



PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2021

10.30 am COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair)
Councillors Sam Adeniji, Charles Clark, Penny di Cara, Chris Dowling,
Kathryn Field, Nuala Geary, Wendy Maples, Stephen Shing, John Ungar
(Vice Chair) and Trevor Webb

Miss Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative
Trevor Cristin, Diocese of Chichester Representative
Mr Simon Parr, Roman Catholic Diocese representative

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th September 2021 *(Pages 3 - 8)*
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosures of interests
Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items
Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Activemob update *(Pages 9 - 24)*
6. Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) *(Pages 25 - 50)*
7. Work programme *(Pages 51 - 72)*
8. East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report *(Pages 73 - 124)*
9. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
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10 November 2021

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PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held at on 16 September 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors Sam Adeniji, Charles Clark, Penny di Cara, Chris Dowling, Kathryn Field, Nuala Geary, Johanna Howell (Chair), Wendy Maples, Stephen Shing and John Ungar (Vice Chair)

LEAD MEMBERS Councillor Bob Bowdler, Lead Member for Children and Families
Councillor Carl Maynard, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Bob Standley, Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

ALSO PRESENT Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive
Mark Stainton, Director of Adult Social Care
Alison Jeffrey, Director of Children's Services
Ian Gutsell, Chief Finance Officer
Mark Whiffin, Head of Finance
Louise Carter, Assistant Director (Communication, Planning and Performance)
Debbie Endersby, Head of Strategic Commissioning
Sophie Permain, Supply Development Manager
Michaela Richards, Head of Safer Communities
George Kouridis, Head of Service for Adult Safeguarding
Lindsay Adams, Strategic Commissioner – Domestic Sexual Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls
Kaveri Sharma, Equality and Engagement Manager
Caz Kearton-Evans Strategic Commissioning Manager – Substance Misuse
Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board
Stuart McKeown, Interim Member Services Manager

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 17 JUNE 2021

8.1 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 as a correct record and agree the recommendations made at the meeting.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

9.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Trevor Webb, Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representative) and Simon Parr (Catholic Diocese Representative).

10. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

10.1 There were no disclosures of interests.

11. URGENT ITEMS

11.1 There were no urgent items.

12. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR)

12.1 The report was introduced by Philip Baker (Assistant Chief Executive). He outlined that this is the start of scrutiny's engagement in the budget setting process for 2022/23 and beyond. The State of the County report considered by Cabinet in July set out the detailed financial planning context for rest of the year and beyond. However, the financial and policy position remains one of uncertainty and there have been a number of developments since July which will be covered in a RPPR report to Cabinet in September 2021. There have also been a number of significant Government announcements which include:

- There will be a three-year financial settlement following the spending review which is likely to be published on 27 October 2021.
- The Government is aiming for a balanced budget from the financial years 2023/24 through to 2025/26.
- The Government has announced plans for Health and Social Care reform which will be funded by a 1.25% levy on National Insurance contributions made by employers and employees. Details will be set out in a White paper which will be published later in the year. The impact on East Sussex could be significant in terms of the local care market and on local health partners.

12.2 The Committee discussed the report and a summary of the key points discussed is set out below.

- In response to a query regarding the one-off reserve contribution referred to in paragraph 1.5 of the covering report, Members were informed by Ian Gutsell (Chief Finance Officer) that due to the pandemic some of the pressures included in earlier financial planning had not occurred. As a result an opportunity had arisen to explore into the autumn the use of £8.855m one-off funding for investment in areas that will help better manage future demand for services or support the delivery of priorities such as highways or climate change. It was also clarified that the savings set out in the report are 'legacy savings' resulting from decisions taken in previous years and that the Medium Term Financial Plan for next year does not contain plans for new savings to be identified.
- The Committee asked about the steps being taken to address delays in children and young people receiving a diagnosis from Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). In response the Alison Jeffery (Director of Children Services) informed Members that the Department is in discussion with colleagues from the local NHS Trust about what can be done to streamline the referral pathway and deliver quicker responses. Work is also being undertaken to raise awareness amongst the wider workforce of neural diversity in children. It is hoped this will result in more children and young people gaining access to support in a more timely manner, without necessarily requiring a formal diagnosis. Furthermore, additional funding has been provided by central government to support children's mental health. The Department are therefore actively engaging with NHS partners to help ensure the best use of the funding.

- With regard to the Government's announcement of introducing a cap on care costs, it was clarified to Members that the national insurance uplift for employers and employees will come in to force in April 2022. The change to what people pay, however, will not be introduced until October 2023. It was also clarified that is anticipated that the cap will be applied to care costs and will not cover costs such as accommodation and that the department are waiting on further detail about, for example, what the additional funding from central government will be allocated to.

12.3 The Committee RESOLVED to establish an RPPR scrutiny review board to consider the developing Portfolio Plans and Medium Term Financial Plan and to submit Scrutiny's final comments on them to Cabinet in January 2022.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

13.1 The Committee discussed its Work Programme which is comprised of a number of ongoing scrutiny reviews, reference groups and planned reports. In particular, Members noted the arrangements for an Away Day and the opportunity this would provide to the Committee to discuss its priorities for scrutiny activity in the coming months.

13.2 The Committee RESOLVED to note the contents of its work programme.

14. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SAFER COMMUNITIES

14.1 Michaela Richards, Joint Strategic Commissioner for Domestic and Sexual Violence Abuse Services, introduced the report and responded to a number of questions asked by the Committee. A summary of the key issues discussed is set out below:

- **Domestic abuse in the over 60s age group:** With regard to the over 60 age group, the Committee noted the reference in paragraph 1.5 of the covering report to a total of 'only 26 referrals to the commissioned domestic abuse community service last year'. Members asked for more detail about whether the number of referrals was at the expected level or was evidence of under-reporting of abuse in this age group. In response, Members were informed that this group are under-represented nationally for a wide variety of reasons including: individuals not recognising their situation as abusive, reluctance to disrupt family life, and being less likely to know how to seek support. Against this backdrop the Department is working to engage with and support this group in different ways. This includes, for example, raising awareness of how people can access support as part of the Older People's Day in October and undertaking a needs assessment of the service to improve refuge accommodation for older people.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Drug Trafficking rates:** The Committee discussed the negative impact on communities of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and noted the sharp increase in reports of incidents (as referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the covering report). The Committee also noted the reference in paragraph 1.3 of the covering report to the significant increase in the number of drug trafficking offences. In both cases the Committee sought clarification as to the reasons behind the increases. In response, the Director of Adult Social Care undertook to ask Sussex Police if it could provide further context regarding both sets of data which could then be shared with Members.
- **Drug and Alcohol Treatment completion rates:** The Committee sought clarification regarding the rate of successful completions for treatment for drug and alcohol misuse. In response, the Committee were informed that completion rates do not tend to be high

across the nation as the recipients of support have a chronic long-term condition, which is managed with a substitute prescription. Sadly, many people are not able to complete the full course of treatment. In response to a further question, Members were informed that the definition of treatment completion is that the individual is no longer using illegal opiates and no longer needs prescription substitutes. The Committee were further informed that with regard to the Hastings area, additional funding had been provided via Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery). This is a Home Office initiative which engages with a number of agencies and charities to provide education and support to drug users and provides support for helping them end their dependency.

14.2 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

15. DEVELOPING CARE MARKETS BEDDED CARE STRATEGY

15.1 Debbie Endersby (Head of Strategic Commissioning) and Sophie Permain (Supply Development Manager) provided the Committee with a presentation which included a summary of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated care services in East Sussex and an overview of current demands and service challenges. Set out below is a summary of the key points discussed by the Committee:

- **Block Booking.** In response to a question regarding 'block booking', the Department confirmed that it does 'block contract book' beds with a number of nursing homes in East Sussex. The bookings are made as part of the Department's 'Discharge To Assess (D2A)/Home First' pathway. Where possible the D2A pathway aims to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital, and where an admission is necessary, to ensure that people are discharged as soon as is safe and practical, back to their own homes or to a D2A bed to have their assessments and services arranged outside of hospital. The number of discharge to assess beds varies throughout the year, with approximately 90 beds in use at present.
- **Vaccination of care home workers:** The Committee discussed the potential impact of vaccination legislation which requires all care home staff to be vaccinated against Covid-19 by November 2021. More specifically, the Committee asked for clarification regarding what steps are being taken to minimise the impact on care home clients if significant numbers of staff lose their jobs because they have refused to be vaccinated. In response Members were informed that in terms of directly provided care services the number of staff that have not been vaccinated currently stands at only two. It was therefore anticipated there would not be a challenge with providing continuity of service in this sector. The Director of Adult Social Care also confirmed that there are staff who are exempt from being vaccinated and therefore they would continue in their roles.
- **Overseas recruitment:** The Committee discussed the proposed recruitment of care home staff from overseas and asked whether more could be done to increase rates of recruitment from the local population. In response, Members were informed that the Department actively employs a range of methods in the local area to promote working in the sector. This includes, for example, attendance at recruitment fairs. However, there are a number of factors which mean recruitment remains a challenge for the adult social care sector. These factors include competition from similarly paid roles in the leisure and hospitality industries and the nature of care work itself, which whilst rewarding is also a challenging and demanding job.

- **Homecare referrals:** The Committee discussed the increase in the rate of homecare referrals and asked for clarification as to what factors were behind the trend. In response Members were informed that over 25% of the population in East Sussex is over 65 years of age and therefore there has been and continues to be a general increase in demand for support with care. In the short term the Covid-19 pandemic may have contributed to a rise in demand for Homecare as many clients wished to avoid using a care home. The increase in the rate of homecare referrals is also being driven by an increased recognition at the national level of the benefits of helping clients to live independently and in their own homes for as long as possible.
- **Self-funding clients:** In response to a query regarding the support provided by the Department to individuals and families who fund their own care, Members were informed that the Department offer advice and guidance to clients about all the options available to them. Where requested this includes support from the Department's brokerage team who will work with clients and individual care homes to help identify suitable options.
- **Use of technology in homecare:** In response to a question about the extent of its use, the Committee were informed that technology is widely utilized to provide assistance with care. For example, the Department use Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS) which incorporates a range of technological solutions and services for those in care, many of which are interlinked with other services such as Lifeline. The Department is also about to undertake studies looking into the use of robotics to assist with moving and handling, a form of technology that has been successfully deployed in other local authorities.

15.2 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report and request an update report in six months.

16. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

16.1 Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board introduced the report and responded to a number of questions from the Committee. The key issues discussed included:

- **Referrals from doctors:** The Committee asked about the role of doctors in making referrals to the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), noting that this has previously been highlighted as an area for improvement. In response, Graham Bartlett informed the Committee that the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have recently appointed eight named GPs for safeguarding roles. It is hoped this coordinated approach will have a wider impact on adult safeguarding across the county. George Kouridis (Head of Service Adult Safeguarding) also informed the Committee that safeguarding reports from other medical staff, such as community nurses, form a significant proportion of the referrals received.
- **Modern slavery and human trafficking:** The Committee asked for more detail about the modern slavery and human trafficking training course which was undertaken by SAB members and sought more information on how prevalent both issues are in East Sussex. In response Graham Bartlett informed the Committee that there is a general lack of awareness and under-reporting of modern slavery and human trafficking activity. As a result, one of the aims of the training course is to help individuals develop the skills to identify possible indicators of abuse. Mr Bartlett confirmed that the training was applied to many different settings and that it was not being offered due to a specific issue in East Sussex.

36.

- **Conference on Adult B Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR):** The Committee asked about the recommendation from the Adult B SAR to hold a conference, hosted jointly with Brighton & Hove SAR, to look into key areas of learning. Specifically, the Committee sought assurance that this conference had now taken place, noting that it was delayed due the pandemic, and asked for the key learnings taken from this. Graham Bartlett confirmed to the Committee that the conference had taken place and that it was very productive and informative. Members were informed that details of the learnings and any policy changes as a result of the conference will be set out in the next annual report to the Committee.
- **Joint working with the East Sussex Safeguarding Children's Partnership:** The Committee asked for clarification about whether the East Sussex Safeguarding Children's Partnership (ESSCP) and the SAB share learning from serious case reviews and other activities. In response, the Committee were informed that the Chairs of the SAB and the ESSCP hold seats on both bodies and that a partnership protocol is in place. The protocol aims to help ensure all work streams and learning are aligned towards best practice and the safeguarding of both adults and children.

16.2 The Committee RESOLVED – to note the report and to thank Graham Bartlett for his commitment and contributions as Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair)

Report to: **People Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **18 November 2021**

Author: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title: **Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) COVID-19 Research with Activmob**

Purpose: **To share the findings, recommendations and follow-up actions from the ASCH research with Activmob**

People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note the findings and recommendations from phases 1 and 2 of the Activmob research, the actions already taken and those planned as a result of the research recommendations.
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1. Background

1.1 At the start of 2020, Activmob Community Interest Company (CIC) were commissioned by the Council to undertake research with East Sussex residents and Adult Social Care (ASC) clients, in response to recommendation 1 of the People Scrutiny Committee [‘Changing Care Market: Information and Signposting’ Review report](#) that:

Adult Social Care should undertake additional engagement, ideally in partnership with an independent organisation, to gain a better insight into how well-informed people in East Sussex feel about social care support and funding arrangements. The engagement should include people who are not existing ASC clients and the findings should be used to inform ongoing ASC communications and information provision.

1.2 Following a pause to the project at the beginning of the pandemic, the objectives of the research were subsequently adapted in response to COVID-19. The work for this research has been guided by a project group, the membership of which includes ESCC officers, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) participation and involvement colleagues, and an Expert by Experience. The research has been delivered in two phases:

- Phase 1 – focusing on ASC clients and staff in the immediate aftermath of the first lockdown.
- Phase 2 – focusing on East Sussex residents, particularly those who have been most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and workers from local organisations.

1.3 The research is now complete and the findings and recommendations are outlined in section two below. The ASCH department has been implementing the findings of this research to ensure our communication and engagement mechanisms are strengthened in line with the recommendations. The executive summaries of phases 1 and 2 of the research are attached as Appendix A and B respectively.

2. Research findings and Recommendations

Phase 1 Research findings and recommendations

2.1 In Phase 1 of the research (July to October 2020), ASC clients, carers and social care managers were engaged in in-depth conversations with researchers, informed by a topic guide to explore their experiences of care and support during the first COVID-19 lockdown. An inductive approach was used to analyse the conversations. This means that themes were identified from the insights and experiences shared.

2.2 From the client and carer interviews, the following conclusions were presented:

- Most participants had low awareness of the support available from ASCH and they also had low expectations of what ASCH would provide.
- Over half the participants felt that there was a lack of clear, practical and reliable information on how they should respond given the announcement of the lockdown. Terms such as 'shielding' and 'self-isolating' were unclear. There was no single communication to all ASC clients.
- Over half of clients who were not in receipt of regular services and support, such as home care, were anxious about how they would organise practical tasks such as obtaining prescriptions and food. For these participants they often experienced valuable support from neighbours and their local community.
- Clients who before lockdown received regular support such as home care services, generally reported that these continued well during lockdown with very few examples of any interruption in service.
- Hospital discharge experiences from the small number of participants in the study were mainly positive with pathways and services feeling joined up from their perspective. Experiences from Rehabilitation and Reablement were positive.
- Loneliness, isolation and missing social interaction was a key concern. Key groups affected were those who were more independent prior to lockdown and generally doing social activities, and individuals (especially younger) with learning disabilities who really struggled with the lack of social interaction.

2.3 From the operational staff interviews, key conclusions were:

- Managers felt that they and their teams had continued to deliver a core service to their clients during lockdown. Staff had worked tirelessly to achieve this.
- Whilst local decision making worked well and swiftly within teams, quicker and practical guidance from across supporting departments to enable managers to focus on service delivery would have been welcome.
- Partnership with others such as NHS organisations and joint pathways had not worked well for all ASCH clients.

2.4 There were five key recommendations from Phase 1 of the research, with a particular focus on communications and information provision:

1. Communicating the East Sussex COVID-19 plan - provide clear information and communication about how to respond and where to get help
2. Engaging with *all* clients
3. Informing clients about ASCH support, on options to meet their support needs and COVID support
4. Checking in with all clients – ensuring no one is missed
5. Recommendations for the wider system – conducting a 'deep dive' to test out key conclusions from the interviews

Phase 2 Research findings and recommendations

2.5 In Phase 2 of the research (January – May 2021), Activmob spoke to East Sussex residents and front-line staff members from Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations about their understanding of ASCH and how it works. The research

used in-depth interviews informed by a topic guide to explore people's experiences. Recruitment was aimed at older people, men and people from an ethnic minority background.

2.6 Key findings of note from residents include:

- The level of understanding of what ASCH offer, how they work, how it is funded, and personal contributions was low.
- Rehab and re-enablement services are recognised and have tangible value to people. People generally believe these services are provided by the NHS and not ASCH.
- ASCH was not used or seen as a source of information regarding the pandemic or local support.
- During the pandemic people had, for the first time, started to consider how and where they could get help and support from.
- Many people were encountering challenges they had never experienced before suggesting the potential of longer-term mental health and wellbeing issues.
- Local informal assets (people and organisations) stepped up very quickly, creatively, and pro-actively to meet people's needs.
- People want to receive general and practical information about support from trusted and local sources such as local shops, pharmacies, and community groups or health professionals where there is an existing relationship.

2.7 Key findings from frontline workers in VCSE organisations include:

- Organisations who took part said they adapted quickly to meet the needs of their local community or client groups.
- New individuals and families were drawing on local support and advice, many for the first time due to the pandemic. Generally, they had low awareness and expectations of what help they could receive or what they were entitled to.
- Local people and clients have a low awareness and understanding of ASCH, reflecting insights from those residents (non-service users) interviewed in this study.
- Those who took part did not feel particularly informed or connected with ASCH but saw the potential benefit a stronger relationship could bring for local people:
 - As trusted people who have the contact with clients and especially the new cohorts, they could have a role in facilitating people accessing ASCH.
 - Being local, they understand, hear and know the questions people have and they could work with the local authority in shaping future communications.

2.8 Recommendations from Phase 2 were:

1. Review and capture the places and people (including staff) that people experiencing health inequalities trust. Proactively engage with these trusted places or assets to understand how distrust of ASCH could be reduced through the provision of information and how they could support in the provision of information.
2. Review internally, the key messages the list of trusted assets have regarding ASCH that could ensure they have enough understanding to give reassurance to those seeking information about ASCH.
3. Consider engagement rather than just communications (i.e. 2 way).
4. Use trusted assets as the key direct communication vehicle to communities experiencing health inequalities and other small and disconnected local groups within communities.
5. Co-design with trusted assets what they need (knowledge, information, tools) to have the confidence to be able to help people understand their rights for assistance and to support them in accessing help.

3. Actions following research recommendations

Action 1: ASCH internal and external communications and information provision

3.1 In response to the research, a new Task and Finish Group was set up that has been reviewing ASCH's mass communications as a department. The group has been identifying areas in which we could become more systematic and proactive. We also implemented a contact strategy that aimed to reach approximately 13,000 of our clients and carers during the third lockdown to offer reassurance and signposting.

3.2 The Task and Finish group also have developed a Mass Communications Framework, a series of guidance for staff, which aims to support the delivery of more proactive and systematic communications to our audiences in the future. The aim of the Framework is to help people be better informed and reassured on important information and issues, more engaged in the work of the department, and - in the case of people we support and local residents – more aware of how to seek support when they need it, both during COVID-19 and in the future. Development of the Framework is a starting point and next, work will focus on embedding the approach into the work of the department.

Action 2: Conducting a 'deep dive' to look at partnership working

3.3 To take forward the final recommendation from Phase 1 of the Activmob report, we will conduct a 'deep dive' piece of research or engagement to corroborate and expand on the findings from Practice Managers, and test out the conclusions from this small sample of interviews with a wider range of ASC, health and voluntary sector staff. In particular, this will focus on relationships with NHS organisations and joint pathways, for example hospital discharge. This may fit best within work on the East Sussex Health and Social Care Plan and would include the appropriate commissioning and operational leads.

Action 3: Developing an ASCH engagement strategy

3.4 Activmob's recommendations from Phase 2 centre around how we engage with VCSE organisations and other local assets in the county. It's proposed that to address these recommendations we begin development of a Community Engagement Strategy and simultaneously conduct an Equality Impact Assessment of our current engagement mechanisms. Work is underway to progress this action.

3.5 The proposed Community Engagement Strategy will address some of the following questions:

1. Engaging with trusted places:
 - How can we better engage, co-produce, and build and maintain relationships with grassroots VCSE organisations in East Sussex on a day-to-day basis?
 - How do we record and access this information?
2. Ensuring partners have the tools, knowledge and information they need:
 - Key messages about ASCH - how do we define what ASCH is and does?
 - Which parts of the system need more, better or different information about ASCH?
 - How do we ensure information about ASCH is meaningful, accessible, and tailored?
 - How do we work with partners to coproduce and share this?

4. Recommendations

4.1 People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the findings and recommendations from phases 1 and 2 of the Activmob research, the actions already taken and those planned as a result of the research recommendations.

MARK STANTON

Director of Adult Social Care

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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East Sussex County Council, Adult Social Care and Health

Client experience during COVID-19 lockdown: What can we learn?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 2020

Executive Summary

Activmob were commissioned by Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) at East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to speak to adult social care clients and carers about their experiences of services and support during and after the first the COVID-19 lockdown. Adult social care wanted to understand people's experiences of care and support during COVID-19, what had worked well and what could improve. The results and recommendations of the research will be used to inform adult social care's ongoing response to the pandemic and to help prepare for future waves.

Participants and approach

40 clients of adult social care and carers, and five social care managers, were recruited to take part. Participants engaged in in depth conversations with researchers, informed by a topic guide to explore their experiences. An inductive approach was used to analyse the conversations. This means that themes emerged from people's insights and experiences. Following these themes, key conclusions have been presented, drawn from what people said and experienced.

Key themes and conclusions

From the client and carer interviews, key themes included; expectations from adult social care, experiences during COVID-19, feelings at the time of lockdown, experiences of care and support during COVID-19, experiences of getting practical things in place, communications and information, and comparisons to previous experiences of care.

From the key themes, the following conclusions are presented:

- Most participants had low awareness of the support available from ASCH, they also had low expectations of what adult social care would provide.
- Over half the participants felt that there was a lack of clear, practical and reliable information on how they should respond given the announcement of the lockdown. Terms such as shielding and self-isolating were unclear. There was no single communication to all adult social care clients.
- Over half of clients who were not in receipt of regular services and support, such as home care, were anxious about how they would organise practical tasks such as obtaining prescriptions and food. For these participants they often experienced valuable support from neighbours and their local community.
- Clients who before lockdown received regular support such as home care services, generally reported that these continued well during lockdown with very few examples of any interruption in service.

- Hospital discharge experiences from the small number of participants in the study were mainly positive with pathways and services feeling joined up from their perspective. Experiences from Rehabilitation and Reablement were positive.
- Loneliness, isolation and missing social interaction was a key concern. Key groups affected were those who were more independent prior to lockdown and generally doing social activities, and individuals (especially younger) with learning disabilities who really struggled with the lack of social interaction.

From the operational staff interviews, key themes included; services during lockdown, decision making on practice, and working across the system.

- Managers felt that they and their teams had continued to deliver a core service to their clients during lockdown. Staff had worked tirelessly to achieve this.
- Managers felt that whilst a core service had continued, there were some groups who had been missed. This was a great cause for concern.
- Managers felt that enabling their teams to work safely was their main priority. They recognised that in these times they had to dedicate more time to understanding individual circumstances in order to fully ensure they were able to work.
- Staff were exhausted and anxious about another lockdown.
- Whilst local decision making worked well and swiftly within teams, quicker and practical guidance from across supporting departments to enable managers to focus on service delivery would have been welcome.
- Partnership with others such as NHS organisations and joint pathways had not worked well for all ASCH clients.

Recommendations

The report includes five recommendations, with a focus on communications and information provision:

1. **Communicating the East Sussex COVID-19 plan - providing clear information and communication about how to respond and where to get help**
2. **Engaging with *all* clients**
3. **Informing clients about ASCH support**
4. **Checking in with all clients – ensuring no one is missed**
5. **Recommendations for the wider system – conducting a ‘deep dive’**

The full recommendations are set out in detail within the report.

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East Sussex County Council, Adult Social Care & Health

**Experience during Covid-19 lockdown: What can we
learn from population groups?**

**Executive Summary
October 2021**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) in East Sussex County Council want to improve how they share information with residents about social care and about Covid-19. Activmob were commissioned to speak to people to understand their experiences during the Covid-19 lockdown periods from March 2020. The aim was to speak to people about:

- Their understanding of ASCH and how it works
- Recent experiences of obtaining information and support during this time
- Reflections on what they would like in the future.

Recommendations will inform how future information is prepared and shared with residents.

Participants and approach

47 people were recruited to share their experiences in in-depth conversations, informed by a Topic Guide. There was **a particular focus on recruiting older people aged 55+, men, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds**, as they have been highlighted as having been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. Participants included 10 individuals from a range of front-line organisations in East Sussex.

To recruit participants who are 'not known' currently to East Sussex ASCH, Activmob contacted 40 formal and informal 'assets' (places/ voluntary and community organisations/ individuals/ websites etc) to assist with introductions and possible recruitment to take part. A wide range of methods were used to make contact including online searches, emails, calls, Facebook posts and local group searches.

Informal assets used their own communication methods and channels to reach, engage and encourage people to participate including use of their own social media, closed groups, telephone calls or letters and briefing. Some, in particular those supporting people from ethnic minority backgrounds, shared a short online survey to invite people to share their experiences.

A small number of staff from other local authorities outside of East Sussex also shared their observations and lessons learnt in conversations with researchers.

Key themes and conclusions

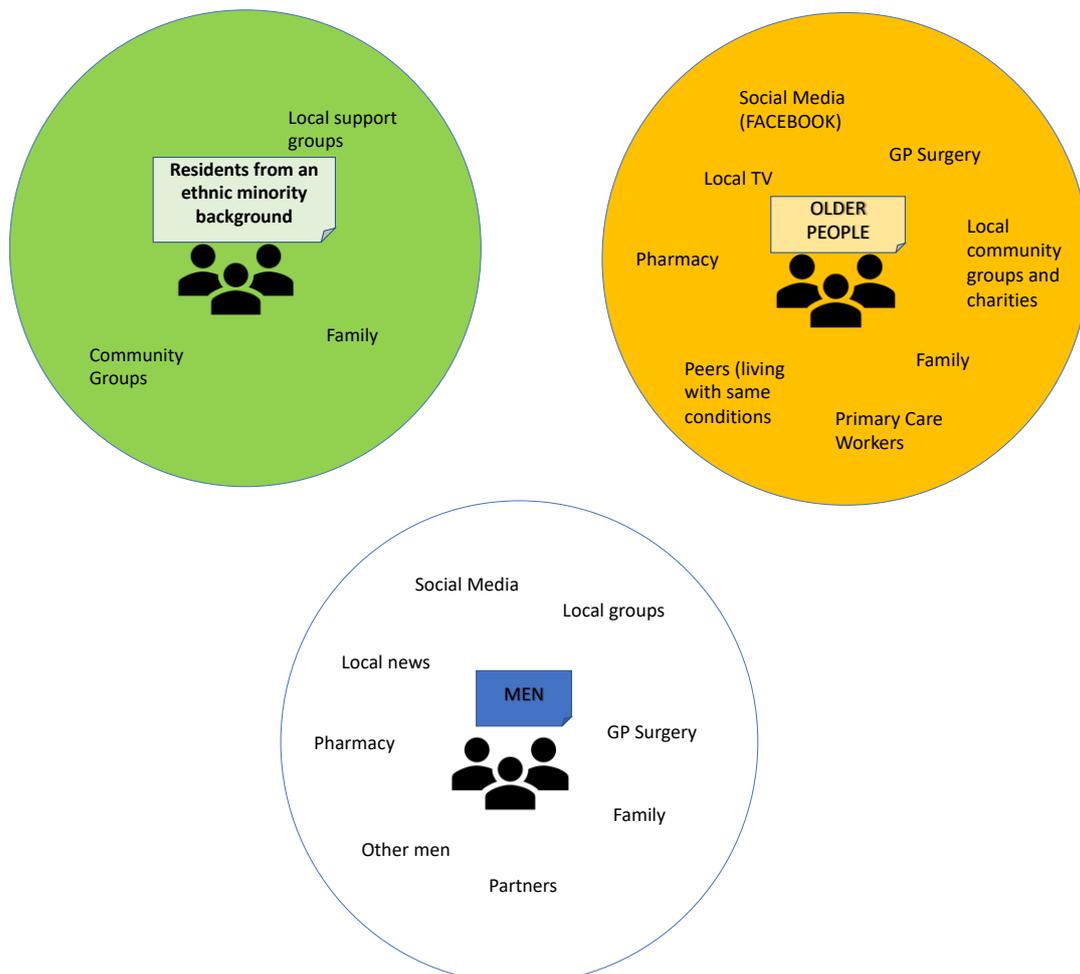
Residents

The following conclusions are presented from the key themes of the resident interviews:

1. The **level of understanding of what ASCH offer**, how they work, how it is funded, and personal contributions was **low**.

2. **Rehab and re-enablement services** are **recognised** and have **tangible value to people**. People generally believe these services are provided by the NHS and not ASCH.
3. ASCH was **not used or seen as a source of information** regarding the pandemic or local support.
4. During the pandemic people had for the first time started to consider how and where they could get help and support from.
5. Many people were encountering challenges they had never experienced before suggesting the potential of **longer-term mental health and wellbeing issues**.
6. **Local informal assets (people and organisations)** stepped up very **quickly**, creatively, and pro-actively to meet people's needs.
7. People want to receive general and practical information about support from trusted and local sources such as local shops, pharmacies, and community groups or health professionals where there is an existing relationship.

Participants were asked to think about how they would like to receive general information in the future. The three diagrams below provide a summary of key information and support channels for the priority cohorts.



Front line workers

From the front-line interviews, key themes included understanding of ASCH and how it works, recent experiences of obtaining information and support, what has worked well, what could improve, and reflections on future communications.

The key conclusions are:

1. All the organisations who took part in the study **adapted quickly** to meet the needs of their local community or client groups.
2. **New individuals and families** were drawing on local support and advice, many for the first time due to the pandemic.
3. Local people and clients have a **low awareness**, understanding and expectations of ASCH.
4. Local organisations and community groups **did not feel informed or connected** with ASCH but saw the potential benefit a stronger relationship could bring for local people.

Other local authorities

From the interviews with a small number of other local authorities outside of East Sussex, key themes included how they generally communicated with ASCH clients and the wider population before Covid-19, how they adapted, and lessons learnt.

The key lessons learnt are:

1. Setting up a specific online communication hub as soon as possible enabled people to access all information and support in one place.
2. **Partners are key** - specially to ensure clear joint communications.
3. **Do not over rely on digital**. Use other methods such as letter drops, ensuring translation options are provided.
4. There is more empathy from residents about why things must be done in a certain way, and this can enable communication to be more about engagement and not just providing information.
5. General opinion of ASCH has improved over last year, and levels of computer literacy of staff has seen to be improved. Overall, there is a feeling that teams pulled together and made things happen.

Recommendations

The key recommendations for action are as follows:

1. Capture the **places and people** (including staff) people experiencing health inequalities **trust**.

2. Review internally, the **key messages** the list of trusted assets have regarding ASCH.
3. **Work with trusted assets** as the key direct communication vehicle to communities experiencing health inequalities.
 - Engage to understand what they need to feel confident to mobilise in the future.
 - Review what information they are receiving.
 - Explore creative use of technology.

Short term recommendations:

- Develop and implement a programme with trusted assets that adds immediate value to supporting the vulnerable groups identified.
- Cross-reference insights and themes against other recent work undertaken with people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The full recommendations are set out in detail within the report.

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Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 November 2021

By: Chief Executive

Title: Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)

Purpose: To provide an update on the Council's business and financial planning process, Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR), and the Committee's comments and requests for further information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) consider the information in the attached RPPR Cabinet report of 30 September 2021 (appendix A), including the updated Medium Term Financial Plan and savings plans; and**
 - (2) identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process for consideration at the December RPPR Board, or as part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.**
-

1. Background

1.1 This report provides the committee with updates on significant developments that have occurred in relation to Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) since the September meeting.

1.2 At the end of September Cabinet considered a RPPR update report. Following on from the State of the County report in July, the report set out an updated picture of how the Council will need to refresh its service and financial plans to deal with the level of financial uncertainty and the changing national policy agenda.

1.3 The report also confirmed that the financial situation for the Council in the medium term remains challenging and, at that time, the outcome of a three year Spending Review and its impact on local government funding was awaited. The Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reforms continue to be delayed and we await more detail of the impact of health and social care reform also announced on 7 September. The report therefore provided Cabinet with the latest best assessment of the policy and financial context that will continue to inform ongoing planning for 2022/23 and beyond. The report (attached at Appendix A) included:

- updates on key national and local policy context developments since July;
- updates on the financial context and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022/23-2024/25, including updates to the savings plans; and
- progress on the development of proposals for one-off investments in highways, infrastructure and climate change.

1.4 For People Scrutiny Committee the report highlights some key developments in the national and local context since State of the County for the areas within the committee's remit. These are set out in paragraph 2.1 of the attached report and include:

- Plans for Adult Social Care reform and funding announced in September;

- Resettlement of Afghan nationals and the potential need for social care, health and education support; and
- A summary of key public service reforms expected to progress in the autumn including, the national review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services and plans to improve integration of health and social care through the Health and Care Bill.

1.5 The report highlights that the RPPR process, bringing together the Council's policy, business and financial planning and risk management, provides the vehicle for service and financial planning. The process of planning, through RPPR, for 2022/23 and beyond will take into consideration the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 on services and residents, alongside other trends and pressures, to form an integrated forward view of service and financial plans.

1.6 Details of the outcome of the Government's Spending Review were announced on 27 October. This included confirmation of national funding allocations for local government over the three year period 2022/23-2024/25, but the detail on allocations to individual authorities, and the methodology which will be used to calculate these for 2022/23 and the years beyond are yet to be confirmed. The impact for the County Council will not therefore be clear until detailed information in the provisional local government finance settlement is received, which is likely to be in December or early January.

2. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR

2.1 At the **September 2021 meetings** the Scrutiny Committees reviewed the Portfolio Plans for the services within the Committees' remits, the current savings plans and the Financial Budget Summary 2021/22 to ensure a baseline understanding of the current context and future pressures.

2.2 The **November 2021 Scrutiny Committees** are invited to:

- consider the information in the Cabinet RPPR update report (attached as Appendix A),
- review the updated MTFP (see Appendix 1 and Annex A of the Cabinet report) and updated savings schedules (see Appendix 1, Annex B of the Cabinet report)
- identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the current year's RPPR process, for consideration at the December RPPR Board; and
- fine tune the future scrutiny work programme to ensure the committee is in the best position to contribute to the ongoing RPPR process.

2.3 The committee's **RPPR Board** will meet in December 2021 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the budget proposals and emerging portfolio plans to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the committee in January 2022. The Chairs of the People and Place Scrutiny Committees are invited to attend the RPPR boards of both committees.

2.4 The **March 2022 Scrutiny Committees** will review the process and their input into the RPPR process and receive feedback on how scrutiny input has been reflected in final plans. Any issues arising can be reflected in the future committee work programme.

2.5 Running alongside this process, there will be a number of opportunities for all Members to engage in the RPPR process.

3. Conclusion and reason for recommendations

3.1 In order to inform the discussion at the RPPR boards in December and to help formulate comments to Cabinet, the Committee is recommended to consider the updated information provided by this report and identify any further information it requires for the RPPR board meeting. The Committee is also recommended to consider any amendments to the work programme to aid its contribution to the ongoing RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

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Local Member: All

Background Documents:

None

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Appendix A

Report to: Cabinet
Date: 30 September 2021
By: Chief Executive
Title of report: Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) – Update
Purpose of report: To update Members on the latest policy context, financial context and progress with the development of a strategy for one-off investments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. note the updated policy context as set out in paragraph 2;
 - ii. note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in paragraph 3 and appendix 1;
 - iii. subject to Council agreeing the establishment of a reserve, agree to receive further reports in November setting out proposals for one-off investments in highways and climate change.
 - iv. agree to continue lobbying for a sustainable funding regime to meet the needs of the residents of East Sussex.
-

1. Background

1.1. In July, Cabinet considered the State of the County report, a key milestone in the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process, its integrated business and financial planning cycle. The report set out the updated demographic, economic and service evidence base; the national and local policy context; and updates on our medium term financial planning position and capital programme. It gave our latest understanding of how we will need to continue to respond to the wide range of policy, demographic and financial drivers which influence the outlook for the Council, both in the short and longer-term.

1.2. The report highlighted the significant uncertainty that continues to dominate the context within which we are working. The ongoing impact of Covid-19 remains hard to predict, both in relation to further waves of infection in the short term, and in terms of the scale and nature of the undoubted far-reaching implications on our residents and businesses which will influence need, and therefore demand for our services, into the future. The financial outlook remains unclear with the outcome of a three year Spending Review awaited, key national funding reforms having been subject to further delay and the detailed impact of recent announcements on funding for Adult Social Care yet to be set out. The national policy context also continues to develop rapidly with a broad range of Government policy announcements and public service reforms, the implications of which are not yet fully clear.

1.3. The RPPR process, bringing together our policy, business and financial planning and risk management, continues to provide the vehicle for navigating this uncertain environment, supporting planning for 2022/23 and beyond and maintaining focus on our four priority outcomes which were agreed by Cabinet for planning purposes as:

- Driving sustainable economic growth;
- Keeping vulnerable people safe;
- Helping people help themselves; and
- Making best use of resources, now and for the future.

The priority outcome that the Council makes the “best use of resources, now and for the future” is a test that is applied to all activities to ensure sustainability of our resources, both in terms of money and the environment. It ensures that the future impact of the choices we make about using resources is actively considered across all that we do, as well as the here and now.

1.4. As a result of managing our resources carefully over many years, and with additional Government Covid support, we have been able to maintain stability in service provision through the period of the pandemic and our current financial position is secure. However, the financial outlook in the medium term remains very challenging and uncertain. As reported in July, the impact of Covid-19 on service demand and the additional one-off funding we have received has provided the opportunity to reset the 2021/22 budget and release £8.855m as a one off reserve contribution. We have a limited window of opportunity now to consider how we could use the funding released to make any further preparations for future years, including any areas of one-off investment which would help us better manage future demand for services, and the costs of providing them.

1.5. This report provides Members with an update on the evolving policy and financial context that will continue to inform our planning for 2022/23, and includes:

- updates on key policy context developments since July;
- updates on the financial context and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23-2024/25; and
- progress on the development of proposals for one-off investments that include options for further investment in highways, infrastructure and climate change.

2. Policy context update

2.1. The context the Council is operating in continues to change rapidly. Key areas in which there have been developments since the State of the County report, or in which further developments are expected this autumn are detailed below.

- Adult Social Care Reform and Funding – the Government has long committed to national reform of the adult social care system, to ensure provision is sustainable, equitably funded and affordable to those who require it. In early September, Government announced its plans for Health and Social Care reform, to be funded by a Health and Social Care Levy (a 1.25% increase in national insurance for employees and employers and 1.25% increase in dividends rates). The majority of the funding to be raised through the levy (£36bn between 2022/23 and

2024/25) is to be used to aid recovery from the pandemic in the NHS by increasing hospital capacity and creating space for more appointments and procedures. Government has committed to allocate more of the funding raised through the levy to social care beyond this period.

£5.4bn over the three years to 2024/25 has been set aside to deliver planned reforms to social care, which include:

- Reforms to care costs – introducing a £86k cap on personal care costs and equalisation of care costs between self-funding and local authority clients.
- Providing financial assistance to those without substantial assets – from October 2023, anyone with assets of less than £20k will not have to make any contribution for their care from their savings or the value of their home and those with assets between £20k and £100k will be eligible for some means-tested support.
- Wider reform of the social care system – including investing £500m in workforce development and workforce mental health and wellbeing support. There are also plans to introduce an assurance framework to ensure local authorities are delivering on their obligations to service users.
- Improving the integration of health and social care systems – producing a comprehensive national plan for supporting and enabling integration that builds on plans in the Health and Care Bill. This will identify a single set of system-based health and care outcomes that local systems will be asked to deliver.

Detail of these reforms will be set out in a White Paper for adult social care later this year. The expected impact of the planned reforms on ESCC, the local care market and our health partners is clearly significant. However, the detail, including the funding that will be provided to ESCC to deliver the reforms and new responsibilities, is uncertain. It is clear that the funding to be raised through the levy is not, particularly in the short term, intended to address existing pressures in the social care system. Government expects existing demographic and unit cost pressures to be met through Council Tax, the social care precept and long-term efficiencies and have confirmed that this funding will be determined at the Spending Review. ESCC will therefore need to continue to lobby with others in the sector for Government to address ongoing social care pressures in the Spending Review, in a sustainable way that reduces reliance on Council Tax.

- Spending Review 2021 – alongside announcements for funding health and social care reform, the Chancellor has launched the 2021 Spending Review to set UK Government departments' resource and capital budgets for 2022-23 to 2024-25. The outcome of the Spending Review will be published alongside the Autumn Budget on 27 October 2021. The launch confirmed that the Government's priorities for the review are ensuring delivery of strong and innovative public services; levelling up; leading the transition to net zero; advancing Britain's international standing and taking advantage of EU Exit; and delivering the 'Plan for Growth', Government's national strategy for economic growth and recovery.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published an update on public sector finances earlier in September which reported that the position was better than

previously expected, with public sector net borrowing in the first five months of this financial year lower than previously forecast and tax receipts higher, reflecting the rebounding of the economy faster than expected. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has suggested that this may grant the Chancellor flexibility to make some short-term investment in public services in the Spending Review and there are strong calls for this to be made in a number of competing areas, including supporting education recovery and retention of the Universal Credit uplift implemented in the pandemic.

In the medium term, the Chancellor has set a target of a balanced national budget by 2024/25 – 2025/26, and the launch of the Spending Review confirmed Government remains committed to these plans. Delivery of this may require real-terms cuts to public spending and Government departments have been asked to identify savings and efficiencies in their day-to-day budgets to be reinvested in priorities, and to carefully prioritise bids in their submission. Therefore there remains pressure on the national finances. While the confirmation of a three year spending review is positive, and something ESCC has repeatedly lobbied for to provide greater certainty for planning, we will need to press with our partners for an adequate quantum of funding for local government that meets the needs of our residents and is not disproportionately reliant on Council Tax increases.

- Levelling Up White Paper, devolution and County Deals – in July, the Prime Minister delivered a speech on Levelling Up that confirmed that a White Paper will be published later this year to set out the Government’s plan for addressing the health, social and economic inequalities between, and within, places and regions of the UK, to improve opportunity for all, raise living standards and improve public services. The White Paper is expected to be published around the same time as this year’s Spending Review (see above) and given the breadth of policy areas covered, it is expected to have implications for the work of the Council, including in how we work to drive sustainable economic growth.

In the speech, the Prime Minister also announced that as part of delivering the Levelling Up agenda, Government plans to offer more devolution in England, particularly beyond metropolitan areas, with a ‘new deal for counties’. This devolution is intended to empower local leaders to deliver the Levelling Up outcomes outlined above. The then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to councils in the summer confirming the Government’s commitment to extending devolution and encouraging councils to come forward with proposals for powers and flexibilities that would help deliver local priorities and could form the basis of new devolution arrangements, known as ‘County Deals’. Councils interested in being early adopters and shaping County Deal proposals were asked to submit proposals for their areas by Friday 13 August. ESCC will continue to monitor developments closely to understand the detail of the Government’s new devolution offer and any opportunities it presents.

Local government’s home department, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will take on a new responsibility for delivering the Levelling Up agenda and has been retitled the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has been appointed the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, has established a joint

Levelling Up Taskforce with the Prime Minister and has a remit to work across Whitehall to deliver this policy agenda. We can expect the Department's broadened focus and the appointment of a new Secretary of State to have implications for a range of policy areas impacting local government and ESCC, including potentially the detail of the Levelling Up White Paper and 'County Deal' proposals.

- Climate Change – the UK will host the UN's Climate Change Conference – Conference of Parties (COP) 26 in November and we will continue to monitor announcements of Government funding and initiatives in advance of this to identify opportunities that could support ESCC's work to reduce our carbon emissions. In July the Government published its Transport Decarbonisation Plan, a foundational document to the broader Net Zero Strategy which Government has also committed to publish ahead of COP26. The Plan prioritised place-based solutions to reducing emissions from transport, committed to further publication of guidance for local authorities on decarbonising transport and committed to making quantifiable carbon reductions a part of local authorities' future local transport planning and funding. The Transport Decarbonisation Plan will inform our plans to refresh the East Sussex Local Transport Plan in the coming year to reflect the renewed national and local policy context and commitments to decarbonisation.
- Resettlement of Afghan nationals – the Government has committed to providing protection for vulnerable people fleeing Afghanistan, including a new Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) aimed at accommodating up to 5,000 people in the first year and up to a total of 20,000 over the coming years. The new route is separate from, and in addition to, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), which offers any current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK. Government has sought assistance from local authorities to source accommodation and other support for those arriving in the UK. ESCC is liaising with district and borough councils and other partners to understand the likely need for support in East Sussex which is likely to include health, social care and education. For councils who support people through the above schemes, Government has provided a standard integration package supported by a core local authority tariff, plus funding for education, English language and health provision, and a housing fund to help authorities provide suitable accommodation.
- Brexit – full implementation of the new trade and border arrangements between the UK and EU will continue this winter and we will continue to prepare for the full implementation of border checks at Newhaven Port next summer.
- Public service reforms – as set out in the State of the County report, Government is progressing a range of public service reviews and reforms that will have implications for services delivered by the County Council. These include the national review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services, plans to improve integration of health and social care through the Health and Care Bill and implementation of the proposals for planning reform set out in the

Planning for the Future White Paper. Announcements and progress in each of these areas is expected in the coming months.

- Economic outlook – the latest assessment of the economic outlook for the UK economy by the OBR was published in March, which projected that vaccinations, easing of restrictions and increased consumer activity would drive a rapid recovery of the UK economy this year, with GDP returning to its pre-pandemic output by the middle of 2022. The percentage of East Sussex residents claiming unemployment benefits fell slightly between May and July, from 5.8% to 5.2%. For 18-24 year olds the rate fell from 10.2% to 8.6%. An updated assessment will be published in October. The end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and grants for the self-employed, combined with the end of the £20 weekly uplift in Universal Credit at the end of September may result in increased hardship that has been prevented to some extent by these schemes during the pandemic. 15.1% of East Sussex working age residents were claiming Universal Credit in July.

2.2 We expect further detail of policy changes and the resulting implications for the County Council to become clearer in the coming months and will continue to factor these into planning for 2022/23 and beyond.

3. Medium Term Financial Plan

3.1 It remains difficult to plan for 2022/23 and beyond. The level of Government funding that ESCC will receive between 2022/23 – 2024/25 is yet to be confirmed; The Spending Review (SR) 2019 and 2020 were both for a single year and therefore funding for this planning period will be announced at SR21 in the autumn. On 7 September the Chancellor published the SR21 launch letter which confirmed that it will be a multi-year spending review covering the years 2022-23 to 2024-25. The Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reform continue to be delayed and we await detail of the impact of health and social care reform also announced on 7 September (see above).

3.2 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has been updated to provide a baseline position before further refinement of pressures. This includes ongoing work with our districts and boroughs to try to get a clear picture of the reduced income from Council Tax and Business Rates. A number of scenarios based on the potential for further funding announcements are set out in section 3.6.

3.3 The baseline position provided at appendix 1 includes: (1) Normal updates for regularly calculated adjustments; (2) Proposed updates following review by CMT via the Pressures Protocol.

3.4 These movements are summarised in the table below and provide a deficit budget position by 2024/25 of £22.089m.

Medium Term Financial Plan	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £m
Cabinet 13 July 2021 DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	1.734	9.486	7.195	18.415
Normal Updates	0.932	(0.690)	2.978	3.420
Pressures added / (removed)	0.538	0.030	(0.114)	0.254
Deficit / (Surplus) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES TO THE MTFP	3.204	8.826	10.059	22.089

3.5 A detailed MTFP after normal updates and proposed pressures is shown at appendix 1.

3.6 As set out above, our known deficit for 2022/23 is £3.2m with an aggregate deficit of £22.1m. However, we know there is uncertainty about future funding allocations. In resetting the MTFP and presenting the budget for 2022/23 and beyond, a number of scenarios have been considered that could impact the possible level of budget deficit that will need to be addressed and these are summarised in the table below, with further detail at appendix 1.

Scenarios	Estimate (£m)			
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES	3.204	8.826	10.059	22.089
<i>Local Considerations</i>	(1.630)	1.630		
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS	1.574	10.456	10.059	22.089
<i>Likely Updates</i>	(3.171)	(0.709)	(0.716)	(4.596)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LIKELY UPDATES	(1.597)	9.747	9.343	17.493
<i>Less Likely Updates</i>	0.633	0.546	0.574	1.753
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LESS LIKELY UPDATES	(0.964)	10.293	9.917	19.246

3.7 Although at this point in the RPPR process it is not possible to present a balanced MTFP due to the considerable level of national funding uncertainty, there are no plans to seek to identify further savings. We continue to benchmark our services against other local authorities to ensure these provide best value for money and to learn from others. Over the coming months, we will work to refine the budget to update for the impact of the Local Government Settlement, in whatever form that takes, whilst reflecting updated assessments of budget pressures, including Council Tax and Business Rates. If there is a deficit on the 2022/23 budget, and in line with our robust financial management policies and procedures, the plan at this point will be to bring grant funding forward and/or use reserves to mitigate this position until the medium-to-longer term funding position is clarified.

4. One-off investment

4.1 As reported at State of the County in July, and further detailed in the Quarter 1 monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda, the impact of Covid-19 has provided the opportunity to review and reset the 2021/22 budget and release additional funding to reserves. The Quarter 1 report recommends that Cabinet recommends to County Council that a reserve of £8.855m be set up within the existing Priority Outcomes and Transformation Reserve, and that the Terms of Reference for this reserve be extended to include funding “programmes that meet the Council’s priority outcomes” which will include highways and climate change. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet in November that set out proposals to spend this one off funding on highways and climate change. Alongside this the RPPR process will be used to identify any other areas for one off investment.

5. Capital Programme

5.1 At State of the County in July 2021, areas of work were outlined that are being developed in priority basic need areas, including highways, Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), school places and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision. The programme is already supported by borrowing of £227.9m to 2029/30 which has an associated revenue impact. These will be presented for consideration as part of the RPPR process together with their impact on the revenue budget.

6. Lobbying and Communications

6.1 Our track record of running our services effectively and efficiently, coupled with the impact of Covid-19 and additional one-off Government support during the pandemic, has given us a short-term opportunity to prepare for renewed challenges ahead and invest for the future.

6.2 However, the medium term outlook remains highly challenging. We face a significant financial gap, the uncertain impact of national reforms in major service areas and await clarity on long-term funding arrangements, particularly for existing pressures in Adult Social Care, which continues to make planning difficult. Fundamentally, without further Government support or sustainable reform of local government finances we will not have the funding we need for the future.

6.3 In the context of this ongoing uncertainty, and the current Spending Review which will underpin our financial position in the medium term, our lobbying will continue to call for sustainability of future funding for local government, and funding that is appropriately reflective of local need. This will be essential to ensuring we secure adequate resource to deliver what will be required to support East Sussex residents, communities and businesses with the core services they need. We will continue to work individually, with our partners across the region and with the sector nationally to make this case.

7. Next Steps

7.1. This report confirms the high level of uncertainty within which planning for 2022/23 is taking place. Much is to be determined around national spending allocations and priorities for 2022/23 onwards, the impact of national reforms, and the longer term impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

7.2. Thanks to our sound financial management and clear focus on priorities we are in a stable financial position for the current and next financial years. This provides a window of opportunity to invest now in areas that will help prepare us for challenges ahead. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet later in the autumn that set out plans for deploying one off funding on highways and climate change. Alongside this, the RPPR process will be used to identify any other areas for one off investment.

7.3. Work will continue throughout the autumn and winter to understand the detailed funding picture as it emerges and the implications of national policy developments. This analysis will feed into our ongoing business and financial planning.

7.4. Members will continue to be involved in developing plans through Cabinet, County Council, Scrutiny Committees, and specific engagement sessions throughout the 2021/22 RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

1. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

Appendix 1

- 1.1 The MTFP has been updated for regularly calculated adjustments and pressures since last reported at State of the County in July 2021. These are summarised in table 1 below. The full MTFP is shown at Annex A.

Table 1 - MTFP Normal Updates	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Cabinet 13 July 2021 DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)		1.734	9.486	7.195	18.415
Normal Updates					
Collection Fund Receipts Update	A	(0.972)	1.321	(0.349)	0.000
2021/22 Local Council Tax Support and TIG Grants	B	0.000	(2.573)	2.573	0.000
General Contingency Update	C	0.010	0.020	(0.030)	0.000
Normal inflation for contracts	D	0.480	0.612	0.753	1.845
National Insurance 1.25% Increase	E	1.514	0.030	0.031	1.575
Efficiencies from Waste PFI	F	(0.100)	(0.100)		(0.200)
Pressures added to / (removed from) the MTFP					
Waste pressure due to housing growth	G	0.248	(0.070)	(0.114)	0.064
Treasury Management (increase for revised programme)	H	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<i>Pressures Protocol:-</i>					
Remove Trading Standards savings targets	I	0.100	0.100		0.200
Bid for Trading Standards EU Exit related work		0.190			0.190
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES		3.204	8.826	10.059	22.089

- 1.2 The assumption for Council Tax is an increase of 1.99% in all years; the current limit before referendum is triggered. The Adult Social Care Precept assumption has been maintained at 1.5% in 2022/23 as part of the approved spreading of the allowable 3% across two years as announced at Spending Review 2020 (SR20).
- 1.3 Scenario planning continues and will have a potential impact on this base position. Scenarios include items for local consideration, and 'likely' and 'less likely' updates relating to pressures and potential Government and other announcements:

Table 2 – Potential Scenarios	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES		3.204	8.826	10.059	22.089
Local Considerations					
Continuation of Business Rates Pooling 2022/23 <i>(subject to the continuation of Pool arrangements)</i>	J	(1.630)	1.630	0.000	0.000
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS		1.574	10.456	10.059	22.089
Likely Updates					
Social Care Grant	K	(2.432)			(2.432)
Revenue Support Grant – Maintained with inflation	L	(1.251)	(1.421)	(1.431)	(4.103)
Spending Review Equalisation	M	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Pay Award @ 2.0% for 2021/22	N	0.476	0.023	0.024	0.523
Normal inflation for contracts – additional 0.25% sensitivity	O	0.749	0.719	0.722	2.190
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Changes (Lewes DC only)	P	0.801			0.801
Recompense for increase in National Insurance	Q	(1.514)	(0.030)	(0.031)	(1.575)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LIKELY UPDATES		(1.597)	9.747	9.343	17.493
Less Likely Updates					
Pay Award @ 2.5% all years from 2022/23	R	0.633	0.664	0.687	1.984
Business Rates Growth	S	0.000	(0.118)	(0.113)	(0.231)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER LESS LIKELY UPDATES		(0.964)	10.293	9.917	19.246

Normal Updates:

A Collection Fund

Anticipated collection fund receipts relating to 2020/21 deficits (that will be received in 2022/23) have been updated based on District and Borough Councils' (Ds and Bs) Statement of Accounts where available (to date we have been able to review 3 of the 5). Changes largely relate to Council Tax, where increased collection in 2020/21 brings forward previously modelled post pandemic recovery from 2023/24 to 2022/23. Growth is also shown in 2024/25 as, in accordance with MHCLG guidance, the deficit spread is only allowable over the three years to 2023/24. The position will be further updated once the Q1 monitoring position of Business Rates is finalised by the Ds and Bs. Through the Autumn we will continue to work with Ds and Bs to improve certainty of receipts and, as normal, update for the latest Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) inflation rates when published.

B 2021/22 Local Council Tax Support and TIG Grants

It was confirmed as part of a Government announcement in February 2021 that both these grants are unringfenced, and can be used as considered appropriate locally, and therefore a local decision can be made on when to apply these grants.

The Local Council Tax Support Grant provided to compensate for 2020/21 reduced collection and the reduction to the Council Tax base due to increased local Council Tax support caseload was £4.734m. In 2021/22 £2.621m was applied against losses. As part of Q1 monitoring no further requirement in 2021/22 has been identified, therefore, the remaining £2.113m can be applied in future years as well as the remaining Local Tax Income Guarantee (TIG) grant of £0.459m. Modelling suggests that continued and further reductions to the Council Tax base due to increases in Council Tax support caseload will continue; therefore these have now been profiled in 2023/24, but this will be reviewed as part of the ongoing RPPR process.

C General Contingency Update

This is calculated at an agreed formula of 1% of net budget less treasury management.

D Normal Inflation for Contracts

The service inflation model has been updated to reflect the latest base budgets specific updates that have been made for MBOS, Highways, Home to School Transport, Foster Care, and Insurance. The review of contracts will continue and inflation will be subject to normal updates for the latest Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) inflation rates in the Autumn.

E National Insurance (NI) 1.25% Increase

On 7 September 2021 the Prime Minister announced that from April 2022 there will be a 1.25% increase in employers NI contributions (as well as on employees contributions). These contributions will fund a raft of measures intended to reform health and social care. In England, from 2022-23 receipts from the Levy will be added to the existing NHS allocation. From 2023, receipts from the Levy will go to the MHCLG, NHS England and Improvement and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

Specific funding allocations for each Local Authority will be communicated by MHCLG in the usual way through the Local Government Finance Settlement process. The document published on the 7th states "*The Government will ensure Local Authorities have access to sustainable funding for core budgets at the Spending Review. We expect demographic and unit cost pressures will be met through Council Tax, social care precept, and long-term efficiencies; the overall level of Local Government funding, including Council Tax and social care precept, will be determined in the round at the Spending Review in the normal way*". The details of any direct funding or added burdens for the Council are yet to be published.

F Efficiencies from Waste PFI

Following a number of changes over the past few years, the budget requirements for the Waste Disposal Service has been reviewed. There has been a general reduction in household waste over the last few years due to external factors (i.e. public awareness of environmental impacts of waste and consumer pressure resulting in reduced packaging, plastic bags etc). There have also been a number of service improvements to reduce contract costs (e.g. recycling of mechanical street sweepings, extended planned maintenance cycle at Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility,

maximisation of electricity income). As a consequence, there is scope to reduce the Waste budget by £200k without placing undue financial pressure on the service operation.

G Waste Pressure due to Housing Growth

The Waste Model has been updated for the latest inflation and housing growth estimates.

H Treasury Management (increase in capital funding)

At State of the County in July 2021, areas of work were outlined that are being developed in priority basic need areas, including highways, Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), school places and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision. The programme is already supported by borrowing of £227.9m to 2029/30 which has an associated revenue impact. Revised targets and new need are likely to add to this and any revenue impact will also be presented for consideration.

I Pressures Protocol – Approved Bids

As is normal practice a number of bids were presented to CMT in line with the pressures protocol. The following proposals are now included in the MTFP:-

- Removal of Trading Standards savings target of £0.100m in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 due to service pressures.
- Additional ongoing resource of £0.190m for Trading Standards EU Exit related work, both at Newhaven and elsewhere in the county.

Local Considerations:

J Continuation of Business Rates Pooling 2022/23

Proceeds of pooling have been updated using published information from District and Borough Councils. It is considered possible that the Business Rates pooling arrangements will be allowable in 2022/23, however this will be a county wide decision and subject to the continuation of pools.

Likely Updates for Consideration:

K Social Care Grant

£300m additional grant for adult and children's social care for 2021/22 was announced at the last Spending Review (included in the 2021/22 MTFP position as £2.452m), alongside confirmation that the £1bn social care grant announced in 2020/21 would be rolled forward; (this is £14.6m included in our base budget for the life of the current parliament). It is considered likely that the Social Care Grant will be no less than that received in 2021/22, and that a multi-year settlement would see funding levels maintained at least in the short term. However this could be impacted by health and social care funding reform and the suggestion detailed above at paragraph E regarding access to sustainable funding via core budget.

L Revenue Support Grant (RSG) – Maintained with inflation

The current assumption for RSG is that there will be no Business Rates or Fair Funding reform for 2022/23. Ahead of any funding reform, the government have compensated for the current mechanism where it creates negative RSG in some authorities. Therefore within the likely scenarios we have assumed the government will compensate for negative RSG in the same way it has done in the last couple of years.

M Spending Review Equalisation

Due to the ongoing economic uncertainty related to Brexit and COVID-19 and the levelling up agenda it is increasingly likely that there will be some form of equalisation relating to funding. This could result in some loss of funding.

N Pay Award: 2.0% in 2021/22

The provision for pay award was 1.5% in 2021/22 and 2% thereafter. An assumption has been made for a 2% award in 2021/22 and its impact in future years given that 1.5% has been rejected by the Unions. Once the pay award for 2021/22 is agreed, a final review of the pay award model will be conducted.

O Normal Inflation for Contracts – additional 0.25% sensitivity

Further modelling has been carried out regarding inflation sensitivity and likely price increases as a result of Brexit and the Pandemic currently being experienced. Current inflation estimates are based on figures published by the OBR at the Budget Statement in March 2021 and will be

updated to reflect forecasts to be published as part of the Autumn Statement. It is therefore anticipated inflation will be greater than current assumptions. Increases of 0.25% to current assumptions would result in an increase of approx. £0.700m per annum.

P Council Tax Reduction Scheme Changes by District/Borough Councils

Council Tax billing authorities are required to review their Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes (LCTRS) annually and to consult publicly on any proposed changes. Both Lewes and Rother District Councils are consulting on changes to their LCTRS for 2022/23. The final decision to set or change the LCTRS rests solely with each billing authority, although as a major precepting authority, the greatest financial impact will fall on ESCC.

Lewes District Council's Cabinet approved proposals for consultation at its meeting in June 2021. The estimated loss of income should the proposals be agreed is modelled to be £1.133m, of which the largest loss of income of £0.801m will fall on ESCC.

Rother District Council is also proposing to make changes to its LCTRS, although they are unable to accurately assess the number of potential claimants, but it is not expected to be significant, and the loss of income will be minor.

Q Recompense for National Insurance Increase

Within the *Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care* policy paper published by the Government on 7 September 2021, it was stated that "the Government intends to compensate departments and other public sector employers in England at the Spending Review for the increased cost of the Levy". Compensation for the additional cost of the 1.25% National Insurance increase has been included as a likely update until there is further clarity on the methodology for compensation or notification of specific funding allocations.

Less Likely Updates for Consideration:

R Pay Award: 2.5% in all years

The provision for pay award was 1.5% in 2021/22 and 2% thereafter. An additional assumption has been made for a 2.5% award in all years. Once the pay award for 2021/22 is agreed, a final review of the pay award model will be conducted.

S Business Rates Growth

Business Rates Growth has been assumed at 0% in all years due to the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A scenario has been presented that assumes some recovery with growth of 0.7% from 2023/24 based on historical normal growth figures.

2. Savings

2.1 Annex B shows the detailed savings. No new savings are proposed to be identified at this point in the RPPR process. For the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 there are savings targets of £4.361m with slipped savings from previous years of £1.014m. As detailed at paragraph I, there is an approved bid under the pressures protocol to remove the Trading Standards savings target.

3. Covid-19: Use of Grant Funding

3.1 The table below summarises the grants available with expected usage.

COVID-19 Grants 2021/22 (£m)				
	Carried forward	Expected in-year	Forecast usage	Forecast balance remaining
COVID-19 General Funding	15.132	11.999	(13.876)	13.255
COVID-19 Specific Funding	15.784	19.985	(24.113)	11.657
Total funding	30.917	31.984	(37.989)	24.912

Annex A Medium Term Financial Plan

Medium Term Financial Plan	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Approved Budget	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£million	£million	£million	£million
TAXATION & GOVERNMENT FUNDING		(416.745)	(423.542)	(433.064)
Business Rates (Inclusive of BR Pooling in 2021/22)	(81.522)	(1.588)	(1.457)	(1.745)
Revenue Support Grant	(3.568)	1.212	1.440	1.461
Council Tax	(305.914)	(8.277)	(7.046)	(8.934)
Local Tax Income Guarantee for 2020/21	(1.047)	1.047	(0.459)	0.459
Local Council Tax Support Grant 2021/22	(2.621)	2.621	(2.114)	2.114
Adult Social Care Precept	(4.486)	(4.655)	0.000	0.000
New Homes Bonus	(0.505)	0.391	0.114	0.000
Social Care Grant	(17.082)	2.452	0.000	0.000
TOTAL TAXATION & GOVERNMENT FUNDING	(416.745)	(423.542)	(433.064)	(439.709)
SERVICE PLAN				
Service Expenditure	381.308	381.374	387.725	401.763
Investment of unallocated funding – Revenue	1.707	(1.707)		
Inflation				
Pay Award 2020/21	0.074			
Contractual inflation (contract specific)	0.539	1.199	2.379	0.774
Normal inflation for contracts	6.763	8.824	8.178	9.028
National Insurance 1.25% Increase		1.514	0.030	0.031
Adult Social Care				
Growth & Demography	3.413	(3.413)	3.413	3.917
Future demand modelling net of attrition (Covid-related)	1.133	(1.133)	1.133	(0.365)
Pressures approved via protocol	(0.743)			
Winter Pressures	0.000			
Improved Better Care Fund	(21.137)			
Children's Services				
Dedicated Schools Grant	0.000	0.422		
Growth & Demography	1.070	2.635	0.993	
Looked After Children	1.909	0.000		
Disabled Access Regulations for Buses/Coaches	0.043	0.098		
Home to School Transport	0.523	0.523		
Looked After Children Placements (Covid-related)	3.429	0.000	(0.795)	(0.789)
Pressures approved via protocol	0.184	(0.124)	(0.124)	0.124
SEND High Needs Block Additional funding	(0.814)	(2.138)		
Social Worker Pay		1.493		
Communities, Environment & Transport				
Waste PFI efficiencies		(0.100)	(0.100)	
Waste Housing Growth	0.236	0.280	0.208	0.185
Street lighting Electricity/Re-payment of Investment	(0.655)			
Pressures approved via protocol	0.262	0.204	0.015	
Business Services				
IT & Digital Licences	0.025	0.000		
Pressures approved via protocol	0.110	0.004	0.005	

Annex A Medium Term Financial Plan

Medium Term Financial Plan	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Approved Budget	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£million	£million	£million	£million
Modernising Back Office Systems (MBOS)				0.386
Governance Services				
Additional resource to support Equalities and Diversity	0.060			
Additional capacity in Legal Services to support Children's Social Care	0.143			
Potential Investment Areas				
Voluntary Sector, Community Hubs, Shielded Group	0.880			
Support to economic development	0.100	0.025	(0.055)	
Savings				
Savings 2020/21 - 2021/22	(2.953)			
Temporary mitigations to savings	(0.298)	(0.388)	(0.100)	
Removal of CSD Safeguarding Savings		0.854		
Removal of CET Trading Standards Savings		0.100	0.100	
Savings Slippage	4.063	(2.821)	(1.242)	
NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE	381.374	387.725	401.763	415.054
Corporate Expenditure		35.371	39.021	43.331
Treasury Management	18.709	1.221	1.500	0.500
General Contingency	3.980	0.060	0.080	0.060
Contingency for Potential Pay Award	2.071	2.511	2.400	2.434
Contribution to balances and reserves	0.648	0.246	0.318	0.407
Pensions	8.423	(0.400)		
Apprenticeship Levy	0.600			
Levies & Grants	0.940	0.012	0.012	0.012
TOTAL CORPORATE EXPENDITURE	35.371	39.021	43.331	46.744
TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE	416.745	426.746	445.094	461.798
CUMULATIVE DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	0.000	3.204	12.030	22.089
ANNUAL DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	0.000	3.204	8.826	10.059

Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Total £'000	Slippage c/f from prior year(s) £'000	Total Savings £'000
Communities, Economy & Transport	594	1,362		1,956	1,014	2,970
Children's Services	134	893	0	1,027	0	1,027
Business Services / Orbis	136	0	1,242	1,378	0	1,378
Total Departments	864	2,255	1,242	4,361	1,014	5,375

Communities, Economy & Transport

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Gross budget	Net budget	Savings				Slippage c/f from prior year(s) £'000
		2018/19	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Community Services								
Archives and Records Service	The Keep Sustainability Plan has been agreed and is a three-part savings and income plan to ensure the financial sustainability of The Keep. It would ensure that the partners still deliver our statutory and legal duties, and maintain a good degree of public access.	1,042	1,074	104	14		118	14
Library Services	The increase in the proportion of our stock available online as eBooks means that we can reduce the stock fund as eBooks have a longer shelf life than physical stock, with no deterioration in condition. We have also reviewed our support services and ICT contracts to ensure maximum efficiency and value. Finally, we have been able to reduce premises costs for Libraries, following the merger of the Records Management and Registration functions. The warehouse in Hailsham used by both services is now jointly funded. Overall this will achieve savings of £240k. In addition, we will keep our Needs Assessment and Accessibility Analysis under review, and as a result we may in future provide a reduced library service.	4,214	3,595	240	288		528	

Communities, Economy & Transport (cont'd)

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Gross budget	Net budget	Savings				Slippage c/f from prior year(s) £'000
		2018/19	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trading Standards	Carry out food sampling and food inspection only where the risk is high; carry out reactive animal health disease control and take enforcement action where necessary. There will be a reduction in our preventative and support work, to business, to people vulnerable to scams and the reduction in routine inspection may increase public health risks. Target of £100k in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 removed	765	657				0	
Transport								
Parking: Civil Parking Enforcement	Increase on-street parking charges where possible. Surpluses to be used for transport related funding.	6,134	(910)		1,000		1,000	1,000
Waste Disposal								
Household Waste Disposal	Ongoing review of commercial saving opportunities, with possible reductions in the number of HWRSSs	1,144	884	250			250	
Planning and Environment								
Environmental Advice Services	Income generation through traded services.	1,631	420		60		60	
TOTAL Communities, Economy & Transport				594	1,362	0	1,956	1,014

Children's Services

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Gross budget	Net budget	Savings				Slippage c/f from prior year(s) £'000
		2018/19	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children's Social Care								
Early Help	Following Lead Member decisions and remodelling the Early Help Service, there will be a reduction in the family key work service, which has been deferred until 2021/22 and 2022/23. Savings will be generated in 2021/22 as a result of ceasing to run services from 10 children's centres and 2 nurseries.	9,592	5,652	134	893		1,027	
TOTAL Children's Services				134	893	0	1,027	0

Business Services / Orbis

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Gross budget	Net budget	Savings				Slippage c/f from prior year(s) £'000
		2018/19	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Business Services: Orbis and Managed on Behalf of (MOBO) services: Finance, IT&D, Procurement, Property Services, HR and OD and Business Operations	The Advisory and Change areas of support are being analysed and presented to the 3 partner Councils to determine which elements need to form part of the Core Offer as they are essential in supporting the partners deliver their priorities, and which elements will no longer be provided. The aim would be to reduce spending as set out in this table although the details of how this might be achieved is still being developed.	47,534	22,270	136		1,242	1,378	
TOTAL Business Services / Orbis				136	0	1,242	1,378	0

Communities, Economy & Transport

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Protected characteristics								
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	Age	Disability	Gender / Transgender	Ethnicity	Marriage / Civil Partnership	Pregnancy /Maternity	Religion / Belief	Sexual Orientation	No significant relevance
Community Services										
Archives and Records Service	The Keep Sustainability Plan has been agreed and is a three-part savings and income plan to ensure the financial sustainability of The Keep. It would ensure that the partners still deliver our statutory and legal duties, and maintain a good degree of public access.	-								
Library Services	The increase in the proportion of our stock available online as eBooks means that we can reduce the stock fund as eBooks have a longer shelf life than physical stock, with no deterioration in condition. We have also reviewed our support services and ICT contracts to ensure maximum efficiency and value. Finally, we have been able to reduce premises costs for Libraries, following the merger of the Records Management and Registration functions. The warehouse in Hailsham used by both services is now jointly funded. Overall this will achieve savings of £240k. In addition, we will keep our Needs Assessment and Accessibility Analysis under review, and as a result we may in future provide a reduced library service.	-	-	-						

Communities, Economy & Transport (cont'd)

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Protected characteristics							
		Age	Disability	Gender / Transgender	Ethnicity	Marriage / Civil Partnership	Pregnancy /Maternity	Religion / Belief	Sexual Orientation
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment								
Trading Standards	Carry out food sampling and food inspection only where the risk is high; carry out reactive animal health disease control and take enforcement action where necessary. There will be a reduction in our preventative and support work, to business, to people vulnerable to scams and the reduction in routine inspection may increase public health risks. Target of £100k in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 removed								
Transport									
Parking: Civil Parking Enforcement	Increase on-street parking charges where possible. Surpluses to be used for transport related funding.								y
Waste Disposal									
Household Waste Disposal	Ongoing review of commercial saving opportunities, with possible reductions in the number of HWRSS								y
Planning and Environment									
Environmental Advice Services	Income generation through traded services.								y
TOTAL Communities, Economy & Transport									

Children's Services

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Protected characteristics							
		Age	Disability	Gender / Transgender	Ethnicity	Marriage / Civil Partnership	Pregnancy /Maternity	Religion / Belief	Sexual Orientation
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment								
Children's Social Care									
Early Help	Following Lead Member decisions and remodelling the Early Help Service, there will be a reduction in the family key work service, which has been deferred until 2021/22 and 2022/23. Savings will be generated in 2021/22 as a result of ceasing to run services from 10 children's centres and 2 nurseries.		
TOTAL Children's Services									

Business Services / Orbis

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2021/22 to 2023/24		Protected characteristics							
		Age	Disability	Gender / Transgender	Ethnicity	Marriage / Civil Partnership	Pregnancy /Maternity	Religion / Belief	Sexual Orientation
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment								
Business Services: Orbis and Managed on Behalf of (MOBO) services: Finance, IT&D, Procurement, Property Services, HR and OD and Business Operations	The Advisory and Change areas of support are being analysed and presented to the 3 partner Councils to determine which elements need to form part of the Core Offer as they are essential in supporting the partners deliver their priorities, and which elements will no longer be provided. The aim would be to reduce spending as set out in this table although the details of how this might be achieved is still being developed.								y
TOTAL Business Services / Orbis									

Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	18 November 2021
By:	Assistant Chief Executive
Title:	People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Purpose:	To review and discuss the People Scrutiny Committee's refreshed future work programme

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) review and agree the refreshed work programme set out at Appendix A, developed following the recent work planning awayday;**
 - 2) agree to progress proposed scrutiny reviews on School Attendance and Adult Social Care Workforce to the scoping stage and to appoint Members to the scoping boards; and**
 - 3) review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's Forward Plan as set out at Appendix B to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.**
-

1 Background

1.1 The work programme is an important tool in ensuring the correct focus and best use of the Committee's time in scrutinising topics that are of importance to the residents of East Sussex, and the efficient and effective working of the Council. It also provides clarity for those who may be requested to give evidence to the Committee on the issues under review, and the questions the Committee requires answers to.

1.2 Discussion of the work programme provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider topics that it may be of value to scrutinise, and to decide whether further scoping work is required. This provides a basis for deciding the best way of scrutinising a topic, the timescale, and who from the Committee will be involved in carrying out the review work. If there are a number of potential topics for review, Members can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

2 Supporting information

Work programme and future scrutiny reviews

2.1 The Committee's work programme has undergone a detailed review following the Committee's work planning awayday in October. The refreshed work programme is attached at Appendix A and includes two new areas that the Committee has identified as potential scrutiny reviews:

- Adult Social Care Workforce – scoping whether there are new opportunities and innovative ways to address ASC workforce challenges in ESCC's own workforce and the independent sector following the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- School attendance – to understand the drivers of school absences, the impact of school absences on children and young people, the work the Children's Services Department is undertaking in response, and whether there are areas where scrutiny could make recommendations for change or improvement.

2.2 Subject to agreement at this meeting, scoping of these reviews will be progressed by scoping boards, the membership of which is to be confirmed. The scrutiny review of school exclusions remains on the work programme and is planned to progress in School Term 4 (Spring 2022); and a review of Elective Home Education (EHE) may be also be progressed at a later date when further national information is available.

2.3 The refreshed work programme also:

- includes presentations and briefings on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children; the awaited national Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review; and ESCC's work on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, all of which the Committee requested following its Awayday; and
- Confirms membership of the School Exclusions Review Board; the Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group; the Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group; and the Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group.

2.4 The Committee is asked to review, discuss any amendments to, and agree the refreshed work programme.

2.5 When considering potential topics for inclusion in the work programme, the Committee is asked to consider a range of questions. These include:

- Is the topic relevant to the Council's Corporate Priorities?
- Is the issue of concern or of relevance to East Sussex residents?
- Can Scrutiny have an impact and add value by scrutinising this issue, service or policy?
- Is the issue one that the Committee can realistically influence?
- Are the resources needed to undertake the review available?

2.6 Any suggestions for potential Scrutiny Review topics should be discussed with the Chair, or the Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser, in advance of the Committee meetings.

Forward Plan

2.7 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 November 2021 to 28 February 2022 is included at Appendix B. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues within the remit of this Committee that may require more detailed scrutiny. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 An important part of managing the work of the People Scrutiny Committee is regularly reviewing its future work programme. This involves the Committee assessing its priorities, ensuring its ongoing reviews are completed in a timely fashion and identifying new areas for scrutiny.

3.2 The People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme has just undergone detailed review following a work planning awayday and the refreshed work programme is attached for the committee to review and agree so that work on the areas of interest identified can progress.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Beth McGhee, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

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Appendices

Appendix A – People Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Appendix B – Council’s Forward Plan of executive decisions 1 November 2021 to 28 February 2022

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People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
School Exclusions	<p>The previous Committee agreed in March 2020 to undertake a Scrutiny Review of issues relating to school exclusions. The Committee also agreed the Terms of Reference proposed by the Scoping Board. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the availability of schools to contribute to further work on this review, it was subsequently paused with the intention to recommence it at a suitable future date.</p> <p>The Committee has indicated it wishes to recommence this review and, subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, will do so in School Term 4 (Spring 2022).</p> <p>Membership of the Review Board: Councillors Adeniji, Field and Maples and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	To be confirmed when review recommences in Spring 2022.
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Adult Social Care Workforce	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that the challenges seen nationally in recruitment and retention of the ASC workforce are reflected in East Sussex. The Committee noted that the previous Committee undertook a scrutiny review of ASC Workforce Challenges in 2019 but the context to these challenges had developed and they have been brought into sharp focus by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will therefore undertake scoping for a further short review of ASC workforce challenges. Building on the previous scrutiny review, this will scope whether there are new opportunities and innovative ways to address ASC workforce challenges in ESCC's own workforce and the independent sector following the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: to be confirmed.</p>	Scoping to take place in early 2022.

School Attendance	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that overall school absence and persistent absence rates across East Sussex are high, when compared to national and statistical neighbours; and that East Sussex has a significant number of children and young people deemed too ill to attend school due to anxiety and poor mental health, and increasing levels of Emotionally-Based School Avoidance (EBSA).</p> <p>In light of this, and subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will undertake scoping for a review of school attendance to understand more about the drivers of school absences, the impact of school absences on children and young people, the work the Department is undertaking in response, and whether there are areas where scrutiny could make recommendations for change or improvement.</p> <p>Membership of the Scoping Board: to be confirmed.</p>	Scoping to take place in early 2022.
Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics		
Suggested Topic	Detail	
Elective Home Education	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that issues relating to the increase in the numbers of children being electively home educated (EHE) remain a concern for the Children's Services Department and expressed an interest in scrutinising the work the Department is doing in response.</p> <p>The Committee also heard about national developments expected to impact future policy and the approaches of local authorities in this area, including an Education Committee enquiry into strengthening home education (published July 2021) and a judicial review into the approach taken by Portsmouth City Council to assurance on EHE. The Government's response to the Education Committee's enquiry has been published since the awayday. This commits the Government to share further details on plans for a form of local authority administered statutory registration to identify children not in school, and proposals for supporting home educated children in the Government's upcoming response to the Children Not in School Consultation. The outcome of the judicial review is outstanding but is expected to have a bearing on both future Government guidance and the approach councils feel empowered to take on EHE.</p> <p>Subject to agreement at the November 2021 meeting, the Committee will therefore retain this as a potential area for review, to be progressed once both the Government's response to the Children Not in School Consultation and the Portsmouth City Council judicial review decision are published.</p>	
Scrutiny Reference Groups		

Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to monitor progress of the East Sussex Health and Social Care Integration Programme and identify areas for future scrutiny. It will review HASCIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and meet on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>Relevant HWB reports to be circulated to the group as they become available.</p> <p>The Reference Group last met on 28 October 2020, with a further meeting planned for December 2021.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, di Cara, Geary, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Planned for December 2021</p>
Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Loneliness and Resilience Scrutiny Reference Group at its meeting in March 2021. The purpose of the group is to provide scrutiny input into a loneliness project being undertaken by the Adult Social Care and Health Department. The project will aim to develop practical solutions that will help address some of the key negative impacts of loneliness on local communities in East Sussex.</p> <p>The Group's first meeting took place in August 2021 and another is planned for later November, or early December 2021.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, Geary, Maples, Howell, Ungar and Webb.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Proposed for November 2021 or early December 2021</p>
Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed in June 2018 to establish a Reference Group to focus on reviewing data on educational attainment in East Sussex and related issues. The group meets on an annual basis.</p> <p>Membership of the group: Councillors Adeniji, Field and Howell and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Early 2022</p>
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	<p>RPPR Board meet to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and spending and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>December 2021</p>
Strategic Commissioning Review of Early Help Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The purpose of this Reference Group is to provide scrutiny input into the Children's Services Department review of Early Help services.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Further meeting TBC if appropriate</p>

	<p>The Reference Group of the previous Committee requested an opportunity to review progress with the implementation of the revised Early Help strategy in spring 2021, but as some changes were postponed this was deferred and a further meeting will be considered if required.</p> <p>Membership of the group: to be confirmed if meeting required.</p>	
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	A request for the latest position on ESCC's response to supporting increasing numbers of UASC, including those that disappear following arrival, was requested following the Committee's work planning awayday in October 2021.	November 2021
Better Care Fund	Following a request made by the previous Committee at its meeting in March 2021, the Director of Adult Social Care undertook to provide Members with a briefing on developments relating to the Better Care Fund. The Department was awaiting guidance from central government for the 2021/22 financial year. Now this has been received the briefing will be reported to next HASCIP Reference Group, planned for December.	December 2021 HASCIP Reference Group meeting.
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review	<p>The Committee heard at their work planning awayday that the Children's Services Department faces challenges in delivering SEND services following reforms to the system implemented in 2014; and that a national major review into support for children with SEND is currently underway, which may make recommendations or provisions that help clarify roles and responsibilities in the system.</p> <p>The Committee has requested a briefing presentation when the national SEND Review is published on the implications of the Review for ESCC and our planned response to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work. If the Review is delayed much into 2022, the Committee has requested a general briefing on the Council's approach to delivering SEND provision, and challenges within that, to inform potential areas for future scrutiny work.</p>	Dependent on publication of SEND Review by Government
Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	In response to interest in scrutinising ESCC's work on domestic abuse and VAWG expressed at the work planning awayday, the Committee will receive a briefing presentation on:	Before draft Pan-Sussex Domestic Abuse Strategy consultation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the draft Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024, to input comments on the draft Strategy and inform development of the East Sussex action plan for delivery; ESCC's latest work on preventing and responding to VAWG; and the Children's Services Department's work to support children in families with domestic abuse to inform potential future scrutiny work in this area. 	closes on 19 December 2021.
Briefing on ASC White Paper	To gain a better understanding of the potential implications of the Government's White Paper/Adult Social Care reforms once published.	Dependent on publication by Government
Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
24 March 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2021/22	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2022/23.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE, with the report to include a further update on secondary school performance in relation to the requirements of the National Curriculum and Religious Education.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE / Director of Children's Services
Care Market Support	To update the Committee on the Council's care market support work, including on developments relating to the Bedded Care Strategy (requested by the Committee at its September 2021 meeting); and to inform potential future areas of work for the Committee.	Director of Adult Social Care
Child Exploitation and County Lines	A presentation on work to disrupt county lines and respond to child exploitation, requested following the 2021 work planning awayday, to inform consideration of whether any further scrutiny work on this topic is needed.	Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
16 June 2022		

Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
15 September 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will begin the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2023/24 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser
Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report outlines the safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during the previous financial year, as well as some of the main developments in place to prevent abuse from occurring.	Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board
Annual Review of Safer Communities	To update the Committee on performance in relation to Safer Communities in 2021/22 and the priorities and issues for 2022/23 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan.	Tom Hook, Assistant Director - Planning, Performance and Engagement
17 November 2022		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2023/24	The Committee will continue the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2022/23 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

The Leader of the County Council is required to publish a forward plan setting out matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a key decision by the Cabinet, individual Cabinet member or officer in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent four months). The Council's Constitution states that a key decision is one that involves

- (a) expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the County Council's budget, namely above £500,000 per annum; or
- (b) is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions.

As a matter of good practice, the Council's Forward Plan includes other items in addition to key decisions that are to be considered by the Cabinet/individual members. This additional information is provided to inform local residents of all matters to be considered, with the exception of issues which are dealt with under the urgency provisions. Only key decisions to be taken by officers are included.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting or relevant time period for an officer decision
- the title of the report and decision to be considered
- groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
- a list of documents that will be considered when making the decision
- the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

The Plan is updated and published every month on the Council's website two weeks before the start of the period to be covered.

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. Key decisions taken by officers will not be taken at a meeting – documents listed can be made available on request to the contact officer, with the exception of those which contain exempt/confidential information.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Andy Cottell at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481955 or send an e-mail to andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk. For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet, individual Member or officer please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

For copies of reports or other documents please contact the officer listed on the Plan or phone 01273 335274.

FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –1 November 2021 TO 28 February 2022

Additional notices in relation to Key Decisions and/or private decisions are available on the [Council's website](#).

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change

Councillor Rupert Simmons – Lead Member for Economy

Councillor Claire Dowling – Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Bob Bowdler – Lead Member for Children and Families

Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

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Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
9 Nov 2021	Cabinet	Climate Change investment To consider a proposal for additional investment to support ESCC's climate emergency work.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Arnold <i>01273 481606</i>
9 Nov 2021	Cabinet	Highways investment To consider a proposal for additional investment in highways.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Karl Taylor <i>01273 482207</i>
9 Nov 2021	Cabinet	Appointment of external auditors The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person)			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell <i>01273 481399</i>

		Regulations 2015; Regulation 19 requires the decision to opt-in to the PSAA auditor appointment process to be taken by Full Council. The closing date for the notice of acceptance is Friday 11 March 2022.				
9 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Household Support Fund - Voluntary, Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) and place-based options Decision as to the scheme the Council will implement to distribute the Household Support Grant with regard to families and other types of households, including individuals at risk of food and fuel poverty.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tom Hook 07895 331141
2 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Economy	Sussex Tourism and Culture Recovery Group Progress report and recommendations for next steps To present a vision and high level priorities to support the medium and long term recovery of the visitor economy across East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Sally Staples 01273 481871
15 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	East Sussex School Organisation Plan 2021-2025 To seek Lead Member approval to publish the East Sussex School Organisation Plan, covering the period 2021 to 2025. The purpose of the School Organisation Plan is to understand the projected demand for school places in the future and to set out where we think we will need to commission additional places or re-organise existing			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758

		provision to meet that demand.				
15 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Household Support Fund Approval to use some of the Household Support Fund to provide food vouchers over the Christmas, February and Easter school holidays to eligible free school meal pupils between December 2021 – March 2022.	KD	Local Members	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jessica Stubbings <i>07827 084705</i>
16 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Lease extension - Tilling Green Community Centre, Rye Proposal to grant a long lease to facilitate capital investment	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Zoe Tweed <i>01273 336104</i>
12 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	East Sussex County Council's use of Glyphosate based herbicide to control weeds on the Public Highway To consider the response to the Motion 'to eliminate use of glyphosate herbicide formulation in ESCC/Highways' weed control' and to provide an update on East Sussex County Council's approach to weed management.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Dale Poore <i>01273 481847</i>
22 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition to extend the 40mph speed limit on the A2100 London Road, Battle To consider the petition calling on the County Council to extend the 40mph speed limit beyond that being proposed for the new Lillybank development to a suitable location north of Canadia Road. The limit is being extended as part of a Section 106 Agreement for the Millwood Homes			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Helen Pain <i>0345 6080193</i>

		development (Lillybank Farm), and an extension north of Canadia Road will help protect vulnerable residents from the excessive speeding frequently endangering lives				
22 Nov 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Redundant assets of the Library and Information Service</p> <p>The Library and Information Service has a collection of redundant assets following the service changes in 2018 (which Cabinet approved).</p> <p>The decision required is to approve the disposal method, which would enables local organisations to expand their collections and make best use of the assets.</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Alice Henderson</p> <p>01273 481804</p>
7 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Economy	<p>University of Brighton @ Eastbourne consultation</p> <p>To consider the formal response to the University of Brighton @ Eastbourne consultation on its proposal to move its current provision from its campus at Eastbourne and LEAF hospital (in Eastbourne) to its Falmer campus by start of 2024-25 academic year</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Richard Dawson</p> <p>07917 210721</p>
8 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Procurement of the Integrated Community Equipment Service</p> <p>Approval to commence procurement of the Integrated Community Equipment Service and of the preferred procurement approach. The new contract for the provision of the</p>	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Sally Reed</p> <p>01273 481912</p>

		<p>East Sussex Integrated Community Equipment Service will commence on 1st April 2023, replacing the existing contract which started in September 2016.</p> <p>The service provider is responsible for the procurement, delivery, collection, repair, maintenance, decontamination and disposal of community equipment including pressure relief mattresses, beds and hoists, walking aids, chair and bed raisers, commodes and toilet aids and support rails as prescribed by health and social care staff for residents of East Sussex.</p>				
13 Dec 2021 Page 66	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Petition for increased safety measures – Robertson’s Hill, Hastings</p> <p>Petition for increased safety measures – Robertson’s Hill, Hastings. A petition was submitted to the County Council on 23 July 2021 and needs to be considered by Lead Member for Transport & Environment</p>			Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Victoria Bartholomew</p> <p><i>01424 724284</i></p>
13 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>Petition to address speeding and overtaking along Whatlington Road in Battle from Caldbec Hill to Punchbowl Corner</p> <p>To consider the petition calling on the County Council to address speeding and overtaking along Whatlington Road from Caldbec Hill to Punchbowl Corner in Battle.</p>		Local Member	Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Helen Pain</p> <p><i>0345 6080193</i></p>
13 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	<p>To consider a request to introduce a speed restriction in Milton Street, Long Man</p> <p>Petition to consider a request to introduce a speed restriction in Milton Street, Long Man.</p>		Local Member	Report, other documents may also be submitted	<p>Jo Reed</p> <p><i>0345 60 80 193</i></p>

		A petition was submitted to the County Council on 23 July 2021 and needs to be considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment				
13 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Approval of the updated Library and Information Service Strategic Commissioning Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/28 The Lead Member is requested to agree the Updated Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy 2022/23 to 2027/2028 and implementation to ensure the Library and Information Service continues to support residents' needs	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rhona Drever 07876 036901
3 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Final decision on the proposal to lower the age range at Cradle Hill Community Primary School To take the final decision on the proposal to lower the age range at Cradle Hill Community Primary School			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Spice 01323 747425
14 Dec 2021	Cabinet	Annual Accounts for Lewes Charitable Trust Annual position statement of accounts for onward submission to Charity Commission			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Samantha McManus 07919 298416
14 Dec 2021	Cabinet	Council Monitoring: Quarter 2 2021/22 To consider the Council Monitoring report for the second quarter of the financial year 2021/22 as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) budget monitoring process.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard 07894 708914

14 Dec 2021	Cabinet	The LAC Annual Report 2020-2021 Cabinet are asked to receive and consider the Annual Report for the LAC service in their role as Corporate Parents. This will be presented on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Panel which is chaired by a member of the panel who has been elected by the panel to act as chair.		The report has previously been considered by the elected members who form the Corporate Parenting Panel.	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Liz Rugg 01273 481274
14 Dec 2021	Cabinet	Treasury Management Annual Report 2020/21 and mid-year report 2021/22 To consider a report on the review of Treasury Management performance for 2020/21 and the outturn for the first six months of 2021/22, including the economic factors affecting performance, the Prudential Indicators and compliance with the limits set within the Treasury Management Strategy.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
December 2021	Chief Operating Officer	Award of contracts for supply of mobile phones To approve the award of contract to the recommended supplier for the supply of replacement mobile required to refresh the existing corporate estate.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Matt Scott 07552 286752
14 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Approval of a Lease for Business Space Accommodation. Approval of a lease for business space accommodation to meet the operational requirements of the Communities, Economy and Transport Department. The decision required is to agree that the	P KD	Local Member	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Peter Smith 01273 337647

		Council will take a commercial lease and to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to sign the final lease agreements.				
14 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Land at Woollards Field To declare surplus ESCC freehold land at Woollards Field, Brighton with disposal to BHCC.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Zoe Tweed <i>01273 336104</i>
14 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Orbis Partnership Governance To agree amended governance arrangements for the Orbis Partnership			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Phil Hall <i>07857 655532</i>
14 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Firstfields Resource Centre – disposal of freehold Disposal of the freehold of Firstfields Resource Centre	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Zoe Tweed <i>01273 336104</i>
14 Dec 2021	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Former Forest Row Household Waste Recycling Centre - disposal To agree the disposal of the former Forest Row Household Waste Recycling Centre to the preferred purchaser following the marketing of the site, including declaring the land comprising Station Road, Forest Row surplus to the Council's requirements and agreeing its disposal to the preferred purchaser.	P		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown <i>07394 410630</i>
14 Jan 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs	East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2023 To approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jane Spice <i>01323 747425</i>

	and Disability	Sufficiency Assessment for 2022 to 2023.				
20 Jan 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Ringmer Swimming Pool To consider the outcome of the market testing exercise to ascertain expressions of interest in the future management of the Ringmer Swimming Pool.		Local Member	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Pauline Young 01273 481180
20 Jan 2022	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Transfer of freehold of the Cuckoo Trail Transfer of that part of the Cuckoo Trail that is held freehold by East Sussex County Council to Wealden District Council subject to due diligence	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Zoe Tweed 01273 336104
Page 70 25 Jan 2022	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget 2022/23 To approve the draft Conservators of Ashdown Forest budget for the financial year 2022/23 and to consider the contribution from the Trust Fund.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
25 Jan 2022	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2022/23: Draft Council Plan To ask Cabinet to approve the draft Council Plan, Council Tax levels, Revenue Budget, and Capital Programme for 2022/23 for recommendation to the County Council (including Savings Proposals, Equality Impact Assessment, Engagement and Scrutiny feedback).	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 07523 930526

25 Jan 2022	Cabinet	Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 To approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2022/23. This includes setting the Prudential Indicators as set out in the Prudential Code and approving the Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
22 Feb 2022	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Determine Admission Arrangements for 2023-24 To determine the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in East Sussex for the 2023-24 academic year (and the co-ordinated schemes of admission for the same year), as required by the School Admissions Code 2021.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles 01273 481911

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Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 November 2021

By: Reg Hooke, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
Independent Chair

Title: East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report
2020/21

Purpose: To advise Committee Members of the multi-agency
arrangements in place to safeguard children in East Sussex

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to receive and consider the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2020-2021.

1. Background

- 1.1 [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) 2018 sets out the arrangements for cooperation between organisations and agencies to improve the wellbeing of children. This places a duty on police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The previous arrangements of the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was replaced with the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) from 1st October 2019. More information on the partnership arrangements is available here: [East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements](#).
- 1.2 In order to bring transparency for children, families and all practitioners about the activity undertaken by the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, Working Together 2018 sets out that the safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
- 1.3 The 2020/21 ESSCP Annual Report focuses on the partnership priorities, a review of the partnership arrangements and considers the emerging impact of the partnership on children and young people.

2. Supporting information

- 2.1 The ESSCP Annual Report 2020/21 (attached as Appendix A) outlines the work undertaken by the partnership, highlighting key learning and achievements, which includes.
- 5 multi-agency Rapid Reviews conducted, resulting in 3 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LSCPR).
 - [1 Serious Case Review \(child W\) and 2 learning briefings](#) on infant injuries published.

- In response to the pandemic, virtual training courses started from August 2020, with 545 multi-agency staff attending 42 virtual training courses. 96% of evaluations rated the course as Excellent or Good.
 - ESSCP Learning Strategy launched, and 2 audits undertaken on intra-familial sexual abuse and domestic abuse. A further Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) audit held on education.
 - All agencies actively participated in our Section 11 Audit evaluating safeguarding practice.
 - Successful implementation of a local 'Contextual Safeguarding' response to children with multiple needs.
 - Launch of the [ICON programme](#) to reduce infant head trauma.
 - Task & Finish Groups created to take forward multi-agency activity on Safeguarding Under 5s and A&E and Education Information Sharing.
- 2.2 The ESSCP Annual Report 2020/21 will be published on the ESSCP website and a copy of the published report shared with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care as per chapter 3 of Working Together 2018.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 An effective Safeguarding Children Partnership is in place in East Sussex.
- 3.2 The People Scrutiny Committee is requested to receive and consider the ESSCP Annual Report 2020/21 and to note the continuing partnership priorities for 2020-2023:
- Education Safeguarding
 - Child Exploitation
 - Embedding a Learning Culture
 - Safeguarding under 5s

Contact Officer: Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance
Tel. No: 01273 481289
Email: douglas.sinclair@eastsussex.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A - ESSCP Annual Report 2020/21

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Foreword

It is my privilege to present to you the second annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) for the period 2020/21, and my last as the Independent Chair.

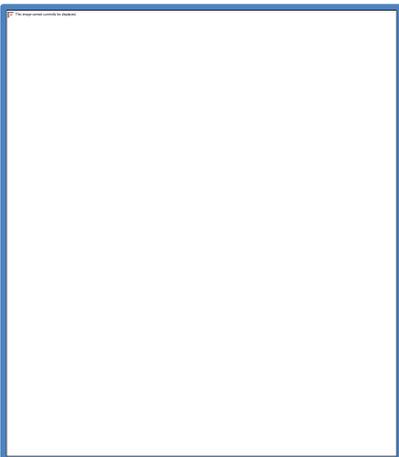
It is the statutory responsibility of the local authority, police, and health agencies to jointly oversee multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children in the county. As Independent Chair I assist this by providing independent challenge and scrutiny of those arrangements as well as helping to foment better multi-agency strategic working to protect vulnerable children and young people and ensure positive outcomes for them.

This is the first full year that the statutory agencies have held equal responsibility for the partnership. Each senior lead has committed to this triumvirate arrangement positively, working closely with each other at formal quarterly planning meetings which I Chair, and through their day-to-day leadership. I am confident that the close sharing of responsibility will continue to develop in the coming months and years.

We published one Serious Case Review this year, Child W, which produced significant learning for agencies both locally and nationally. This and other important documentation and reports can be found on our website www.esscp.org.uk

At the start of the year the totally unanticipated challenges of Covid-19 hit the UK. The impact on children and on the safeguarding system was, and is, substantial, creating additional risk groups and challenges to front line staff and leaders. The local leadership and front-line dedication have shown that the county has a highly adaptive partnership to meet the new challenges. Covid-19 impact is a long term and persistent issue for us, and we are now seeing the negative impact this is having on some children in the cases coming to our attention.

The safeguarding arrangements for the diversity of children in East Sussex are complex. This report has a strong focus on what impact the partnership has had in priority areas and the evidence on which it bases its decisions in a way that, we hope, guides the reader through the complexity. I hope you find the report interesting and informative.



Reg Hooke
Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

1. Introduction

We are delighted to present this annual report on behalf of the three statutory partners of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership. This has been written against the backdrop of the unprecedented global Covid-19 pandemic and it is crucial to acknowledge the impact this has had on our children and families in East Sussex. For every member of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, the impact on their service has been significant and unprecedented. Early learning from impact of lockdowns on children and families has been significant and has informed system-wide responses to future lockdowns as partners worked closely to ensure children did not become hidden and that their education, and the social and emotional benefits this brings, was prioritised.

Despite the impact of the pandemic on the operation of services and capacity, the statutory functions of the Partnership have been maintained throughout the course of the year. This has seen an increase in statutory reviews taking place, a continued development of our multi-agency audit processes and the roll out of an extensive virtual learning offer for staff who work with children and families.

Following feedback from the Alan Wood Review and the National Safeguarding Panel's analysis of SCP's annual reports, the ESSCP Annual Report for 2020/21 has been restructured so that it is more clearly focused on the impact of partnership working; the evidence used to inform multi-agency working; how the lead safeguarding partners are given assurance of local safeguarding practice; and the learning arising from partnership review activity.

On behalf partnership we hope you find this report to be informative, and open and honest in regards to our achievements and challenges over the last financial year. We would like to sincerely thank all those who have worked tirelessly in East Sussex over the past 12 months to help keep children safe.



Michael Brown
Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, Sussex NHS Commissioners



Alison Jeffery
Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council



Jon Hull
Detective Superintendent – Public Protection, Sussex Police

2. Key Learning & Achievements 2020/21

- 5 multi-agency Rapid Reviews conducted to respond to serious incidents
- 1 Serious Case Review published (child W)
- Two learning briefings on infant injuries published
- Engagement in the National Safeguarding Panel review on infant injury
- Three LCSPRs started: Child X, Child Y, and Child Z

- Review of partnership arrangements '1 year on'
- Learning Strategy launched
- All agencies actively participated in our Section 11 Audit evaluating safeguarding practice
- Development of effective virtual partnership working
- Strengthening of Pan Sussex working and links with the Safeguarding Adult Board

- Roll out of virtual courses from August 2020.
- 545 multi-agency staff attended 42 virtual training courses
- 96% of evaluations rated course as Excellent or Good

Learning from case reviews

Partnership development

Training

ESSCP Learning & Achievements 2020/21

Business Priorities 2020-22

Safeguarding projects

Case File Audits

- Successful implementation of a local 'Contextual Safeguarding' response to children with multiple needs
- Launch of the ICON programme to reduce infant head trauma
- Monitoring and evaluating outcomes of Joint Targeted Area Inspection on mental health
- Task & Finish Groups created to take forward multi-agency activity on Safeguarding Under 5s and A&E and Education Information Sharing

- Education Safeguarding
- Child Exploitation
- Embedding a Learning Culture
- Safeguarding under 5s

- Two audits held: on intra-familial sexual abuse and domestic abuse. A further MACE audit held on education.
- All cases demonstrated good initial response and an effective response to safeguard the child. No children were found to be unsafe.

3. Safeguarding Context 2020/21

Impact of multi-agency working

11,874 family contacts to Single Point of Advice (SPOA)
 18,940 information gatherings by Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 4075 referrals to statutory social care
 23 Privately Fostered children

Children supported by statutory services

525 children with a child protection plan
 612 Looked After Children
 53 unaccompanied asylum seeking children
 9 young people at high risk of child exploitation
 438 sexual offences against children

106,338 children aged 0-17 years
 16,855 children living in poverty
 9,488 black and minority ethnic pupils
 11,270 pupils with special educational needs

2,009 children living with domestic violence (MARAC)
 368 vulnerable young carers
 1227 children educated at home

18 children with disabilities with a Child Protection Plan
 474 children attending A&E due to self-harm
 2871 referrals to child mental health services

Children with health related vulnerabilities

1438 missing episodes
 13 births to under-18 year olds
 91 young people entered the youth justice system
 26 occasions of young people held overnight in Police custody

Children with family related vulnerabilities

Children whose actions place them at risk

4. Governance Arrangements

4.1 Overview of the Partnership

In 2018/19 there were significant changes to the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#), which created new duties for three key agencies, police, health and the local authority, to lead arrangements locally to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) outlined the replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards with Local Safeguarding Partnerships, a number of changes to conducting serious case reviews, and significant changes to the child death review process.

The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board formally moved to the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) on 29 September 2019. The three ESSCP safeguarding partners are:



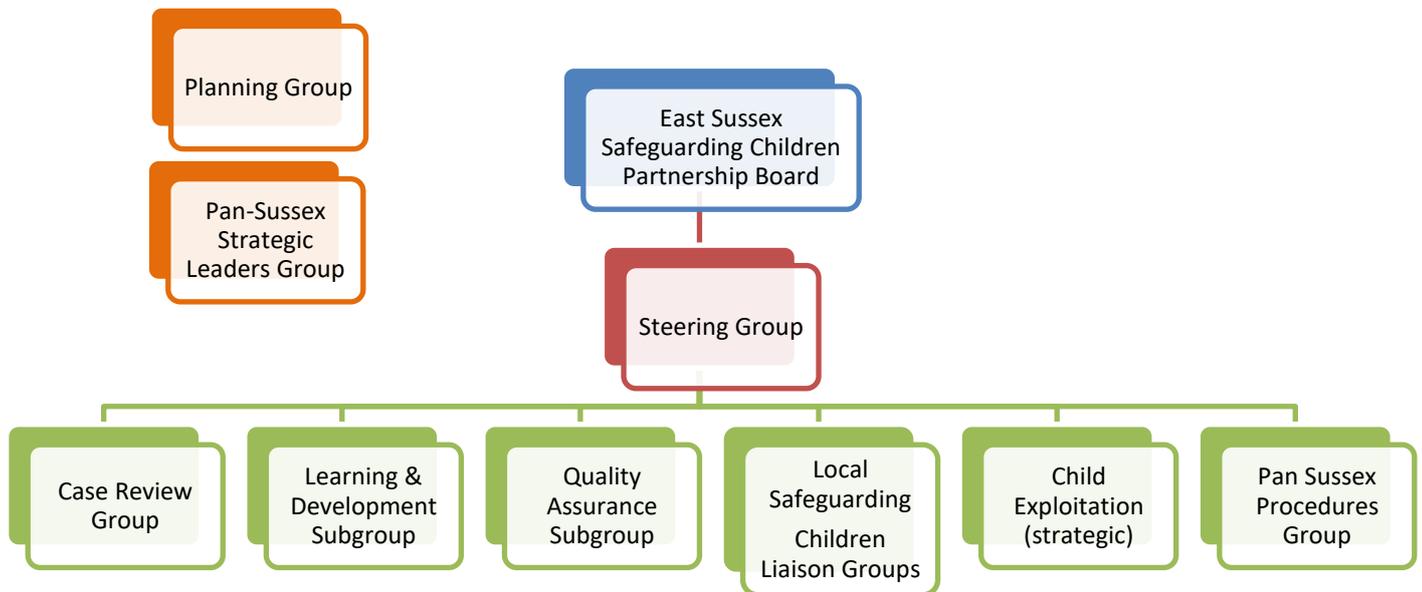
The ESSCP acts as a forum for safeguarding partners to:

- agree on ways to coordinate safeguarding services in (the geographical local authority borders of) East Sussex.
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging other agencies across East Sussex; and
- implement local, regional, and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

4.2 Partnership Structure and Subgroups

The Board is chaired by an Independent Chair, meets four times a year and is made up of the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies (full list of board members is included in Appendix A). The Independent Chair also chairs the ESSCP Steering Group which meets four times a year. The Independent Chair fulfils the role of the Independent Scrutineer and acts as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The main Board is supported by a range of subgroups that lead on areas of ESSCP business and are crucial in ensuring that the Partnership's priorities are delivered. These groups ensure that the Partnership really makes a difference to local practice and to the outcomes for children and young people. Each subgroup has a clear remit and a transparent mechanism for reporting to the ESSCP, and each subgroup's terms of reference and membership are reviewed annually.



The three ESSCP safeguarding partners and the Independent chair form the Planning Group, which also meets quarterly. The Planning Group discusses and agrees the short-term agenda for the work of the partnership and addresses any emerging safeguarding issues requiring strategic input. It also agrees the budget for the ESSCP (see Appendix B).

The Pan-Sussex Strategic Leaders Group membership consists of lead safeguarding partners across East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton & Hove. The group’s purpose is to focus on setting the ‘road map’ for future partnership development and identify shared safeguarding priorities and opportunities across the three areas.

Terms of Reference for all the groups are in the process of being refreshed and will be shared on the ESSCP’s website here: [Subgroups - ESSCP](#) when agreed.

4.3 Links to Other Partnerships

The Partnership has formal links with other East Sussex and Pan-Sussex strategic partnerships, namely the Health and Wellbeing Board; Pan Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB); Safer Communities Partnership; West Sussex and Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnerships; Children and Young People Trust (CYPT) and Local Head Teacher Forums. Links to other significant partnership documents are highlighted in Appendix C.

The ESSCP Independent Chair also maintains regular liaison with other key strategic leaders, for example, the Police and Crime Commissioner, neighbouring Safeguarding Children and Adult Partnership Chairs and Government inspection bodies.

The ESSCP annual report is presented to the East Sussex County Council People Scrutiny Committee, East Sussex SAB, the Safer Communities Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other ESSCP member organisations’ senior management boards.

During 2020/21 the ESSCP has been working with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB); Safer Communities Partnership; Children and Young People Trust (CYPT) and the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a the 'East Sussex Partnership Protocol'. The protocol sets out the relationships between key partnerships to promote the health and wellbeing of East Sussex's communities. In relation to safeguarding, the protocol aims to secure coordinated partnership working that avoids duplication and achieves better outcomes for the people of East Sussex. Once agreed, the protocol will be available on the ESSCP website here: [Subgroups - ESSCP](#)

4.4 East Sussex Joint Targeted Area Inspection

In February 2020 the East Sussex Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) took place on the theme of children's mental health. The inspection was undertaken by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (Health), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (Police) and Fire & Rescue Services and HMI Probation (YOT). The joint inspection included an evaluation of the 'front door' and how agencies identify and respond to the inspection theme of children's mental health. During the JTAI, inspectors found that some areas of multi-agency working could be further strengthened, such as information sharing and that the use of qualitative feedback to demonstrate the impact of agencies could be improved. A multi-agency action plan has been developed to address these areas. This was overseen by the ESSCP Steering Group during 2020/21. Examples of the impact of this action plan can be found in section 5.

4.5 Pan Sussex Working

Although the ESSCP's focus is on safeguarding children in East Sussex, it should be expected that child protection and safeguarding procedure continue to be developed at a Pan Sussex level, and opportunities for joined up working across Sussex will be promoted where appropriate. Examples of Pan Sussex working in 2020/21 include:

- **Learning & Development opportunities -**
 - Existing training: Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA), Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children, NSPCC/pan-Sussex SCP 'It's your call' campaign
 - Planned training in development: Harmful Practices; Professional Challenge, Social Graces/Identity, Cultural Competency/Equalities, Suicide Prevention
- **Safeguarding Children Under 5** – East Sussex has facilitated pan-Sussex meetings looking at developing common principles for practitioners regarding the promotion of safer sleeping. This follows on from the publication of the National Safeguarding Panel's report "Out of Routine: A Review of SUDI in families where the children are considered at risk" in 2020. The group has been ensuring that this work aligns with ICON. The group will also be informing the planning for the proposed pan-Sussex SCP Conference in November 2021, which will focus on a range of issues regarding the safeguarding of infants.
- Between April 2020 to March 2021, the **Pan Sussex Procedures Group** which reviews, updates, and develops pan Sussex safeguarding policies and procedures, supported by several front-line practitioners, reviewed, or created **39** safeguarding policies. The jointly funded Pan Sussex Policy Lead post was embedded in 2020 to co-ordinate a consistent approach to the development and

maintenance of the pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. This provides an effective and timely response to reflect changes required to procedures from legislation updates or local and national learnings, providing a current tool for professionals working with children and families across Sussex.

- **Suicide Prevention and Emotional Health and Wellbeing** - there is an emerging picture of increased pressure on already pressed CAMHS and acute services across Sussex. Acute hospital settings have seen a rise in self-harm presentations. A Pan Sussex, Public Health led approach to suicide prevention and a working group focussed on improving commissioning of services has been established.

4.6 Review of Partnership Arrangements: 1 Year On

- **Lead Safeguarding Partners Self-Assessment**

At the end of 2020/21 the ESSCP lead safeguarding partners undertook a self-assessment as part of the activity to review the effectiveness of our partnership arrangements. The self-assessment tool was developed based on the University of Bedfordshire research *'six steps for independent scrutiny of safeguarding children partnership arrangements'*. Leads separately self-assessed the partnership, followed by a collective discussion at the Planning Group to agree a red, amber, or green rating against specific questions linked to the six statements.

For 2021/22 an action plan has been developed for the partnership to address the areas rated as amber or red. The action plan will include the development areas:

- Transitional safeguarding arrangements - ensuring close links with adult services.
- Partnership representation from the private and business sector. Plus, improved representation from schools/colleges.
- Consideration of appropriate input from children, young people and their families on partnership reviews, meetings, training, audit activity and partnership development.
- Further exploration of training needs of the children's safeguarding workforce and the impact of the training programme

- **Review of arrangements with Board Members**

The ESSCP Chair, Business Managers and Lay Members spoke to a total of 14 board members to consider the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements. Specifically, those board members were asked about their role and the support to fulfil the expectations of that role, and the functioning of partnership board meetings.

Generally, the feedback was very positive with all board members interviewed commenting on the effectiveness of the partnership and board meetings in general. A few Pan Sussex agencies commented that the East Sussex SCP feels particularly well-functioning and collaborative, with good attendance by agencies.

Given the diversity of agencies interviewed, it was encouraging that all members understood and valued their membership of the board, and how this supported the safeguarding of children across the whole system.

Several comments were also made about the positive role of the Chair; including how they were approachable and accessible which supported a culture of open and honest challenge and collaboration; how they effectively chaired meetings to ensure that members were encouraged to participate; and the effectiveness of the Chair in holding agencies to account.

Other comments to note:

- All members commented that they found the board meetings useful – in networking with other board members and being able to keep up to date with current work programmes and safeguarding trends.
- Some members noted that the board meetings required lots of time and effort to prepare for when they were able to contribute very little to most main items. The board breakout sessions helped to ensure that all members were able to contribute.
- Communication from the board was clear, timely and well received. In particular, the [one-page summaries from the board](#) were helpful.
- A few members suggested that there could be opportunities to join up communications with Pan Sussex SCPs and/or Safeguarding Adult Boards on a more regular basis – to avoid duplication and strengthen key messaging.
- They would welcome an ‘induction pack’ for new members that sets out subgroups etc and includes what are the expectations and role for board members. Potential that this could be done on a pan Sussex basis.
- Comment from ‘school’ representatives that sometimes schools felt like they were being ‘done to’ rather than informing the debate.
- One member was concerned that the board often discusses an issue when the agency response is already underway, rather than bringing partners together at an earlier, development stage.
- All felt that learning from reviews was very important.
- Members noted that agencies often have well embedded engagement processes with children and young people, but this feedback is not shared at board level. One member noted that the “Partnership relies on board members to bring voice of the child. We must listen as a partnership and not listen in isolation”

4.7 ESSCP Priorities for 2020/23

Following the formation of the ESSCP in September 2019, discussions took place to determine our priority areas of focus for 2020 to 2023. The partnership felt strongly that priorities should relate to key areas of child safeguarding; those identified as of highest risk in the county, where multi-agency working is essential and where significant change and/or commitment is necessary to reduce risk.

Priority development took place at the start of the year, with both the Steering Group and Board, and were agreed by the three safeguarding partners in May 2020. More information on the priorities is

contained in the impact and evidence sections of this report. The agreed ESSCP Priorities for 2020-2023 are:

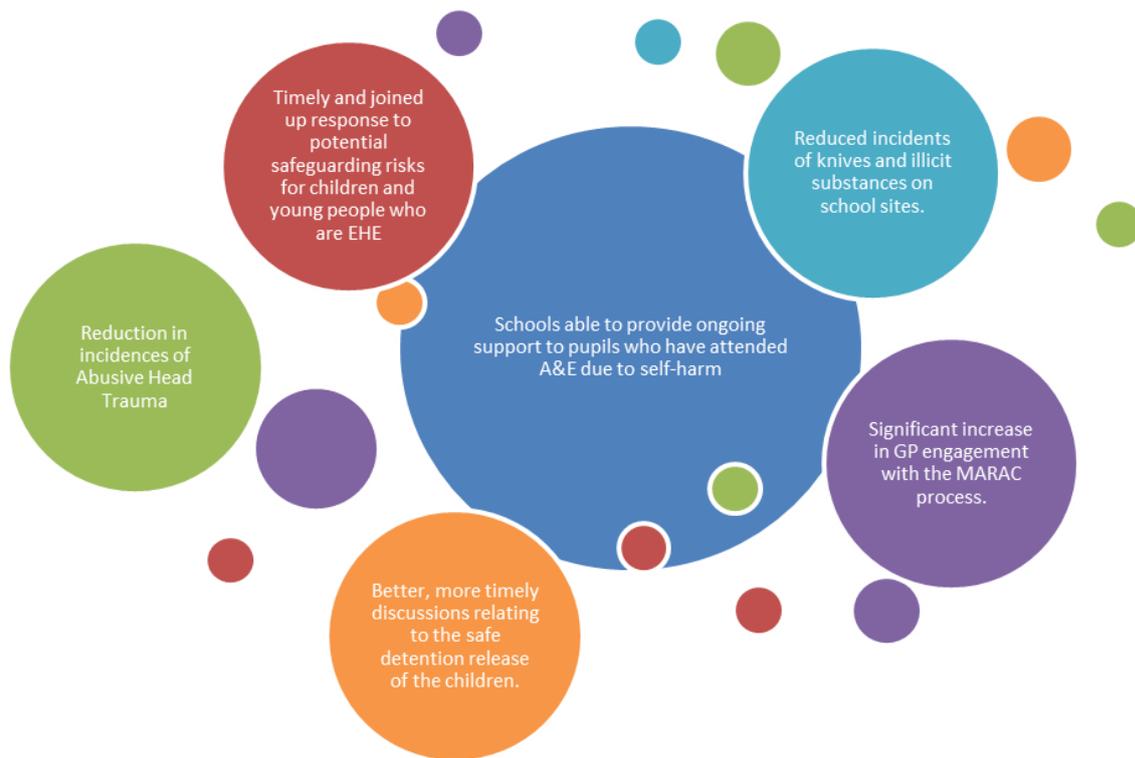
- **Safeguarding in Education**
Lead: Senior Manager, Safeguarding and Assessment, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES), Children's Services
- **Child Exploitation**
Joint Leads: Detective Chief Inspector, Safeguarding Investigation Unit, Sussex Police / Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services
- **Embedding a Learning Culture**
Lead: Manager, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
- **Safeguarding under 5s**
Joint Leads: Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Sussex CCG / Consultant in Public Health, Public Health

It is considered that ensuring the voice of the child is heard, and taking a contextual safeguarding approach, should be cross cutting over all the ESSCP priorities.

Challenges and next steps for 2021/22:

- ✓ Clarify how the partnership will work in future using digital tools while ensuring coherent partnership working
- ✓ Working group formed to review and align LCSPR processes, with an aspiration for a pan-Sussex procedure to be developed.
- ✓ Publish the East Sussex Partnership Protocol between the ESSCP and other East Sussex partnerships.
- ✓ SCP Managers to update the New Members' Induction Guidance and formalise the ESSCP induction process.
- ✓ Future Chair arrangements for the ESSCP should be clearly communicated with board members.
- ✓ SCP Managers to consider what communication can be joined up with West Sussex and Brighton & Hove SCPs.
- ✓ The board should consider, at least on an annual basis, a standing item on the voice of the child – drawing on single agency and multi-agency engagement, and engagement activity by the ESSCP.

5. Impact of Partnership Activity



This section aims to convey the impact of multi-agency and partnership activity on outcomes for children and families. The examples of impact are structures around the ESSCP's four priority areas and action taken following the Joint Targeted Area Inspection on child mental health in February 2020.

5.1 Safeguarding in Education:

Accident & Emergency (A&E) self-harm pathway with schools for children and young people (C&YP)	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	C&YP who self-harm, or have significant mental health difficulties, often present to A&E. C&YP need support, help and guidance from specialist services, their families and people that know them best. It is a reasonable assumption that this support would also include their school. Schools are often unaware what challenges children are facing with regards to this issue, and therefore do not know when or how to offer support to help keep them safe.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	To help keep children safer and to share their difficulties with their school, a multi-agency task and finish group was formed to develop a pathway for information sharing from A&E to secondary schools, with consent. Next steps would include the consideration of extending the pathway to primary schools and across Sussex.
<i>What was the impact of that action on</i>	This pathway is in the early stages of implementation, therefore full impact is unknown. Information is ideally shared with a school

<i>Children, Young People and Families?</i>	because the school may be the only service that is involved with the child and who can support with the Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) care plan. The schools could help safeguard that young person and identify any wider safeguarding risks that may not be apparent at the CAMHS assessment. Sharing of information is to primarily help the child and the school to be able to work with that child to look at ongoing support at school, and potentially support their family as well.
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Elective Home Education (EHE) communication and training task & finish group

<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	<p>Learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) identified an uncoordinated and inconsistent approach to communication with the EHE team regarding potential safeguarding risks. Inconsistent levels of knowledge and understanding were identified across teams within the partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHE legislation • The role of the EHE team • The limitations of EHE team's contact with families • Identified professionals to be approached for case discussions where a concern was raised by another party <p>The need for communication, guidance, and training to be embedded at a strategic level was identified, to address the above areas of need.</p>
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>A multi-agency task & finish group was set up to explore embedding of communication pathways and training to all practitioners. Group participants include strategic safeguarding leads across health, social care, police and the EHE team.</p> <p>One strand of action implemented from this group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An identified EHE Lead allocated within Single Point of Advice (SPoA). Training programme delivered by EHE team manager to SPoA EHE Lead, comprising clarification of EHE legislation, the role of the EHE team, the limitations of EHE team's contact with families and the fragmentary nature of EHE team's information about families. Pathways agreed for communication, with EHE team manager agreed professional for SPoA-initiated queries, and consultancy offer from SPoA to EHE team agreed. <p>Complementary to this action, the social care Liquid Logic system has been amended to ensure that the EHE badge is visible on both modules, and a child's status as EHE is now visible to all social workers and early help keyworkers.</p>
<i>What was the impact of that action on</i>	<p>This action has ensured that EHE expertise now sits in SPoA. Contact from SPoA to the EHE team has increased, with discussions taking place when a Statement of Referral (SOR) is submitted by another</p>

<p><i>Children, Young People and Families?</i></p>	<p>party, and/or where clarification of a child’s educational setting is required. This improved flow of information ensures potential safeguarding risks for children and young people who are EHE are swiftly responded to and a joined-up approach is taken.</p> <p>Measurement tools for this action are under development with Teaching & Learning Provision service manager. Further work includes developing a network of EHE Leads (on the same model as SPoA) across other partnership teams.</p>
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5.2 Child Exploitation

Contextual Safeguarding – College Central	
<p><i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i></p>	<p>Police and Education colleagues requested a contextual safeguarding response within College Central Eastbourne, which resulted in the first contextual assessment in East Sussex. This assessment provided the opportunity to enhance the contact and support that college central offered their most vulnerable adolescents.</p>
<p><i>What action was taken to address that need?</i></p>	<p>Funding secured via the Pan Sussex Violence Reduction Unit enabled the co-location of Youth Offending Team (YOT) practitioner time across College Central sites. This provides targeted early intervention to vulnerable pupils with the aim of raising awareness of risks such as knife crime and exploitation whilst preventing escalating anti-social behaviour and criminality through a one-to-one engagement offer. Between October 2019 and June 2020, practitioners engaged with 84 pupils and a thousand direct contacts took place. These have taken the form of one to one, group activities, positive activity sessions and family support.</p>
<p><i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i></p>	<p>Practitioners provide targeted early intervention to vulnerable pupils with the aim of raising awareness of risks such as knife crime and exploitation, whilst preventing escalating anti-social behaviour and criminality through a one-to-one engagement offer.</p> <p>Data provided by the school suggests that this intervention has impacted positively on behaviour and exclusions and there have been reduced incidents of knives and illicit substances on school sites.</p>

MACE priority – PREVENT Communications	
<p><i>What was the multi-agency area of need</i></p>	<p>PREVENT - Raising awareness and delivering targeted responses to Criminal Exploitation. Need identified to develop communications</p>

<i>identified/responded to?</i>	to children, parents and general public to develop a protective, local community.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>A variety of communications have been developed, including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County Council YouTube Channel - link for parents/carers on county lines and exploitation. This was circulated to schools in the Uckfield Contextual Safeguarding project and Sussex Police Youth Teams • Accompanying leaflets (knife crime and exploitation) for young people and parents available on Safe in East Sussex and Open for Parents websites. • RE-issue of the 2019 Hotel Guidance shared with Eastbourne Hospitality Association to raise awareness within their networks. • Open for Parents website – CSE/CCE information added for parents/carers of children aged 11-19. • County Lines Information has also been shared and added into ESCC parenting courses and leaflets for young people and parents.
<i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i>	Contextual Safeguarding responses to both child criminal exploitation and anti-social behaviour continue to be delivered in East Sussex. This work is overseen by the MACE strategic group. Youth Justice Board Pathfinder funding has this year enabled us to strengthen our safeguarding response to exploited children in Hastings and, over the coming months, we will be sharing our learning across the national YOT network

5.3 Embedding a Learning Culture

ESSCP Learning Strategy	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	It was identified that the ESSCP required a learning strategy to ensure the partnership has a clear and shared vision as to the priorities for safeguarding learning and training and to define how this will be achieved.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>The multi-agency Learning & Development Subgroup developed the strategy in consultation with the Training Pool practitioners. The ESSCP Learning Strategy was signed off by the Steering Group in December 2020. The Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that safeguarding training/learning activities are based on local necessity and enable practitioners to recognise and respond to need and risk. • Measure the impact of safeguarding training on practice and improving outcomes for children and young people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Audits, the Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) and the Voice of the Child is embedded into practice and ensures continuous learning and improvement. • Ensure key safeguarding messages (local, pan-Sussex and national) are communicated. <p>These requirements are delegated to the ESSCP Learning & Development Subgroup which produces quarterly training reports, which form the basis of the Annual Learning & Development Report to the ESSCP Steering Group.</p>
<p><i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i></p>	<p>The implementation of a strategic learning and training offer that is effective in helping professionals understand their respective roles and responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children and young people. The effective training promotes better outcomes for children and young people by fostering a shared understanding of processes, principles, roles, and responsibilities. It provides opportunities for improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions, and thresholds for action.</p>

Learning and Communications

The ESSCP strengthened its links with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in responding to the pandemic by producing joint communications for both the public and professionals that related to increased safeguarding risks to children and adults because of the pandemic.

The ESSCP and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) undertook **joint work in response to Modern Slavery**, which included reviewing and refreshing training to be delivered virtually, supporting training to Local Authority Councillors and the development of a Modern Slavery Single Point of Contact (SPOC) newsletter.

In general, partners within the SCP have reported **that engagement with young people has improved during the pandemic**, as staff have moved away from inviting children into offices and more towards meeting with young people in their own community and/or using technology.

Since the **introduction of Virtual training courses**, we have added evaluation questions relating to participants experience of this new learning platform. In general, those attending remote training have adapted very well and overall feedback relating to trainer professionalism and adaptability has been extremely positive. The use of break-out rooms to encourage interaction and discussion is regularly cited as adding great value to the virtual sessions. However, a significant proportion of participants stated that they prefer face to face training, the support and networking that it offers and that remote learning for such emotive subjects can be challenging at times.

Since the launch of **ICON** by ESSCP the programme has been promoted across Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust via the safeguarding team's social media channel, a dedicated ICON page on the staff intranet full of ICON guidance and resources, plus circulation of the ICON newsletter across the trust at time of launch. ICON messages have

been highlighted and shared during quarterly workshop meetings with safeguarding children link practitioners who take a safeguarding lead role within individual teams. Additional bespoke training on infant head trauma and the ICON message to perinatal services. A 1-page learning briefing on ICON is included in Appendix E.

Reflection on learning reviews across the multi-agency arena indicated that there was predominantly a common theme, **an indication of a lack of professional curiosity**. Led by Sussex Police, initially a pilot was run to bring together a cohort of front-line professionals from all agencies to unpick an actual case history. This enabled them to openly discuss good and poor practice, share learning and understand the barriers to advocating professional curiosity. The response to the training was extremely positive and the sessions were shared with partners across Sussex. An interactive 7-minute briefing was developed for frontline professionals unable to attend the sessions and delivered by colleagues that had.

5.4 Safeguarding under 5s

Safeguarding under 5s pan-Sussex development	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	<p>Support in the reduction of incidents of Non accidental injury and Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in infants.</p> <p>Serious case reviews across Sussex have highlighted the damage received from AHT is often life-limiting, the aim is that the ICON program will reduce the amount of babies injured or harmed from AHT.</p>
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>Introduction of the ICON programme Pan Sussex: the ICON preventative programme was established in Hampshire; it is aimed with providing parents with the knowledge/information around coping with a crying baby. It incorporates messages within a series of interventions delivered throughout routine antenatal and post-natal appointments, also through wider professional contacts in pregnancy and postnatally. ICON has been established due to research associated with AHT.</p> <p>Over 100 staff across Sussex joined the official launch of ICON on the 18 November 2020. Staff heard from the founder of ICON, a mother of a child who lives with life-limiting disabilities caused by AHT and were given ICON resources to share with parents and colleagues.</p>
<i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionals and parents are aware of ICON with this embedded into practice. • ICON is having a much wider reach, sharing the messages across the primary, secondary, and tertiary areas of the providers.

Public Health - Reducing childhood unintentional injuries	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	To increase awareness of the issue of childhood unintentional injuries with both families and professionals (and key home safety messages). Plus, tailor guidance to address some of the associated increased risks of unintentional injury resulting from COVID.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>To address this need, several public health initiatives were developed and delivered in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Keeping Children Safe’ social media toolkit provided social media content and newsletter text across a range of unintentional injury topics, linking with multi-agency services, to raise awareness with both families and professionals. During 20/21, social media content was tailored to address some of the associated increased risks resulting from COVID. • The East Sussex Child Home Safety Advice and Equipment Service (ESCHSAES): Delivered by the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) targeted vulnerable families with children under 5 years to be referred by specified staff groups for a home visit to offer evidence-based home safety education and advice, along with the fitting of appropriate home safety equipment. • Public Health worked with Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) and 0-5 Accident Prevention Working Group to develop a virtual accident prevention training offer, which started delivery in March 2021. The training is currently targeted at staff delivering the Healthy Child Programme, such as Health Visitors, Community Nursery Nurses and Early Help Keyworkers. • Developed with CAPT, the ‘Staying Safe with Sam’ resource for infant/primary schools was launched in March 2021 in East Sussex, including the story book, teaching guidance and home-link pack for every reception year child in the county.
<i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i>	<p>Evaluation of the initiatives are scheduled in 2021/22, with the Public Health communications team undertaking an evaluation of engagement with the ‘Keeping Children Safe’ social media toolkit.</p> <p>An annual evaluation of the ESCHSAES service for 2020/21 is currently being completed by ESFRS.</p> <p>CAPT are running a survey to gain feedback on the training and to gain feedback from schools on use of the ‘Staying safe with Sam’ resources.</p>

5.5 JTAI examples

MASH Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Children	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	<p>Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) recommendation was to review the roles of the Specialist Health Visitors within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), to strengthen the process of health information gathering around children and young people to inform decision making within the MASH. General Practitioner (GP) contributions to strategy discussions and decision-making processes within the MASH were also identified as underdeveloped. It was also identified that not all GPs were engaging in the local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.</p>
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	<p>Sussex CCG provided funding for a 6-month pilot MASH Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Children (SNSC) and Admin Assistant. Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) were successful in securing the funding and seconding substantive staff members into the posts.</p> <p>Initial development of the posts included collaborative working across the health economy in East Sussex and surrounds to agree and arrange information sharing processes (including Information Sharing Agreements) and operational function within the MASH, including working alongside the established Specialist Health Visitor team.</p> <p>The Admin role has an additional purpose of conducting the MARAC process between the MARAC co-ordinators and GP services though liaising MARAC information requests to the victim and any children's GPs for their direct response to the MARAC service.</p>
<i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i>	<p>The creation of this role (SNSC) means that all elements of a child's health and wellbeing are being considered through the comprehensive health information gathering that takes place across the health economy in East Sussex. This is then applied to the continuum of need and thresholds document published by ESSCP. This analysis is then presented to the multi-agency partners for assessment within child protection meetings such as strategy discussions. Ensuring that the health of the child/young person is valued and contributes to any risk assessment and decision making undertaken in relation to safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Data is being collated and reported monthly to the CCG on the volume of work performed by the SNSC. The view is to audit this in the future to demonstrate the impact of the role once the pilot is</p>

	complete. Admin support has enabled a significant increase in GP engagement with the MARAC process. Data indicates that for the last quarter of 2020/2021 (Q4) MARAC saw a response rate from GPs of between 41-43%; a significant increase from previous engagement of around 0-5%.
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'Golden Hour'	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	Previously the police process for processing all children who are in police custody relied on the arresting officer to notify multi-agency partners of the arrest. This process was found to be inconsistent and often took too long meaning that necessary strategy meetings could not take place to plan for the safe release of a child.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	The decision was taken to introduce a fast time notification process for all children who are in police custody. In 2020/21 the responsibility for these notifications was changed from the arresting officer to the custody officer who accepts the child into custody. The benefit of this is that the collective partnership is now aware of the detention within 60 mins of it occurring, this is called 'The Golden Hour'.
<i>What was the impact of that action on Children, Young People and Families?</i>	The new 'Golden Hour' allows for better, more timely discussions relating to the safe detention and then, often, release of the child into the community. All children are also now seen by the Sussex Liaison and Diversion Service to identify any obvious vulnerabilities that the partnership can collectively address.

Auditing of repeat contacts to children's social care	
<i>What was the multi-agency area of need identified/responded to?</i>	When there are cumulative concerns about children, including their mental ill health, these concerns are not always being recognised or informing decision-making. There is not currently a system to consider children about whom there are a high number of repeat contacts to children's social care. This is compounded by limited recording of the rationale for decisions made by managers within the SPOA and the MASH.
<i>What action was taken to address that need?</i>	Regular auditing of a sample of cases was undertaken by managers to consider all children who receive 5 or more initial contacts in a quarter and where none of those leads to a service at level 3 or 4 on the Continuum of Need. A selection of children who have received 3 or 4 initial contacts per quarter with the same outcome have also been reviewed. Audit of this cohort of children will form a regular part of the audit cycle going forwards.
<i>What was the impact of that action on</i>	Review of the cases has not identified any issue that children and families are not receiving a timely or appropriate response. Audit has identified that most repeat contacts stem from a process within

<i>Children, Young People and Families?</i>	the SPOA that stops cases being held open for prolonged periods whilst awaiting information. Ongoing audit will continue to check that this is still the situation.
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6. Evidence

This section of the ESSCP Annual Report sets out how the partnership are using evidence to determine its priorities; shape the way multi-agency partners have taken actions or adopted specific practice models; and evaluate the impact of partnership work. Examples of how the partnership have used evidence are also given in section 3 (Impact).

Between September 2019 and March 2020 strategic partners met to agree the priority areas of focus for the next three years. Priorities were chosen because they were identified as of highest risk in the county, where multi-agency working is essential and where significant change and/or commitment is necessary to reduce risk. It is in such areas where the partnership can be most effective in scrutinising and supporting.

The following priorities were agreed for ESSCP focus for 2020-2023:

- **Safeguarding in Education**
- **Child Exploitation**
- **Embedding a Learning Culture**
- **Safeguarding Under 5s**

6.1 Safeguarding in Education

Why is safeguarding in education a priority?

Everyone who encounters children, and their families, has a role to play in safeguarding children. Early years, school and college staff are particularly important as they see children daily and can identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating. Schools and colleges and their staff form a key part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

Strengthening safeguarding in schools has been a priority for East Sussex Safeguarding partners since 2015. During that time, many developments have been made to ensure that schools are able better to appropriately identify and respond to child protection concerns and effectively safeguarding children in school.

The ESSCP agreed that by making this area a priority for 2020-2023, there will be a continued focus on effective joint working between local agencies and schools, strategically and at a school level. The COVID-19 Pandemic and extended school closures for most children highlighted to many services the critical importance of schools' role in safeguarding.

Safeguarding in education in East Sussex

East Sussex schools responded well to the requirements for remote safeguarding during the three national lockdowns from March 2020. All schools engaged with the LA-wide systems for monitoring and supporting the most vulnerable children during lockdown and encouraging their attendance at school to mitigate risks.

The “Everyone’s Invited” national campaign has highlighted the issue of peer-on-peer harmful sexual behaviour in schools and colleges. SLES and key partners such as SWIFT and ISEND have worked together over the last few years to develop a protocol and toolkit for schools and colleges in managing these complex situations.

The protocol includes an LA-based rapid response team which aims to offer timely support, and guidance to school leaders when a situation emerges which threatens the smooth running of a school and creates vulnerabilities within the community.

Since the “Everyone’s Invited” campaign was launched, there has been one significant incident to date in an East Sussex school. On this occasion the East Sussex protocol and rapid response team was deployed to good effect in supporting the school leadership team.

In addition, SLES have commissioned SWIFT to deliver a Sexual Risk Leads Training programme throughout this academic year and to date 40 DSLs have attended. The protocol and toolkit are fundamental elements of DSL and Whole School Safeguarding Training.

All safeguarding training and networking events for schools have been adapted and delivered virtually and evaluations demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with the quality and content. Engagement levels have been high – for example a “super-network event” in January 2021 was attended by 105 schools and colleges. In some cases, the training programme has been enhanced and improved through the virtual delivery; a set of 2-hour sessions on managing medical issues, safeguarding record keeping and the Single Central Record have been developed to support schools during lockdowns.

Since the full re-opening of schools in March 2021, some school leaders have informally reported that new safeguarding issues for different groups of children have emerged. These include higher incidences of children witnessing domestic abuse, demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour, and experiencing mental health issues.

The number of children open to East Sussex social care has risen significantly over the

course of the lockdowns, and there have been several ESSCP Local Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews involving schools. Support for schools over the next academic year will therefore be broadened to include supervision for DSLs and mental health leads in schools, a supportive induction programme for new DSLs, and a programme of further training designed for school safeguarding teams about complex issues such as Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse.

Multi-agency activity underway includes:

- The ESSCP Task and Finish group focusing on Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) in schools.
- A Police and Public Health funded preventative education project on County Lines and Harmful Sexual Behaviour for all secondary and special schools.
- The development of toolkits for schools such as the Anxiety Toolkit and Self-harm Toolkit.
- The extension of the information sharing protocol between Health and Schools where a CYP has attended A & E for self-harm.

Evidence to measure success

- The number of schools where Ofsted has rated ‘safeguarding’ as effective.
- Increase in the proportion of schools who complete their annual s175/157 safeguarding audit.
- The proportion of secondary and special schools that participate in the multi-agency project on County Lines and Harmful Sexual Behaviour and evaluation data on impact.
- The development and implementation of a multi-agency action plan to address HSB in schools arising from the work of the task and finish group.

6.2 Child Exploitation

Why is child exploitation a priority?

Child Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual.

'County lines' is a form of criminal exploitation. It is a police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines'. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money.

East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership has a strategic focus on child exploitation due to the geographical location of East Sussex, its transport links with London and the mix of rural and city conurbations.

Tackling child exploitation in East Sussex

The MACE action plan is focused on four areas:

- **PREVENT** - Raising awareness and delivering targeted responses to Criminal Exploitation
- **PREPARE** - Working in partnership, with strong leadership, effective systems, and professional support to tackle CSE
- **PROTECT** - Safeguarding young people
- **PURSUE** - Intelligence gathering, disruption and prosecution

During 2020/21 the MACE subgroup of the ESSCP has focused on four key actions:

- A) Continue to raise awareness within the community and deliver preventative education to equip children and young people with the skills they need to make safe and healthy choices and avoid situations which put them at risk of Child Exploitation.
- B) Deliver a holistic and effective response to children and young people referred to MACE, that reflects learning from previous case audit and service user feedback.
- C) Strengthen support and safeguarding arrangements for those young people who are reported Missing or are referred to MACE.
- D) Deliver 'disruption measures' to divert children and young people away from being exploited and stop those engaging in child exploitation.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) was the focus of the National Safeguarding Panel's first national thematic review, published in March 2020. Key learning from the review:

- Known risk factors around adolescent vulnerability do not always act as predictors of risk of criminal exploitation.
- Moving children away from the local area is not an effective long-term solution to protect them from the reach of criminal gangs.
- Exclusion from school can escalate the risk of manipulation by criminal networks.
- Relationship-based practice and making use of the 'reachable moment', such as arrest, school exclusion and physical injury, are critical for this group of children.

Evidence to measure success

- Reduction in the number of sexual offences, linked to Child Sexual Exploitation, against children.
- Reduction in the number of victims, linked to Child Criminal Exploitation, of serious violence aged 15-24.
- Reduction in the number of offenders, linked to Child Criminal Exploitation, of serious violence aged 15–24.
- Reduction in the number of incidences of knife carrying.
- Reduction in the number of children’s social care assessments completed where ‘gangs’ is a factor.
- Proportion of children at MACE who are of statutory school age and receiving 25 hours of education.

6.3 Embedding a learning culture

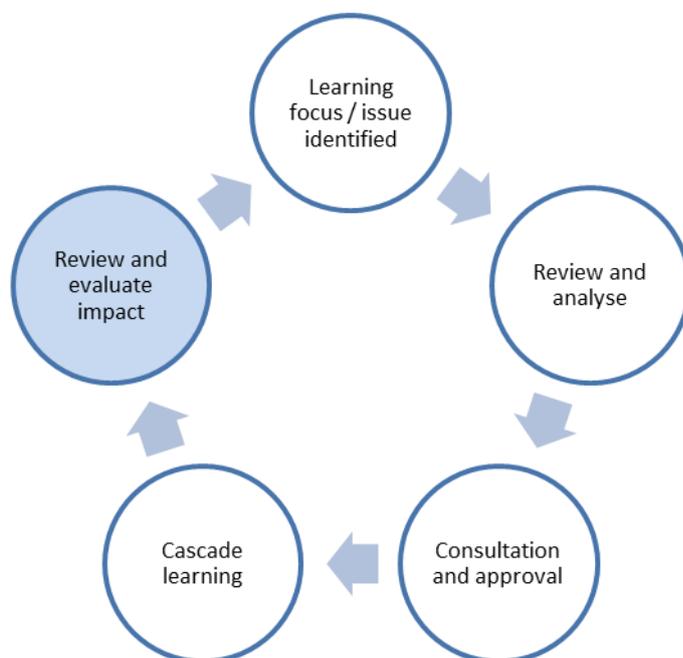
Why is embedding a learning culture a priority?

The ESSCP is committed to creating and strengthening a learning culture across all agencies in East Sussex who work with children and young people. A culture which is open, and able to challenge all partner agencies, will be able to identify learning, improve, and then evaluate effectiveness. The ESSCP agreed to make ‘embedding a learning culture’ a priority to ensure that the partnership becomes better focused on learning with the following three aims:

- the learning reaches the right people.
- we have effective mechanisms for sharing learning.
- and we test that learning is embedding into practice and outcomes for children.

Embedding a learning culture in East Sussex

One of the roles of the ESSCP is to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice, which it does through evidence-based auditing, performance management, and self-analysis. The SCP ensures that there is continual evaluation of the quality of services being provided, as well as effective communication and joint working between all SCP partner agencies. The arrangements for assuring the effectiveness of safeguarding practice are set out in the **ESSCP’s Learning & Improvement Framework**.



In addition, the partnership has focused on:

- Supporting the dissemination of multi-agency learning from Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and audits (multi-agency and single agency) and the multi format ESSCP training offer.

- Linking learning to the other 3 ESSCP Priorities: Child Exploitation, Education Safeguarding and Safeguarding under 5's.
- Linking learning to wider agencies, such as the Safeguarding Adults Board, the National Safeguarding Children Panel and Child Death Overview Panel.
- Provide a simple 'one stop shop' for SCP professionals to access learning resources.

Examples of activity in 2020/21 include:

- Development of a learning strategy for the L&D subgroup.
- Quarterly communication plan for the ESSCP shared with the L&D subgroup.
- Two learning briefings produced on infant injuries arising from SCR and Rapid Review work.
- 1 page learning briefings on key topics such as ICON.
- Stronger links with LA principal social worker for audit and case review learning dissemination.
- 'Learning from Review' lunchtime seminar held in May 2021 with further sessions planned in October and November 2021.
- Board briefings from each quarterly board meeting shared with ESSCP network and uploaded on to ESSCP Website.
- Successful development of remote training during Covid-19 pandemic.
- New training areas being developed linked to priorities, including EHE, RPC, Coercion and control, Safeguarding Under 5's, Improving Outcomes for Children in Care, Professional Curiosity/Challenge.

Evidence to measure success

- Front line staff and leaders/managers in every agency to know what the ESSCP is can recall learning themes from recent learning briefings.
- Front line staff to feel confident in how to respond if they have a safeguarding concern.
- Staff to know where to look for more information/resources on safeguarding themes.

6.4 Safeguarding under 5s

Why is safeguarding under 5s a priority?

Local and national learning tells us that babies and young children are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Following on from two local serious case reviews involving babies and young children, the ESSCP decided to focus on 'safeguarding Under 5s, as one of its key priorities, to ensure that action arising from the reviews was coordinated and the profile of safeguarding under 5s was raised across partner agencies.

Nationally, babies under 12 months old continue to be the most prevalent group notified to the national safeguarding panel following serious incidences, with around 40% of serious case reviews involving children aged under 1. There were also a high proportion of cases involving non-accidental injury and sudden unexpected infant death. In these cases, parental and family stressors were the most significant factor in escalating risk.

Learning from the Pan Sussex Child Death Overview Panel also highlighted the need for a multi-agency response to the number of incidences of sudden and unexplained infant deaths where modifiable factors were identified.

Safeguarding in Under 5s in East Sussex

The 'Safeguarding Under 5s' action plan is jointly owned by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding in the CCG and the Children's Lead in East Sussex Public Health. The leads have been supported by a short-life Task and Finish Group to drive ahead action in this area.

Key achievements during 2020/21 include:

- Launch and embedding of ICON across multi-agency network to reduce abusive head trauma.
- Development of an infant bruise leaflet for parents and professionals to increase consistency of response.
- Development of a light-bite training session for multi-agency professionals on key 'safeguarding U5' themes, including ICON, safer sleeping, and non-accidental injuries.
- Development of pan-Sussex principles for safer sleeping to ensure that frontline practice is informed by the latest evidence-based guidance.
- Improvement in communication between GPs and health visitors and GPs and midwifery with regards to safeguarding information sharing.
- Successful bid to deliver reducing parental conflict training.

SUDI formed the most common category of fatal cases notified to the National Safeguarding Panel and was the focus of the Panel's second national thematic review, published in July 2020: **National review of SUDI in families where the children are considered at risk of harm**

Locally, a Pan Sussex working group met to review the publication and agree how agencies could best respond locally. An audit of current measures and existing practice was undertaken with gaps identified.

Key learning included:

- Families living within a context of recognised background risks (such as, deprivation and overcrowding, domestic violence or poor mental health) are at heightened risk of losing a baby to SUDI.
- All those working with families need to recognise this and work together, this is not just an issue for midwives and health visitors.
- We need a flexible and tailored approach to prevention that is responsive to the reality of people's lives.
- The best local arrangements for promoting safer sleeping involve a range of professionals as part of a relationship-based programme of support, embedded in wider initiatives to promote infant safety, health and well-being.

The review has identified a number of issues that have helped inform the development of a 'prevent and protect' practice model. We believe this model, if embedded in practice, has the potential to improve the way safeguarding partners work with families to reduce the risks of SUDI, and beyond that, to address a much wider range of risks to their children's health, safety and development

Evidence to measure success

- Reduction in the number of children who deaths due to SUDI where there are modifiable factors related to safer sleeping.
- Reduction in the number of mothers smoking at time of delivery.
- Reduction in the number of child deaths involving abusive head trauma.
- Reduction in the number of children aged under five on child protection plans with physical abuse as a factor.

Challenges and actions for 2021/22

- ✓ Strengthen the process for evidencing impact from case review work (LCSPRs and rapid reviews)
- ✓ Update the ESSCP performance dashboard to include 'success measures' regarding the four key priorities.
- ✓ Strengthen the 'voice of the child' in the work of the four priorities and across partnership activity.

7. Assurance

One of the roles of the ESSCP is to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding practice, which it does through evidence-based auditing, performance management, and self-analysis. The SCP ensures that there is continual evaluation of the quality of services being provided, as well as effective communication and joint working between all SCP partner agencies.

The **Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup** has the lead role, on behalf of the Partnership, for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the work carried out by partners. It does this through regular scrutiny of multi-agency performance data and inspection reports, and through an annual programme of thematic and regular case file audits. This subgroup is chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector of the Safeguarding Investigation Unit in Sussex Police.

Examples of assurance undertaken by the ESSCP during 2020/21 include:

- The **ESSCP has an Independent Chair** whose function is to provide challenge and scrutiny of the effectiveness of the lead partners and other relevant agencies, via the Board and Steering Group meetings, and to also work with the lead partners to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding work carried out by partners. Their approach throughout year has been to act as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection and continuous improvement and to provide support to that improvement. Examples include: chairing the Section 11 Challenge Panels for both East Sussex and Pan Sussex agencies; determining the need to conduct Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) in three cases (Child X, Y and Z); facilitating resolution of agency conflicts (e.g. a school academy and Local authority over the need for a review), championing local issues at national and ministerial level (e.g. in pursuance of recommendations in case Child T and Child W), raising for action and scrutiny by Board of emerging issues (e.g. long term Covid 19 impact on safeguarding, school peer sexual abuse and scrutiny of the JTAI review).
- In addition to the Independent Chair, **two Lay Members** play a critical role in the partnership. The Lay Members act as further independent insight, on behalf of the public, into the work of agencies and of the partnership. As well as acting as critical friends at Board meetings, providing additional challenge and scrutiny, the Lay Members have undertaken a number of key tasks including taking a lead role in the development of a Children's Pledge through a series of art workshops, participation in multi-agency workshops examining how agencies can respond to the problem of Modern Slavery and county lines activity, involvement in the 'challenge panel' in the section 11 audit process, and being a standing member of the SCP Case Review Group (CRG). Their role has been critical at CRG – via the rapid review process and subsequent LCSPR process - in advocating the voice of the child.
- The Partnership has a key role in **evaluating the effectiveness of support for looked after children and care leavers** – it does this via the annual scrutiny of the ESCC Annual Looked After Child & Care Leaver Report, regular monitoring of key performance information in the ESSCPs quarterly dashboard, and via the Section 11 process. In 2020/21 the Section 11 audit tool was strengthened to include a range of new indicators regarding how agencies fulfil their responsibilities towards looked after

children. Three of these indicators were in the top 8 of the lowest rated areas in the audit. Subsequently, the ESSCP is now delivering training for multi-agency partners on 'improving outcomes for looked after children'. One key action to be taken forward in 2020/21 was learning from the Child W serious case review regarding the development of the council's, and other agencies', Corporate Grandparenting Role. As a result:

- The safeguarding policy and procedure has been reviewed to include comprehensive contributions from the ESSC Through Care Team (TCT) in relation to prebirth assessments, prebirth case conferences and care planning. This has been successfully implemented.
 - The TCT Participation Worker is re-establishing face to face groups for care experienced parents, or care leaver parents to be – this will include midwifery input. In addition, a self-selecting group of young adults/parents will participate in the buddying scheme which is taking shape. Many of these young parents experience isolation in their living circumstances, therefore greater links with universal services, community support and local resources are being set up via the PA's.
 - The local offer now includes a one-off payment of £100 for care leaver parents on the birth of their baby, gifts are given for birthdays and key celebrations, and where necessary assistance is given relating to the higher cost items such as buggies.
- The QA Subgroup reviews the '**ESSCP Performance Dashboard**' on a quarterly basis. The dashboard includes 60 performance indicators which are presented by: impact of multi-agency practice; children supported by statutory services; children with family related vulnerabilities; children with health-related vulnerabilities; and children whose actions place them at risk. Indicators are reviewed by the QA subgroup and escalated to the Steering Group if required. During 2020/21, performance indicators escalated by QA include the increase in numbers of electively home educated children (EHE); fluctuations in the numbers of children with child protection plans; significant decrease in private fostering; increase in numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; rise in recorded sexual offences against children; reduction in cases reviewed by MACE; and indicators to monitor CAMHS performance. The typical action is illustrated below:
 - **Action** EHE was escalated as a specific item for focus at the Steering Group. It was then agreed that a breakout session at the next Board should be held on exploring more fully how multi-agency partners can support the safeguarding of EHE.
 - **As a result**, a short-life multi-agency working group has been set up to take forward several recommendations made at the Board.
- The QA subgroup held only **two audits** during 2020/21 as two audit meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown and pressures on local health services to engage with the process. The two audits completed were on Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse. A further audit was held in April 2021 (delayed from February due to COVID pressures) on non-accidental injuries in under 1s. The audits highlighted:
 - The importance of a successful working relationship between a social worker and school and the impact this can have on the outcome of the child and family.
 - The importance of always covering identity related issues in accompanying Family Assessments, to explore what the impact is on the child and family of these factors in context

of the risks identified and generally. This will ensure we have a full understanding of the child and families lived experience around identity.

- The need for Children’s Services to be clear about sources of therapeutic support for the child victim after Police proceedings have taken place. This will ensure that the child is able to receive the appropriate support.
 - When a child makes a disclosure about sexual abuse professionals involved should appropriately safeguard and respond to the allegation seriously, even when there is no substantive evidence to support this allegation.
- In 2020 the ESSCP held its sixth bi-annual ‘**section 11**’ **audit**. All organisations represented on the ESSCP are asked to complete a self-assessment and provide evidence of how they comply with s11 when carrying out their day-to-day business. The audit provides an indication of how well organisations are working to keep children safe. All 27 agencies (40 including individual ESCC teams) represented on the Board returned the Section 11 audit tool for ESSCP. Of the 2778 responses to the 93 standards included in the audit tool, 86% were rated Green ‘standard met’. Local Peer Review and Pan Sussex Challenge Events – including representatives from the three lead partners, Lay Members, and young people - provided additional scrutiny, highlighting areas of best practice and areas for ESSCP focus. The local peer review event also led to additional follow up work with an individual agency where there were concerns over the quality and robustness of their section 11 return. The standards with the most amber/red response included standards relating to ICON, care experienced children/adults involved in recruitment, trauma informed practice, and understanding the difference between voluntary accommodated and care order children. This was escalated to the ESSCP Learning & Development Subgroup for action.
 - The Annual **Schools Safeguarding Audit Report (s175)** was presented to the ESSCP Steering Group for scrutiny and challenge in September 2019. All schools (including maintained, independent, academies, free schools, and colleges) in East Sussex are requested to complete the safeguarding audit toolkit on an annual basis – assessing their practice in line with statutory guidance and local good practice. Engagement with the process is strong with 97% of state funded schools returning their audit, despite the added pressure of COVID-19. The level of self-challenge within the audits suggests that schools are in general accurately reflecting on their practice. Additional quality assurance is also provided by SLES, a recently formed DSL Strategy Group, which is formed of DSLs and headteachers from 18 different schools, and the ESSCP.
 - The audit did not identify any widespread areas of common deficit but did highlight the need for continued focus upon online safety, especially at home, and within the context of additional time spent online through lockdown. This was escalated to the ESSCP Learning & Development Subgroup and as a result, work was undertaken to expand on the range of online safety resources offered to schools via the East Sussex Stay Safe Directory for schools.
 - Following the publication of the Child T SCR in 2019 there was significant focus upon health at the January 2020 Schools Safeguarding Conference, which was supported with some excellent and tailored input from a number of Health professionals, from a variety of specialisms within the sector.
 - Other examples of assurance work undertaken include:

- Scrutiny at Board of the report from the Manager at Lansdown Secure Children’s Home, highlighting safeguarding and behaviour management practice at the unit over the past year. Annual presentation of this report to the ESSCP is a regulatory requirement given the significant vulnerability of young people in secure establishments. The Board noted how the unit uses and monitors techniques such as enforced separation and restraint; and how a more values-based style at the unit had impacted on the continued reduced use of these techniques. The Partnership agreed to support further scrutiny of the use of these techniques through a quarterly review by representatives of the Partnership.
- Scrutiny at Board of the annual report for the Sussex [Child Sexual Abuse Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#). Children aged up to 14 years, or up to 19 with a severe learning disability, who have experienced sexual abuse or assault, are seen at the centre for holistic health assessments following a referral by police or children’s services. Board members noted that 35% of SARC referrals came from East Sussex compared to 43% in 2018/19. The board noted SARC is working in partnership with local agencies to improve access to the service for children in care – as attendance is lower in this group – and to ensure that all children who would benefit from a health assessment receive one.

Challenges & next steps for 2021/22:

- ✓ Recruitment of a new Independent Chair
- ✓ Recruitment of new Lay Members
- ✓ Develop the section 11 tool to ensure it is more proportionate for agencies to complete and provides stronger assurance for safeguarding partners of the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding in individual agencies.
- ✓ Developing a partnership protocol, across the partnerships in East Sussex, to ensure that opportunities for joint working and sharing learning are maximised.
- ✓ Strengthening the information presented in the ESSCP dashboard regarding equalities information, so that the ESSCP can more efficiently understand the equalities implications for safeguarding locally.
- ✓ Introduce a robust system to evaluate the impact of learning arising from LCSPRs and rapid reviews.

8. Learning

The ESSCP is committed to creating and strengthening a learning culture across all agencies in East Sussex who work with children and young people. A culture which is open, and able to challenge all partner agencies, will be able to identify learning, improve, and then evaluate effectiveness.

Below are examples of 'learning' within and across the ESSCP in 2020/21.

8.1 ESSCP Learning Strategy

The ESSCP Learning Strategy was developed through the summer and signed off by the Steering Group in December 2020. The Strategy aims to:

- Ensure that safeguarding training/learning activities are based on local necessity and enable practitioners to recognise and respond to need and risk.
- Measure the impact of safeguarding training on practice and improving outcomes for children and young people.
- Ensure that learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Audits, the Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) and the Voice of the Child is embedded into practice and ensures continuous learning and improvement.
- Ensure key safeguarding messages (local, pan-Sussex and national) are communicated.

These requirements are delegated to the ESSCP Learning & Development Subgroup which produces quarterly training reports, which form the basis of the Annual Learning & Development Report to the ESSCP Steering Group.

8.2 ESSCP Training Programme

Throughout 2020/21 the ESSCP Learning, and Development (L&D) Subgroup responded proactively and effectively to the challenges faced during the Covid-19 Pandemic. All planned classroom-based courses were cancelled from April 2020. No ESSCP courses ran during the first quarter of 2020/21 to allow time for the training pool practitioners to develop approaches and materials suitable for virtual delivery. Contingency planning had been underway since April 2020 and an initial pilot selection of virtual courses were chosen to run between August and September. Due to the ongoing risks brought by Covid-19, we continued to use MS Teams as the format for most of the training delivery for the remainder of 2020/21.

Between 1st August 2020 and 31st March 2021, 42 virtual training courses ran with an attendance rate of 77%. This compares with 80% attendance at classroom-based courses during 2019/20 which is a positive endorsement of the virtual training offer and evidence that investment in CPD to support the multi-agency workforce continued during very difficult circumstances. A large majority of participants continue to rate courses as either Excellent (43%) or Good (53%). Since the introduction of virtual training courses, participants are asked additional evaluation questions relating to participants experience of this new learning platform. In general, those attending remote training have adapted very well and overall feedback relating to trainer professionalism and adaptability has been extremely positive. The use of break-out rooms to encourage interaction and discussion is regularly cited as adding great value to the virtual sessions. However, a significant proportion of participants stated that they prefer face to face

training, the support and networking that it offers and that remote learning for such emotive subjects can be challenging at times.

8.3 Quality Assurance Audits

The QA subgroup held **two audits** during 2020/21 on Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse. Learning from the audits is shared at the ESSP Steering Group and one page learning briefings are shared with the wider ESSCP network and on the ESSCP website here: [Quality Assurance Group - ESSCP](#). In 2020/21 the QA audit reports are now shared at the Learning & Development Subgroup to ensure that learning arising from audit activity is more efficiently and effectively embedded into local training and learning activity.

Two examples of action taken following learning arising from QA audits in 2020/21 includes:

- The importance of always covering identity related issues in accompanying Family Assessments, to explore what the impact is on the child and family of these factors in context of the risks identified and generally. This will ensure we have a full understanding of the child and families lived experience around identity. As a result, L&D Managers across Sussex are exploring the potential of a Pan Sussex course on equalities and identity in Safeguarding.
- When a child makes a disclosure about sexual abuse professionals involved should appropriately safeguard and respond to the allegation seriously, even when there is no substantive evidence to support this allegation. As a result, local training and support for professionals when responding to child sexual abuse has been reviewed and strengthened.

8.5 Learning from Child Death Overview Panel

The Chair of the Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) attended the ESSCP Board in November 2020 to present the CDOP Annual Report. Key headlines from the work of the panel included:

- The total numbers of deaths recorded during 2019/20 was the second lowest during the 10-year period that CDOP's have been in operation.
- The Mortality rate for children aged under 18 in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex combined is significantly higher in the most deprived 40% of areas compared to the least deprived areas – this is in line with the national picture.
- At both a national and Sussex level the largest cause of death is a perinatal/neonatal event (37% for Sussex¹, 33% for England).
- Cancers are the largest cause of death in children aged 1-17 years ranging from 24% of deaths in East Sussex to 33% in Brighton and Hove.
- Sudden unexpected death in infancy remains one of the leading causes of infant death in the community and in all the cases reviewed by the panel, modifiable factors were identified regarding the infants sleeping environment.

The ESSCP was asked to consider how it plans to take forward the multi-agency response to safe sleep learning, particularly considering the recommendations of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report 'Out of Routine' – July 2020. Subsequently, East Sussex facilitated pan-Sussex

¹ Sussex CDOP will review all neonatal deaths where there is a death certificate regardless of the gestation of the baby.

meetings looking at developing common principles for practitioners regarding the promotion of safer sleeping. The group has been ensuring that this work aligns with the ICON initiative. The group has also been informing the planning for the proposed Pan Sussex SCP Conference in November 2021, which will focus on a range of issues regarding the safeguarding of infants. The aim of this work is to ensure robust and consistent messages are understood by practitioners and shared with parents by universal and targeted services across the partnership workforce.

The ESSCP were also informed that Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) was the leading cause of fatal head injury in children under 2. Members of the ESSCP were aware of the launch of the ICON programme across Sussex in relation to these infant deaths. More details on ICON can be found on pages 17-18 of this report.

8.6 Learning from Rapid Reviews and Serious Case Reviews

The Case Review Group (CRG) developed two briefings for the East Sussex workforce on learning arising from two serious case reviews – which at the time were unpublished due to criminal proceedings – and three rapid reviews which were undertaken in the early part of the COVID-19 lockdown in March-May 2020. Both briefings related to learning around non-accidental infant injuries. These briefings are included in Appendix E.

The learning briefings were shared directly with ESSCP Board Members, members of each ESSCP Subgroups, and presented at the East and West Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups, with the expectation that they are shared among team and service networks. They are also published on the ESSCP website and shared with partner SCPs in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. The learning briefings include discussion points for team meetings and group supervision to help ensure that learning becomes embedded into practice.

The learning was also shared in a ‘learning from reviews’ lunchtime seminar, held by members of CRG, in which over 60 staff from across the children’s workforce attended.

9. Appendices

9.A Board Membership

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Reg Hooke (Chair)	Independent East Sussex SCP Chair
Louise MacQuire-Plows	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Victoria Jones	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Graham Cook	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Harriet Martin	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Maxine Nankervis	Admin Support Officer, East Sussex SCP

Gareth Knowles	SECAmb Trust Safeguarding Lead, Clinical Supervisor
Louise Jackson	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Domenica Basini	Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality, Nursing and Quality Directorate NHS England
Jayne Bruce	Deputy Chief Nurse, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
Jo Tomlinson	Brighton + Hove Designated Nurse
Judith Sakala	Named GP for Child Safeguarding
Martin Ryan	Acute Service Manager Coastal / AMHP Sussex Partnership
Michael Brown	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Working together as Sussex NHS Commissioners
Naomi Ellis	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, Sussex CCGs
Tracey Ward (Deputy. Chair)	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, East Sussex
Vikki Carruth	Director of Nursing, ESHT
Sue Curties to Nov.20	Head of Safeguarding, (Adults and Children) ESHT

Andrea Holtham	Service Manager, Sussex CAF/CASS
David Kemp	Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
David Satchell	Snr Probation Officer, National Probation Service, Sussex
Jon Hull	D/Sup Sussex Police
Siamack Danesteh-Pour to Nov.20 Joanne Wood to Jan.21 Jason Halliwell from Feb.21	KSS, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

Annabel Hodge	Dir. Of Safeguarding, Bede's Senior School
Kate Bishop	Head Teacher, Rotherfield Primary School
Richard Green	Deputy Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School
Richard Preece	Executive Head teacher, Torfield & Saxon Mount Federation

Ben Brown	Consultant, Public Health, ESCC
Catherine Dooley	Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness (5-19), Children's Services
Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services
George Kouridis	Head of Service Adult Safeguarding
Justine Armstrong	Safer Communities Manager

Liz Rugg	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services
Rachel Doran	Legal and Coroner Services Manager
Stuart Gallimore	Director of Children's Services
Sylvia Tidy	Lead Member for Children and Families
Vicky Finnemore	Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services

Jeremy Leach	Principal Policy Adviser, Wealden District Council
Malcolm Johnston	Executive Director for Resources, Rother District Council
Oliver Jones	Lewes DC + Eastbourne BC, Strategy and Partnerships Lead
Seanne Sweaney	Strategy and Corporate Projects Officer, Lewes DC and Eastbourne BC
Verna Connolly	Head of Personnel and Organisational Development, Hastings Borough Council

Kate Lawrence	Chief Executive Home-Start East Sussex
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9.B ESSCP Budget

ESSCP – Actual Income and Expenditure 2020/21:

Actual Income 2020/21		Actual Expenditure 2020/21	
Sussex Police	£35,000	Independent Chair	£28,852
Sussex CCG	£53,400	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE & Administrator	£100,298
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£112,900	Administration	£1,606
Training Income	£5,423	Trainer	£53,449
National Probation Service	£1,434	Training Programme and Conferences	£2,035
LSCB brought forward from 19/20	£58,510	Projects	£15,850
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£6,123
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,600
		Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£1,301
		cfwd (balancing fig)	£55,553
Total	£266,667		£266,667

Projected Income and Expenditure 2021/22:

Projected Income 2021/22		Projected Expenditure 2021/22	
Sussex Police	£35,000	Independent Chair	£24,500
Sussex CCG	£53,400	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE & Administrator	£107,500
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£112,900	Administration	£1,500
Training Income	£7,500	Trainer	£56,000
National Probation Service	£1,434	Training Programme and Conferences	£10,000
ESSCP brought forward from 2020/21	£55,553	Projects	£15,000
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£6,500
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,500
		Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£26,000
		cfwd (balancing fig)	£17,287

Total	£265,787	£265,787
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9.C Links to other documents

[East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2016-19\)](#)

This strategy is a framework for the commissioning of health and wellbeing services in the County. The Health and Wellbeing Board will consider relevant commissioning strategies to ensure that they have considered the priorities and approaches set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The main priority is to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in East Sussex, the strategy focuses on: Accountable care; Improving access to services; Bringing together health and social care; Improving emergency and urgent care; Improving health and wellbeing; Improving mental health care; Improving primary care; Better use of medicines; Better community services.

[Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2021-24](#)

The Commissioner has identified the following four policing and crime objectives:

- Strengthen local policing
- Work with local communities and partners to keep Sussex safe
- Protect our vulnerable and help victims cope and recover from crime and abuse
- Improve access to justice for victims and witnesses

[East Sussex Safer Communities Partnerships’ Business Plan \(2017-2020\)](#)

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership undertakes a strategic assessment of community safety every three years with an annual refresh to select work streams and plan activity for the year ahead. Colleagues from the ESSCP and ESCC Children’s Services work closely with the Safer Communities Partnership to respond to the broader threat of exploitation. Sustaining existing work within the partnership and developing new and existing relationships with partners is of particular importance to ensure that we are supporting vulnerable individuals within the community and helping them feel safe and confident in their everyday lives.

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020-21](#)

The ESSCP works closely with the SAB on the overlapping themes of Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, transition, and Cuckooing.

[DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.pdf](#)

Updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015. Schools and colleges in England must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



East Sussex
Safeguarding
Children
Partnership

Infant Injury Learning Briefing

Introduction:

The East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) undertook two Serious Case Reviews (SCR) in 2019, both featuring infant injury. Both SCRs are subject to ongoing criminal investigations, and therefore cannot be published until the conclusion of those investigations. To avoid further delay in dissemination of the learning from these SCRs the ESSCP has developed this briefing on infant injury. Whilst not containing specific details, it will set out the headline learning from both these reviews.

Key features and learning:

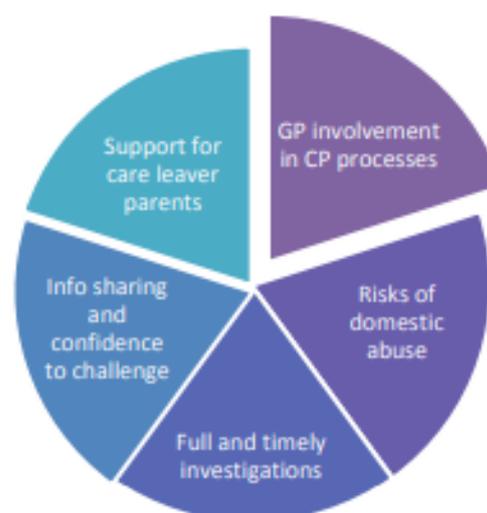
- The importance of General Practitioners being part of the Child Protection planning process.
- Recognising and understanding domestic abuse and the risk of both emotional and physical harm to small children.
- Importance of full investigations of all injuries to infants, in line with 'Unexplained injuries to Young Children' procedure.
- Enhanced support for care leavers when they become parents.

What is a Serious Case Review?

A **Serious Case Review (SCR)** is a locally conducted multi-agency **review** in circumstances where a child has been abused or neglected, resulting in serious harm or death, and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the relevant agency or agencies have worked together to safeguard the child.

Since October 2019, these reviews are now called **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**. The purpose of a review is to establish whether there are lessons to be learned about the way in which local professionals/agencies work together to safeguard children; identify what needs to be changed and, as a consequence, improve inter-agency working to better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

- Importance of proactive information seeking and sharing across agencies.
- Full and timely investigations required following an unexpected infant death.
- Professionals having the confidence to challenge families and other professionals.
- The need to explore and understand the role and remit of other professionals working with a family.



Recommendations:

The SCRs identified recommendations to strengthen safeguarding practice:

1. Improvement in practice regarding GP input into CP investigations and conferences.
2. Re-launch the protocol regarding *'Unexplained Injuries to Young Children'* with a focus on the importance of strategy discussions and medicals in such circumstances.
3. Review of the safeguarding policy, procedures and training regarding domestic abuse, to ensure there is enough focus on the risks of physical harm to young children and babies and if there is enough detail regarding how

emotional harm may be manifested in younger children.

4. Review whether the current escalation policy is understood across all agencies.
5. The ESSCP to raise, with the relevant regional hospital trusts, the need for immediate CAT scan and reporting alongside full skeletal surveys on infant and young children who have died from unexpected or unexplained causes, and where there are siblings who may need to be safeguarded.
6. Safeguarding Children Partnerships across Sussex to explore how they can use initiatives such as ICON to promote the safe handling of babies.
7. How can the ESSCP and its partner agencies promote cultural change and provide practical support to looked after children and care leavers when they

become parents, and be positive 'corporate grandparents'?

Action taken since the review:

Each agency that contributed to the SCRs identified single agency learning for their Service which forms an action plan. The action plan is overseen by the ESSCP Case Review Group. The following actions are an example of actions already taken:

- ✓ The ESSCP wrote to the Department for Health and Social Care, and the Home Office, to highlight the potential national issue of undertaking CAT scans alongside full skeletal surveys on infant and young children who have died from unexpected or unexplained causes, and where there are siblings who may need to be safeguarded.
- ✓ ICON programme actively being promoted across Sussex.
- ✓ The ESSCP has agreed 'Safeguarding under 5's' as a priority for 2020-2023, covering a number of recommendations from these SCRs.
- ✓ Work is ongoing on a range of actions being undertaken to promote General Practitioners input into investigations and CP conference.



East Sussex
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Further Reading and Useful Links:

Serious Case Review Briefings will be held, and detailed learning briefing disseminated, following publication of the full SCR reports.

Pan Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures:

[Unexplained Injuries to Young Children](#)

When was the last time you used the [Pan Sussex Child Protection and Procedures Manual](#)? You can also [sign up for alerts](#).

[ICON - Babies Cry, You Can Cope](#)



www.iconcope.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are currently offering limited training. However there are many [Children's Workforce E-Learning](#) opportunities currently available.



www.eastsussexlearning.org.uk

ESSCP Contact Us:

01273 481544 www.esscp.org.uk

Email: ESSCP.Contact@eastsussex.gov.uk **you think a child is being harmed or may be at risk of harm**, please contact SPoA Mon-Thursday 8.30am-5pm and Fri 8.30am-4.30pm

Phone: 01323 464222

Email: 0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk

If you urgently need help outside of office hours you can contact the **Emergency Duty Service** on **01273 335905** or **01273 335906**.

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Introduction:

This is the second Infant Injury Learning Briefing that the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) has published. The [first briefing](#) was published in summer 2020 following two serious case reviews in 2019, which both featured non-accidental injuries in young children.

This second briefing includes learning from three further cases that were reviewed by the ESSCP, but which did not meet the criteria for conducting a local child safeguarding practice review (LSCPR). The briefing also captures emerging learning from a national review on infant injury.

Background:

The impact of COVID-19, and the subsequent national lockdowns, has been significant on child safeguarding. Ofsted were notified of 285 serious incidents (where a child has died or suffered significant harm) during the first half of 2020-21; an increase by 27% on the same period in 2019-20¹. Of

¹ [Serious incident notifications, Part 1 \(April to September\) 2020-21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

What is a Rapid Review?

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 places a duty on local safeguarding partnerships to undertake a rapid review for serious child safeguarding cases where: abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and the child has died or been seriously harmed.

When a serious child safeguarding case is referred to the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, we have 15 working days to complete a Rapid Review and notify the National Panel of the outcome of the meeting.

The Rapid review does not replace any safeguarding or child protection processes, but identifies where there is any potential for a national or local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR)

those incidents **36% related to children under the age of one.**

The rise in these serious incidents is undoubtedly a result of the 'pressure cooker' of the pandemic: a time of enormous additional stresses faced by families coupled with a reduction, or total stop, in

contact with families by vital services and wider community support.

During March and May 2020, the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership was notified of three significant incidents involving:

1. A two month old baby brought to A&E by their mother with bruises to their forehead, left arm and left leg. Subsequent skeletal survey and Brain imaging identified further evidence of current and old fractures and haemorrhages within the brain.
2. An eight week old baby presented at A&E with mother reporting baby was not moving their arm. An x-ray investigation showed it was a fracture. A skeletal survey raised concerns of other fractures.
3. A seven-week-old baby was seen in A&E with unexplained swelling of the left lower leg. X-rays of the legs, and subsequent skeletal surveys, [identified fractures](#) to both lower legs of a type that is typically seen in non accidental injury .

While abuse and/or neglect and significant harm were all features of these cases, the ESSCP agreed that conducting a Local Safeguarding Children Practice Review (LSCPR) would not be a proportionate response. There was limited involvement by agencies with the families and the rapid reviews did not identify any concerns about multi-agency working. In one case a single-agency review took place, in another a multi-agency reflective learning event was held. In the other, the Rapid Review process identified learning for SECAMB to increase awareness of possible non-accidental injuries and ensure that contacts regarding possible injuries to non-mobile infants are responded to with high priority.

In autumn 2020, the ESSCP was also asked to take part in a national thematic review, by the [National](#)

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#), into non-accidental injury in children under one. The National Panel used learning from our unpublished Serious Case Reviews completed in 2019. Although the National Panel has yet to publish their report (expected summer 2021), we attended a round table discussion where emerging learning was presented.

Key learning

The following learning highlights key themes from our locally reviewed cases, and learning arising from the national thematic review, into non-accidental injuries in children under one:

1. **Information sharing** – information sharing across agencies is not consistent, and IT systems do not support effective information sharing, of risks and issues (for example between midwifery and health visiting); GPs do not always share concerns about parenting capacity with other agencies; information systems do not routinely flag for information about fathers, non-birthing partners, or other significant males.
2. **‘Invisibility and non-engagement’ of men** – this is a common feature of local case reviews and national learning. The role of fathers is not always fully considered despite them not being ‘invisible’ but often in plain view. More effort should be made to engage fathers, non-birthing partners, or other significant males pre and post-birth. There is also a role for other services, such as housing, to help identify fathers/other significant males that are not living in the same house but have caring responsibilities (that are often not disclosed due to conditions of financial benefits).
3. **Access to services** – current antenatal provision does not always work for engaging fathers (i.e. majority of provision during working hours). The pre-birth Health Visitor visit at home was also

seen as a critical touch point in establishing a good relationship with parent/s.

4. **Domestic abuse** – current and historical domestic abuse was a significant factor in the cases reviewed nationally. There was a particular focus on confidence and skills in recognising coercive and controlling behaviour. The national review also flagged the link between MARAC and CP systems were often not strong enough.
5. **Mental health** – Adverse childhood experiences (ACE), anger management, and anxiety were all common features of the national cases reviewed. The national review found there was often an unhelpful focus on presenting issues, rather than addressing underlying causes. Learning also included that GPs often have information on fathers mental health but risk factors are not shared.
6. **Procedures** – within the national cases there were examples of bruising in babies and ‘was not brought’ protocols not being followed. There was also consideration of the benefits of conducting pre-birth assessments for care leavers.

What to do

- ✓ **Be professionally curious.** Bruising in a non-mobile child should never be interpreted in isolation and should always be assessed in relation to the infant’s developmental abilities and the likelihood of the occurrence.
- ✓ **Familiarise yourself with the [Pan Sussex Procedure on unexplained injuries to young children](#)** and local guidance.
- ✓ **Familiarise yourself with [ICON](#)** – our preventative programme designed to



support parents to better understand and safely respond to infant crying. The ICON message is:

- I – Infant crying is normal
- C – Comforting methods can help
- O – it’s OK to walk away
- N – Never, ever shake a baby.

- ✓ Consider if you need **additional training or support to be confident having difficult conversations**. The ESSCP is running a new multi-agency training course in 2021/22 “Holding Difficult Conversations” – dates tbc in June 2021. Please contact Giovanna Simpson, ESSCP Training Consultant (Giovanna.simpson@eastsussex.gov.uk) for more information.

Questions to consider

We encourage you to discuss this briefing in your team meeting or group supervision. Questions to consider:

ICON

- Do we discuss normal infant crying and management strategies with parents?
- Have we checked the ICON message has been received and understood by all our team members?
- How will we as professionals share the ICON message?

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Engaging fathers and other males

- Do we sufficiently engage the father (or non-birthing parent/other significant males) when we work with a new parent?
- How can our services be better designed/delivered to engage fathers, non-birthing parents, and other significant males?
- Do we always ask if there are other adults with caring responsibilities? Do we give enough consideration to fathers that are not in a relationship with the mother, or live in the family home?

Escalating concerns

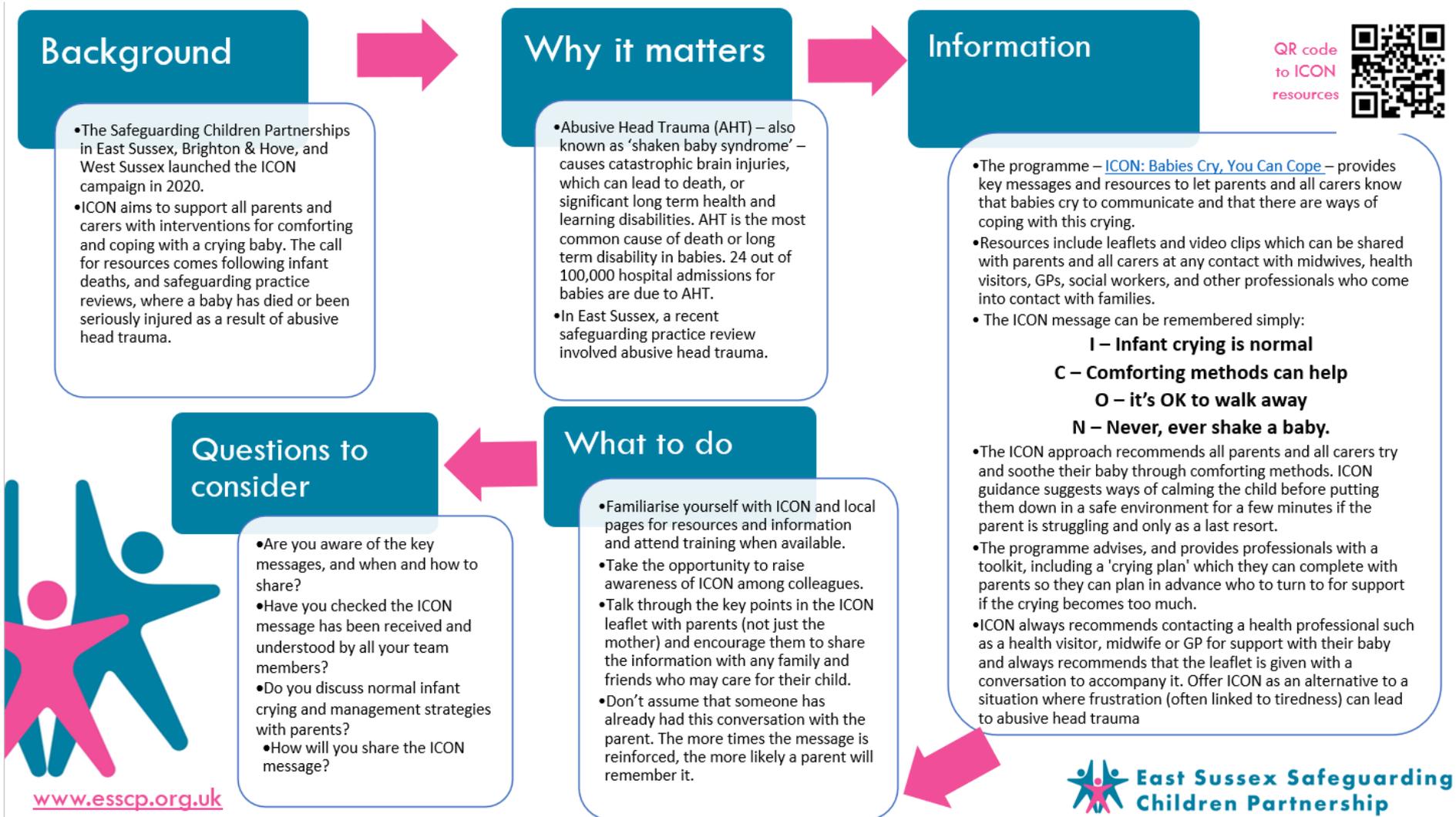
- What action do you take if you are aware that contact has resumed between a mother and her abusive partner?
- What do you do if you are concerned about the response/advice you have received from SPoA?
- Have you used the Sussex '[Professional Conflict resolution](#)' procedure?



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ICON 1 page learning briefing

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9.E Acronyms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
AMH	Adult Mental Health
B&H	Brighton & Hove
BC	Borough Council
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CC	County Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRG	Case Review Subgroup
CSARC	Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYPT	Children and Young People Trust
DC	District Council
DfE	Department for Education
EET	Education, Employment, or Training
EHE	Electively Home Educated
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
ESFRS	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
ESHT	East Sussex Health Trust
ESSCP	East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
GP	General Practitioner
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
L&D	Learning & Development
LAC	Looked After Children
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
LSCLG	Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
NHS	National Health Service
NPS	National Probation Service
QA	Quality Assurance
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SCARF	Single Combined Agency Report Form
SCP	Safeguarding Children Partnership
SCR	Serious Case Reviews
SECAmb	South East Coast Ambulance
SLES	Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service
SPFT	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
SPOA	Single Point of Advice
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
SWIFT	Specialist Family Services
YOT	Youth Offending Team

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