Why This Learning Matters for Your Organisation Now

This learning has particular relevance for organisations responsible for safeguarding children and young people, where effective multi-agency working depends not only on procedures and information sharing, but also on the quality of professional interpretation and judgement. The webinar raises questions about how organisations recognise vulnerability, represent children's experiences and create the conditions for professionals to challenge assumptions.

Recognising vulnerability and exploitation
Children experiencing exploitation may also display behaviour that professionals find challenging or harmful. Understanding their circumstances requires careful consideration of context, relationships, coercion and the possibility that a child may be both experiencing harm and causing harm.

The webinar provides an opportunity to examine how professional assumptions about behaviour and responsibility might influence safeguarding responses.

Child-centred and multi-agency working
Working Together to Safeguard Children establishes expectations for child-centred safeguarding and effective collaboration between agencies. The *Crossing the Line* film raises important questions about how these expectations are realised in practice. In particular, it invites consideration of whether children's voices are meaningfully represented in professional discussions and whether meetings lead to decisions that improve their safety.

Professional judgement, reflection and challenge
The *Children's Social Care National Framework* and the *Families First Partnership* programme place importance on effective multi-agency practice, professional relationships and the development of a skilled workforce.

The webinar provides a useful stimulus for examining how professional language, organisational assumptions and established ways of working can influence decisions. Using it to create opportunities for peer reflection may help organisations strengthen professional curiosity, constructive challenge and the quality of their collective judgement.

Policy context: England. The wider practice questions may also be relevant in other jurisdictions.

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Back to Crossing the Line: Rethinking the 'Alpha Victim' *On Demand*