



Mapping

Relationship based approach to building a
safeguarding picture

Details

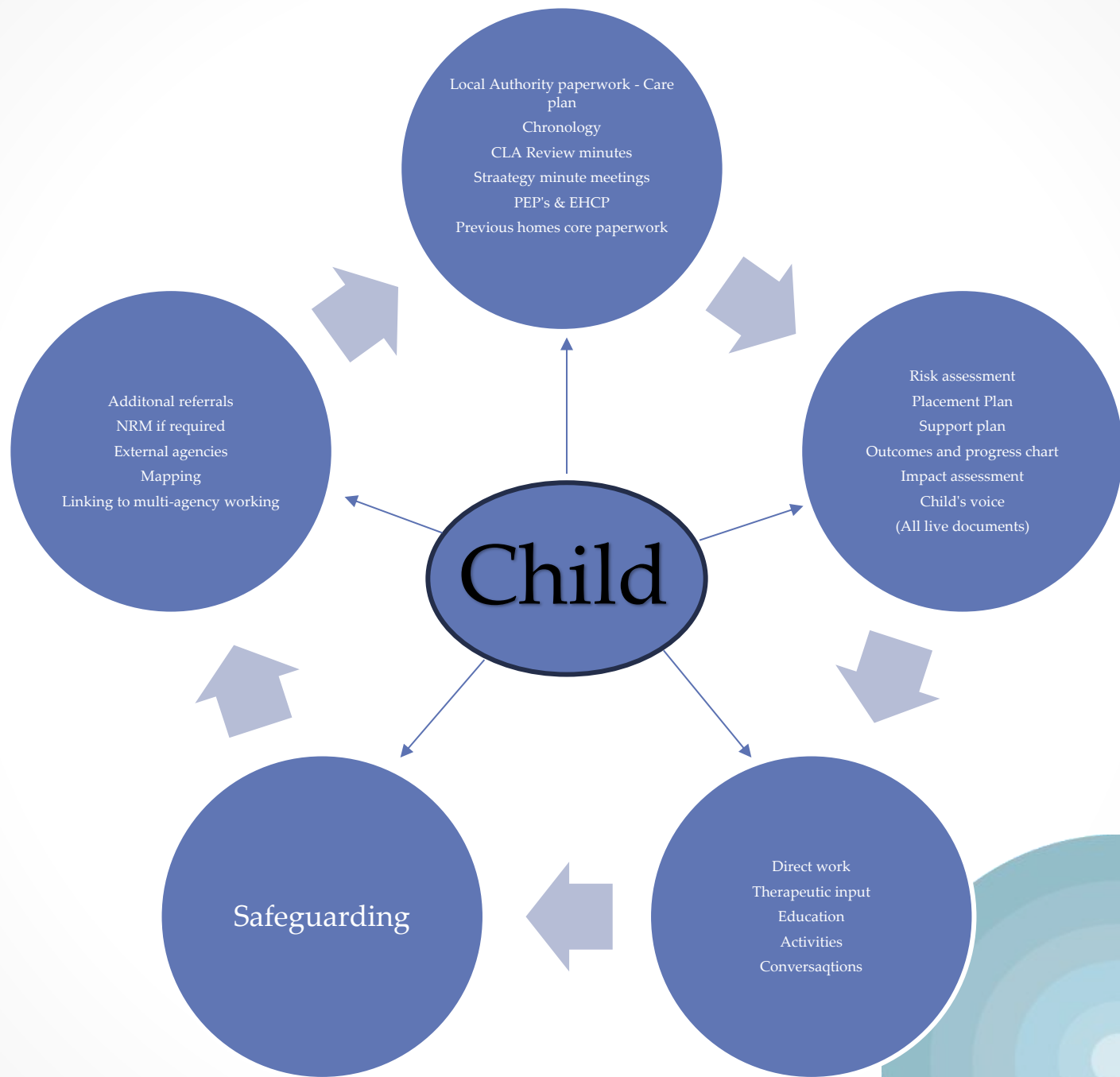
- A child's story is sometimes not always clear
- As the people who work with the children, it is so important that we LISTEN to what they are saying so we can help to tell their story.
- When a child is moving into a home the local authority provide core documents. This includes the care plan, chronology, significant meeting minutes and copies of any additional support such as an EHCP (education health care plan).
- Please link with the local police to ensure they are fully aware of the child's details of moving from out of county.



Further Details

- The detail from the local authority is then used to form the initial core paperwork in the home.
- This includes risk assessments, placement plan, support plan and impact assessments.
- There will be direct sessions of work carried out. This will be child led.
- This is recorded as conversations, keywork sessions etc.
- These conversations may generate safeguarding/child protection information. That is anything of concern about the child being supported or any other child they may talk about.





Safeguarding example

Billy, 15 has moved to the home following several homes breaking down and being unable to support him. Billy has pending charges for possession of a bladed article, possession with intent to supply, burglary and assault.

Billy has been missing several times over the past three years.

Billy does not have much trust in professionals and is guarded. Billy will talk about his experiences and feels he is an accomplished drug dealer. Billy refers to his friends as his family.



Billy

Over time Billy begins to trust the carers supporting him in the home. Billy likes to talk to Sally and Kayleigh. He has told the manager he feels they get him and he likes to play chess with them both.

Sally and Kayleigh have had some conversations about Billy and how he has ended up in such a difficult situation at the age of fifteen. They use curiosity in a playful way to explore how he feels and what his experiences have been.



Billy

Sally talked to Billy about how old he was when he first had anything to do with drugs. Billy admits he was eleven years old. Sally said, 'so you're telling me you woke up at the age of eleven and thought it was a good idea to sell drugs?'. Billy laughed and said, 'no, I didn't just come up with it. Ryan told me and my pals about it'. Sally asked, 'who is Ryan? I've not heard you mention Ryan'. Billy responds to say, 'Ryan is the guy we met at Maple park. He was the one who used to buy us pizza and other stuff'.



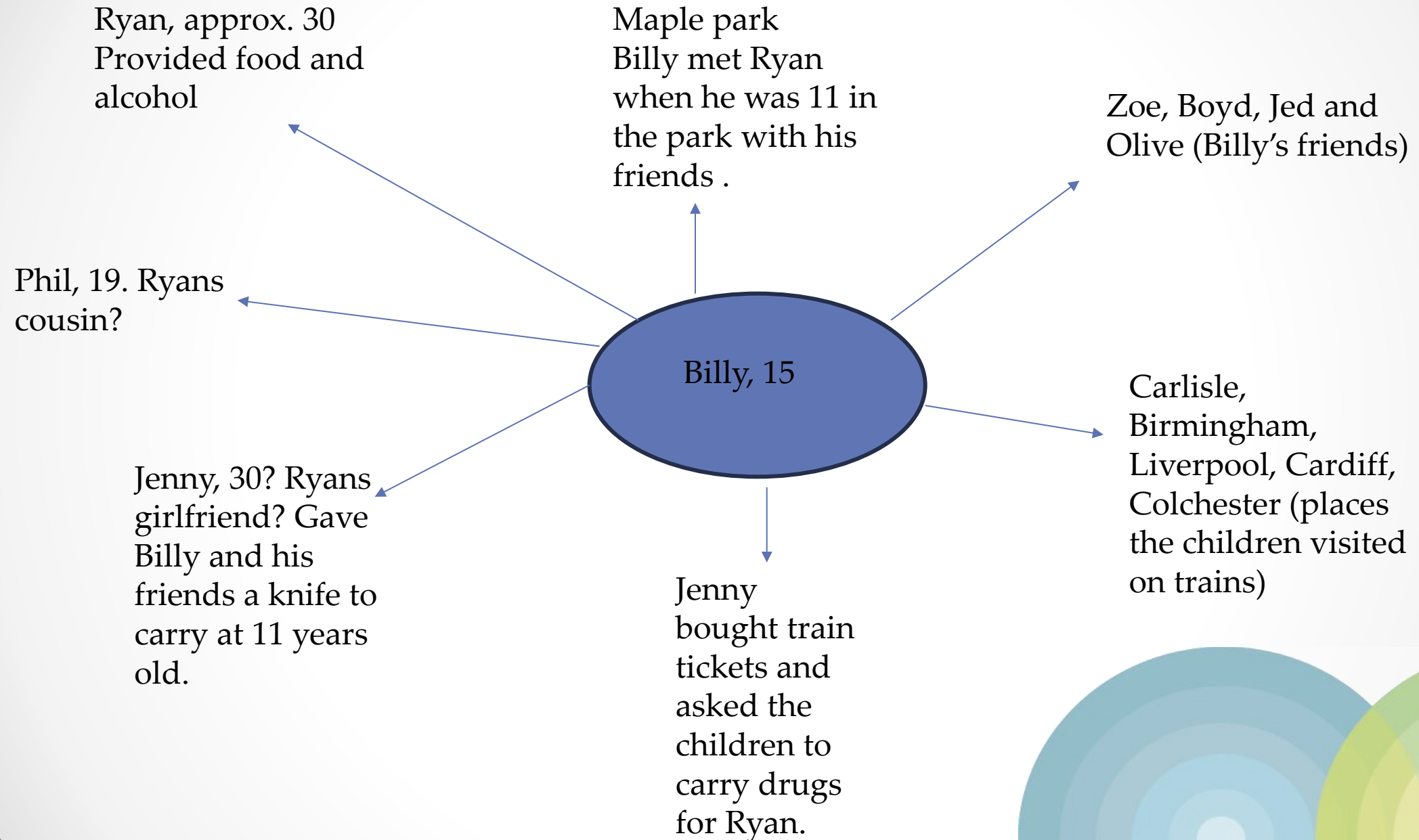
Billy

Over the following weeks Billy continues to speak to his carers. This generates several detailed recordings regarding safeguarding. This also generates several detailed recordings of conversations and key work sessions. The manager of the home views each and every recording. They have then been mapping the detail to tell Billy's story.

The manager sends all of the forms to the social worker. There are up to fifty individual forms. The social worker does not have the capacity to read all the forms.

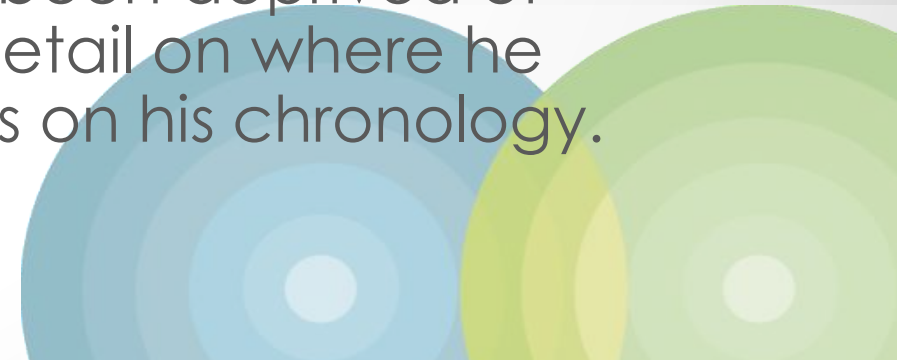
Through the use of mapping the manager has been able to map the key detail on a clear visual. This is shared with the social worker and subsequent multi-agency meetings.





Evidence

Through relationships with carers and conversations being recorded Billy is identified as a victim. At the age of eleven, he and his friends were coerced into carrying drugs and weapons. They were trafficked around the country and exploited by adults using them to transport drugs. Billy has also been a victim of sexual assault in the form of drugs being inserted into his body through his anus. Billy's friends are now also being identified as victims. Some of Billy's friends have been moved to different areas of the country. All of the children have been deprived of their liberty under inherent jurisdiction. Billy's detail on where he travelled links to his identified missing episodes on his chronology.




National Referral Mechanism

Through the work carried out by the carers and through Billy's bravery a national referral mechanism was completed. Billy's voice in his story means it is a positive national referral mechanism on conclusive grounds. Billy's pending charges are now seen under the view of him being a victim.

The national referral mechanism is part of the modern slavery act 2015.

Perpetrators of exploitation receive heavier sentencing if found guilty.





‘Only through positive relationships that staff would know young people well enough to open up conversations about their lives and their risks or experience of exploitation and to be able to ask questions and raise issues of concern in a sensitive way’.
The Alexi Project, 2017