



Durham
University

Global Centre for
Contextual Safeguarding

MACE Panels, ROTH Pathways and national debates around responses to extra-familial harm

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Overview of what I'll cover

- Panels, pathways and EFH
- Challenges we face and features of efficacy
- Moving Forwards
- Questions for London, next steps and reflections

Largely
drawing upon
two studies

Planning for Safety

35 Local Authorities in a
Community of Practice

ROTH Pathway observations

Review of assessments and
plans

Engagement with practitioners,
young people and
parents/carers

Prioritising Protection

System Mapping Workshops

Panel observations

Review of assessments and
plans

Practitioner interviews and
focus group

National surveys, interviews
and documentary analysis

Panels, pathways and EFH

A Brief History

National outcry and exploited children being unprotected

Policing protocols established along with panels to risk assess and connect information

Coordinated and reviewed responses to children using harm-specific tools outside of CP

Children experiencing extra-familial harm closed to children's services if parents are protective

Escalating use of secure, and DoLs for children at risk of significant harm not on child protection plans

Gradual push for a child protection option for situations of significant extra-familial harm



Referral after Tom (15) was arrested in XXX for possession with intent to supply of class A drugs (large quantity of heroin and crack cocaine). Tom's involvement with supply of illicit substances is currently considered to be the result of poor decision making, with no information to suggest he is currently affiliated to gangs. Whilst it is considered to have a huge implication for him given the risk of him being provided with a custodial sentence, such implications are not considered to present any safeguarding risks for Tom.



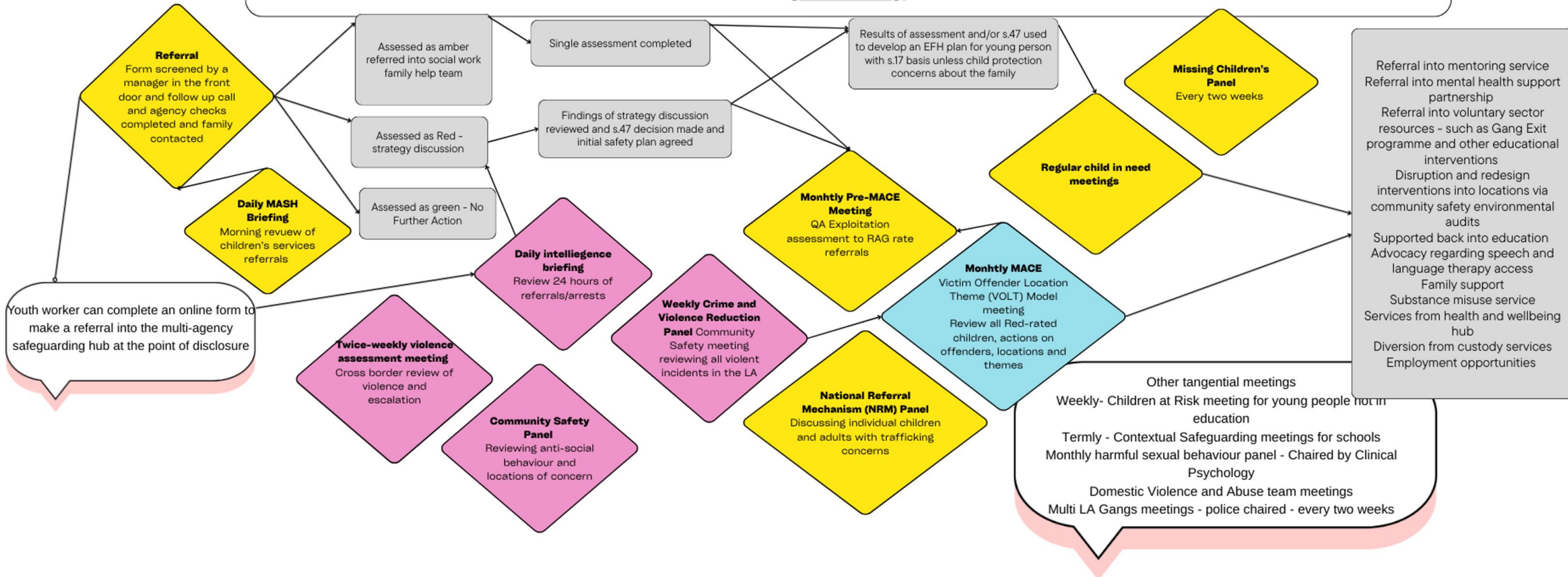
Challenges we currently face

1. Saturated and overly complex systems

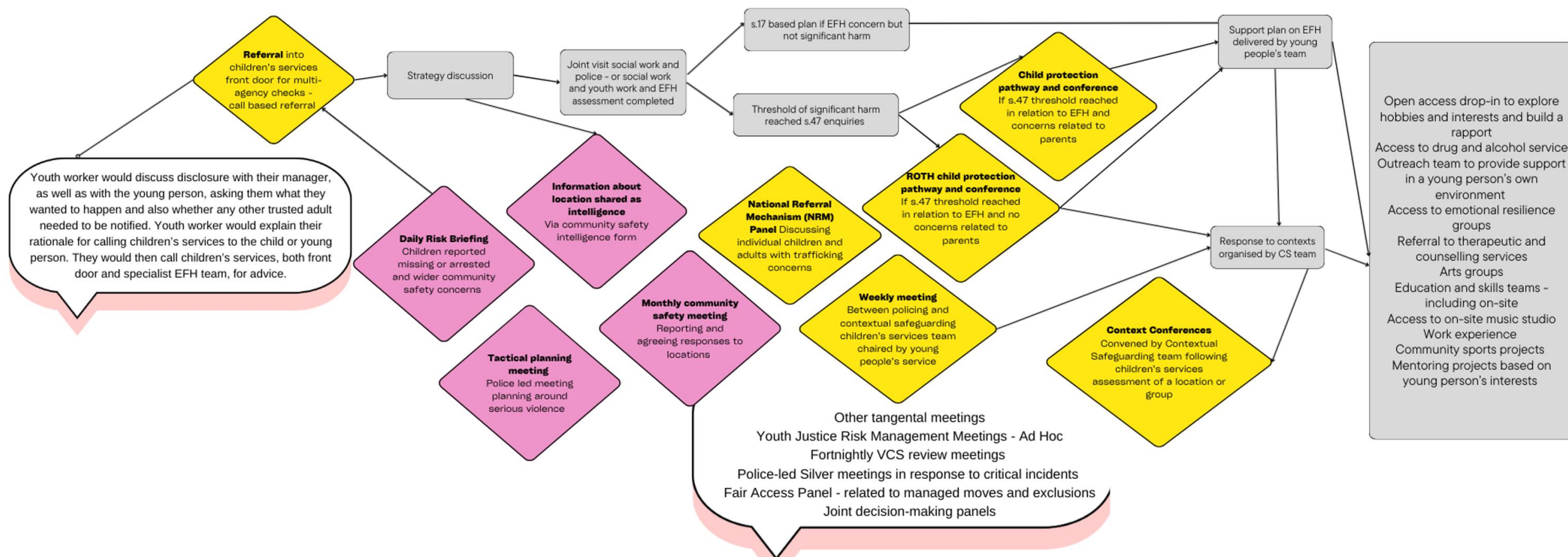
- Local systems that do not reflect national policies
- Uncoordinated national and local policy landscape
- Pathways organised around 'harm types'
- Parallel community safety and children's services processes that are not integrated
- Duplicate assessment processes

So, what is the difference between emerging and experiencing or what's the difference between experiencing and significant? Because if I'm a victim of CSE then experiencing would tell me that I've already been a victim of crime so how many times do I have to be a victim of that crime to be significant? (Prioritising Protection, Focus Group, Case Study Site)

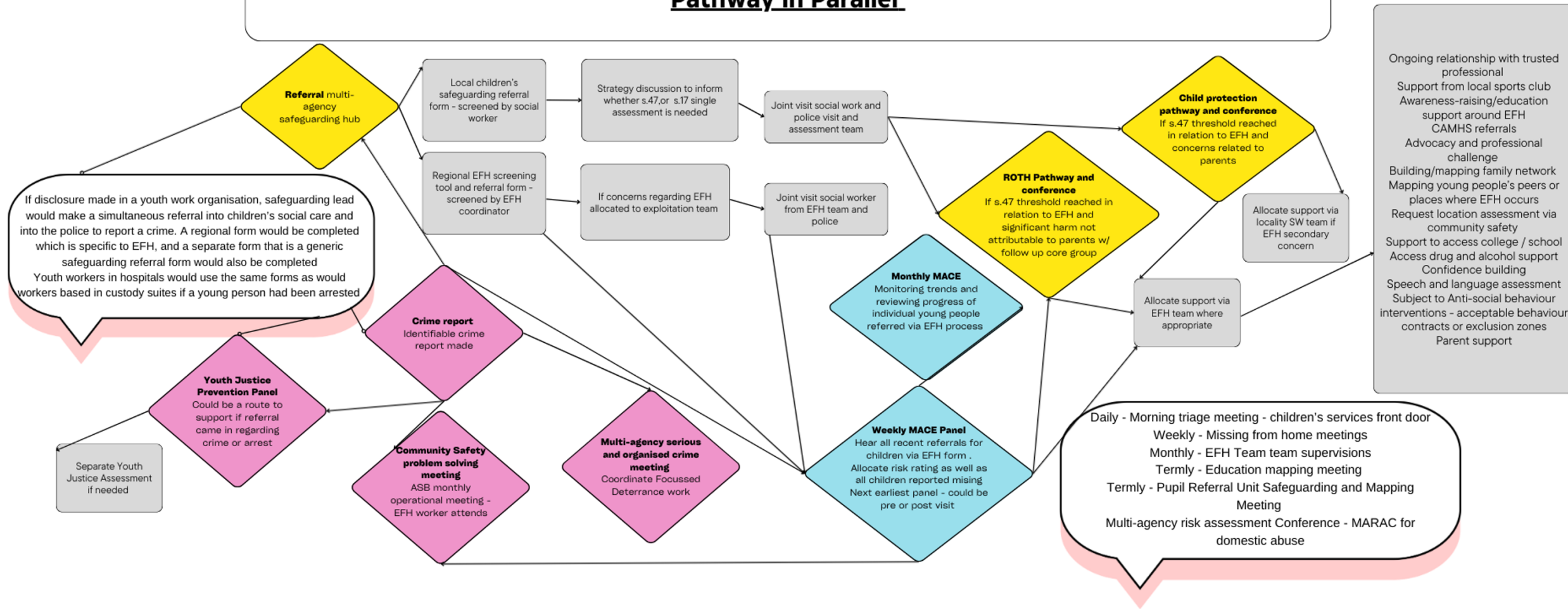
Site 1: Case oversight and theme oversight layered MACE meetings, no Child Protection pathway.



Site 5: ROTH Child Protection Pathway and no MACE

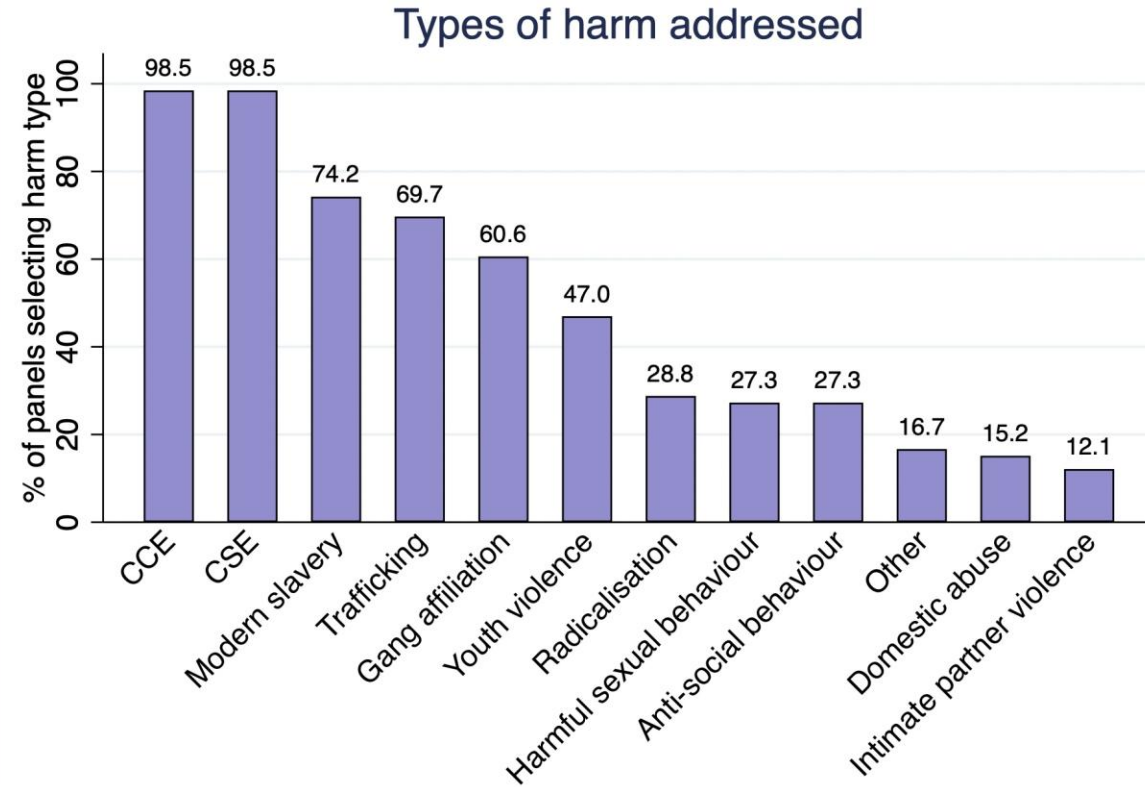


Site 4: Case oversight and theme oversight MACE panels with ROTH Child Protection Pathway in Parallel



2. Children caught between crime and welfare binaries

- In all systems community safety processes still coordinate responses to serious violence
- The purpose of 'safeguarding' meetings is also complex; with policing and welfare goals often collapsed – such as using VOLT models, or gathering 'intelligence'
- Reliance on community safety and policing interventions to respond to extra-familial contexts



3. Systems drowning in information but struggling to take-action

- The volume of information shared is vast
- The volume of actions agreed in panels that fulfil a 'case oversight' function is minimal
- Further gathering framed as an action
- Space squeezed for responses to groups/trends
- Limited consideration of 'relevance'
- Limited connectivity between processes beyond people

*“Like there was just a couple of voices in it and lots of people sitting there listening and hearing information that they arguably shouldn't hear, do you know what I mean? It just felt a bit like it was an oversharing space. I was really keen, not for it to be that.”
(Prioritising Protection, Focus group, case study site)*

Features of efficacy

1

- Using an integrated single pathway and threshold

2

- Planning support without relying on investigatory options

3

- Using youth work responses to individuals and contexts

4

- Consistently using and seeking children and young people's views

5

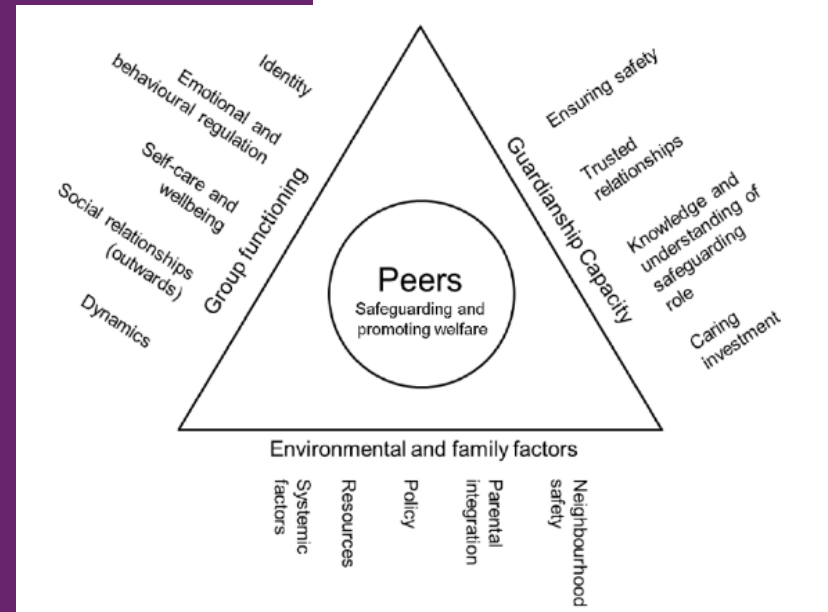
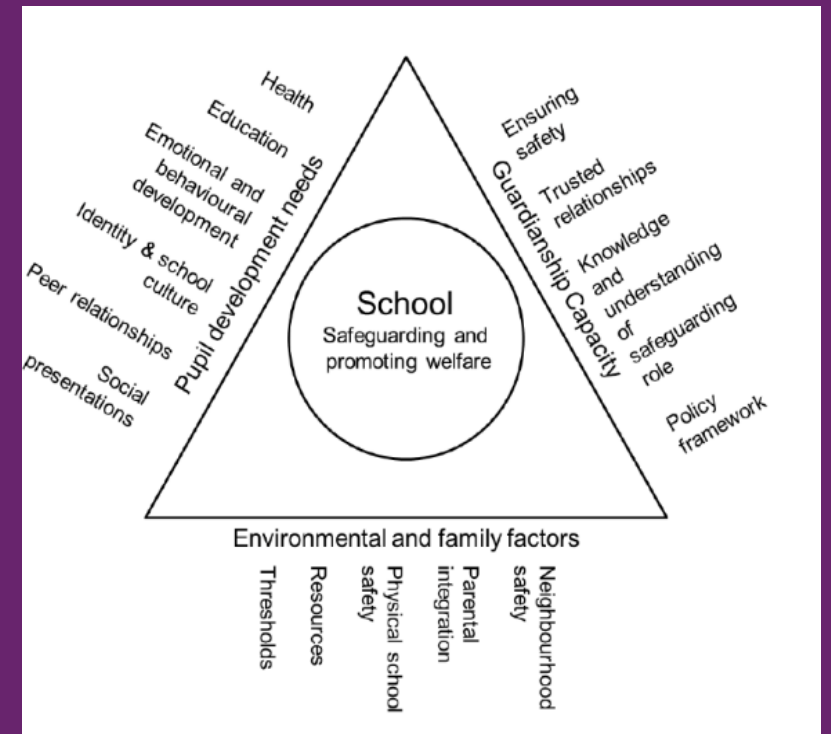
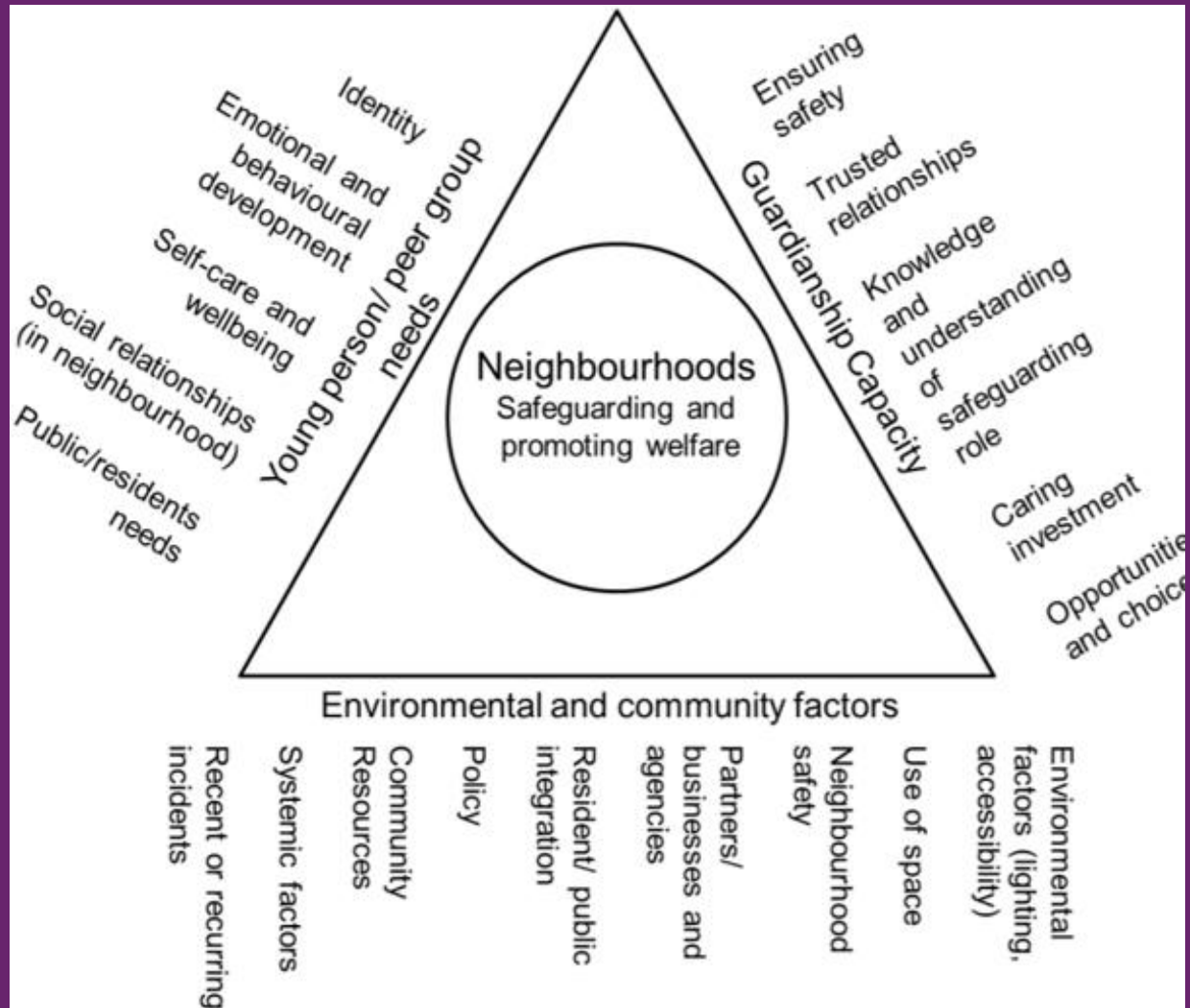
- Building in escalatory routes to school inclusion processes

6

- Applying clear parameters for proportionate information sharing

7

- Using welfare-orientated assessments



Moving forwards

Understand your current pathway

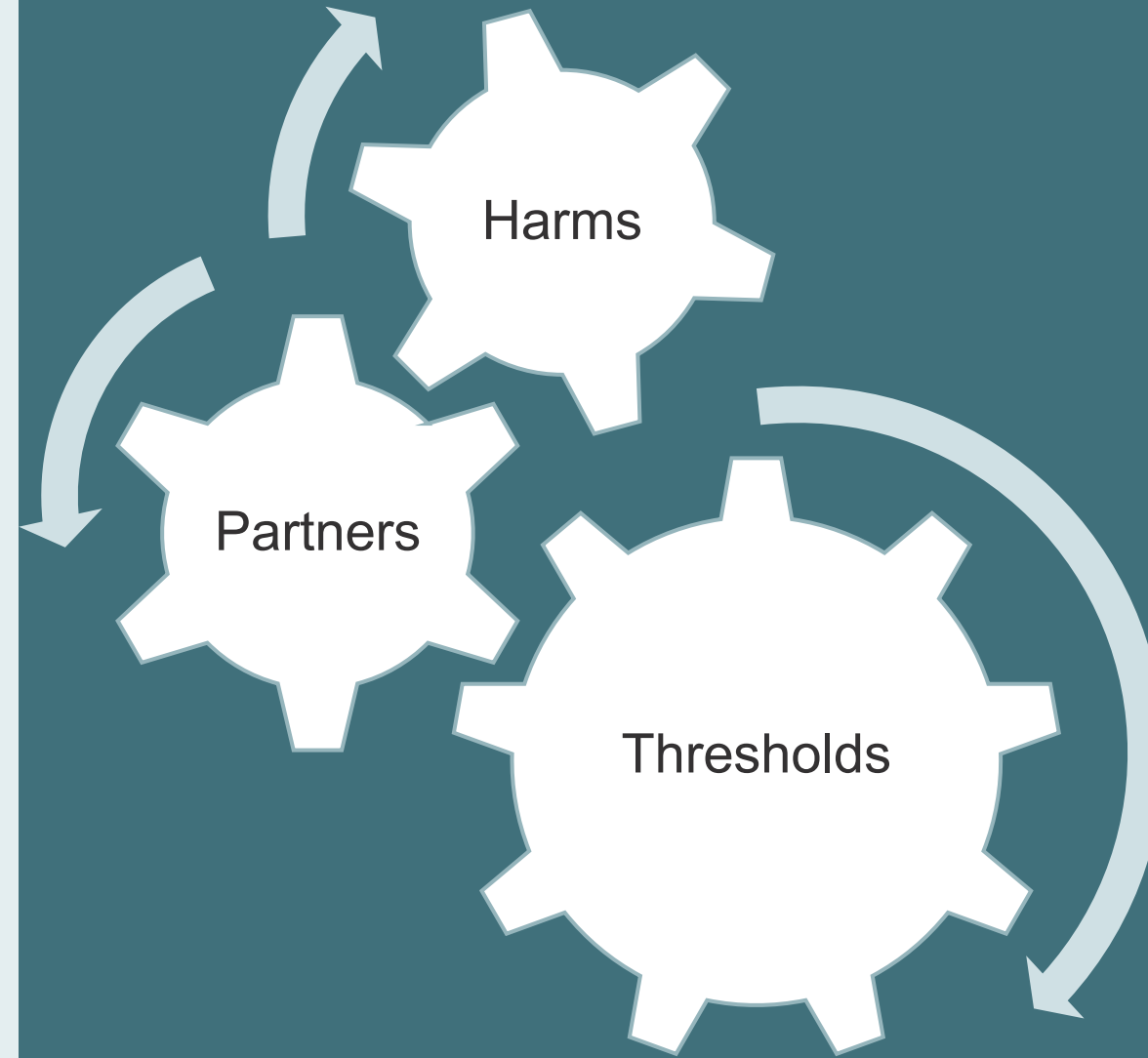
Map existing arrangements against a series of case studies or questions

Review actions agreed at panels and through pathways – are they reliant on the pathway?

Review which harms are considered where and the rationale for any separation

Review threshold applications across pathways, and approaches to assessment

Review your pathway through an anti-discrimination lens



Work through the welfare crime binary

“But actually they're all our children that you are targeting, following and disrupting that you make up your crime statistics with because you're not prepared to go after the big (fish) my kids are just little fish that are easy to arrest and get the charge and will inundate youth justice and say ‘well why you're not adhering to your conditions’....well because actually I'm being exploited and I can't.” (PP, Focus group)

‘Shane’, you have witnessed a significant assault on your best friend, whereby he was stabbed last year. There's been ongoing concerns for your safety since this time both in school and outside of school in the community. It is clear that everybody around you is finding it increasingly difficult to keep you safe from the risk of serious youth violence...You were really open with me about how this is impacted on your mental health and how you were struggling to remain on track and not retaliate (Social worker, P4S)

Identify it in your local arrangements – which children and young people are impacted and how?

Engage in strategic discussion about social care and policing leadership – synergies and differences

Clarify purpose, goal, outcome measure, and cultures of different organisations until you get to places of commonality

Develop a **welfare-led** pathway

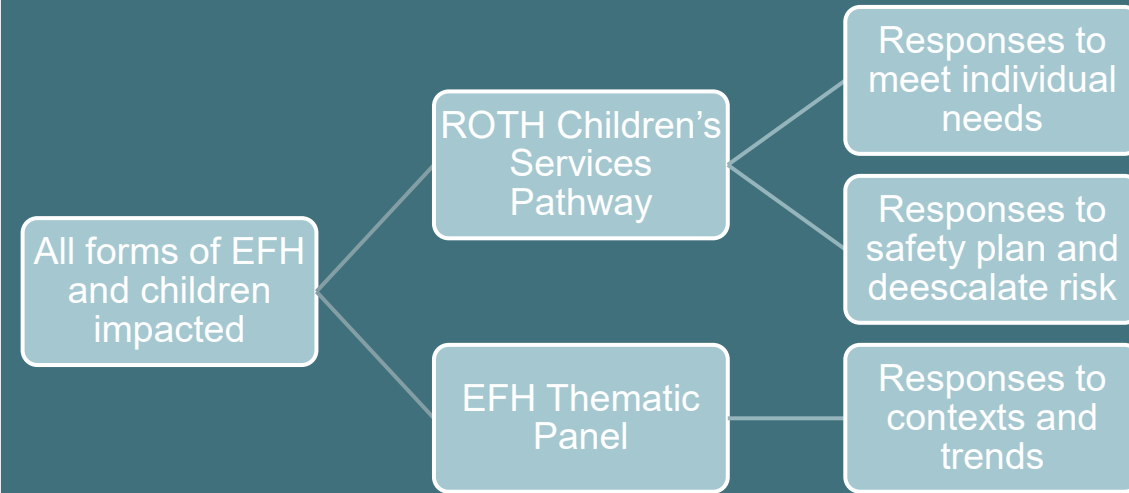
Case-oversight via a Risk Outside of the Home / Harm Outside of the Home Child Protection Pathway – and identify implications for family help and children in care

Thematic oversight via a MACE or equivalent panel

All forms of EFH drawn into both structures

Children's needs and welfare prioritised in both structures

Involvement of youth work in both structures



They were saying] We want to make this work so you can have the best life. We're not here to take you away... not ... telling us how stupid she is or what horrible mistakes she's making. And it's all her fault, and she should know better. We haven't had any of that this time. It's been very understanding, very calm. (Parent)

Reflections and questions for London

1

- ROTH Child Protection Uptake in London has been variable despite national policy changes

2

- Exploitation protocols published by the MPS do not engage with Contextual Safeguarding

3

- Serious violence is often separated under a community safety agenda and resourcing implications may be significant for London

4

- Mayor's VAWG strategy frames response to exploitation from a policing perspective

5

- Findings related to 'disproportionality' and safeguarding responses to Black children and young people likely to be more acute in London

How does the profile of children discussed at HSB panels differ from MACE and serious violence panels? Do you know? What is the difference in the behaviour?

How many children at risk of significant harm in London are not currently on child protection plans but open to other services instead? What are the outcomes for these children?

How confident is the partnership that there is shared understanding of Contextual Safeguarding and its inclusion in the forthcoming LCPP standards?

What does London need to progress its work to safeguard all children impacted by extra-familial harm?

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