing to:

- identify and respond to changes in factors related to safety and wellbeing;
- be informed by the necessary input from other agencies involved in promoting the child's safety and wellbeing; and
- lead to the necessary adjustments in the on-going plan of work to promote the child's safety and wellbeing.

**Please see Appendix 3 for an example of how to complete the questions contained in the Safety and Wellbeing section of Explanations and Conclusions.**

## Appendix 1

### Adverse Outcomes, Impact and Likelihood

Adverse Outcomes
Bullying
Death
Domestic abuse
Emotional harm
Homelessness
Neglect
Physical Abuse
Physical Harm
Sexual Abuse
Sexual Exploitation
Other (please specify)

Impact Rating	Definition*
Slight	Recovery immediate or not required
Minor	Recovery in the short term (<1 month)
Medium	Recovery in the medium term (<6 months)
Major	Recovery in the long term (>6 months) or incomplete
Critical	No recovery possible

Likelihood	Percentage
Unlikely	<20%
Possible	20-40%
Likely	41-70%
Very likely	71-90%
Almost certain	>90%

\*Note that 'recovery' means 'the point where the young person is able to return to everyday functioning as before the behaviour/offence'. This should be based on:

- The most significant impact where the outcome may occur in more than 1 way/due to more than 1 cause
- The combined impact of any physical and/or psychological damage

## Appendix 2

### Safety and Wellbeing Judgement Definitions

- Low: any risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing that have been identified are **unlikely** to occur and/or would **not impact on the young person's immediate safety**.
- Medium: some risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified and are **likely** to occur; however, the child or young person's **immediate safety is unlikely to be compromised** provided specific actions are taken.
- High: clear risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified, are **likely** to occur and the **impact would compromise the child or young person's safety and wellbeing**. Actions are required in the **near future** and are likely to involve other agencies in addition to youth justice services.
- Very High: clear risks to the child or young person's safety and wellbeing have been identified, are **imminent** and the **child or young person is unsafe**. **Immediate actions** are needed to protect the child or young person, which will include (or have already included) a referral to statutory child protection services.

## Appendix 3

### Practice Example

#### Safety and Wellbeing

The key thing to remember about this section is that we are identifying the adverse outcome – not the behaviour that has led to an adverse outcome.

In line with defensible decision making, if you answer 'No' to the initial question you will need to explain why this is the case in the text box.

For example:

No safety and wellbeing factors have been identified. Billy is part of a loving, close knit family, he attends school full time, plays football for the local team, has age appropriate peers who are not known to the YJS and does not use substances.

The overall safety and wellbeing concerns judgement will default to low if the answer to the initial trigger question in the subsection is 'No' as there would clearly be a low risk if no adverse outcomes could be identified. Otherwise you will record your judgement at the bottom of the subsection.

#### Adverse Outcome, Impact and Cause

Here you are asked to describe the nature and causes of the adverse outcomes (**what**, **how**, **who** and **impact - why**).

Initially you may find it easier to set your work out as demonstrated below.

##### **Physical Harm**

WHAT: Carrying a weapon.

HOW: Billy could receive an injury if a weapon he is carrying is used against him.

WHO: Other youths in the local area.

IMPACT (WHY): A 'major' impact has been identified as a significant injury, requiring long term recovery, could be caused.

##### **Emotional Harm**

WHAT: Cannabis Use.

HOW: Extensive and prolonged cannabis use is known to have a long term detrimental impact on an individual's mental wellbeing.

WHO: Himself.

IMPACT (WHY): A 'major' impact has been identified as Billy spends approximately £20 a day on cannabis and has done so for 18 months. He currently has no intention to reduce his use.

##### **Physical and Emotional Abuse**

**WHAT:** Child Criminal Exploitation.  
**HOW:** Threats and/or use of violence (coercion) could be used to get Billy to commit criminal acts.  
**WHO:** Older peers, with pro criminal identities, from the local area.  
**IMPACT (WHY):** A 'major' impact rating has been given as exploitation can result in significant physical and/or emotional abuse.

### **Physical Abuse**

**WHAT:** Physical assaults within the family home against Billy.  
**HOW:** Hit with fists.  
**WHO:** Step-dad.  
**IMPACT (WHY):** A 'minor' impact rating has been identified because any physical harm caused resulted in a short term physical recovery.

### **Emotional Harm**

**WHAT:** Historical physical assaults within the family home against Billy.  
**HOW:** The physical abuse Billy was subjected to in his early childhood has had a detrimental impact on his social, emotional and behavioural development.  
**WHO:** Step-dad.  
**IMPACT (WHY):** Although the physical assaults resulted in a 'minor' physical injury, the long term impact on Billy's social, emotional and behavioural development is 'major'.

Once you are confident in your ability to complete this section (without the need for subheadings, which act as useful reminders) you can set it out as demonstrated below.

### **Physical Harm**

**WHAT**

Research shows that carrying a weapon increases the likelihood of having a weapon used against you. Billy could receive a physical injury if a weapon he is carrying is used against him. A weapon is most likely to be used against him by others youths from the local area. A 'major' impact has been identified as a significant injury, requiring long term recovery, could be caused.

**WHO**

**HOW**

**IMPACT (WHY)**

### **Emotional Harm**

**Cannabis Use.** Extensive and prolonged cannabis use is known to have a long term detrimental impact on an individual's mental wellbeing. A 'major' impact has been identified as Billy spends approximately £20 a day on cannabis and has done so for 18 months. He currently has no intention to reduce his use.

### **Physical and Emotional Abuse**

Billy is at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE); where threats and/or the use of violence (coercion) could be used to get Billy to commit criminal acts. Billy is at risk of CCE from older peers, with pro criminal identities, from the local



area. A 'major' impact rating has been given as exploitation can result in significant physical and/or emotional abuse.

### **Physical Abuse**

Billy's step-dad used his fists to physically abuse Billy (in the family home) when he was of primary school age. A 'minor' impact rating has been identified because any physical harm caused resulted in a short term recovery.

### **Emotional Harm**

Billy's step-dad used his fists to physically abuse Billy when he was of primary school age. The physical abuse Billy was subjected to in his early childhood has had a detrimental impact on his social, emotional and behavioural development. Although the physical assaults resulted in a 'minor' physical impact, the long term impact on Billy's social, emotional and behavioural development has been significant, which is why a 'major' impact rating has been given.

## **When might the problem occur and in what circumstances?**

Here you are asked to explain **when**, **where** and **what (circumstances)** outcomes could occur and **why** the likelihood has been given.

Initially you may find it easier to set your work out as demonstrated below.

### **Physical Harm (carrying a weapon)**

**WHEN:** Could occur anytime when Billy is out in public.

**WHERE:** It's most likely to occur when Billy is hanging around in the city centre.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT):** When he is trying to defend himself (or is inflicting harm on others).

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY):** Assessed as 'possible' due to Billy's current lifestyle choices.

### **Emotional Harm (smoking cannabis)**

**WHEN:** Could occur anytime.

**WHERE:** Billy is most likely to smoke when he is in the company of his peers.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT):** By continuing to smoke cannabis.

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY):** Assessed as 'likely' due to the amount of cannabis Billy smokes, the length of time he has smoked such excessive amounts and because he has no intention to reduce his use or abstain from smoking cannabis.

### **Physical and Emotional Abuse (CCE)**

**WHEN:** Through the use of technology it could happen anytime.

**WHERE:** Billy is most likely to be identified by abusers when he hangs around in the city centre.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT):** When he doesn't have a choice but to do what is asked of him.

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY):** Assessed as 'possible' due to Billy spending increasing amounts of time away from the family home, in the company of older peers.

### **Physical Abuse**

**WHEN:** Step-dad re-enters into a relationship with mum.

**WHERE:** In the family home.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT):** Billy challenges or undermines step-dad.

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY):** Assessed as 'unlikely' as step-dad has not threatened or (physically) hurt Billy in a number of years, since Billy has physically matured and has matched step-dad in stature.

### **Emotional Harm (physical assault)**

**WHEN:** Step-dad re-enters into a relationship with mum.

**WHERE:** In the family home.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT):** Step-dad's presence is a reminder of the abuse Billy suffered and mum's inability to protect him and/or prioritise his wellbeing.

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY):** Assessed as 'almost certain' as this behaviour has occurred and the level of harm caused can only be managed/reduced, rather than prevented.

Once you are confident in your ability to complete this section (without the need for subheadings, which act as useful reminders) you can set it out as demonstrated below:

### **Physical Harm**

**WHEN**

**WHERE**

It could occur anytime, when Billy is out in public. It's most likely to occur when Billy is hanging around in the city centre. Billy is most at risk of physical harm when he is trying to defend himself (or is inflicting harm on others). Assessed as 'possible' due to Billy's current lifestyle choices.

**CIRCUMSTANCES (WHAT)**

**LIKELIHOOD (WHY)**

### **Emotional Harm**

Emotional harm could occur anytime as a result of continuous cannabis use. Billy is most likely to smoke cannabis when he is in the company of his peers. Assessed as 'likely' due to the amount of cannabis Billy smokes, the length of time he has smoked such excessive amounts and because he has no intention to reduce his use or abstain from smoking cannabis.

### **Physical and Emotional Abuse**

It could occur in the community, especially when he hangs around in the city centre. However, it is important to be aware that, through the use of technology, Billy could also be targeted at home. It will occur when Billy doesn't have a choice but to do what is being asked of him. Assessed as 'possible' due to

Billy spending increasing amounts of time away from the family home, in the company of older peers.

### Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse occurred in the family home when Billy's mum and step-dad used to live together. Step-dad used to hit Billy when he displayed challenging behaviour. Assessed as 'unlikely' as step-dad has not threatened or (physically) hurt Billy in a number of years; since Billy has physically matured and has matched step-dad in stature.

### Emotional Harm

Physical harm occurred in the family home when Billy's mum and step-dad used to live together. The emotional impact of this behaviour will be intensified if/when mum re-enters into a relationship with step-dad. Emotional harm has already occurred as a result of previous physical abuse. Assessed as 'almost certain' as this behaviour has occurred and the level of harm caused can only be managed/reduced, rather than prevented.

## Please provide reasons for Safety & Wellbeing Judgement

After taking on board the advice we have been given from Silver Bullet and Cordis Bright we are developing the way in which we set out the safety and wellbeing judgement section. Moving forward, in addition to ensuring that we clearly and concisely outline why we have reached a particular judgement, we will also give a brief summary of our safety and wellbeing management plan.

An example of how to do this is provided below.

Billy is assessed as being at a high risk of significant harm because a number of adverse outcomes have been identified that have a 'major' impact and which are 'likely' or 'almost certain' to happen.

### INTERNAL CONTROLS

#### SAFETY AND WELLBEING MANAGEMENT PLAN

Educating Billy on the impact and consequences of knife crime will reduce the likelihood of him carrying a weapon, which will subsequently reduce the risk of him having a weapon used against him. Billy has been referred to Bridge in an attempt to address his substance misuse. A MARF and CCE assessment have been completed and sent to CSC who have opened a contact to complete a Single Assessment. The YJS Parenting Worker has made initial contact with mum and is hoping to complete a piece of work with her, which focuses on relationships within the home and keeping Billy safe. Finding Billy a local football team to train and play with will keep him occupied during the evening (when he is most likely to be targeted by abusers).

### EXTERNAL CONTROLS

### BUILDING PROTECTIVE FACTORS

## Review

When completing an Asset+ Review it is important to analyse what, if any, the impact the sentence plan has had. For example:

The level of harm posed to Billy continues to be assessed as high despite him completing the weapons awareness programme and step-dad staying away from the family home because Police intelligence suggests that he is spending time with a known gang (which increases the likelihood of him continuing to carry a weapon) and CSC assess him as being a 'high' risk of CCE. In addition, he has not reduced his cannabis use and refuses to attend football training.

Or

The level of harm has reduced to medium upon review because Billy engaged well in the weapons awareness programme; there is not any Police intelligence to indicate that he is associating with negative peers; CSC have not found any evidence that he is being exploited; step-dad is being kept out of the family home; he is playing for a local football team and, although it is only a small reduction, Billy reports to be smoking less cannabis.