



Warwickshire Safeguarding Strategy for Adolescents

2026-2029

Version for Young People



Introduction

Growing up can bring worries, risks, and situations that are hard to deal with. Being a teenager can be challenging because your brain is still growing, friends and social media can have a big impact, and you may take risks while learning who you are.

Sometimes professionals and trusted adults (like teachers, youth workers, family members) forget this and expect you to act like an adult, which isn't fair. You deserve the right support from the right people at the right time.

This guide is about safeguarding. It highlights the things that young people have told us they are concerned about and includes information about the support available in Warwickshire to help keep you safe outside of the home.

What you might worry about:

Unsafe places in your community	Knife crime	Being around people who make you feel uncomfortable
Drugs, alcohol and nicotine being easy to get	Not knowing where to go for help	Feeling judged and not taken seriously

What you might want:

Honesty from adults	Adults to listen and not dismiss your concerns	Safer spaces and places to go
To make decisions about your life	Ways to report things anonymously	

The risk of harm to you may increase if you are:

Struggling with your mental health

Feel lonely or isolated

Experiencing neglect

Not going to school

Using or around drugs, nicotine or alcohol

In care or moving between homes

Experiencing homelessness

Have Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)

A young asylum seeker or refugee

Experiencing discrimination

Are neurodivergent

A young carer



Types of harm you might face

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

This is when someone abuses, pressures, or tricks you into doing things like:

Carrying and selling drugs

Running errands for older people related to illegal activities

Stealing

Carrying weapons

Becoming involved in gang-related activities including harming others

Using your bank account to hold illegal money



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This can be hard to recognise, and you might not realise it's happening. It is when someone manipulates, grooms, or forces you into sexual activity, often by:

**Sharing
images**

**Giving
cigarettes,
vapes or drugs**

**Using
threats**

**Giving gifts,
food, alcohol,
accommodation**

**Offering
attention**



Online Harm

You probably spend time online and it can be a great place to connect with others, be creative and discover new things. However, it can expose you to harmful content, contact from risky people, and dangerous activities like:

Grooming

Pressure to send images

Seeing harmful or disturbing content

Bullying

AI generated fake images

Fake accounts pretending to be someone else



Missing

Leaving home, school or other safe places can put you at more risk of harm. Being out of contact with trusted adults can make it harder to get help when you need it.

Out of contact triggers:



Violence and weapons

You might feel pressure to carry weapons for protection or status. This increases danger for everyone. Serious violence has a lasting impact on both those who have been harmed and those who caused harm.

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Radicalisation

You might come across radicalisation in person or online. The internet, social media, influencers, groups or gaming sites have become key places to pull young people into extreme views leading to hate or violence.

What can you expect from professionals and trusted adults?

Adults have a duty to protect you. They should:

Listen to you and believe you

Avoid blaming you

Respect your identity, culture, and background and understand the impact of this on you

Support your mental and physical health

Work with your family, if it is safe to do so

Learn from your experiences



How services in Warwickshire will help keep you safe?

Professionals and trusted adults will work together with agencies like police, education, health and children's services to make parks, schools, streets, and online spaces safer.

They will help you stay safe, grow in confidence and become the best you can be by:

Helping build confidence and resilience

Supporting families

Sharing helpful information

Teaching about healthy relationships

Helping early on, before things get worse

Professionals will support you at the times you need it most, help make situations safer, and work towards happier, healthier outcomes. Services will include youth work, mental health support, help with drug and alcohol use and support after harm.



Where can you get help?

You can ask for help from a trusted adult such as a teacher, youth worker, social worker or family member. Contact the police if you are in danger.

Call **ChildLine** for advice on **0800 111**
or visit **www.childline.org.uk**

Visit **www.somethingsnotright.co.uk** for advice
and support if you are concerned

Report anonymously and ask for help

