#### PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE





#### 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 Maria Cowler Roman Catholic Diocese representative Trevor Cristin, Diocese of Chichester Representative John Hayling, Parent Governor Representative

#### AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 12)
- 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. East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report (Pages 13 62)
- 6. Work programme (Pages 63 84)
- 7. Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) (Pages 85 86)
- 8. Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (Pages 87 158)
- 9. Annual Review of Safer Communities (Pages 159 274)
- 10. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

PHILIP BAKER
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# Agenda Item 1

#### PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 17 July 2023.

PRESENT Councillors Johanna Howell (Chair), Miss Nicola Boulter

Trevor Cristin, John Hayling, Sam Adeniji, Charles Clark, Chris Dowling, Kathryn Field, Nuala Geary, Wendy Maples, Stephen Shing, John Ungar (Vice Chair) and Trevor Webb

LEAD MEMBERS Councillor Bob Standley

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Bob Bowdler (by MS Teams)

Alex Callaghan, Being Digital Delivery Manager (by MS

Teams)

Elizabeth Funge, Assistant Director Education Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Jacqueline London-Willis, Head of Business Development and

Insight (by MS Teams)

Sarah Russell, Assistant Director for Planning, Performance &

Engagement

Mark Stainton, Director of Adult Social Care & Health Rachel Sweeney, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2023 as a correct record.

#### 2. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Penny di Cara (Councillor Beaver substituting) and Maria Cowler.

#### 3. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Webb, Field, and Maples declared interests as a District and Borough Councillors, and Councillor Webb declared an additional interest as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee at Hastings Borough Council, in relation to the discussion on temporary accommodation.

#### 4. URGENT ITEMS

4.1 There were no urgent items.

# 5. <u>VERBAL UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER REFORMS</u>

- 5.1 An update was given by the Assistant Director of Education who informed the Committee that the Schools White Paper Bill had been withdrawn from parliament and provided an update on the elements that, despite this, the DfE was still progressing including legislation on a register for children not in school, and attendance duties.
- 5.2 The Assistant Director informed the Committee that the Department were preparing for new statutory duties on attendance including through a reorganisation of the team, working with colleagues in Early Help and social care and the creation of a new attendance support team to work directly with schools. A new Level 2 Early Help Key Worker post would be working with severely absent children (children attending less than 50% of school and who were not involved with other services) and providing a whole family approach to support the most vulnerable children.
- 5.3 The Committee heard that academisation was still an ambition for government and the Department were working with the DfE, schools and the diocese to look at the options for trust development to create a strong network of schools across the county, as well as reviewing sustainability for smaller schools. The Department was continuing to work with primary and secondary boards and reported some increased movement with primary schools joining existing trusts. The DfE had provided some Trust Capacity Fund (TCF) funding to support new schools and existing trusts to set up / grow trusts and the Department anticipated there would be continued interest in academisation which they would support, particularly partnerships which delivered greater inclusion and outcomes for children.
- 5.4 Going forward the Department would continue to share information with schools and governors on the financial and governance implications of joining a trust and to make sure the local authority's views were clear that any proposals around academisation should be in the best interests of children. They would continue to showcase where successful partnerships were working well and how.
- 5.5 The Committee welcomed the update and discussed the following:
- **Academisation** The Committee asked for more information on the federation of schools that were interested in becoming MATs. In response, the Committee heard that

there were several primary federations in East Sussex and that to work well, federations needed to be of right size (at least 3 or 4 schools) to get the benefit of working together. In response to the Committee's question on the Council's views on academisation, the Director of Children's services responded that MATs could be a strong vehicle for supporting the life chances of children, providing they were committed to inclusion and had a strong value set. The Director clarified that the Council was neither able to force nor prevent schools from becoming academies, and that this was decided through regional DfE teams, however it was noted that the views of the Department were sought by the regional DfE teams.

- Meeting need with limited resources The Committee asked how the Council could meet increasing need with fewer resources and a deficit within the Department. The Assistant Director explained that this was a challenge, with schools seeing increasing complexity of need and pressures on families. The Department had worked with schools to understand how they could support schools to support families and get the best out of the resources they have. Partnership working, including federations and MATs was highlighted as an area that could achieve positive outcomes by sharing resources and through joint work on the curriculum. The Lead Member for Education and ISEND reiterated the challenge for the Department, as a demand led service, and noted that as part of the RPPR process this would be looked at.
- Attendance The Committee enquired as to why attendance figures had not returned to pre covid levels and how this issue could be prioritised within the Department. The Assistant Director explained that the reasons for low levels of attendance were wide and complex but that the Department was talking to schools to gain a greater understanding and had heard that the pandemic was still having an impact, including on speech and language development of children in early education. They had also seen an increase in children's mental health needs. The Assistant Director stated the responsibility of school attendance needed to cut across schools, the Council and families but that where there were trends, more targeted work was needed, and this was supported by the Department and other professionals to offer consistent support. The Director reflected that lockdowns during Covid had undermined the "social contract" between schools and families across the UK. The Committee discussed other issues around attendance including the role of social media, the need for children to be motivated to attend school and the importance of the opportunity for children to catch up on lost learning if they have been absent. The Assistant Director noted that schools had a responsibility to support pupils to catch up on work and that it was often the most vulnerable children who were most affected, including children with SEND, on Free School Meals etc. The Committee heard that there had been additional funding from the government through the national tutoring programme and a focus from the Department on support for children transitioning from primary to secondary school.
- Elective Home Education (EHE) The Committee were encouraged by the work of the Department to build resilience in children and their families and noted that sometimes there was a reluctance from families for children to attend school. In response, the Director stated there had been an increase in EHE and the Department had expanded the team that supports and challenges families on this, but this was difficult as they had no right of entry unless there were safeguarding concerns. The Lead Member for Education and ISEND informed the Committee he had received a reply, from his letter to the government on this issue, which said they were still looking at it; the Lead Member noted it was a source of ongoing concern and he would continue to communicate to the government about it. The Committee asked if the Department had any concerns about families who were deliberately choosing to keep their children out of school because they are not happy about their allocated school. The Director responded to say there is detailed legislation which sets out how school admissions run and keeping a child at home cannot be used as a means to improve a family's chance of securing a place at

their preferred school. Overall a very high proportion of families in East Sussex secure one of their preferred schools.

#### 6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Chair introduced the report which outlined the Committee's latest work programme.

#### Prevention in Children's Services

- 6.2 John Hayling was asked, as Chair of the Group, to provide an update on the new Prevention in Children's Services Reference Group. John Hayling informed the Committee that the Group met in June 2023 and received presentations from the Department on Prevention and Family Hubs (the slides from these presentations were included in the agenda pack) and that another meeting was planned for October/November 2023.
- 6.3 The Committee welcomed the update and presentation slides and asked for more information about the availability of support in the Family Hubs and requested that County Councillors be invited to visit the Hubs. The Director of Children's Services responded to say that the Hubs would be open 5 days a week but noted there would be restricted opening hours in the pop-up locations. The Director welcomed the request for Councillors to visit the Hubs and would arrange for these to happen.

#### Health and Social Care Integration Programme

- 6.4 The Committee enquired into ongoing scrutiny of HASCIP and cited that it was an important part of social care and should remain a priority on the work programme.
- 6.5 The Director of ASCH informed the Committee that the Pan Sussex Integrated Care Strategy and Shared Delivery Plan had been shared with the HASCIP Reference Group and that progress on this work would continue to be shared with HASCIP at relevant stages.
- 6.6. The Committee agreed that this would be discussed at the upcoming People Committee awayday meeting in October 2023.

#### Forward plan

6.6 The Committee reviewed the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions.

#### Work Programme

6.7 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the updated work programme.

#### 7. RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR)

- 7.1 The Director of Adult Social Care and Health introduced the report which marked the start of the Committee's input into the 2023/24 RPPR Cycle and provided a stock take of the Council's position for scrutiny's consideration ahead of more detailed planning for the 2024/25 financial year. The report contained as appendices relevant parts of the Council's Year-End Monitoring Report which highlighted achievements and challenges for services the Committee scrutinised and the State of the County report which looked ahead at demographic, financial and policy trends and challenges. The Director informed the Committee that the Council remained in a period of uncertainty with the cost of living, no long-term financial settlements, and ongoing pressures impacting on demand led services.
- 7.2 The Director highlighted the key issues in Adult Social Care and Health including the Department overspend for 2022/2023, performance around the targeting of NHS Health checks,

and ongoing work to support better outcomes for this; the seasonal pressures on health services, including industrial action in the NHS; the new Serious Violence Duty, and the success of the South East Regional Public Health Conference, hosted by ESCC, and attended by Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England as a key note speaker.

- 7.3 The Director outlined the key priorities for the Department going forward, including the implementation of the Pan Sussex Integrated Care Strategy; the Adult Social Care Strategy; Community Networks; preparing for the upcoming Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection; and ongoing challenges around financial inclusion, migrant support, and suicide prevention.
- 7.4 The Director of Children's Services highlighted the key issues in Children's Services including the Department overspend for 2022/2023, owing partly to the increased number of children in residential care, and agency staff needed (as a result of fewer foster carers); increased complex needs requiring more costly care; and accommodating some families that do not meet the required criteria of local support from the District and Borough Councils.
- 7.5 In response to these financial challenges, the Department were prioritising demand management and prevention by recruiting additional social workers and additional posts to support Family Safeguarding and the government funded Family Hubs. Posts had also been created to support Lifelong Links, to connect looked after children with family and friends they may have lost connections with, and Connected Coaches were being used support teenagers to stay at home to meet the rising number of teenagers entering care.
- 7.6 The Director of Children's Services told the Committee that a recent review by the Competition and Markets Authority had concluded that the external residential placement market was not working effectively with a number of children's home providers raising prices significantly.
- 7.7 The Director noted the increasing number of children on Child Protection Plans (although these numbers had reduced in Quarter 4), and the increasing numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) as part of the National Transport Scheme which was contributing to increased numbers in care and recognised that this would be an ongoing issue. There would also be an impact from the proposed increase in support to adult asylum seekers who would require age assessments and for those identified as under 18, would need to be taken into the Council's care.
- 7.8 The Director highlighted the progress in education results including the narrowing in KS2 with local and national results.
- 7.9 The Director outlined how the Department was responding to the evolving national policy framework including the government's Stable Homes, Built on Love Strategy, and were working with the government on the new Early Career Framework for social workers. The Department was working with the DfE as regional experts to support the government's Special Educational Needs (SEND) policy, as well as collaborating with partners in the southeast and with the DfE to address the broken care market. IMPOWER were also working with the Department on the procurement of children's care.
- 7.10 The Committee asked a number of questions regarding the information provided in the report including:
- Households in temporary accommodation The Committee enquired about the high number of households in temporary accommodation, particularly in Hastings, and the increased waiting list times. In response the Director of Adult Social Care and Health noted there were similar challenges for all District and Borough Councils across the county and, in part, was a reflection of cost of living challenges. The Financial Inclusion Group, made up of the Adult Social Care and Health, Children's Services and representatives from the District and Boroughs and voluntary sector groups aimed to support residents with these issues, including through information and advice on the cost

- of living website, and benefit maximisations which aimed to ensure people claimed the money they were entitled to.
- Volunteering the Committee enquired about the data on the number of volunteers and asked for a definition of the term 'volunteer'. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health told the Committee that a definition and more information on how the figures were achieved would be sent to the Committee.
- Drug and alcohol support services The Committee enquired into the increase locally of adults in treatment for drug and alcohol, compared with national figures and suggested that this number would differ significantly across the county. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health noted that the increase in individuals in treatment was a positive indicator, as it reflected both the identification of people needing support and the successful provision of services. Some of the targeted work and additional funding received to support the ADDER and Harm to Hope projects had raised awareness and increased the capacity of services and support available which was reflected in the figures.
- Adult Social Care and Health Workforce The Committee asked about the number of staff vacancies and what impact filling all vacancies would have on the Department's budget. The Director for Adult Social Care and Health told the Committee that he would send some of the most recent vacancy data to the Committee and clarified the Department were recruiting to all posts through several channels including apprenticeship schemes, the Refer a Friend scheme and partnership work with the Department for Work and Pensions, colleges, and veterans. The Director also noted that the Community Care budget was demand-led and that the Department would be using technology and more effective partnership, including working with the NHS, to manage the budget and that it would be closely monitored.
- The RPPR process The Committee requested to see more information about how decisions were made when deciding whether to prioritise or cut services. The Committee also asked for clarification on the red, amber, green (RAG) system in the Council Monitoring Report including how these related to national targets and if it demonstrated financial or performance risks. The Director of Children's Services told the Committee that it was often more meaningful to compare East Sussex with the performance of statistical neighbours, but where there were national comparisons, these could be included in future reports, as well as statistical neighbour comparisons and more detailed information around decisions on costing. The Director clarified that the RAG system noted financial and performance risks, and the Council aimed to provide a quality but cost-effective service. The Director noted that investment in services needed to match the pace at which the Department could work towards, but that the Department would always prioritise funding on preventive measures. The Committee questioned whether the number of UASC should be identified in the Council Monitoring Reports, the Director of Children's Services noted that this was evidenced in the State of County Report but could also be reflected in the Monitoring Report.
- The Department overspend and future budgets The Committee enquired about how the Department would continue to meet increasing need and address Departmental overspend. The Director of Children's Services noted that the upcoming quarter 1 monitoring would show continuing pressures, however the Department was looking (through work with the consultancy firm IMPOWER) at how to transition some children from more expensive placements to alternative foster care such as independent fostering agencies, as well as how to reunify children. The Lead Member for Education and ISEND noted that pressures in children's services would be a challenge in the RPPR process for 2024/2025.
- Education Health Care Plans (EHCP)— The Committee discussed the high number of children on ECHPs. The Director of Children's Services noted that despite the increased

- number of EHCP applications, the Department had improved the timeliness of responding to these and were performing well nationally with this.
- Children in Care The Committee enquired into the reasons for the increased number and cost of children in care. The Director of Children's Services responded to say that factors such as mental health needs and neurodiversity were driving the need for support, however the most significant cause of additional cost was the shortage of appropriate local foster care. The Director noted the difficulties in obtaining the right care, including in some cases competing for placements with other local authorities and suggested that going forward there would be increased focus on provision in the county. The Committee discussed these challenges.
- Home to school transport The Committee expressed concern about the high cost of home to school transport and enquired into ways this could be reduced by asking friends and family to transport children. The Director of Children's Services clarified that by law, the Council must provide transport for SEND children, although transport could be provided by friends and family if that is what the family chose.
- Unused Covid funding The Committee questioned why the Council had returned unused Covid grants to the government and enquired if this money could be used to address parental anxiety around children going back to school and if the Council could use funding to support St Pancras School which was facing closure. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health clarified that Covid grants were one off grants with very strict criteria, and the Council had maximised the use of those. Some of this repayment was due to the independent sector not fulfilling the criteria of the grant but the Council was working hard to meet the upcoming deadlines of this funding. The Director of Children's Services noted that funding for schools was tightly regulated and based on the funding formula, thus outside of the Council's control. Proposals in relation to St Pancras school were subject to consultation and would be decided in due course.

#### Areas for future scrutiny

- 7.11 The Chair asked the Committee if there were areas covered in the report that could benefit from further scrutiny. The Committee requested that they were updated on the outcomes of the upcoming CQC inspection in Adult Social Care and Health. The Director for Adult Social Care and Health suggested it would be helpful for scrutiny to look at the self-assessment framework before the inspection to which the Committee agreed.
- 7.12 The Chair suggested that areas requiring future scrutiny were also discussed at the Committee's work planning awayday in October and asked that the Committee notify the Chair of any areas they particularly wished to discuss at the awayday.
- 7.13 The Committee RESOLVED to establish an RPPR Board to meet in December to consider the developing financial position for 2024/25 and draft Portfolio Plans and agree detailed comments on those to be put to Cabinet. The Committee agreed the Membership of the RPPR Board would be the whole Committee.
- 7.14 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

# 8. <u>ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH EQUALITY AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY REVIEW</u>

- 8.1 Cllr Ungar, as Chair of the Review Board, introduced the report. The Review Board was established to look at the ongoing work of the Adult Social Care and Health Equality and Inclusion Strategy and how the Department engages with seldom heard groups.
- 8.2 Overall, the Review Board welcomed the Department's work to identify seldom heard groups and increase engagement, in particular the work with staff to identify potential barriers,

and collaboration with trusted partners to support engagement and build trust with seldom heard communities and people. The Review Board had made recommendations that were practical, built on the good work underway, and were focussed on establishing best practice for engagement, staff learning, and maintaining relationships with key partners.

- 8.3 The Chair thanked the Members who took part in the review and the officers who provided support.
- 8.4 Councillor Nuala Geary, Member of the Review Board, recognised the important contribution of the witnesses involved in the review and that they had played a key role in developing the recommendations.
- 8.5 Councillor Trevor Webb, Member of the Review Board, reflected on the challenges in engaging with some seldom heard groups, particularly Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Communities, but noted the good work in developing recommendations in this area.
- 8.6 The Director of Adult Social Care and Health thanked the Review Board for their work on this and noted the opportunity for learning for the whole Council on engagement with seldom heard groups. In response, the Department would put together an action plan to address the recommendations in the report.
- 8.7 The Committee welcomed the report and, in discussing it, asked questions and made comments on the following areas:
- Identification of seldom heard groups a suggestion was made that care leavers are considered as a seldom heard group, even though they do not have a protected characteristic. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health noted that there is some additional support and protection for care leavers, but this would be considered when addressing the report's findings. It was also noted by the Committee that poverty, although implicit in the work of Adult Social Care and Health and Children's Services, should be considered when identifying vulnerable groups. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health noted that this was a recognised determinant of people's health and wellbeing and there was ongoing work to support this, including the Financial Inclusion Group.
- Equality data in the Census a question was asked about the equality data in the report, particularly in relation to local figures on ethnic data and languages spoken. The Director responded that this data was taken from the Census which was self-declared.
- 8.8 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the Scrutiny Review report and its recommendations, and to receive six and twelve month monitoring updates on the Review.

# 9. <u>USE OF DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY REVIEW</u>

- 9.1 The Assistant Director for Planning, Performance & Engagement introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Use of Digital and Technology in Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Review.
- 9.2 The Assistant Director noted the positive news of the online financial assessments which were now live, and informed the Committee that an update on the progress of this would be reported at the twelve month update.
- 9.3 The Assistant Director noted the close working relationships between the digital and operational teams was important to address ongoing and future priorities and highlighted the Department's work on the Digital by Default approach as well as ongoing consideration of digital inclusion.

- 9.4 The Assistant Director noted the areas in the report where the Department were still making progress on the recommendations from the scrutiny review, including on digital ways of working and digital inclusion across all areas of work. Future priorities also included digital feedback mechanisms.
- 9.5 The Committee welcomed the report. A question was asked about what the Department was doing to ensure robust checks of financial information submitted online. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health responded to say that the although the use of digital financial assessments resulted in speeding up the process, there were still thorough checks to mitigate this risk.
- 9.6 The Committee also sought clarification on the amber rating against the recommendation for the Department to explore opportunities with partners to support engagement with the Digital Offer. The Assistant Director noted that although the Department had successfully carried out the agreed actions, the Department felt that it was still important to reflect the impact of these in the RAG report. It was agreed that this would be further detailed in the twelve-month update report.
- 9.7 The Committee RESOLVED to agree the recommendations and to receive a further update report in six months time.

The meeting ended at 13:11pm

Councillor Johanna Howell (Chair)

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# Agenda Item 5

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

By: Chris Robson, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Independent Chair** 

Title: East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

2022/23

Purpose: To advise People Scrutiny Committee members of the multi-

agency arrangements in place to safeguard children in East

Sussex

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to receive and consider the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2022-2023

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 <u>Working Together to Safeguard Children</u> 2018 sets out the arrangements for cooperation between organisations and agencies to improve the wellbeing of children. This places a duty on police, Integrated Care Boards 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 partnership arrangements are set out in section 4 of the report.
- 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 2022/23 ESSCP Annual Report focuses on partnership evidence, learning, impact and assurance.

#### 2. Supporting information

- 2.1 The ESSCP Annual Report 2022/23 outlines the work undertaken by the partnership, highlighting key learning and achievements in section 2, which includes.
  - 3 multi-agency Rapid Reviews conducted, of which one progressed to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR) and two LCSPRs published.
  - 552 multi-agency staff attended 42 virtual training courses. 99% of evaluations rated the course as Excellent or Good, which is a further increase on last year.
  - Four multi-agency audits held, which included an audit on the multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk, using the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) criteria.
  - o Two new Lay Members recruited and introduction of 'evidencing impact' events.

- Agreed process for development of Pan Sussex training and events, plus the completion of Pan Sussex serious incident referral and rapid review procedure.
- Four additional safeguarding projects; covering neglect and poverty, transitions, information sharing with third parties and harmful sexual behaviour in education settings.
- 2.2 The ESSCP Annual Report 2022/23 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. A young person's accessible version of the report will also be published on the ESSCP website.
- 2.3 Since the writing of the annual report, the Department for Education (DfE) has launched a consultation on revisions to the Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance for England. The consultation aims to gather views on updating Working Together to help deliver on the government's plans to transform children's social care set out in Stable Homes, Built on Love. In particular, the consultation focuses on strengthening how safeguarding partners (local authorities, integrated care boards and the police) work together, and with relevant agencies, to safeguard and protect children locally. The ESSCP have discussed the consultation at length with Board members and lead agencies and have submitted a partnership response to the consultation (closes Sept 23).

#### 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 2022/23 and to note the agreed on priorities for 2023 onwards:
  - Safeguarding children in schools including safeguarding children who are electively home educated, excluded from school, and missing education.
  - Safeguarding adolescents including adolescents who are criminally exploited, self-harm and/or express suicidal thoughts, child to parent abuse, and transitional safeguarding.
  - Embedding learning and evidencing impact from case review and audit work, including ensuring that learning from the 2020-23 priority on safeguarding infants was embedded.



# East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Annual Report 2022/23** 

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## **Foreword**

Thank you for taking the time to read the East Sussex Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (ESSCP) Annual Report. This document should give you an open, honest view of how the Partnership works to safeguard our children and young people. As the Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the ESSCP I have the responsibility for scrutinising this report and making sure it is accurate and provides the information you, the reader, requires. I hope that it meets your expectations and above all gives you complete confidence in the way the Partnership strives to safeguard children in East Sussex.

I wanted to start by offering some reassurance regarding the strength of the Partnership. During the reporting period covered by this document I have observed some truly outstanding partnership work. The safeguarding culture in East Sussex affords everyone the opportunity to be confident that they will be supported as they strive to improve outcomes for our children and families. That culture permeates from the very top of the organisations through to the practitioners whom we so heavily rely on. I meet with those at executive level, and I am consistently impressed with their commitment to safeguarding, personal investment and leadership. Representation at Partnership meetings is excellent and there is a culture of support and challenge as we strive to reach our joint objectives. Perhaps of greatest importance is the fact that East Sussex is blessed with a professional, caring and incredibly hard-working community of individuals who work and volunteer in the safeguarding arena. On behalf of the Partnership, I would like to offer each of them our sincere thanks for all they do.

This report sets out our achievements, concentrating in part, on the areas we have prioritised. Whilst it is right that we celebrate success it is also important that we recognise that we should always seek to improve. I have seen a real will to seek continuous improvement in East Sussex, the training offer is excellent, supported by effective trainers from a wide range of backgrounds. The response to learning reviews is effective and all partners are alive to disseminating lessons learned at the earliest opportunity. Please spend some time reading the sections of this report that details some of these reviews. They touch on some of the most distressing cases our practitioners, communities and families are involved in. They also offer some of the best opportunities for us to learn and improve outcomes for children.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the fantastic work of the ESSCP business support team. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that our business runs smoothly, and I would like to thank them on behalf of all the partners.

Finally, when you read this report, I would ask that you consider the impact you can have. Safeguarding children is the responsibility of all of us, professionals, volunteers, families, friends, and communities. Please don't be afraid to raise concerns, seek advice or offer to help.



Chris Robson
Independent Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the 2023 annual report, on behalf of the three statutory partners, thank you for taking the time to read this and for your support in our continuing progress to improve how we work together to deliver the best possible services to our communities.

We hope you find the report useful in understanding the partnership's work and celebrating some of the successes. These successes are only possible through the dedication and diligence of the many people working with children, young people and families across a range of agencies.

We continue to keep children at the centre of our thinking and delivery at all levels, as well as encouraging professional curiosity across the multi-agency workforce, ensuring the lived experience of the child is recognised.

We are continuously learning with over 500 staff trained across the learning programme and many more accessing learning through briefings, online learning and multi-agency meetings. We know from our quality assurance that our services make a positive difference to the lives of many children, young people and families every day. We do not always get everything right. Serious incidents when they occur are, of course, the subject of Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. We are pleased to see the high quality of those reviews and the partnership embracing any learning in a timely way. Our learning doesn't stop there, from the task and finish groups to the case file audits to lively discussion, the culture is of working together, learning together and delivering together which is a positive indicator for the partnership potential for the coming years.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, your hard work and commitment to this vital area of work to improve the lives of our children and their families in East Sussex.



Naomi Ellis

Director of Safeguarding &

Clinical Standards, NHS Sussex



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



James Collis
Chief Superintendent, Head of
Public Protection, Sussex
Police

# 2. Key Learning & Achievements 2022/23

- Three multi-agency Rapid Reviews conducted to respond to serious incidents; one progressed to an LCSPR, learning from the other two shared via learning briefings and action plans developed.
- Two LCSPRs published.
- Two LCSPRs and one legacy SCR awaiting publication due to criminal proceedings and pending family input.
- 552 multi-agency staff attended 42 training courses.
- 99% of evaluations rated course as Excellent or Good.
- Four new courses introduced into the training offer.

• Two new Lay Members recruited.

- Two 'evidencing impact' events held on Child T and infant injury learning.
- Launch of partnership promotional video.
- Pan Sussex: agreed process for development of Pan Sussex training and events; completion of Pan Sussex serious incident referral and rapid review procedure.
- Development of a Scrutiny Plan to track how the partnership is responding to national and local learning.

Learning from case reviews

ESSCP Learning & Achievements 2022/23

**Training** 

Safeguarding projects

Partnership development

Business Priorities 2020-23

Case File Audits

- Education Safeguarding
- Child Exploitation
- Embedding a Learning Culture
- Safeguarding under fives

- Task & Finish Groups:
  - Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) in Schools and Colleges
  - Neglect and Poverty
  - Transitions
  - Information sharing with third parties

Four multi-agency audits held:

- Pan Sussex audit on safeguarding children who are electively home educated.
- Deep Dive audit on harmful sexual behaviours.
- Audit of initial assessment of risk (front door).
- Appreciative style audit on theme of Page 19 'Unseen Men'.

ESSCP Annual Report 2022-23

# 3. Safeguarding Context 2022/23



See Appendix A for more detailed information.

# 4. Partnership Arrangements

# 4.1 Overview of the Partnership

The East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership acts as a forum for the lead safeguarding partners (Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council, and the NHS Sussex) 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.

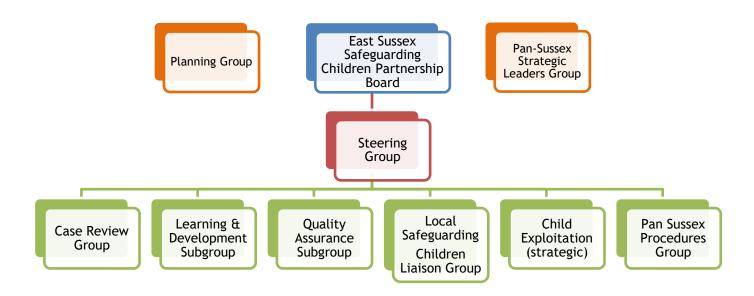
## 4.2 Partnership Structure and Subgroups

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 B). 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 leads 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 C).

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 the Board and Steering Group are available on the ESSCP's website here: Subgroups - ESSCP

## 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; the Sussex Integrated Care System Children and Young People's Board, Children and Young People Trust (CYPT) and Local Head Teacher Forums. Links to other significant partnership documents are highlighted in Appendix D.

The ESSCP Independent Chair is also the Independent Scrutineer for the West Sussex and Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Boards which will enable and facilitate greater joint working between the three areas. The Chair also maintains regular liaison with other key strategic leaders, for example, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Adult Partnership Chairs and Government inspection bodies. The ESSCP annual report is presented to the East Sussex County Council People Scrutiny Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board, and the East Sussex SAB. The report is also shared with the Safer Communities Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other ESSCP member organisations' senior management boards.

At the end of March 2023, the ESSCP had the opportunity to undertake an exciting and effective piece of joint working with the Safer East Sussex Team, who had secured Home Office funding for Shout Out UK to deliver 3 large scale events on *'Preventing online Radicalisation'*. The East Sussex Prevent Board was responding to an increasing in casework that involves extremism with an online element, such as accessing extremist material on websites and forums, and making contact with others on encrypted and gaming platforms. These events, that complemented the ESSCP training programme, took place in venues across East Sussex and were well attended. An evaluation report for these events will be available during either Quarter 1 or Quarter 2 of the 2023/24 reporting period.

Joint training on Coercion and Control is now embedded in the ESSCP Training Programme and a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group continues to update the existing Domestic Abuse (DA) Training Pathway. This is in recognition of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and because partnerships continue to see similar DA conclusions and recommendations from Safeguarding Adult and Children Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, and referrals to the LADO. The refreshed pathway is designed to reflect key emerging issues. From April 2022 the DA Training offer has expanded due to increased involvement from the Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Abuse & Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Joint Unit, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

## 4.4 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 2022/23 include:

- Pan-Sussex Learning & Development opportunities:
  - Considerable work has been undertaken to develop learning at a Pan Sussex level, and opportunities for joined up working across Sussex are promoted where appropriate. During 2022/23 Pan Sussex training continued with: Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA), Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children and Harmful Practices. New Suicide Prevention courses ran as a Pan Sussex offer via Grassroots, an external provider.
  - Through continuing collaborative working with training counterparts in Brighton and Hove and West Sussex the SCPs are now offering new training on 'Adultification'. The in-house training on Working with LGBTQ Children and Young People is now offered pan-Sussex. The three SCP's continue to review further opportunities for joint delivery of courses where practical and beneficial for all 3 Safeguarding Children Partnerships.
- The Pan-Sussex procedures working group reviews, updates and develops over 100 safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in response to local and national issues, changes in legislation, practice developments and learning from LCSPRs and quality assurance activities. There is excellent attendance and buy in from all lead agencies and Pan-Sussex Local Authorities. Since March 2022 a number of new policies have been published. These include:
  - o A procedure to describe the sharing of information between Police and the LADO
  - A statement about Professional Difference has been added to a number of relevant policies
  - A procedure on how to respond to a suspected suicide
  - o A Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Anti Racist Statement
  - A procedure on sharing information with family members about other adults and the risks they may pose

There has also been some significant re-drafting of existing policies and procedures. This includes:

- A review of Allegations against people who Work/Volunteer with Children, which was updated to align with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 updates
- A review of the Online Safety Policy to include the Dark Web, safeguarding children with SEND online, online bullying and the impacts of harmful content in relation to self-harm, suicide and eating disorders
- The inclusion of virginity testing and hymenoplasty to the Honour base abuse policy
- An extensive review and re-draft of the policy regarding parent carer involvement in sex work

After each meeting, a short briefing is disseminated to the Group for onward cascading across their agencies to front line professionals and these can be read online Welcome to your Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual | Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual. Going forward, the aim is to improve the intuitive user experience of searching for Policies on the website and further work to understand website use and how people engage with the policies.

• Pan-Sussex Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Procedure - in March 2023 the new Pan-Sussex procedure for referring a serious incident to Case Review Group and the process for undertaking a Rapid Review and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was published. This joint procedure allows the three partnerships to have the same templates and approach which is beneficial to agencies working across the Pan-Sussex area. It also incorporates best practice from the National Panel with regards to undertaking effective reviews.

## 4.5 Ongoing review of Partnership Arrangements

#### Lead Safeguarding Partners Self-Assessment

Every other year, lead safeguarding partners undertake a self-assessment as part of the activity to review the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements. At the end of 2020/21 the lead partners used the 'six steps for independent scrutiny of safeguarding children partnership arrangements' developed by the University of Bedfordshire. For 2021/22 a Partnership Development Action Plan was created to address the areas rated as red/amber, in particular regarding 'involving children, young people and families in plans for safeguarding children'. Progress on this action plan was reported on in last year's Annual Report.

During the first half of 2023/24 lead partners will be using the National Safeguarding Panel's 'reflective questions for safeguarding partners', as set out in their 2021 Annual Report, to assess the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements. The reflective questions draw on what the National Panel has identified are factors behind effective and strong child protection practice. The questions are framed around 4 areas: wider service context; practice and practice knowledge; systems and processes; and leadership and culture.

Areas for improvement will be highlighted in the Partnership's development action plan, with progress reported on in next year's Annual Report.

#### Review of arrangements with Board and Partnership Members

At the end of 2022/23 the ESSCP Business Unit sent a questionnaire to all board and subgroup members to consider the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements.

In total, 17 partnership members responded. Feedback was largely positive with reassuring responses to the quality of the administration, and the communication of the partnership. The majority of partnership members were clear about their role and the support they received to fulfil their role. Nearly all partnership members were confident about communicating what the partnership does and what the priorities of the ESSCP were.

Most encouraging was the reported impact of the partnership on safeguarding and child protection practice. Over 80% of partners responded that partnership learning impacts on the work they do; nearly two-thirds had discussed one of the ESSCP learning briefings in their team meetings, and a similar proportion agreed that ESSCP learning had changed the way their team works.

The survey has been useful to the ESSCP business unit to identify future improvements and planning of meetings. Suggestions include:

- ✓ Updating the Induction Pack and sending out to all members on an annual basis.
- Considering how to incorporate a stronger focus on 'holding up a mirror' to local practice and the experience of children and families.
- ✓ Following up on past board agenda items, including links to published documents (post discussion of draft versions at board meetings).
- ✓ Better sharing of actions and information across the partnership groups.
- ✓ Considering the implementation of an 'education' subgroup to ensure appropriate engagement of schools and other education providers.

#### 4.6 ESSCP Priorities

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 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 were:

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

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

In March 2023 the ESSCP held an extraordinary Board meeting to discuss local evidence - including learning from case reviews, quality assurance activity, and the voice of children - and propose future priorities for the partnership. Proposed priorities were scoped which clearly

identified the evidence to choosing as a priority, the intended impact on practice and outcomes for children, and how success would be evidenced. From the priorities proposed, the safeguarding leads agreed on the following priorities for 2023 onwards:

- Safeguarding children in schools including safeguarding children who are electively home educated, excluded from school, and missing education.
- Safeguarding adolescents including adolescents who are criminally exploited, self-harm and/or express suicidal thoughts, child to parent abuse, and transitional safeguarding.
- Embedding learning and evidencing impact from case review and audit work, including ensuring that learning from the 2020-23 priority on safeguarding infants was embedded.

# 5. Evidence

This section of the ESSCP Annual Report sets out how the partnership is 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 are evidencing the impact of its work are also given in section 3 (Impact).

ESSCP priorities for 2020-23 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 was necessary to reduce risk. It is in such areas where the partnership can be most effective in scrutinising and supporting practice.

## 5.1 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. Education settings, and their staff, form a key part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

The ESSCP agreed that by making this area a priority for 2020-2023, there would be a continued focus on effective joint working between local agencies and education settings, strategically and at a setting level. The COVID-19 pandemic and extended school closures for most children highlighted to many services the critical importance of education settings' role in safeguarding. Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on safeguarding issues, and wellbeing of children, in March 2023 the ESSCP agreed that 'safeguarding in education' would continue to be a priority for the partnership going forward.

#### Using evidence to deliver safeguarding in education

The Education Safeguarding agenda has significantly altered as a result of COVID-19 national lockdowns with safeguarding, alongside emotional wellbeing, now a higher priority within all local education settings. Most education settings report 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. Improving school attendance in order to safeguard children is a priority both nationally and locally. Examples of using local and national evidence in 2022/23 has included:

• The revised Harmful Sexual Behaviours Protocol for schools was launched in January 2023. The protocol provides detailed local guidance on how schools should respond to incidents of child on child sexual harassment, sexual violence, or harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The protocol was updated in collaboration with a range of multi-agency partners via the ESSCP HSB Task & Finish Group. The revised protocol also includes a new East Sussex screening tool. The HSB data was collected for the first time in 2022, which was used to reinforce targeted work with primary schools and to develop an intervention programme for children who have displayed HSB.

- The revised Vulnerable Learners Protocol was finalised and shared with schools and colleges in May 2022. The revisions were made in response to learning from the Thematic Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.
- A new 2-year cycle of safeguarding reviews has been established with all maintained schools in East Sussex. A new QA review process has also been established with Independent non-maintained special schools and a commissioning process are in place to conduct reviews of Multi-Academy Trusts. More comprehensive monitoring of standards of safeguarding in all schools and colleges, via these new processes, will allow the education safeguarding team to tailor training according to needs, and to provide support to improve practice where safeguarding requires improvement.
- The Mental Health Support Teams in schools supported 800 children last academic year with 1:1 and small group interventions. Outcomes are broadly positive, and the data collected is now being used to inform county wide 'whole school approach' work to support children's wellbeing.

#### Evidence to measure success (2022-23)

- ✓ The proportion of schools who complete their annual s175/157 safeguarding audit.

  100% of state funded schools completed the annual section 175 audit this year.
- ✓ 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.

23 secondary schools and 4 special schools received the performance 'Safe and Sound' a preventative approach to tackling violence against women and girls. 5100 students participated and all student evaluations were positive and felt the package increased their knowledge and understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships.

# 5.2 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.

#### Using evidence to tackle child exploitation in East Sussex

The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group (MACE) action plan is annually refreshed and focuses on four areas:

- PREVENT delivering evidenced based preventative interventions within schools and communities to equip children and families with the skills they need to make safe and healthy choices and avoid situations which put them at risk of child exploitation.
- PREPARE deliver a holistic and effective response to children and young people referred to the Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation and Risk (SAFER) panel, that reflects learning from previous LCSPRs, case audits, and user feedback.
- **PROTECT** strengthen support and safeguarding arrangements for those young people who are reported missing or are referred to SAFER.
- PURSUE deliver 'disruption measures' to divert children and young people away from being exploited and stop those engaging in child exploitation.

Examples of using local and national evidence in 2022/23 has included:

- Delivery of a whole school programme, funded by drug prevention monies and delivered in partnership with schools by the education safeguarding team, Public Health and CSD. A comprehensive evaluation of the project is available to the Partnership including the request to consider sources of future funding.
- Implementing changes to practice following the Child AA LCSPR including sharing of disruption activity from the Serious Organised Crime Unit, development of new Inclusion Partnerships to discuss vulnerable children, and new head of service appointed for LD and Transitions.
- Evolution of MACE to SAFER Panels, which has incorporated MACE and VARP (vulnerable
  adolescent risk panel) into a combined meeting. The introduction of these operational
  changes has enabled improved referral quality and meeting capacity as well as
  improvements to agency interface.
- Contextual safeguarding responses have focussed upon Eastbourne Train Station in 22/23 and risks specific to County Lines.
- The area of performance which remains concerning to the MACE strategic group is that of missing children. Episodes of reported missing has significantly increased in 22/23 and remains an area of improvement for those agencies involved in the delivery of responses. An improvement plan has been developed by social care and performance is being closely monitored by the group.
- A Sussex force wide intelligence policy has recently been launched and that combines the ES Intel protocol with a Pan Sussex operating framework. NHS and Police strategic leads are working together to ensure effective embed of the intel sharing practice into the NHS critical care setting.
- The intended review of disruption tactics and application of legal measures is still pending although an increase in the disruption measures deployed at a MACE operational level continues to increase (60% at January 2023).

#### Evidence to measure success

- ✓ At the end of March 2023 there were 22 children, at risk of exploitation, who were held within the 'SAFER' process. Over the course of 2022/23, on average, MACE/SAFER has had an active case load of 24, with highs of 27-29 in November, December and January.
- ✓ Over the course of the 2022/23, 11 children have had their concern rating increase from amber to red, and 21 children have had their concern rating decrease. However, this often demonstrates an increase in the information available regarding a child which then enables professionals to have a more informed picture of their exploitation.
- ✓ Nearly half (45%) of the current cohort of children held by SAFER is six months or less. Of the current cohort, 8 children have been with SAFER for a year or more. Of those who are no longer held by SAFER, the average time for a child to be assessed as at lower risk, following intervention, was 5.3 months.
- ✓ In 2022/23 there were 11 incidences of young people held overnight in police custody. This is much lower compared to 26 incidences in 2020/21. The reduction in incidences of young people held overnight in police custody is due to the robust approach taken by Police across custody centres and the Force to drive down to an absolute minimum the number of children who need to remain in custody overnight. Police are achieving this through prioritising investigations involving children, working closely with partners to secure accommodation where required and using bail with conditions more effectively.

## 5.3 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:

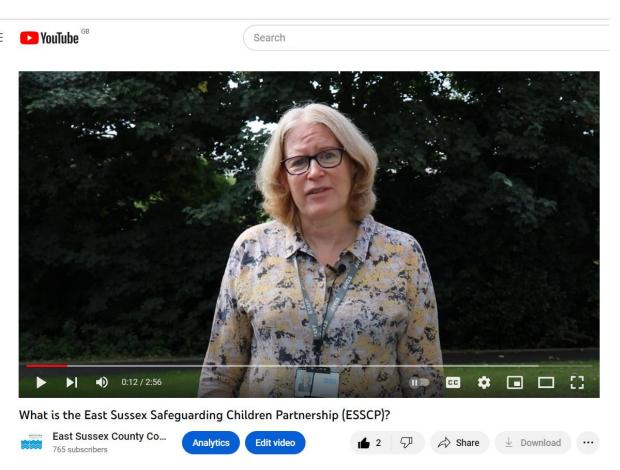
- the learning reaches the right people.
- we have effective mechanisms for sharing learning.
- and we test that learning is embedding into practice and outcomes for children.

#### Using evidence to embed a learning culture in East Sussex

The arrangements for assuring the effectiveness of safeguarding practice are set out in the **ESSCP's Learning & Improvement Framework.** Examples of using local and national evidence in 2022/23 has included:

Holding two 'evidencing impact' events - with one event focusing on the impact of learning arising from the Child T Serious Case Review (published in 2019) and a themed event on 'infant injuries', which considered the impact of learning arising from the Child V and Child W Serious Case Reviews (conducted in 2019) and three rapid reviews, which were conducted in 2020 following serious incidents involving non-accidental injuries to babies, occurring in the first national COVID-19 lockdown. The impact of the events on practice and outcomes for children and families is shown in report section 7.

- Delivering four 'learning from Review' briefing sessions for staff in July 2022, December 2022, and January 2023. In total, over 200 staff attended these four separate events.
- In March 2023 the Partnership Board held a 'priority setting' workshop to review local evidence. Evidence included data and learning from recent LCSPRs and rapid reviews, learning from recent case audits, results of the 2022 section 11 self-assessment, safeguarding performance data, and the voice of children and young people. Future priorities were developed based on available evidence.
- The QA subgroup held an 'appreciative style' audit on the engagement of fathers and other male carers in safeguarding work. Eight cases were selected where either the father/male posed a risk to the child and successful engagement by services reduced that risk and/or they were successfully engaged to ensure the child was protected/nurtured. Key learning from the audit will be shared via a learning briefing and series of lunchtime training sessions in autumn 2023.
- The ESSCP published a three-minute video explaining the purpose of partnership and its work. The aim of the video is if everyone who works with children and families knows about the Partnership, this will increase the likelihood of them reading one of the ESSCP's learning publications and keep up to date with local learning and practice developments. The video will be embedded into induction processes for new staff and initial safeguarding training across the children's workforce.



#### Evidence to measure success

✓ Front line staff and leaders/managers in every agency to know what the ESSCP is and 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.

## 5.4 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. In the first few months of the 2020 Covid lockdown the ESSCP also completed three rapid reviews following serious safeguarding incidents involving non-accidental injuries involving children under the age of one. Learning arising from these reviews was compiled in a learning briefing for professionals and a combined action plan produced, which has informed ongoing work in this priority area, and is monitored regularly by the ESSCP Case Review Group and Steering Group.

Learning from the Pan Sussex Child Death Overview Panel has 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.

#### Using evidence to safeguard children under 5 in East Sussex

The 'Safeguarding Under 5s' action plan is jointly owned by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding in NHS Sussex and the Children's Lead in East Sussex Public Health. The leads were supported by a short-life Task and Finish Group to drive ahead action in this area, which ended in 2022. During 2022/23 examples of using local and national evidence has included:

- Embedding of <u>ICON</u> (infant crying is normal) across multi-agency partners to prevent abusive head trauma. Direct training sessions have been delivered to different groups of professionals, including GPs, midwifery, Sussex Police, health visitors, early help, and children's social care.
- Launch of a social media toolkit to raise awareness amongst professionals, and the
  general public, to reduce and prevent childhood unintentional injuries, highlighting how
  many accidents can be prevented with the right knowledge. The Child Accident
  Prevention Trust (CAPT) training for professionals that ended in 2022 was evaluated,
  showing an increase in knowledge, understanding and skills across all elements of the
  training. This included understanding of hazards, raising issues with parents/carers, and
  knowledge of resources and equipment available.
- East Sussex County Council Public Health has commissioned University College London (UCL) Centre for Behaviour Change to support our local knowledge, skills, and confidence

- in applying behavioural science using the Behaviour Change Wheel (BCW) to preventing unintentional childhood injuries. The BCW can be used to help to develop behaviour change interventions from scratch, build on or modify existing interventions or choose from existing or planned interventions. A Task & Finish group has been established to develop this project during the next 2023-24 financial year.
- During 2022-23 the SCP Partnership has focused on refreshing professionals' advice (including Sussex wide webinars) on evidence-based scientific recommendations to be followed for all the baby's sleep periods (not just at night). Recent SUID deaths before Christmas, however, highlight the need to continue work in this area, embedding good practice and the recommendations from the National Safeguarding Panel's Out of Routine report.
- Although the ESSCP has not made 'safeguarding under 5s' a priority for 2023, ensuring that learning from this priority, and learning from national reports such as Out of Routine and Myth of Invisible Men, will be included in the 'embedding learning' priority.

#### Evidence to measure success

- ✓ There have been no child deaths across Sussex involving abusive head trauma (AHT),
  over the past three years. This follows three suspected AHT in 2019/20.
- ✓ The number of children aged 0-4 attending East Sussex hospital A&Es due to accidents has decreased from 2,803 in 2021/22 to 2752 in 2022/23. Poisonings accounted for 127 of those attendances; falls from furniture accounted for 471 attendances.

# 6. 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 2022/23.

## 6.1 Learning from Rapid Reviews and Serious Case Reviews

#### Case Review Activity 2022/23

In 2022/23 the ESSCP undertook three Rapid Reviews following serious safeguarding incidents, where a child had died or been seriously injured, and where abuse or neglect is known or suspected. Of the three rapid reviews undertaken:

- ✓ One progressed to a joint LCSPR and Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) (Family D);
- ✓ Two did not lead to a LCSPR. In these cases learning was shared via learning briefings and individual agency actions from rapid reviews monitored by CRG

One outstanding SCR - Child V (Infant injuries) is due to be published following completion of criminal procedures and once parent input into the review has been gained (expected June 2023).

During 2022/23 the ESSCP published two LCSPRs:

Child AA - published September 2022

Child AA Learning Briefing 2022 (esscp.org.uk)

Child AA LCSPR Sept 22

Child AA Partnership Response Sept 22

#### **Key learning:**

- Multi-agency activity to disrupt criminal exploitation
- The impact of missing education poor attendance as a risk factor to criminal exploitation
- Transition between educational establishments for children who are excluded from school
- Information sharing between educational establishments, and between schools and other agencies

Thematic Review - published September 2022

Thematic Review Learning Briefing 2022

**Thematic Review Sept 22** 

<u>Thematic Review Partnership Response Sept</u>
<u>22</u>

#### Key learning:

- Knowing and considering a parent's history and vulnerabilities
- Working with hard to engage families who refuse to cooperate with child protection planning
- Recognising where there is no further police investigation of an issue, this does not mean that a child is not at risk.

- Understanding that behaviour is communication - using a 'therapeutic thinking' approach to address traumabased behaviours
- The impact on children of reoccurring domestic abuse and parental mental health issues
- Vulnerable children approaching adulthood and the impact of COVID-19

#### Two LCSPRs are awaiting publication:

Child Z (delay in publication due to ongoing criminal proceedings - Trial expected December 2023)

Child Z Learning Briefing 2022 (esscp.org.uk)

#### Key learning:

- ✓ The legacy of relationships characterised by domestic abuse
- Information sharing about adults who may pose risks to children
- The importance of assessing background information
- Assessing risk to children from risky adults who are not household members, but part of the child's wider network

Family CC (due to be published shortly once family have had the opportunity to contribute)

Family CC and Neglect Learning Briefing (esscp.org.uk) This briefing also reflects on learning from rapid reviews, featuring significant neglect

#### Key learning:

- Working with 'highly resistant' parents
- Safeguarding children who are EHE in the context of neglectful parenting
- Relevance of neglect and/or abuse of animals when assessing risks to children
- Relevance of history when screening for service delivery
- Role of voluntary sector agencies in providing support to vulnerable families
- The cumulative risk of harm when risk factors are present in combination or over time

#### Rapid Review learning

#### Child 1

#### Key learning:

Suitable access by children aged 14-16 who are being electively home educated to education at institutions whose primary purpose is post 16 education and training.

#### Child 2

#### Key learning:

 Consideration of parents mental and physical health needs and the impact this has on the ability to effectively parent.

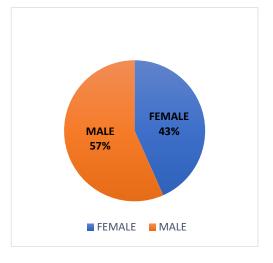
- Support offered by services to children and families following unsuccessful suicide attempts by children.
- The need for agencies to make timely referrals for substance misuse support for young people.
- Access to specialist support to address issues relating to gender dysphoria in young people.

- Early closure of CIN plans in the context of neglectful parenting.
- Working with resistant/avoidant parents.
- Impact of children missing education and poor elective home education.
- Professional curiosity with regards to consideration of domestic abuse

### **Analysis of Case Review Activity**

Since the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements began in East Sussex in October 2019, the partnership Case Review Group (CRG) has undertaken 17 Rapid Reviews, resulting in 7 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (figures up to March 23). A total of 30 children are the subjects of the 17 Rapid Reviews; 57% male, 43% female. This is in line with national figures, where males are the most common gender at 55%.

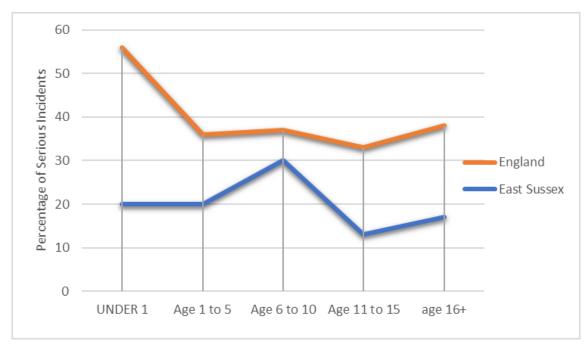
When under 1s and 1 year olds are combined they represent 30% of all children considered within rapid reviews in East Sussex. This age group featured predominately due to



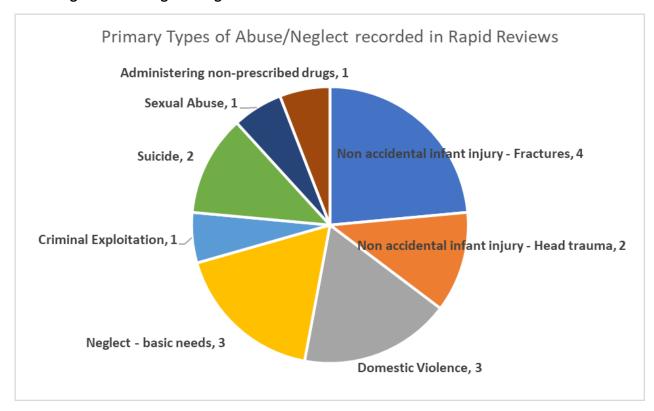
experiencing non-accidental injuries, such as fractures and abusive head trauma. This is in keeping with the national picture which also shows a predominance of infants under 1 amongst children involved in serious incidents notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (35% of 456 children notified 2022/23)



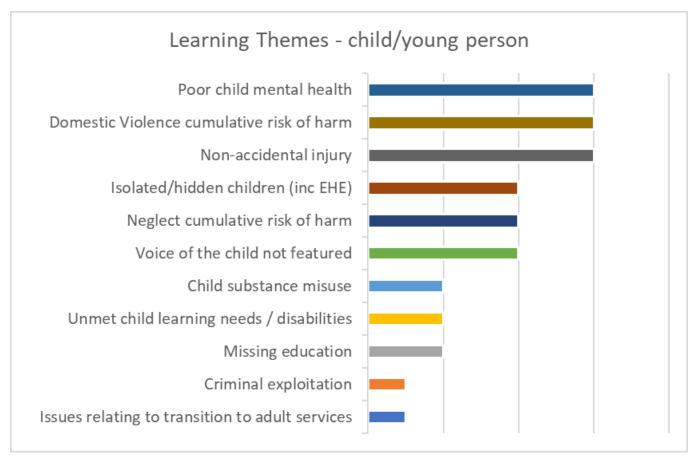
The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Serious Incident Notification Statistics (May 2023) breaks age down into five categories. Over the same time period, the highest age category for England is under 1's (36%), whereas in East Sussex it is age 6-10 year olds (30%). This is due to three Rapid Reviews in 2021/22 in East Sussex that involved the neglect of three large sibling groups.

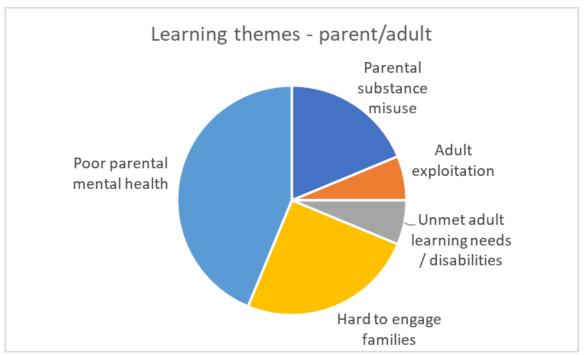


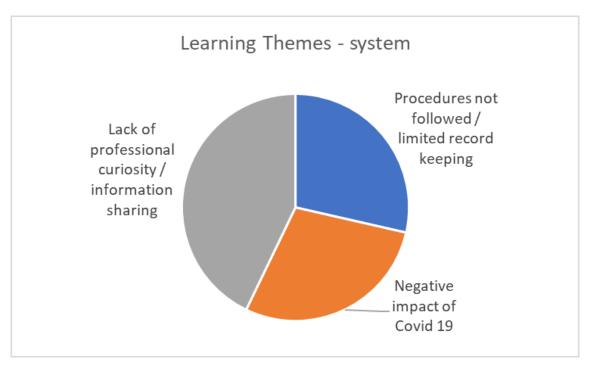
When the East Sussex rapid reviews are analysed by the primary types of abuse and/or neglect known in the family at the point of notification of the serious incident, non-accidental infant injuries (fractures and/or head trauma) featured in 6 of the cases; followed by neglect (3) and domestic violence (3). However, most cases involved complex families with multiple factors contributing to the safeguarding risk to the child/children.



Each Rapid Review and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review can result in a number of key themes for learning. The tables below show the breadth of learning themes captured across the reviews undertaken since October 2019:







The five most commonly occurring learning themes in Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews are:

- Poor or unmanaged parental mental health
- Poor or unmanaged child mental health
- Fatal and non-fatal non-accidental fractures and head trauma injuries in under 2 year olds
- The cumulative risk of domestic violence
- Inadequate professional curiosity and information sharing between agencies

## **6.2 Quality Assurance Audits**

The QA subgroup held **four audits** during 2022/23: a Pan Sussex audit on safeguarding children who were electively home educated; an audit on multi-agency response to the identification of initial need and risk, using the <u>Joint Targeted Area Inspection criteria</u>; a 'deep dive' audit of two cases of Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) which occurred in school settings; and an 'appreciative inquiry' style audit into engagement of fathers and male carers in safeguarding practice.

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 <u>Quality Assurance Group - ESSCP</u>. QA audit reports and one page learning summaries are now routinely 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.

#### Key learning included:

- The vital work schools do to safeguard children.
- ✓ The need for clear communication between the Police and key professionals when there are investigations following incidences of HSB in schools. This will allow schools to better understand and manage these complex situations.

- ✓ Training and support are crucial elements when dealing with HSB. Working collaboratively, sharing challenges, expertise and resources is incredibly beneficial when managing risk and safeguarding children.
- ✓ The importance for SWIFT and SARC involvement when a case involves HSB, so they consult and share resources with professionals.
- Professionals to challenge if not all statutory agencies are present at a Strategy Discussion.
- Challenging the myth that male workers are needed to engage fathers/male carers.
- Challenging unconscious bias around labelling father/male carers as a risk or perpetrators, and the impact this has on relationship building with the adults and outcomes for the child.

Further details on the ESSCP QA audits in 2022/23 can be found in the assurance section of this report. Following are examples of actions taken in response to learning arising from audits:

- highlighted to a range of professionals and agencies how safeguarding EHE children is everyone's responsibility, and the difficulties that services sometimes face when safeguarding EHE children. In most cases, education settings act as a protective factor in children's lives. Being in school increases the visibility of children and enables professionals with expertise in safeguarding to refer to other agencies as needed. Children who do not attend school often become hidden and the risks to their welfare are harder to observe. As a result, the Independent Chair and scrutineer of the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships wrote to the National Safeguarding Panel and Secretary of State for Education, to share the learning from the review. The letter highlighted the lead safeguarding partner's concerns that the Government indicated that they will not be progressing the 'Schools Bill', which proposed the requirement for a statutory register of children who are EHE.
- The audit of the 'front door' highlighted the need to review the referral pathway for ensuring timely cSARC (child sexual assault referral centre) engagement in cases where sexual abuse is suspected or known. In collaboration between SARC, East Sussex MASH and the ICB Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, it was agreed that for new referrals the MASH Health lead will provide the initial liaison with SARC. In cases where SARC do not feel there is a further role for them they will provide advice to MASH Health, which will be shared at the strategy meeting and added to the assessment plan.
- Learning arising from the Harmful Sexual Behaviours audit and the HSB Task & Finish
  group was promoted at the 'super' Designated Safeguarding Lead network for schools.
  This was presented in collaboration with the education safeguarding team, SWIFT and
  Sussex Police. This was attended by over 100 schools and colleges.

### 6.3 ESSCP Learning & Improvement Framework

The ESSCP Learning and & Improvement Framework was refreshed in 2021/22, with additional chapters on how the partnership uses 'Independent Scrutiny' and the 'Voice of the Child' to learn and improve local practice. The refreshed framework includes a stronger focus on how

learning will be disseminated and how partners will review and evaluate the impact learning has on practice. Following on from the framework, during 2022/23 the ESSCP has:

- Produced a public response to the two published LCSPRs (Child AA and Thematic Review), in order to achieve better transparency about how the partnership is responding to and learning from reviews.
- ✓ Delivered four lunchtime briefing sessions on learning from reviews. In total, over 200 staff across the workforce have attended these presentations on key themes and learning from LCSPRs.
- ✓ Delivered two 'evidencing impact' events with front-line practitioners and managers, including those involved in the original case, on the 'Child T' Serious Case Review (published in 2019) and a themed event on Infant Injury, which included the Child W and Child V SCRs. The events considered how the review impacted on practice and outcomes for children and families. More details can be found in the 'evidence' section of this report.
- Developed a Scrutiny Plan, which is monitored and steered by the ESSCP Planning Group, to ensure that the partnership is appropriately responding to national, and reoccurring local, safeguarding learning.

#### 6.4 ESSCP Learning Strategy

The work of the ESSCP Learning and Development sub group is to ensure that East Sussex workforce and volunteers working with children, young people and/or adults who are parents/carers are provided with appropriate and effective multi-agency training to meet their needs, and that practice is underpinned with appropriate policies and procedures. The L&D Subgroup operated and discharged its functions in line with the ESSCP Learning Strategy (2020), which ensures that the ESSCP has a clear and shared vision as to the priorities for safeguarding learning and training and how this will be achieved. The Strategy aims are 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.

## 6.5 ESSCP Training Programme

The ESSCP Learning and Development (L&D) Subgroup resumed several classroom-based training courses for Safeguarding Children Partnership partners in April 2022. As interest in the virtual sessions continues to be positive and, for shorter courses more cost effective, the future training programme will include virtual as well as classroom-based courses.

In September 2022 the East Sussex Learning Portal (ESLP) reverted to a temporary 'manual' system, due to the company who provided the existing Learning Portal going into liquidation. Consequently, the number of training courses offered during 2022/2023 (42) is lower than those offered during 2021/22 (63). The County Council Workforce Development Team worked incredibly hard to get a new booking system quickly into place to minimise the impact on the training programme.

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, 42 training courses ran with 552 participants from a range of agencies attended, which equates to 68% attendance rate. A large majority of participants continue to rate courses as either Excellent (66%) or Good (33%).

New ESSCP courses were introduced from June 2022 onwards: DASH, MARAC, and Safety Planning; Professional Curiosity and Professional Challenge within a Safeguarding Context and Working with Parents Effectively: Enabling Staff to deal with Difficult or Evasive Behaviour. The latter two being areas highlighted in recommendations in both local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Contextual Safeguarding in East Sussex - the Local Context and Trauma-Informed approaches to working with Families in a Multi-Professional Context have also been introduced during 2022/23. The latter benefits from input from 'Experts by Experience' and this is reflected in positive evaluation comments.

From April 2023 onwards new courses planned include *Equalities*, *Diversity and Inclusive Practice*, *Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People* and a relaunch of the revised Neglect Toolkit and Neglect Matrix, and associated training.

## 7. Impact of Partnership Activity

This section aims to convey the impact of multi-agency and partnership activity on practice and outcomes for children and families.

**Child AA LCSPR** recommendations gave 3 areas of delivery focus.

- **Disruption** quarterly highlight reports from the Serious Organised Crime Unit are now shared at MACE strategic. At a MACE operational level, the Police single agency escalation meeting was reviewed to ensure appropriate information sharing with partners at a client level.
- Education embedded Education Review Meetings (ERMs) and development of the new Inclusion Partnerships (IPs) to discuss children of concern.
- Transition a new Head of Service for LD and transitions has been appointed and holds the lead on this agenda. The Under 25's SMS is now receiving referrals for young people who use substances and are involved in criminal exploitation.

Following the Child X LCSPR, the tertiary hospital made significant changes to the trust wide safeguarding policy for documenting safeguarding concerns to coroners, introduced safeguarding supervision for the bereavement team and weekly meetings with the legal and safeguarding teams to ensure the cross referencing of cases.

The Child W LCSPR raised concerns regarding the collection of Kennedy Samples at an out of county hospital site.

As a result, a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Child Death Process in the Event of Unexpected Death Before 18th Birthday was developed across the entire acute hospital Trust.

Evidencing Impact Event - Child T SCR (2018) Child T died in hospital, at the age of 18, due to complications caused by his Type 1 diabetes. Practice change identified since the review:

- Improved knowledge and understanding (especially in schools) about life-limiting health conditions, and in particular how neglect of these conditions is a safeguarding issue.
- Improved identification and assessment of medical neglect safeguarding concerns, including clearer recurrent 'did not attend/was not brought' pathways.
- Development of transitions pathways and lead practitioners in health agencies.
- A greater focus across 'the system' on relationship based and trauma informed practice.

**Evidencing Impact Event - Infant Injury:** Event incorporated Child V and Child W SCRs (2019) and three Rapid Reviews (2020), all involving non-accidental injuries to babies. Practice change identified since the review:

- Improved information sharing across Health landscape, in particular between midwifery and health visiting.
- Increased professional knowledge and understanding of the vulnerability of infants, including increased awareness of ICON, safer sleeping messages, and indicators of nonaccidental injuries.
- Improved engagement of fathers and other male carers, recognising there is still more to do.
- Improved culture of professional challenge.
- Embedded culture of 'corporate grandparenting'.
- Introduction of 'health' to MASH arrangements.

# Safeguarding in Education priority impact:

Two preventative curriculum and Theatre In Education projects developed and delivered in partnership with Public Health.

Revised HSB Protocol, new screening tool and intervention packages shared with all education settings.

Pan-Sussex Unexpected Death toolkit and suicide awareness training rolled out for schools and colleges.

# Multi-Agency Child Exploitation priority impact:

Disruption and Education - The introduction of Education Review Meetings has resulted in education improvements for 22/23 MACE cases, and it is envisaged that the opportunity for schools to refer their concerns at a lower threshold of risk via the new Inclusion Partnership meetings will result in more timely intervention for pupils and avoid the non-attendance or exclusion profiles identified within this cohort during previous case audits.

# Safeguarding under 5s priority impact:

Improving practice and practice knowledge - the ESSCP has introduced 'light bite' sessions on safeguarding under ones, with the aim of increasing the number and range of professionals with safeguarding knowledge in this area. The sessions focus on increasing awareness and understanding of ICON, safer sleeping advice, and risk of injury and abuse of infants, including indicators to look out for. The course has been such a success it is planned to be implemented across Sussex.



#### Collaboration Against Child Exploitation (CACE)

project is a service offer developed in partnership with parents who have 'lived experience' of exploitation. CACE includes an open access six week educational programme and monthly parent led self-support groups. There are ongoing service consultations with parents accessing CACE to ensure that delivery remains focused and targeted.

"I was so scared to come along to the course & felt I would be judged. How wrong was I!!! I never spoke to anyone outside the home ... but at the group after a week I felt totally comfortable to speak out as I did not feel alone. The MACE workers are so approachable & never once did I feel judged".

"That we are not alone with our experiences and there are people we can speak to with advice or share experiences. Everyone was so lovely and supportive".

**Voice of the child -** Direct and indirect activity undertaken by the partnership includes:

- Each Board/Steering report is asked to consider how work is informed by the voice of child.
- Children involved in recruitment of Chair and Lay Members.
- Agency challenge and participation of care experienced young people in Section 11 scrutiny process.
- Childs view (and family) sought as part of case review process.
- Oversight of agency activity capturing children's views, such as Public Health My health My School survey.

#### What Children and Young People want from services:

Practitioners who are consistent, open, honest and genuine. Encouragement to express their views and not asking to repeat their story. To advocate on their behalf. Better help with mental health. Smoother transition between services.

#### 8. 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 2022/23 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. The approach of the Chair is to act as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection and continuous improvement and to provide support to that improvement. This included:
  - Reviewing and endorsing the recommendation to conduct one Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) arising from three serious safeguarding incidents;
  - o Requesting assurance from the lead safeguarding partners that appropriate processes are in place, as highlighted in the <u>National Child Safeguarding Panel</u> review of the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.
  - Raising concerns with agencies regarding participation in Child Protection
     Conferences and requesting agencies consider their responsibilities.
  - Overseeing the development of a partnership 'Scrutiny Plan' providing an overview for lead partners on key areas of challenge to multi-agency working and progress with responding to national learning.
- In addition to the Independent Chair, three 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, one Lay Member is a standing member of the SCP Case Review Group (CRG), and Lay Members are involved in the panel meetings for all LCSPRs. Their role has been critical at CRG, via the rapid review process and subsequent LCSPR process, in advocating the voice of the child. In 2022/23 the ESSCP recruited two new Lay Members (as two left the role in Summer 2022).

"I have now been a lay member of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership for five years. During that time I have learned much and been consistently impressed by the dedication of staff from all agencies and organisations involved, particularly given the difficult circumstances of the last few years. There is excellent collaboration and no sign of a destructive cycle of defensiveness. People challenge and take challenge with respect and openness while remaining focused on children and their families.

One of the key functions of the Partnership is to provide training and to disseminate learning, both from reviews and more generally. Training is very well received, and the learning briefings are clear and widely distributed. However, I have been most impressed by the focus on the impact of these activities. Information and training are of no use unless they influence behaviour and change practice in such a way that the outcomes for children and their families are improved. The Partnership continues to strive to find ways of assessing impact and using this understanding to do things differently and so contribute to reducing the chance of children and young people coming to harm. This is also true in terms of how the Partnership supports improvements in safeguarding within organisations. They are not content with a tick box approach but look for ways to encourage reflective thinking and mutual challenge. None of this is easy but the Partnership shows no sign of giving up and I expect it to continue to make progress next year" Harriet Martin

"Although I have only been a Lay Member of the ESSCP for a short time, during this time I have witnessed some great examples of partnership working and found all partners to be truly dedicated to safeguarding children. Although much progress has been made, it is disappointing that "Safeguarding Under 5s" was not retained as a priority for the Partnership, as evidence shows the continued vulnerability of this age group. I have found the breadth and scope of the partnership training to be excellent". Nick Porter

"I joined the ESSCP as a lay member because I wanted to make a contribution to safeguarding children across the county. What I have found is a partnership full of highly specialised, committed professionals from a range of backgrounds who collaborate with care to promote good practice in safeguarding children against a very difficult backdrop.

There is a great deal of high level training to support the partnership and the communication is detailed and sensitive. What has struck me about the partnership is the high level of commitment and collaboration between professionals driven by shared goals and values who bring a great deal of safeguarding experience to a range of projects which have a real impact on children and their families across the county." Anne Moynihan

- The QA Subgroup reviews the 'ESSCP Performance Dashboard' on a quarterly basis. The dashboard includes 60 performance indicators which are presented by: impact of multiagency 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 2022/23, performance indicators escalated by QA included:
  - Indicator 25/26 (penetrative and non-penetrative sexual offences against children): was escalated at Steering to consider the sustained increase in sexual offences recorded against children. Further investigation by the East Sussex Safeguarding Investigation Unit (Sussex Police) suggested that the increase in offences was, in part, due to an increase in awareness and reporting. The Steering

- Group noted that the Police are dealing with more non-penetrative offences that have occurred in schools which are now referred to the Police, where previously schools may have dealt with these in house. Subsequently, the QA subgroup held a deep dive audit on 'harmful sexual behaviour', on two cases that occurred in school settings, to better understand multi-agency working in this context.
- Indicator 45/46 (CAMHS completed within target timescales) was escalated to Steering as the proportion of assessments within 4 weeks continued to be low over recent quarterly monitoring. The Service Manager for CAMHS explained that reporting on wait times had changed in 2022 if a young person does not attend a planned appointment, this does not stop the waiting time clock (as it did previously). The robust SPFT 'Child Not Brought' (CNB) policy, to address potential safeguarding concerns around a young person not being brought to appointments, means that CAMHS will offer further appointments and proactive contact attempts, until the service has had direct contact with a young person and family for assessment. This means that some young people offered an initial appointment within 4 weeks may be waiting more than 5 months in total. The Service Manager noted that the CNB rate can be as high as 40% at initial appointment, resulting in high re-booking levels, delays in assessment and inefficiency costs. A project to reduce missed initial appointments was in place.
- The QA subgroup held four audits during 2022/23:

Safeguarding children who are **electively home educated** was chosen as a Pan Sussex audit theme given the significant increase in numbers, since the COVID-19 pandemic, across all areas of Sussex. The purpose of the audit was to understand how individual agencies respond to need and risk of vulnerable EHE children, and how agencies work together, including with local authority EHE teams, to safeguard children who are EHE. The audit was a useful tool to highlight, to a range of professionals and agencies, how safeguarding EHE children is everyone's responsibility and the difficulties that services sometimes face when safeguarding EHE children.

A key theme arising from the audit was the effectiveness of all Sussex EHE teams in terms of multi-agency communication, joint working, and participation in multi-agency safeguarding meetings. While there was some good evidence of direct work with the child/family, the challenge of seeing the child alone, or at all, meant that the child's voice, and understanding of their lived experience, was missing in too many of the audited cases, this was compounded by the constraints of EHE legislation that does not require parents to engage with services around EHE. The audit also highlighted there were examples of professional's variable understanding of when a safeguarding referral should be made in respect of educational neglect and/or educational neglect was not given sufficient weight within assessments and decision making.

Following the publication of the *National Review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson*, partners agreed to hold an audit on the 'front door' in September 2022. The objective of the audit was to get a view on the system and evaluate how effectively individual agencies identify and respond to need and risk, how timely and effective the multi-agency response is, and the impact of responses to safeguard children and in improving outcomes for the child.

The key theme emerging from the audit was the impact of capacity issues, across all agencies, on the timeliness of response to referrals. Whilst the most acute cases received a timely response through the front door, some cases presenting with lower risk were delayed in being allocated. Information sharing at the front door appeared strong, with roles, responsibilities, and thresholds well understood and embedded. Several cases also identified issues around the strategy discussion process, around either the initial identification of strategy discussion threshold being met, or quoracy and multi-agency representation at the meeting itself.

This multi-agency audit provided a valuable opportunity to take stock of areas of strength and areas of development requiring focus. It was evident through the process that there is an embedded understanding across the agencies of thresholds, importance of information sharing, timely referrals and focus on the child's experience. Recommendations in response to the audit learning have been taken forward, including:

- The appointment to the newly established post, *Strategic Lead for MASH*, *Assessment and Safeguarding* offers additional management and leadership capacity to oversee and develop further the effectiveness of the 'front door'.
- Ensuring quoracy at strategy discussions, and continued promotion of the 'Statement of Professional Differences' procedure in strategy discussions to support multi-agency challenge.
- Multi-agency MASH practice development sessions commenced in January 2023, involving health, social care and Police, focusing on front door actions and threshold decision.
- Continuing drive to ensure MASH resource meets demand: the MASH has seen a
  continued increase in demand over the past few years with a 21% increase in contacts
  coming into MASH in 2023/23 compared to 2020/21. MASH capacity is a regular item on the
  ESSCP Risk Register, which is owned by the three safeguarding lead partners. To mitigate
  the pressure on MASH;
  - Additional Saturday MASH sessions have been implemented when demand requires additional capacity.
  - Revised guidance has been launched to improve efficiency in MASH with regards to case recording, through succinct summarising of history, checks and decision making.
  - Additional Practice Manager capacity has been added to the East MASH and DAT.
     There has been successful recruitment of experienced social workers into recently vacated posts. Additional Practice Manager capacity in the West MASH is being recruited to.
  - Both MASH Teams continue to benefit from having dedicated Health representatives (in post in the Teams since June 2022). This is considered essential to the MASH approach and significantly strengthens partnership approach to safeguarding.
  - Police have increased their capacity by 0.6 FTE and are working towards continuous and consistent office presence across both MASH's.
- Continuing recruitment drive for health visitors and continuing focus on staffing within the
  Duty and Assessment Teams to address issues of timeliness in completion of assessments.
  Assessment timescales have significantly improved across 2023 to date.
- Ensuring the unallocated work protocol to maintain management oversight on unallocated cases in the MASH and Duty and Assessment Teams is robustly applied. Subsequent audits have evidenced the unallocated work protocol to be embedded.
- To maintain a view on the system and evaluate the effectiveness of the front door, there is a programme of twice yearly auditing of the front door, led by social care and including MASH Health. The last audit was completed in March 2023, which evidenced an overall improvement in the response to MASH referrals through the processing of MIGs, the

allocation and completion of timely Family Assessments, and strategy discussions being convened promptly. An additional quality assurance mechanism involves weekly audits of MASH episodes exceeding timescales.

The QA subgroup held a 'deep dive' audit of two cases of Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The purpose of the audit was to better understand multi-agency working in response to allegations of harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), which have occurred in a school setting, and to test the impact of work resulting from the ESSCP Task & Finish Group on HSB. It was agreed that a 'deep dive' audit approach would work well, where two cases were looked at in detail with front-line professionals and managers. One case occurred in a secondary school setting and the second case occurred in a primary school setting.

The common theme of the audit was the challenge schools face between managing risk and safeguarding of children, and this impact this has on the wider school community. All agencies attending felt they had a better understanding of how these types of incidences can impact on a community and how they can support schools to provide timely information to manage the situation. There was some excellent good practice identified in terms of school safety planning and multi-agency working.

The findings of the audit were shared at the schools DSL supernetwork meeting in January 2023, noting how seriously this issue is viewed across the partnership and recognition of the difficulties for schools in managing these types of situations.

QA subgroup held an appreciative style audit on the theme of 'Unseen Men', which focused on the engagement of fathers and other male carers in safeguarding work. Unseen men has been an ongoing area of focus for the partnership, given the learning both locally and nationally on how male partners and carers often go 'unseen' by services engaged with children. This includes learning from a number of local children safeguarding practice reviews and audit findings (engagement of fathers, partners and other male carers is a standard component of all ESSCP QA audits).

The QA group agreed that a powerful way to capture and audit work in this area would be to hold an 'appreciative' style audit, where ten safeguarding cases were selected, where there was good engagement of males: either where they posed a risk to the child and successful engagement by services reduced that risk and/or they were successfully engaged to ensure the child was protected/nurtured. The approach was positively received by front-line practitioners and managers and provides a basis for sharing learning on 'what works' rather than what isn't working.

The key theme arising from the session was that the skills to engage fathers/male carers are the same skills used to engage mothers, and challenging the myth that only male workers can engage fathers/male carers successfully. Learning also included giving due regard to significant males in all assessment and planning, especially when they have parental responsibility; challenging unconscious bias around labelling fathers/male carers as a risk or perpetrators, and the impact this has on relationship building with the adult and outcomes for the child; and tailoring the support which is on offer when what's offered doesn't 'fit'.

 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, the Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report, regular monitoring of key performance information in the ESSCPs quarterly dashboard, and via the Section 11 process. In particular, the Steering Group have scrutinised the management of the increased number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children placed in the county.

- The Partnership has a key role in evaluating the effectiveness of early help services it does this via the regular monitoring of key performance information in the ESSCPs quarterly dashboard.
- In 2022/23 the ESSCP, along with Brighton & Hove SCP and West Sussex SCP, held its seventh bi-annual 'section 11' audit. All organisations represented on the ESSCP were requested to complete a self-assessment and provide evidence of how they comply with s11, of the Children Act 2004, when carrying out their day-to-day business. The audit provides an indication of how well organisations are working to keep children safe. The 2022 section 11 audit was framed more as an 'improvement' tool, rather than simply demonstrating compliance with the standards, with agencies encouraged to rate themselves as amber where improvement could be identified. Peer Challenge events are organised for summer 2023, include a Pan Sussex peer challenge event in June, a challenge event in July for ESCC teams, and a further peer challenge event for the district and borough councils. An action plan has been developed for the top ten lowest rated standards which is overseen by the Learning & Development Subgroup.
- The Annual Schools Safeguarding Audit Report (s175) was presented to the ESSCP Board for scrutiny and challenge in October 2022. 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 100% of state funded schools returning their audit. A bespoke audit tool for independent schools, which aligns with the Independent School Inspection Framework, has been developed to increase engagement with the audit process from the independent sector. The audit provides all schools with a robust framework against which they can evaluate their practice and identify areas for development as necessary and the data gathered by SLES Safeguarding, through having the audits returned to them, informs the ongoing development of guidance, training and support to schools. For the current academic year SLES Safeguarding have developed a tool for school governors to use, which will support their scrutiny and challenge of safeguarding practice and will facilitate some deeper thinking around practice. This in turn will strengthen the integrity of the self-assessment process.
- Other examples of assurance work undertaken include:
  - ✓ Health Visitor numbers and service capacity has been a regular item at the ESSCP Steering, Planning and Board during 2022/23. Over the past year, the service continues to experience high vacancy rates with implications on the capacity of the service to identify safeguarding concerns with the families on their caseloads and provide support to prevent concerns escalating. Lead Safeguarding Partners have closely monitored the situation, ensuring all relevant agencies are aware of the impact of the situation, and agreeing strategies to reduce and mitigate safeguarding risks. In January 2023 the lead partners agreed to establish a multi-agency Task & Finish Group to review the ability

- of health visiting services to deliver antenatal review and attend statutory meetings in the long term.
- √ (Oct 22) Scrutiny at Board of the report from the Manager at Lansdowne 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 the unit's approaches to managing behaviour, episodes of single separation and use of restraint. The effective relationships between staff and the children and young people were evident, with staff able to use support strategies in response to incidents, resulting in positive interventions and a further decline in physical interventions over the course of the year. The homes relationshipbased trauma informed care has led to the stabilisation of children's behaviours, and in most cases, this has led to the successful development and positive progress of children. The home was inspected by Ofsted in December 2022 and received a 'Good' judgement. From February 2023 the unit was temporarily closed due to ongoing challenges regarding staff recruitment, resulting in only being able to utilise a small proportion of the places in the unit. The unit is undergoing a review and redesign of the staffing structure and developing an enhanced recruitment strategy to allow a resilient and sustainable service in the future. The unit is due to re-open in November 2023.

## 9. Appendices

## **9.A Safeguarding Context**

Impact of multi-agency working			
Family contacts (to SPOA and other excluding MASH)	1	The total number of contacts is up 5% on last year (17,798 compared to 17,011) however the increase is not as steep as the previous year (29%).	
Information gatherings by Multi- agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	1	The number of multi-agency information gathering (MIG's) also increased by 8% (21,181 compared the 19,572 in the previous year).	
Referrals to statutory social care	<b>\</b>	In 2022/23 the number of referrals to statutory social care was 6% down from last year (4018 compared to 4,169) but still higher than 2020/21.	
สารivately Fostered children เดื เว	<b>\</b>	Following a peak at 80 in summer 2022, the number of Privately Fostered children fell to 35 at the end of 2022/23. This is lower than the number at the end 2021/22.	
Children supported by statutory services			
Children with a child protection plan	1	The number of CP plans has continued to rise throughout 2022/23 to a peak of 691 at the end of March 2023. This is 29% higher than in March 2022 (536).	
Looked After Children	1	The number of looked after children has increased (6%) to 664 at the end of March 2023, compared to 628 at the end of March 2022. This is partly driven by the increase in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.	
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	1	There were 73 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in East Sussex at the end of March 2023, higher than at the same in March 2022 (57).	
Young people at high risk of child exploitation	1	There were 22 children within the SAFER cohort at the end of March 2023: 12 at high risk and a further 8 at amber level of risk. This is higher than the March 2022 figure of 18 active cases.	

Sexual offences against children	1	The number of sexual offences (penetrative and non-penetrative) has increased over the past year, from a total of 542 in 2021/22 to 570 in 2021/22. This continues the trend seen over the past few years.
Children with family related vulne	erabiliti	es
Children living with domestic violence (MARAC)	1	There were 128 cases reviewed by MARAC at the of March 2023 compared to 83 at the end of March 2022. There was a total of 206 children in households of cases held by MARAC at the end of March 2023.
Vulnerable young carers	<b>+</b>	There were 328 children's social care assessments completed in 2022/23 where a young carer was identified as a factor, this is a decrease compared to 371 in the previous year.
Children educated at home	1	1514 children were recorded as being electively home educated at the end of March 2023, compared to 1358 at the same point in 2021.
Children with health related vulne	erabiliti	ies
Children with disabilities with a Child Protection Plan	1	At the end of March 2022 there were 22 children with disabilities with a child protection plan. This represents an average of 3% of all CP plans compared to 4% at the end of 2021/22.
hildren attending A&E due to Gelf-harm பே	1	692 children in 2022/23 attended A&E in East Sussex hospitals due to deliberate self-harm, an increase from 612 the previous year.
Referrals to child mental health services	$\leftrightarrow$	A total of 3607 new CAMHS referrals were received in 2022/23, slightly lower than the previous year, but still continuing the significant upward trend seen since 2021.
Children whose actions place the	m at risl	k
Missing episodes	1	There were a total of 2083 missing episodes in 2022/23, a 48% increase on the previous 2021/22 figure of 1404.
Births to under-18 year olds	1	Awaiting Qtr. 3 & 4 data. There were 11 live births in East Sussex hospitals to children under the age of 18 in the first half of 2022/23.
Young people entering the youth justice system	<b>+</b>	62 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time in 2022/23 compared to 100 in 2021/22.
Young people held overnight in Police custody	$\leftrightarrow$	There were only 11 occasions of young people being held overnight in Police custody in 2022/23, the same as in 2021/22

## 9.B: Board Membership - up to March 2023

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Chris Robson (Chair)	Independent East Sussex SCP Chair
Louise MacQuire-Plows	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Victoria Jones	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Harriet Martin	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Anne Moynihan	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Jacqueline Muntzer	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP (to July .22)
Nick Pointer	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Maxine Nankervis	Partnership Support Officer, East Sussex SCP

Domenica Basini	Asst. Dir. for Safeguarding & Quality, NHS England (to April .22)
Gail Gowland	Head of Safeguarding (Adults and Children), East Sussex Healthcare Trust
Gareth Knowles	SECAmb Trust Safeguarding Lead, Clinical Supervisor
Jackie Dyer	NHS England and NHS Improvement - South
(Job Share, LT)	
Jayne Bruce	Deputy Chief Nurse, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
Jo Tomlinson	Assistant Head of Safeguarding Children/Designated Nurse, NHS Sussex
Judith Sakala	Named GP for Child Safeguarding, NHS Sussex
Lynne Torpey	NHS England and NHS Improvement - South
(Job Share, JD)	
Martin Ryan	Named Nurse/Associate Director Safeguarding Children
Michael Brown	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, NHS Sussex
Naomi Ellis	Director of Safeguarding & Clinical Standards, NHS Sussex
Sergio Lopez-Gutierrez	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children for NHS Sussex
Tracey Ward	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, NHS Sussex
(Deputy Chair)	
Vikki Carruth	Director of Nursing, ESHT

Andrea Holtham	Service Manager, Sussex CAFCASS (to July .22)
Dave Springett	Detective Superintendent, Public Protection, Sussex Police
David Kemp	Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Debbie Knight	Head of East Sussex Probation Delivery Unit
James Collis	Chief Superintendent, Sussex Police
Jon Hull	D/Sup Sussex Police (to July .22)
Kate Kirwan	Service Mngr, Sussex Children & Family Court Advisory Support Service CAFCASS

Annabel Hodge	Dir. Of Safeguarding, Bede's Senior School
Kate Bishop	Rotherfield Primary (to Jan.23)
Richard Green	Deputy Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School

Richard Preece	Executive Head teacher, Torfield & Saxon Mount Federation
Alison Jeffery	Director of Children's Services
Amanda Glover	Operations Manager, ESCC
Ben Brown	Consultant, Public Health, ESCC
Bob Bowdler, Cllr	Lead Member for Children and Families
Catherine Dooley	Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness (5-19), Children's Services
Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services
Fraser Cooper	Head of Safeguarding Adults
Justine Armstrong	Safer Communities Manager, ESCC
Kathy Marriott	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services
Lucy Spencer	Safeguarding Adults Board Development Manager
Rachel Doran	Legal & Coroner Services Manager, ESCC
Vicky Finnemore	Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services

Charlotte O'Callaghan	Senior Policy Officer, Wealden District Council (Maternity Leave)
David Plank	Director, Child + Adult Safeguarding, Wealdon District Council
Jeremy Leach	Principal Policy Adviser, Wealden District Council (to Oct.22)
Malcolm Johnston	Executive Director for Resources, Rother District Council (to March .23)
Peter Hill	Policy Officer, Wealden District Council, Wealdon District Council
Seanne Sweaney	Strategy and Corporate Projects Officer, Lewes DC and Eastbourne BC
Verna Connolly	Head of Personnel & Organisational Development, Hastings Borough Council

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

#### ESSCP - Actual Income and Expenditure 2022/23:

Income 2022/23		Area of Spend	Confirmed Expenditure
Sussex Police	£35,000	Independent Chair	£23,500
NHS Sussex	£53,400	Business Manager(s) & Administrator	£115,327
East Sussex County Council	£124,500	Administration	£1,535
Training Income	£5,508	Learning & Development Consultant	£59,268
ESSCP brought forward from 2021/22	£23,855	Training Programme and Conferences	£6,933
		Projects (QA and Data support)	£16,533
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£7,031
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,368
		Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£7,717
		cfwd (balancing fig)	£3,051*
Total	£242,263		£242,263

<sup>\*</sup>The £3,051 carry forward is due to ongoing review author activity initiated in 2022/23, therefore this amount is already allocated to known safeguarding review expenditure.

#### Projected Expenditure for 2023/24:

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES	Details	Forecast
Independent Chair	Based on 26 days	£26,269
Business Managers	Inc. travel allowance, not inc. 23/24 pay award	£94,366
Administrator	Not inc. 23/24 pay award	£24,001
Administration	Includes; TASP membership, Mobile phones/laptop cards, Board/Steering/QA deep dive venue cost once a year, ESSCP website and Misc. Admin costs	£5,229
Learning & Development Consultant	Inc. travel allowance, not inc. 23/24 pay award	£59,886
Training Programme and Conferences	Multi-agency Training Programme external training delivery and venue costs	£13,197
QA & Data Support	QA Dashboard and Quality Assurance support (£12,500)	£16,500
Pan Sussex Procedures	PSP Co-ordinator role and website contribution	£7,310
IT Software & Hardware	Misc. IT costs	£250
Safeguarding Practice Reviews	Includes activity already undertaken on current reviews, 1 x LCSPR and 1 x Evidencing Impact event	£10,050

#### 9.D Links to other documents

#### CDOP annual reports - Sussex Health and Care (ics.nhs.uk)

The 2021/22 Annual Report from the Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) was presented at the ESSCP Board in October 2022. Through the process of reviewing child deaths, CDOP identified several matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area as well as wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area. Key learning and recommendations from the reviews completed during 2021/22 included:

- ✓ Extensive thematic suicide panel learning
- Deaths from road collisions overseas
- Medical management of SEN children who are unable to describe their symptoms
- Senior clinical oversight providing safe effective care and ensuring that parental concerns are listened to and given appropriate weight
- ✓ Smoking cessation support offered to all in the households of pregnant mothers
- ✓ Importance of eliciting from mother the amount and frequency of alcohol being consumed during pregnancy
- ✓ Importance of sharing information between professionals, particularly where separate record systems do not support the effective sharing of information

#### East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy

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 taken into account 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. To enable us to do this over the next three years the strategy will focus 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.

#### East Sussex Children and Young Peoples Plan

The Children and Young People's Plan (the CYP Plan) is the ten-year ambition for partners in the <u>Children and Young People's Trust.</u>

The CYP Plan shows how partners in the Children and Young People's Trust work together to improve outcomes for children and young people. It focuses on those who are vulnerable to poor outcomes.

#### 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 2020-23

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership undertakes a strategic assessment of community safety every three years with an annual refresh in order 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 Adult Board Strategic Plan 2021-24

The ESSCP works closely with the SAB on the overlapping themes of Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, and Cuckooing. The two boards are also collaborating on a needs analysis for the cohort of 18 to 25 year olds who may be at risk of exploitation to identify any current gaps in service provision.

#### East Sussex Youth Cabinet

The Youth Cabinet members are young people aged 11 to 18 years old. They are elected to represent the views of young people in East Sussex. Members of the Youth Cabinet gather the views of young people through:

- surveys
- workshops
- events
- creative consultation

## 9.E Acronyms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
AMH	Adult Mental Health
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
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
СҮРТ	Children and Young People Trust
DAT	Duty and Assessment Team
DfE	Department for Education
EET	Education, Employment, or Training
EHE	Electively Home Educated
ESFRS	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
ESHT	East Sussex Health Trust
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
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
NPS	National Probation Service
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



## Agenda Item 6

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25 September 2023

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Purpose: To review and discuss the People Scrutiny Committee's future work

programme

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee is recommended to:

1) review and agree the latest work programme set out at Appendix 1;

2) review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's Forward Plan as set out at Appendix 2 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

2.1 The Committee's latest work programme is attached at Appendix 1, incorporating a number of updates including those outlined below. The Committee is asked to consider, discuss and agree the work programme, subject to any further changes required.

#### Scrutiny Reviews

#### School Exclusions

- 2.2 The Review into School Exclusions is underway. Review meetings are considering evidence around preventative strategies, work with early help and education services, appropriate responses to children at risk, the role of governors and council messaging.
- 2.3 The Board has agreed a planned timeline to report to the Committee in November 2023 which is reflected in the attached work programme.

#### School Attendance

2.4 The Committee heard at their 2021 work planning awayday that overall school absence and persistent absence rates across East Sussex are high, when compared to national and

statistical neighbours. A scoping board meeting was held in March 2022 and the Board agreed that although the subject was appropriate for a Scrutiny Review, as so much of the current situation regarding school absence rates in East Sussex was related to the ongoing impact of, and disruption from, the coronavirus pandemic, it was too early for the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of school attendance.

- 2.5 The Board therefore agreed that the review should commence in 2023 when we expect to have a clearer sense of the long-term impact of COVID on school absences.
- 2.6 A further short scoping board meeting will be held on 15 November 2023 to build on issues discussed at the 2022 scoping board and draft Terms of Reference for this review.

#### Reference Groups

#### Prevention in Children's Services

- 2.7 Following the agreement at the March Committee that the Prevention in Children's Services Review be converted into a Reference Group, the Group held its first meeting on 29 June 2023. The Group heard from the Department about its work on Family Safeguarding and Family Hubs, both of which focus on whole family support and early intervention to prevent the need for more serious intervention later.
- 2.8 The next Prevention in Children's Service Reference Group is planned for 17 November 2023 where it will focus on progress in the development of the safeguarding programme and Family Hubs.

#### Awayday

2.9 An Awayday in planned for the 02 October 2023 to provide the Committee with an update on key future developments in Adult Social Care and Children's Services and the opportunity for the Committee to review the work programme for 2024.

#### Forward Plan

2.10 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 is included at Appendix 3. 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.

## PHILIP BAKER Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Rachel Sweeney, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser

Tel. No. 07561267461

Email: rachel.sweeney@eastsussex.gov.uk

# Appendix 1

## **People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme**

Current Scrutiny Reviews						
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date				
School Exclusions	The Committee has accepted the recommendation of the second Scoping Board that the Committee proceed with a review of this area, focusing on role the of the Council in reducing the levels of school exclusion in East Sussex, with a particular regard to vulnerable children and young people. The review will consider preventative strategies, the role of early help, appropriate responses to a child at risk of exclusion, the role of governors and clarity of messaging.	November 2023				
	Membership of the Review Board: Councillors Adeniji (Chair), Field, Howell, Maples and John Hayling, Parent Governor Representative.					
Initial Scoping Reviews	5					
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates				
School Attendance	The Committee heard at their 2021 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.  A scoping board meeting was held on 10 March 2022 and the Board agreed that although the subject was appropriate for a Scrutiny Review, as so much of the current situation regarding school absence rates in East Sussex was related to the ongoing	To be confirmed following a further short scoping board in November 2023.				
	impact of, and disruption from, the coronavirus pandemic, it was too early for the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of school attendance.  The Board therefore agreed that the review should commence in 2023 when we expect					
	to have a clearer sense of the long-term impact of COVID on school absences. A further short scoping board meeting will be held in November 2023 to build on issues discussed at the 2022 scoping board and draft Terms of Reference for this review.					
	Membership of the Scoping Board: Cllrs Adeniji, di Cara, Field and Howell (Chair) and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.					

Suggested Topic	Detail	
Scrutiny Reference Group	os estados est	
Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Prevention in Children's Services	The committee agreed in March 2023 to convert a planned scrutiny Review on prevention in Children's Services into a Reference Group in order to provide regular and timely input into key project and programmes which are under development and progressing at pace. The group is considering work to develop preventative approaches including Family Hubs and the Family Safeguarding model, providing ongoing scrutiny challenge.  This Reference Group met in June 2023 and a further meeting is planned for November 2023.  Membership of the Reference Group (TBC): Councillors Adeniji, Field, Howell (Chair) and John Hayling, Parent Governor Representative.	Next meeting: 17 Nov 2023
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	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 and meet on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.  The group last met on 01 June 2023 to consider and comment on key elements of the Sussex Integrated Care Strategy Action Plan ahead of it being considered by the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development (LMSMED). The Group welcomed the plan and submitted comments to be considered with the report to LMSEMD.  Membership of the group: Councillors Clark, di Cara, Geary (Chair), Ungar and Webb.	Next meeting: TBC
Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group	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.  The Group met on the 7 March 2023 to review the attainment data is for the 2021/22	Next meeting: 2024

	Membership of the group: Councillors Adeniji, Field (Chair) and Howell and Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative.			
Adult Social Care reforms Reference Group				
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) Board	RPPR Board meets annually 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.	Next meeting: 15 December 2023		
Reports for Information				
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date		
Training and Development				
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date		
People Committee awayday	To review the Committee work programme and discuss any key issues in further detail.	02 October 2023		
Future Committee Agend	a Items	Author		
13 November 2023				
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser		
Elective Home Education	The Committee requested at its November 2022 meeting an update on the work of the Elective Home Education service.	Assistant Director, Education		
School Exclusions Review	Councillor Sam Adeniji, Chair of the Review Board			

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Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To continue the Committee's work on the RPPR process for 2024/25 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive	
March 2024			
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE / Director of Children's Services	
Committee Work Programme	To manage the Committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping boards, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Beth McGhee, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser	
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2024/25 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive	
Use of Digital and Technology in Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Review	12 month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	

#### 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 Stuart McKeown at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481583 or send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:stuart.mckeown@eastsussex.gov.uk">stuart.mckeown@eastsussex.gov.uk</a>. 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.

#### EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

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 September 2023 TO 31 December 2023

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

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

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
11 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Holy Cross CE Primary School To update the Lead Member following the consultation on the proposed closure of Holy Cross CE Primary School and to seek approval for next steps.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Gary Langford 01273 481758
11 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Household Support Fund Round 4 Approval of the proposed use of the Household Support Fund Round 4 for the period 1 October – 31 March 2024 for the spend on children and families. A report is also being considered by the Lead Member	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jessica Stubbings 01323 463537

		for Adult Social Care and Health for the spend of this fund on adults.			
Between 12 Sep 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Approve the disposal of Beacongate and The Gables, Crowborough Consideration of the offers received from marketing of both assets and selecting a preferred purchaser to support best value in accordance with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972. These assets were formerly used for the delivery of Adult Social Care Services.	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371
15 Sep 2023 Page 71	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Household Support Fund Round 4 (HSF4) Approval of the proposed use of the Household Support Fund Round 4 for the period (1 October – 31 March 2024) for the spend allocations manged by Adult Social care and Health (ASC&H) which include District and Borough allocations, Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise organisations (VCSE) allocations, allocations to Warmer Homes and allocations to Food Banks/Food Partnerships.  A report is also being considered by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (EISEND) for the spend of the Household Support Fund on children and families.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Paul Bolton 01273 336353

18 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	East Sussex County Council 2022/2023 Modern Slavery Statement To provide a progress update of East Sussex County Council's Modern Slavery Statement to the Lead Member and to seek his signature of approval. The 2022/2023 statement relates to the steps taken by the Council during the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 to mitigate risks of modern slavery within its supply chains. Performance indicators are being developed as detailed in the statement and will be used to report on 2023/2024 activity.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Akilah Jardine 07815 473201
25 Sep 2023 Page 72	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	East Sussex County Council Community Match Scheme To seek approval from the Lead Member for Transport and Environment for the implementation of updated guidance and criteria for the Community Match Scheme.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ruby Brittle 01273 337496
25 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Revision of Joint Parking Boards To authorise setting up one Joint Parking Board for all four areas of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). We currently hold separate joint parking board in two areas, Lewes District and Hastings Borough with two meetings each year. We propose the new meeting will include Eastbourne Borough and following the introduced of CPE in 2020 Rother District.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Daniel Clarke 01323 464057

25 Sep 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Petition to 'introduce a lorry route network similar to the one in West Sussex, so that HGVs are redirected away from narrow local roads in our villages' To consider whether the existing approach to freight movements in East Sussex, as set out in LTP3, needs updating and to consider HGV movements through Ringmer in order to respond to the petition calling on the County Council to introduce a lorry route network similar to the one in West Sussex.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Lisa Simmonds, Tessa Sweet- Escott 0345 6080190, 0345 6080190
25 Sep 2023 Page 73	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package Phase 2b & Victoria Place Levelling Up Fund (Seaside Road to Grand Parade) Public Consultation Results To approve the East Sussex County Council response and report on the Eastbourne Town Centre Movement and Access Package Phase 2b public consultation, moving to complete the detailed design and construction of the Victoria Place section of the Terminus Road scheme.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Isobel Kellett 07513 833903
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	Scrutiny Review of Equality and Inclusion in ASCH To consider and comment on the report of the People Scrutiny Committee and agree the response to the recommendations of the review.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rachel Sweeney 07561 267461

28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and the South Downs NPA Waste and Minerals Plan Review To recommend to Full Council that; the modifications proposed to the Submission version of the Waste and Minerals Plan Review are published for statutory public consultation. These modifications are deemed necessary in order for the Plan to be found 'sound' and are in response to feedback received from the Planning Inspectorate following the Public Examination into the Plan in November 2022.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Sheath 01273 481632
28-6 ep 2023 age 74	Cabinet	Report on the County Council's progress in becoming a carbon neutral council The agreed Notice of Motion covering ESCC's declaration of a climate emergency committed the County Council to: report annually on its progress towards the target of achieving carbon neutrality from its activities as soon as possible and in any event by 2050.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Andy Arnold 01273 481606
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	Council Monitoring Quarter 1 To consider the Council Monitoring report for the first quarter of the financial year 2023/24 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

28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	Corporate Peer Challenge To consider the report and recommendations of the County Council Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken by the Local Government Association.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 07523 930526
28 Sep 2023	Cabinet	The Conservators of Ashdown Forest - 2022/23 Outturn Approval is required to agree the funding of the operational deficit on the Core Budget, as per the Ashdown Forest Act.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jill Fisher 01273 482542
September 2023 Page 75	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Re-commission of the Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS) For the Director of Adult Social Care and Health to action the implementation of the re-commission of the Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS) including the award of the contract to the successful bidder, following Lead Member approval at the meeting which took place on 15 May 2023.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Caroline Moyes 01273 336546
September 2023	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport	Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections Consultation and Preliminary Design To consider direct award of the Consultation, Preliminary Design and relevant surveys for the Hastings Public Realm and Green Connections project to Arup. Arup worked on previous design work for this project, led and managed by Hastings Borough Council. This project has £9.834m of funding from Hastings Town	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ellie McDaniel 01273 335464

	Deal and £400k from the Local Growth Fund. This commission is valued at £700k.			
Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	East Sussex Carers Centre - contract extension The contract for the East Sussex Carers Centre is currently held by Care for the Carers as our Strategic Partner delivering a range of services to carers in East Sussex.  The current contract value is £3,291M over a term of 5.5 years. The service was procured in 2019, starting on 01/10/2019 with an option to extend for a further two years from April 2025.  The first 5.5 years of the contract end on 31/04/2025 and, after review, it is proposed that the current contract is extended for a further two years until 31 March 2027. This will enable the successful partnership work between the Council, Care for the Carers and the NHS to continue and develop and allow time for the additional services to be fully implemented and reviewed.  Future recommissioning options will be explored before a decision to tender the contract is made.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tamsin Peart 07881 282732

16 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2025-26-permission to consult Permission is sought to consult on the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex for the 2025-26 school year. The School Admissions Code requires a consultation period of at least six weeks between October and January. Following this, the Lead Member will need to determine the admission arrangements at the meeting in February 2024 in line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code.	KD	docun	-,	Jo Miles 01273 481911
1600ct 2023	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Revision of Home to School Transport policies The Lead Member is asked to approve the revised Home to School Transport policies, which, while in essence unchanged, have been re-formatted to contain additional information in line with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance published in June 2023.	KD	docun	nents may I e submitted	Jo Miles, Alison Mills 01273 481911, 07701 020788
17 Oct 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	Sidley Depot Site, Bexhill - Disposal of Freehold The site is currently vacant and surplus to operational requirements. We are seeking Lead Member approval to formally declare the site to be surplus, and to approve the disposal of the site. We then ask that the Chief Operating Officer be delegated authority to agree detailed terms with the	P KD	docun	,	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371

		preferred purchaser.			
24 Oct 2023	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Approval of award of contract - Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service Following a tender process to commission an Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service, approval of award of contract is to be sought from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health.  The Integrated Health and Wellbeing Service provides evidence-based support to	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicola Blake 01273 335060
Page 78		enable people across East Sussex to make changes to their lifestyle to improve their health. Such changes include supporting residents to eat well, manage their weight, move more, quit smoking and drink less alcohol.			
October 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Award of contract for Salary Sacrifice Lease Car scheme (Electric Vehicles) East Sussex County Council wants to introduce a Salary Sacrifice Lease Car scheme for electric vehicles. This will allow employees to access electric vehicles at a saving compared to conventional purchase. This will help employees to access greener transport and will therefore support the Council's climate emergency plans. It will also provide an attractive staff benefit, helping to aid recruitment and retention. The scheme will be run as a managed service by a private provider, in order to facilitate employee access to a range of	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nicholas Earley 01273 335061

		good quality vehicles which represent good value for money. The managed service will also ensure the council is compliant with all relevant HMRC legislation, and that the administrative burden for the authority is minimal.			
October 2023 Page 79	Chief Operating Officer	Telephony Services contract award Contract award (jointly with Brighton and Hove City Council, and Surrey County Council) of:  • A Call Plan (the main telephone service)  • A replacement Contact Centre telephony solution (including licences)  • Implementation services (specialist knowledge and expertise)  • Microsoft Teams telephony licences (enabling the dial pad and unified comms experience to be added to the existing Teams interface). Decision, as delegated at the 31 March 2023 meeting of the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Matt Scott 07552 286752
October 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Former Hindslands Playing Fields, Eastbourne Road, Polegate - Disposal of Freehold Disposal of the Former Hindslands Playing Fields, Eastbourne Road, Polegate by agreement of the final heads of terms for the sale of the two parcels of land as delegated by the r Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in May 2023.	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371

October 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Award of main contract for the extension of Robertsbridge Community College Special Educational Needs (SEN) facilities East Sussex County Council Children's Services propose to expand the current Special Educational Needs (SEN) facilities to accommodate an additional 12 full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties. This decision is to appoint a contractor for the building extension. The contractor will be appointed following the Council's Procurement and Tendering process under a Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) traditional contract.	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630
Pagober 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Award of Pre-Contract Services Agreement (PSCA) for the ESCC youth centres for The Joff, Peacehaven and Heathfield Youth Centre, Heathfield to appoint a contractor This is for pre contract services to enable a tender package to be prepared for works to The Joff Youth Centre, Peacehaven and Heathfield Youth Centre. The works will increase the number of regular positive activities and clubs available to young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in the areas.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Nigel Brown 07394 410630

7 Nov 2023	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) update - 2024/25 next steps and Medium Term Financial Plan To consider an update on the reconciling policy, performance and resources process for 2024/25, the next steps and the medium term financial plan	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Beard 07894 708914
20 Nov 2023 Page 81	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Review of fees and charges for East Sussex County Council's statutory planning consultee roles The Council's Flood Risk Management and Transport Development Control teams perform statutory planning consultee roles, meaning that they have a legal obligation to respond to relevant planning application consultations. To improve the quality of applications that are received, a preapplication advice service is offered, which is a paid-for service. A review of the charges that are applied for this service has been undertaken and new charges are proposed together with an approach to lessening the burden/financial cost to the Council when it comes to providing flood risk/drainage advice to applicants to resolve matters associated with the development proposals.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Sheath 01273 481632
21 Nov 2023	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Re commission of the Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service The current contract to deliver drug and alcohol treatment in East Sussex ends in March 2025. The process to recommission these services is a lengthy one in order to	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Caz Kearton- Evans 07879 117579

		ensure we are able to identity a service which meets the needs of the East Sussex residents that use it, meets the outcomes set out by Central Government and provides value for money. The tendering section of the recommissioning process will begin in May 2024 with the new contract scheduled to begin in April 2025.			
28 Nov 2023	Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change	To approve the granting of a new Lease to the Trustees of the West Hills & District Community Centre The current Lease dated 12 March 2008 expires 11 March 2023 and it is proposed that ESCC grant the Trustees a new Lease for a period of 25 years which will allow the Trustees to be able to seek grant funding.	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Joanne Johnston, Zoe Tweed 01273 336621, 07701 021868
November 2023	Chief Operating Officer	Hye House Farm, Crowhurst - Disposal of Freehold Hye House Farm, Crowhurst - Disposal of Freehold. The Chief Operating Officer will review the offers received for the different Lots following the marketing of the site as approved by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change in June 2023.	P KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Rebecca Lewis 07955 312371
11 Dec 2023	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Community Match - Etchingham The introduction of a 40mph speed limit between the eastern end of Etchingham and Hurst Green. The introduction of a 40mph speed limit between the western end of Etchingham and Burwash.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Victoria Rojanachotikul 03456 080193

11 Dec 2023 Page 83	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Response to Defra consultations on implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, East Sussex County Council became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the county. The LLFA role includes a statutory consultee to major planning applications. Parts of the Flood and Water Management Act have never been implemented and this includes Schedule 3, which will introduce additional duties and burdens to the County Council, including the statutory role of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Approval Body and Adopting Authority. The Government has recently indicated its intention to implement Schedule 3 and is due to consult on a series of documents in Autumn 2023, which will set out how Schedule 3 will work in practice, as well as setting out matters such as proposed transitional arrangements and any new burdens monies. The report to the Lead Member will set out the County Councils proposed response to this consultation.		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Sheath 01273 481632
15 Dec 2023	Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Sexual Health Services Procurement Approve the award of the Specialist Sexual Health Contract that has been subject to competitive tender in line with the Lead Members decision to delegate the decision to the Director of Adult Social Care & Health on 20 April 2023.	KD	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Tony Proom 01273 335252

## Agenda Item 7

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25 September 2023

By: Chief Executive

Title: Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for the committee to prepare for further

input to the Council's business and financial planning process,

RPPR, during the autumn and winter.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The committee is recommended to identify any further work or information needed to support scrutiny's contribution to the RPPR planning process, for consideration at future meetings.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 In July the committee considered the year end Council monitoring report for 2022/23 and the 2023 State of the County report, focusing on the areas within the committee's remit. Taken together, these reports began to set out the context for planning for 2024/25 and beyond through the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process. Members were able to consider significant challenges and developments affecting services and ensure that the committee's work programme included key areas for further scrutiny.
- 1.2 Through the autumn the committee has the opportunity to continue to provide input to the planning process. This will include consideration of the RPPR update report to Cabinet in November and review of draft 2024/25 portfolio plans and the latest information on the financial context at the committee's RPPR Board in December. The committee's wider work programme continues to include more detailed scrutiny of specific topics which will bring further insight to the committee's contribution to RPPR.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the planning process, including scrutiny engagement, and an opportunity for the committee to identify any additional information or scrutiny work required to support the committee's ongoing contribution, for consideration at future meetings.

#### 2. Supporting information

- 2.1 The State of the County report set out our latest assessment of the evidence base and the developing policy and financial outlook which will inform planning for 2024/25 and beyond. The ongoing uncertainty in the planning context was outlined, including the challenging economic conditions and the evolving national policy agenda. Within this uncertain national environment, the report set out that we continue to experience increased demand for services locally, arising from demographic changes and increased need.
- 2.2 Over the summer, the challenging context for local government has persisted, with some national media coverage of the financial and service pressures facing councils, particularly in demand-led services such as children's and adult social care and special educational needs and disability (SEND). The Quarter 1 Council Monitoring report, to be considered by Cabinet on 28 September and Council in October, is expected to provide some initial indications of how national and local conditions are impacting on ESCC in year.

- 2.3 Government has made a number of announcements impacting councils, and ESCC specifically, over the summer, including on the future of Local Enterprise Partnerships, planning reforms, migration and asylum (including Royal Assent for the Illegal Migration Act), SEND reform pilots and Adult Social Care market sustainability and winter planning. An overview of key policy developments will be included in the RPPR update report to Cabinet in November and factored into planning through RPPR as usual. The King's Speech, scheduled for 7 November, will provide details of the Government's planned legislative agenda in the lead up to the next general election, expected at some point in 2024.
- 2.4 In terms of local government funding, the Autumn Budget Statement, scheduled for 22 November, may provide some indication of the outlook but the detail is expected to come in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, anticipated in December or early January. A further one year financial settlement is anticipated for 2024/25, with any significant national reforms to local government funding unlikely before the general election.
- 2.5 The RPPR process, which brings together our policy, business and financial planning and risk management, continues to provide the robust mechanism to help us navigate the uncertain environment, supporting planning for 2024/25 and beyond and maintaining focus on our priority outcomes.

#### 3. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR planning

- 3.1 This committee's input to the RPPR process is ongoing, both through specific RPPR reports to each meeting and through more detailed scrutiny of specific issues through the wider work programme.
- 3.2 Following on from consideration in **July** of the 2023 State of the County report and 2022/23 year end monitoring report, the **September** meeting provides a further opportunity to consider the key issues for services which will impact on planning for 2024/25 and any further information required by scrutiny to inform the committee's input to the RPPR process at sessions later in the autumn and winter.
- 3.3 The **November** committee meeting will provide an opportunity to review the latest update to Cabinet on planning for 2024/25, including the latest financial position.
- 3.4 The committee's **RPPR Board** will then meet on 15 December 2023 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the budget and emerging updated portfolio plans to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the committee in January 2024.
- 3.5 The **March 2024** meeting will enable the committee to review the process and its 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.
- 3.6 Running alongside this process, there will be a number of opportunities for all Members to engage in the RPPR process.

#### 4. Conclusion and reason for recommendations

4.1 To support its ongoing input to the RPPR process, the Committee is recommended to identify any further work or information it requires for consideration at future meetings.

## **BECKY SHAW Chief Executive**

Contact Officer: Rachel Sweeney, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Adviser Scrutiny Advisor

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Email: rachel.sweeney@eastsussex.gov.uk

## Agenda Item 8

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

By: Seona Douglas Interim Independent Chair East Sussex

**Safeguarding Adults Board** 

Title: East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23

Purpose: To present the annual report detailing how effective the work of the

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has been as required by The Care

Act 2014.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

People Scrutiny Committee are recommended to consider and comment on the report.

#### 1. Background Information

1.1. The Care Act 2014 requires each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to:

- Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute.
- Publish an annual report detailing how effective their work has been.
- Commission safeguarding adult's reviews (SARs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.

#### 2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 The format of the SAB Annual Report 2022-23 is structured against the SAB priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan 2021–24 (see appendix 2 SAB Strategic Plan 2021-24). The data section includes contributions from a number of partner agencies in addition to the core data from the local authority (see Appendix 1 SAB Annual Report 2022-23).
- 2.2 Seona Douglas was appointed as the Interim SAB Independent Chair in June 2023 following the resignation of Deborah Stuart-Angus in January 2023. A number of staff changes have also taken place within the SAB business support area in 2022/23 including the addition of an interim safeguarding coordinator, funded by ASC, to support the increased safeguarding adult review (SAR) activity.
- 2.3 The jointly SAB funded post of the SAB Quality Assurance and Learning Development Officer (with Brighton and Hove SAB) ended in November 2022 when the seconded post holder returned to their substantive role in ESCC; this role has now been combined with the role of Safeguarding Coordinator (which ceased end of June 23) into a new permanent post of SAB Board Support Coordinator for 2023/24 (jointly funded between the SAB and ASC).
- 2.4 Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) referral activity during 2022/23 increased by 100%:
  - 4 SARs were commissioned: SAR Eve, SAR Hannah, SAR Finley and SAR Gwen and Ian.
  - Three SARs were published in 2022/23: A Thematic SAR, SAR Charlie, and SAR Anna.
  - SAR Donna is awaiting publication and SAR Eve is currently on pause

2.5 Highlights in the report, under the SAB five strategic themes, are as follows:

#### Strategic Theme 1: Accountability and leadership

- Recommendations from the Thematic Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) and SAR
  Charlie (both published in 2022/23) required assurances that transitional safeguarding
  processes are meeting the needs of people who have had adverse childhood
  experiences but may be struggling to engage with services, are met after they reach
  the age of 18 years old.
- A transitions task and finish group was established in January 2023 by the SAB and East Sussex Children's Safeguarding Partnership (ESSCP) and is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding for the Sussex NHS Integrated Care Board. A scoping activity has been undertaken to identify current pathways for children who reach 18 in East Sussex. This will identify any potential gaps and map the current provision for adolescents and what further work needs to be developed across agencies in East Sussex. The work of the task and finish group will continue this year with the aim of developing an identified multi-agency transition to adulthood protocol for East Sussex.
- A SAB strategic objective for accountability and leadership is to develop arrangements with other Boards to be responsive to specific safeguarding themes: Learning from Partnership Reviews was a local partnership collaboration to compare current action plans/emerging themes and current learning around Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths (DARDs), Local Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs), and SARs. This was presented to the Safer Communities Board in September and as part of the NHS Sussex Safeguarding Fortnight with SAB partners in November 2022. Agreed outcomes following this collaboration included:
  - ➤ Bi-monthly meetings for review managers, which includes sharing review recommendations to contribute to 'smarter' action planning to avoid duplication and support a more systematic approach.
  - Regular learning briefings developed to themes across reviews and shared briefings to be developed where appropriate.

#### Strategic Theme 2: Performance, Quality and Audit, and Organisational Learning

- A SAR Quality Assurance Code of Practice was developed in 2022. This quality
  assurance process is aligned with the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE)
  considerations, which assumes the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, as
  well as the Six Principles of Safeguarding that should underpin all adult safeguarding
  work (Empowerment; Prevention; Proportionate; Protection; Partnership;
  Accountability).
- The Adult C Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) published in December 2020 set out important learning in relation to the barriers and challenges faced by women with a combination of needs in relation to chronic trauma, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, and domestic abuse. An audit was undertaken in 2022 to establish the extent to which a multi-agency approach is effective in supporting women with multiple disadvantage who experience domestic abuse, in managing risk and enabling them to achieve sustained positive outcomes. Some of the overall strengths and examples of good practice from the audit are listed below:
  - The Probation service showed a recognition of gaining the adult's voice and wishes and including these in planning with clear recordings showing the opportunities taken to gain the information around the adult's previous trauma and how this may be impacting on her presentation and behaviour at the time.
  - There were examples of Adult Social Care (ASC) practitioners using funding to support more appropriate temporary housing to prevent risk escalating and providing support to access refuges and the transportation of belongings.

 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) recordings were clear showing planning to manage risk and safety. A particular good example of consideration of previous trauma was considered included the specific assignment to avoid using male workers with an adult.

#### Strategic Theme 3: Policies and Procedures

- To raise awareness of safeguarding policies and procedures relating to specific local themes and challenges the SAB have produced a number of learning briefings, revised documents, and resources this year. They include:
  - Reviewing and refreshing the Sussex Adult Death Protocol, the SAR Protocol, the Information Sharing Protocol, and the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Thresholds Guidance (which has now been adopted by Rotherham SAB)
  - Publishing a Court of Protection Learning Briefing
  - Adding a new Advocacy Information section to the SAB website
  - Publishing The Importance of Multi-Agency Meetings Learning Briefing
  - Including the Mental Capacity Toolkit on the SAB website
  - Developing and publishing Recognising and Responding to Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Concerns: Safeguarding Guidance for Homes for Ukraine Host Families in East Sussex
- The Sussex Policies and Procedures Review Group has responsibility for the Sussex Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures (which are held by the three local authorities as the statutory leads for adult safeguarding) and the development and implementation of changes to these. The Policy and Procedures site was refreshed in 2022 with the aim of providing a more accessible version, with possible alternative hosting options being explored in 2023-24.

#### Strategic Theme 4: Prevention, Engagement and Making Safeguarding Personal

- Through the SAB Safeguarding Community Network, focussed discussions were introduced in 2022/23 on particular safeguarding themes that community groups wished to be more aware of and which would improve their confidence in recognising and responding to concerns. We are grateful to the Safeguarding Development Team and the East Sussex Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence/ Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team who supported these sessions. Topics covered this year which have been requested by the Network have included:
  - Coercion and control
  - Modern Slavery
  - Reporting a safeguarding concern
- In collaboration with West Sussex and Brighton SABs we produced new information, posters, and leaflets, for our communities which are accessible and raise awareness of adult safeguarding with the aim of increasing confidence in raising concerns. The images used in the new publications ensures our communication and engagement strategies consider the diversity of local communities and reflect changing demographics.

#### Strategic Theme 5: Integration, and Training and workforce development

- Two learning events were delivered in March which 82 professionals attended. The
  event focused on SAR Anna which identified areas of learning which were the focus of
  the event.
  - At the end of the session 81% of attendees reported their knowledge of SARs had improved compared with 41% at the start of the session
  - 88% of attendees reported that the workshop had provided them with further knowledge and understanding to enhance their practice
  - 90% of attendees who had received SAR information, training or learning briefings reported that this had impacted on their operational practice and knowledge in a good way

 Supporting the work of partners of raising awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the SAB supported in the delivery of awareness raising events for community volunteers and community development staff who were supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme and local refugee/asylum seeker support services. A Modern Slavery Podcast was developed in collaboration with Discovery – the East Sussex multi-agency partnership which aims to expose and tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

#### 3. Next steps

- 3.1 The key priority areas identified for the SAB in 2022 23: embedding the Mental Capacity Act into practice, safeguarding transitions for young people at risk and supporting adults who face multiple disadvantages, continue to be priority areas of development, and require further embedding within safeguarding practice for 2023/24, whilst including the additional areas of self-neglect, homelessness, and safeguarding the increasing migrant population.
- 3.2 The SAB will progress work in relation to the newly commissioned SARs in 2023/24 and seek assurance to ensure that the learning and recommendations from previous SARs continue to be embedded in practice.

#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 People Scrutiny Committee are recommended to consider and comment on the report.

#### Seona Douglas

Interim Independent Chair East Safeguarding Adults Board

Officer Contact: Lucy Spencer – SAB Development Manager

Email: lucy.spencer@eastsussex.gov.uk

#### **APPENDICES** –

Appendix 1 SAB Annual Report 2022-23

Appendix 2 East Sussex SAB Strategic Plan 2021-24





# Annual Report 2022 to 2023

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All photographs courtesy of Aging Better Resource Space

## Foreword by the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Interim Independent Chair

I am delighted to have joined the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board as interim Chair from June 2023.

I have been struck immediately with passion and commitment of everyone involved, and the drive of the Board members to make a real difference for the residents and those in contact with services, as they remain at the heart of all our work. I feel it's a privilege and am proud to be leading this Board for the next six months. All Board members have impressed me with an eagerness to continue to learn about what works well, and to discuss and develop what we can mutually, and build on this together.

Already, I am aware of the level of work the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) subgroup coordinate on behalf of the board; the outcomes from our Performance and Quality and Assurance Group and the safeguarding policies and procedures development being led by our joint Policy and Procedures Review subgroup.

Our work is set out in the <u>Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024</u>, which has already been added to in the past year, by introducing a quality assurance framework for our SARs, jointly working with the Boards of West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, to improve the lives of vulnerable people and guests in this country, with accommodation and resettling issues; developing our policies and procedures to ensure independence in our review processes; and working to learn from our partners, how improvement is actually embedded into our safeguarding practices.

I hope that as you go through this Report, you learn more about the sheer scope and importance of our activity for the people in our County. I think you will find, it is readable, comprehensive, and thorough, clearly reflecting the huge amount of work that takes place every day, by many people across our County, who safeguard others, who have care and support needs.

I look forward to the months ahead, to continuing to take our Board forward, and to



supporting our membership in the challenges they face us, whilst enabling others to live lives, free from abuse and neglect.

#### Seona Douglas

Interim Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board



## Our role and purpose

The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency statutory partnership which provides leadership and strategic oversight of adult safeguarding work across East Sussex.

The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act 2014, which sets out that we are required to:

Develop and publish a Strategic Plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and how our partner agencies will contribute to these objectives.

Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work has been over the past 12 months.

Arrange for Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to be undertaken when the criteria under section 44 of the Care Act are considered to have been met.

The East Sussex SAB is led by our Independent Chair, and supported by a SAB Development Manager, a Board Support Coordinator and a part-time Administrator.

The Board meets at least four times a year and is supported by a range of subgroups which are crucial in ensuring that the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan are delivered. These subgroups ensure that the work of the Board really makes a difference to local safeguarding practice, and to the outcomes adults and their carers wish to achieve.

#### **Our Vision**

Our vision is for all agencies to work together and effectively build resilience and empower communities in responding to abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to widely promote the message that safeguarding is everybody's business in that:

- Abuse is not tolerated
- People know what to do if abuse happens
- People and organisations are proactive in working together to respond effectively to abuse

#### **Our Purpose**

It is important to note that the SAB is not involved in operational practice. Our overarching purpose is to ensure that agencies work in partnership to deliver joined-up services that safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We do this by:

- Gaining assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act and its statutory guidance.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect, where possible.
- Ensuring partner agencies are effective when abuse and neglect has occurred and give timely and proportionate responses.
- Gaining assurance that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) are central to safeguarding, and practice is person-centred, and outcome focused.
- Striving for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and supporting partner agencies to embed learning from local and national SARs, other learning reviews and multi-agency audits.

## **Partnership Working**

The SAB has formal links with a number of other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, including the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP), Safer Communities Partnership (SCP), Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) and the Health and Wellbeing Board. In addition, the Board maintains links with Sussex-wide and national networks and forums including:

- The National Network for Chairs of SABs.
- The National SAB Managers Network.
- The South-East Regional SAB Network.
- The Sussex Anti-Slavery Network.

The Board works closely with the neighbouring Brighton & Hove and West Sussex SABs, and our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are adopted on a Sussex wide basis, as well as many protocols and guidance documents.



### **Our Strategic Priorities 2021-2024**



Accountability and Leadership



Performance, Quality and Audit and Organisational learning



Prevention, Engagment and Making Safeguarding
Personal



Safeguarding Policies and Procedures



The Strategic Plan 2021-24 has two main purposes:

- To specify the actions required by the SAB and its member agencies to implement the strategy.
- To inform the local community and all interested parties about the work programme of the SAB

## **SAB Budget**

Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH), NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB), Sussex Police, East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) and East Sussex Fire and Rescue (ESFRS) contribute annually to the SAB budget. SAB Partners support with the running of the Board, for example by offering to chair meetings and co-delivering training.

#### Income for 2022 - 2023

Partner Contributions	£126,400
Carry over from 21/22	£20,022
West Sussex and Brighton and Hove SABs	£22,053*
(*contributions towards P & P site, staff, and SAR)	
Total	£168,475

### **Expenditure for 2022 – 2023**

SAB Staffing	£110,310
Independent Chair	£19,251
Safeguarding Adult Reviews	£26,625
Website (SAB & Procedures) costs	£4,295
Total	£160,481

### **Key Achievements 2022 – 23**

#### Strategic Priority 1:Accountability and Leadership

The SAB Operational subgroup has been chaired by the Principal Social Worker for the past 12 months and the role of chair has been passed to the recently appointed Head of Safeguarding and Quality for Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH).

Recommendations from the Thematic Safeguarding Adult Review<sup>1</sup> (SAR) and SAR Charlie<sup>2</sup> (both published in 2022/23) required assurances that transitional safeguarding processes are meeting the needs of people who have had adverse childhood experiences but may be struggling to engage with services, are met after they reach the age of 18 years old.

• A transitions task and finish group was established in January 2023 by the SAB and East Sussex Children's Safeguarding Partnership (ESSCP) and is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding for the Sussex NHS Integrated Care Board. A scoping activity has been undertaken to identify current pathways for children who reach eighteen in East Sussex. This will identify any potential gaps and map the current provision for adolescents and what further work needs to be developed across agencies in East Sussex. The work of the task and finish group will continue this year with the aim of developing an identified multi-agency transition protocol for East Sussex.



 To ensure effective governance is in place in order that all Board members understand their roles and responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 the SAB members pack was updated in January 2023 to reflect new deputising arrangements and information sharing/data protection information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ESSAB-Thematic-Review.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/documents/executive-summary/

- A new SAB Complaints Policy<sup>3</sup> was developed for any complaints made to the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board and how these would be managed.
- A SAB strategic objective for accountability and leadership is to develop arrangements with other Boards to be responsive to specific safeguarding themes:

Learning from Partnership Reviews was a local partnership collaboration to compare current action plans/emerging themes and current learning around Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths (DARDs) Local Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) and SARs This was presented to the Safer Communities Board in September and as part of the NHS Sussex Safeguarding Fortnight with SAB partners in November 2022.

Agreed outcomes following this collaboration included:

- Bi-monthly meetings for review managers, which includes sharing review recommendations to contribute to 'smarter' action planning to avoid duplication and support a more systematic approach.
- Regular learning briefings developed to themes across reviews and shared briefings to be developed where appropriate.

Annual presentation to the Safer Communities Board on key learning from reviews.

### Strategic Priority 2: Safeguarding Policies and Procedures



There are a number of similar themes identified in Safeguarding Adult Reviews that are undertaken across Sussex. The three Sussex Safeguarding Adult Boards worked together to produce a 12-minute podcast which identified four shared themes identified in reviews undertaken across Sussex and some of the actions that have been undertaken in response.

These four themes are Mental Capacity, Making Safeguarding Personal, Application of Safeguarding processes, and Multi-agency information sharing and communication.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/documents/east-sussex-safeguarding-adults-board-complaints-policy/

To raise awareness of safeguarding policies and procedures relating to specific local themes and challenges the SAB have produced a number of learning briefings, revised documents, and resources this year. They include<sup>4</sup>:

- Reviewing and refreshing the Sussex Adult Death Protocol
- Reviewing and updating the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Thresholds
   Guidance (this has been adopted by Rotherham SAB)
- Publishing a Court of Protection Learning Briefing
- Including a new Advocacy Information section on the SAB website
- Publishing The importance of multi-agency meetings Learning Briefing
- Including the Mental Capacity Toolkit on the SAB website
- Updating the Information Sharing Protocol
- Developing and publishing Recognising and Responding to Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Concerns: Safeguarding Guidance for Homes for Ukraine Host Families in East Sussex.

The Sussex Policies and Procedures Review Group has responsibility for the Sussex Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures<sup>5</sup> (which are held by the three local authorities as the statutory leads for adult safeguarding) and the development and implementation of changes to these.

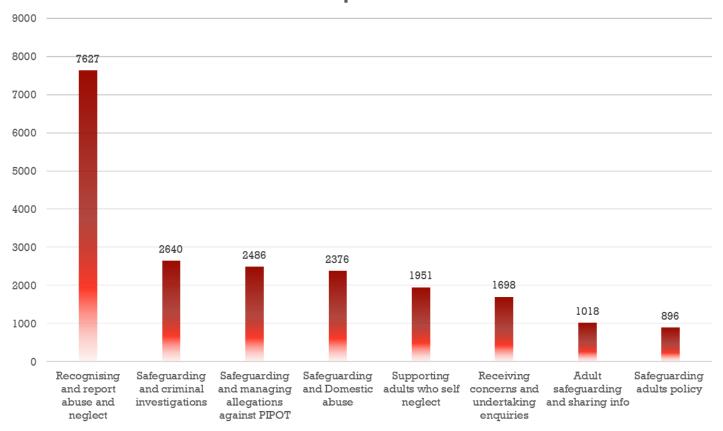
 The Policy and Procedures site was refreshed in 2022 with the aim of providing a more accessible version.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> All these documents are available on our website Guidance and Resources - East Sussex SAB

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://sussexsafeguardingadults.procedures.org.uk/

## Number of people who accessed the Policies & Procedures April 2022 - March 2023



Number of people who accessed the policy and procedures site during 2022/23 and what safeguarding information was accessed.

## Strategic Priority 3: Performance, Quality and Audit, and Organisational Learning

A SAB strategic objective of performance, quality and audit and organisational learning is to ensure the SAB has effective arrangements for the commissioning of SARs to ensure our reviews are precise in form and focus and take into account a range of case and contextual factors so as to shape learning and continuous improvement.



 To support this objective, we developed a SAR Quality Assurance Code of Practice in 2022. This quality assurance process is aligned with the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) considerations, which assumes the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, as well as the Six Principles of Safeguarding that should underpin all adult safeguarding work (Empowerment; Prevention; Proportionate; Protection; Partnership; Accountability). The SAB recognises that SARs are a statutory process with the purpose of organisational learning and improvement. This approach to the quality assurance of SARs supports and reinforces the focus on actions to promote learning and agency practice improvement. To ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data to shape learning, awareness, and practice audits are often identified as recommendations within SARs to ensure this is taking place.

The Adult C Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) published in December 2020 set out important learning in relation to the barriers and challenges faced by women with a combination of needs in relation to chronic trauma, drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, and domestic abuse.

 An audit was subsequently undertaken to establish the extent to which a multiagency approach is effective in supporting women with multiple disadvantage who experience domestic abuse, in managing risk and enabling them to achieve sustained positive outcomes.

The overall strengths and examples of good practice from the audit are listed below:

The Probation service showed a recognition of gaining the adult's voice and wishes and including these in planning with clear recordings showing the opportunities taken to gain the information around the adult's previous trauma and how this may be impacting on her presentation and behaviour at the time.

There were examples of Adult Social Care (ASC) practitioners using funding to support more appropriate temporary housing to prevent risk escalating and providing support to access refuges and the transportation of belongings.

Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) provided support to accident and emergency services by providing a triage assessment which provided a good overview of the adult's current mental state.

East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) staff in the emergency apartment raised a safeguarding concern for domestic abuse to reduce the risk escalating.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) recordings were clear showing planning to manage risk and safety. A particular good example of consideration of previous trauma was considered included the specific assignment to avoid using male workers with an adult.

ASC practitioners evidenced good examples of multi-agency meetings which provided good joint planning between agencies and proactive approaches were taken to meet with the adult face to face gaining their views which were included in accommodation plans.

## Strategic Priority 4:Prevention, Engagement and Making Safeguarding Personal

The SAB continue to develop approaches to safeguarding which recognise the value of prevention and early intervention.

Through the SAB Safeguarding Community Network, focussed discussions were introduced in 2022/23 on particular safeguarding themes that community groups wished to be more aware of and which would improve their confidence in recognising and responding to concerns. We are grateful to the Safeguarding Development Team and the East Sussex Domestic Abuse ,Sexual Violence/ Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team who supported these sessions.

Topics covered this year which have been requested by the Network have included:

#### Coercion and Control



The session included the background and definition of controlling and coercive behaviour, examples and signs of controlling and coercive behaviour and lived experience of domestic abuse. The audience was shown a short film and asked to identify the elements of coercive control they noticed, what warning signs they noticed and the challenges which may be facing the victim

#### Modern Slavery



This session outlined the context and prevalence of Modern Slavery including Human Trafficking. It explored the different types of Modern Slavery, signs, and indicators of the various types of exploitation and referrals into Adult Social Care.

#### Reporting a Safeguarding Concern



This session provided an overview of the Care Act S42 safeguarding duty, an overview of the SAB Thresholds Guidance<sup>6</sup> and how to raise a safeguarding concern.

#### **Homes for Ukraine**



Recognising and Responding to Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding Concerns – Guidance for Host Families in East Sussex was developed in collaboration with the East Sussex Safeguarding Children's Partnership (ESSCP) to help host families understand what action to take if they were worried about an adult or child staying in their home.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Sussex-Safeguarding-Adults-Thresholds-Guidance-Print-Version.pdf

In collaboration with West Sussex and Brighton SABs we produced new information for our communities which is easily accessible, raises awareness of adult safeguarding and increases confidence in raising concerns, which ensures our communication and engagement strategies consider the diversity of local communities and reflect changing demographics.







 The East Sussex SAB website<sup>7</sup> received 12,217 visits between March 2022 and April 2023 with 86.4% of these being new visitors.



The most popular page visited within the website was 'Safeguarding Adult Reviews' receiving 3043 views followed by 2270 visits to the 'raising a concern page' and 1,684 visits to the 'guidance and resources' section.

The average time a user spent on a page within the ESSAB website was 01:47 minutes and a total of 8,340 documents were downloaded from the website.

- New content has been added onto the website including information on Advocacy and a page to sign up to SAB learning Events.
- During Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 the SAB promoted a number of SAB and national resources which linked to the themes of Exploitation and County Lines, Self-neglect, Creating Safer Organisational Cultures, Elder Abuse and Domestic Abuse in Tech-Society. The tweet which received the most engagement was the launch of the Pan-Sussex SAR Learning from SARs Podcast.



Pan Sussex SAB Shared Learning From Sussex Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) Podcast.

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/

## Strategic Priority 5: Integration, Training and Workforce Development

The SAB training and workforce development subgroup supports the strategic objective of ensuring the workforce is equipped to support adults effectively where abuse and neglect takes place.

Two learning events were delivered in March which 82 professionals attended. The event focused on SAR Anna<sup>8</sup> which identified areas of learning which were the focus of the event:

- The importance of Multi-Agency Meetings
- The impact of coercion and control on capacity assessments
- How legal interventions can be used to better protect vulnerable adults
- The relevance and importance of working closely with the whole family
- Dealing with hostility and aggression shown by family members
- Knowing when to consider using the Adult Death Protocol

84% of attendees confirmed they had received information, training or learning briefings about East Sussex SARs

At the end of the session 81% of attendees reported their knowledge of SARs had improved compared to 41% at the start of the session

88% of attendees reported that the workshop had provided them with further knowledge and understanding to enhance their practice

90% of attendees who had received SAR information, training or learning briefings reported that this had impacted on their operational practice and knowledge in a good way

<sup>8</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SAR-Anna-Overview-Report.pdf

- Supporting the work of partners raising awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking the SAB supported in the delivery of awareness raising events for community volunteers and community development staff who were supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme and local refugee/asylum seeker support services.
- A Modern Slavery Podcast was developed in collaboration with Discovery the East Sussex multi-agency partnership which aims to expose and tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.



 A Multi-agency domestic abuse training pathway was developed and made available in April 2022. The pathway consists of 19 training courses available to a wide range of audiences including SAB members and frontline staff.

The current East Sussex SAB training programme includes the following courses:

- Self-neglect
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Mental Capacity Act 2005: A Multi-agency Approach to Complex Cases
- Adopting a Whole Family Approach to Domestic Abuse
- Coercion and Control

## Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

The SAR Subgroup acts with delegated responsibility from the East Sussex SAB. Its' main purpose is to monitor the delivery of its statutory duties with regards to SARs and other reviews of cases where there are lessons to be learnt.

The purpose of a SAR is set out in the Sussex SAR Protocol,<sup>9</sup> namely, to look at the ways professionals and agencies work together to determine what might have been done differently that could have prevented harm or death. It is not an enquiry into how a person died, nor is it to apportion blame; but to learn from such situations, and to ensure that any learning is applied to future cases to reduce the likelihood of similar harm occurring again.

SABs have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs). This is when:

- An adult dies as a result of abuse or neglect (including death by suicide), whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.
- An adult is still alive but has experienced serious abuse or neglect, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

SABs can undertake reviews in any other circumstance where an adult has care and support needs.

#### The SAR Protocol was reviewed in 2022/23 and refreshed to include:

- The criterion for a SAR is now aligned to the Care Act 2014 wording which now states that the death was <u>as a result of abuse and neglect</u> and not that abuse, and neglect was a factor in their death
- Arrangements for endorsing a SAR when an Independent Chair is not in post.
- Improvements made to what information the referee provides which support the SAR criteria

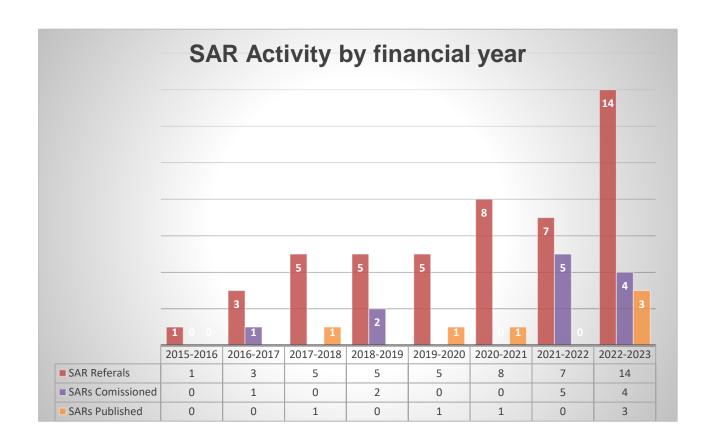
#### SAR activity during 2022/23 has increased.

- SAR referrals have increased by 100%
- Commissioned SARs have slightly decreased however a number of referrals received in 2022/23 have progressed as SARs in 2023.
- Three reviews have been published.<sup>10</sup>

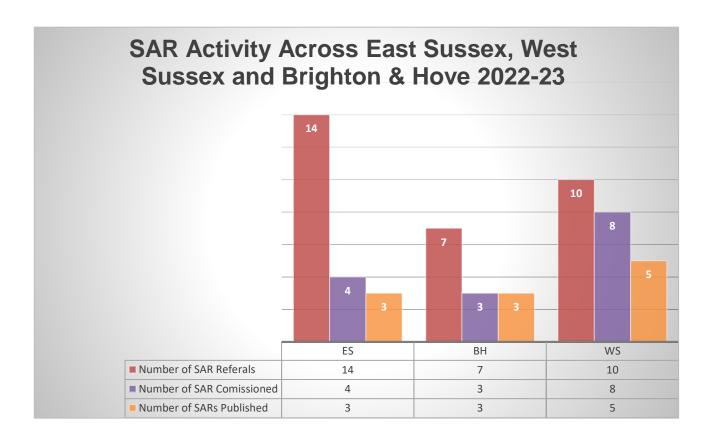


<sup>9</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/documents/sussex-sar-protocol/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/publications/sars/



The table above shows East Sussex SAR activity since 2015 and the table below shows SAR activity across Sussex during 2022/23



### **Published Safeguarding Adult Reviews 2022/23**

- A total of 24 recommendations from three published reviews were developed into one SAR Action Plan in 2022/23 and the recommendations have been developed in partnership with several partner agencies over the last 10 months. A number of actions and assurances have been recorded against 22 recommendations.
- The two remaining recommendations are being progressed and will be included within the SAR Action Plan for 2023/24. Completed actions have included:

### SAR Anna – published May 2022

'Coercion and Control: A Multi Agency Workshop for Staff Working with Domestic Abuse' training has been amended to reflect particularly when applied to older people

SAR Anna presentation delivered to occupational therapy teams, Mental Health Substance Misuse Service Teams, Neighbourhood Support Teams, and Older Peoples Mental Health Teams.

Domestic Abuse in Older Age presentation and learning—delivered as a MARAC Continued Professional Development (CPD) session and various partner agencies with 80+ attendees and is being amended for roll out to ASCH Operational teams.

East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) staff are referred to Nice guidance to evaluate bruising in vulnerable adults.

SAB Learning Events for SAR Anna delivered in March 2023.

The Safeguarding adult's competency framework for Directly Provided Services (DPS) and operational support staff (including financial services) has been developed to ensure that staff are meeting the expectations of The Care Act 2014, in relation to safeguarding. Staff complete the competency framework as part of an annual review or appraisal which includes an understanding of the factors that might increase risk of abuse and vulnerability.

### SAR Ben – published September 2022

Joint podcast with WSSAB and BHSAB on Learning from SARs which included the mandate for reviews. SAR referrals have doubled in 2022/23 and all have been timely in relation to referral timings.

ESCC Specification for reviews which applies to both in and out of county placements now includes the opportunity for the provider to request a review:

Reviewing Mental Capacity Act Training and how Advocacy is promoted within the current training offer provided assurance that 10 courses include the promotion and use of advocacy.

The Safeguarding Development Team Manager presented an overview and learning from SAR Ben to the Registered Managers Meeting in October. This overview included duties and responsibilities around the appropriate use of DOLs.

Assurance provided that there is free comprehensive training available to all care homes in East Sussex (300) which currently includes: *Safeguarding awareness, Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.* 

ESSAB in partnership with Sussex NHS ICB developed and published *A Court of Protection Learning Briefing* in September 2022

## **Thematic Review: -published November 2022**

Public Health updated SAB partners on the three-year Sussex Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy in January 2023.

SAB Self-Harm and Suicide Mini-Briefing was developed for partners to promote the Royal College of Psychiatrist's report including the importance of Suicide Safety Plans and the Consensus Statement which identified obtaining information from and listening to the concerns of families as key factors in determining risk.

Updates and assurance from SPFT in relation to their *Towards Zero Suicide Strategy* was provided to SAB Partners in January. The strategy identifies a broad range of actions to improve the responses of its services to suicide risk. They are working closely with Local Authority colleagues in Public Health, Police, and other members of the Integrated Care System on a Pan Sussex Suicide Prevention Strategy.



Supporting the use of outreach and flexible approaches to meet the needs of individuals over the age of 18 years old who find it hard to engage with services and who services consider have multiple-complex needs and/ or have had experienced adverse childhood experiences SAB partners are actively involved in the Sussex, Changing Futures Programme stakeholders and partners monthly meetings and the Changing Futures Pan Sussex Trauma Informed network.

## Safeguarding Adult Reviews commissioned in 2022/23

**Eve** was a 76yr old female who died in temporary accommodation, which an inquest determined was a drug related death. She had terminal cancer for which she was on pain medication. Eve was estranged from her family and lived with her partner.

Eve was offered support by various agencies for her medical issues and to help safeguard her, however she found difficulty in accepting the support offered and may have been controlled and/or coerced to not engage with agencies by her partner.

Due to the coercion and control evidenced this review is currently a joint Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and is currently on pause.

**Focus for the review –** inherent jurisdiction, financial abuse, domestic abuse with a cancer diagnosis, adult death protocol and suitability of carer.

**Hannah** was 48-year-old women who died in 2022 as a result of a severe injury to her temple she sustained after a fall while she was intoxicated. Prior to her death Hannah had severe alcohol misuse issues and had previously attended rehabilitation in the States and in the UK.

Hannah lived with her husband and young sons, although she lived a very separate life away from her family in the family home. The children were being supported by children's services at the time of her death. A number of health agencies were involved due to regular hospital admissions in relation to alcohol issues and the significant this was having on her body.

**Focus for the review-** self-neglect and the harm caused by alcohol, multi-agency approaches to managing risk, the consideration of carers and making safeguarding personal.

**Gwen and lan-** Were not known to each other but both cases had strong similarities and have been combined as one review.

**Gwen** was a 95-year-old woman who died in 2021. She was living with her daughter and had not seen her GP or Community Nurse since 2018 A neighbour contacted Adult Social care to report concerns about how Gwen and her daughter were managing. She was on regular medication, but her prescriptions had not been collected since early 2021. Gwen was admitted to hospital with significant physical concerns and died shortly afterwards in Kent.

lan was a 67-year-old man who was living with his son. He was made redundant in 2021 and also had limited agency involvement. Concerns raised about self-neglect and he was admitted to hospital on West Sussex in 2022 and died in hospital due to multiple organ failure and Alzheimer's dementia.

**Focus for the review-** challenges when there is non-engagement or disengagement by vulnerable adults from minimal services, needs of adults who are informal carers and response to safeguarding concerns, when raised by a member of public, family member or agency.

**Finley** was a 31-year-old male who died in 2021 due to drug toxicity. He experienced both mental health and substance misuse issues. There were concerns prior to his death of cuckooing. Finley was in debt despite being supported by his mother who had Power of Attorney for finance. There were also reports of self-neglect.

Finley had recently been discharged from an inpatient ward for mental health support and there were concerns that he was unable to care for himself properly due to difficulty in accepting support from services.

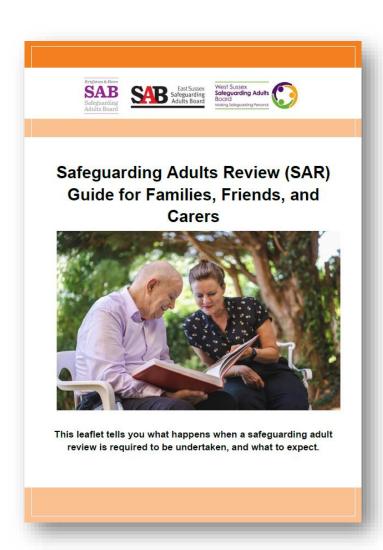
**Focus for the review –** impact of substance misuse, professionals understanding of lasting power of attorney, involving family carers in care planning arrangements, how agencies recognise and respond to self-neglect and how potential indicators of cuckooing are assessed.

## Family involvement in Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Family, carers and friends' contributions and their involvement in reviews is a significant factor in ensuring the person, subject of the review, is known and understood – this additional information can help provide a deeper understanding of their personality and life experiences. Importantly it reminds us that a review focuses on a period of time in someone's life and does not reflect their entire life.

The SAB have been grateful this past year to have had contributions from family members involved in a number of reviews namely: Donna, Charlie, Finley, Hannah, Gwen, and Ian.

"If one person, one family doesn't have to go through this from lessons learnt, changes made, then my battle for my son has not been in vain." Sue (SAR Finley)



The Safeguarding Adults
Review (SAR) Guide for
Families, Friends, and
Carers was updated last
year to acknowledge the
significant distress that
many families experience
having to 'relive' the aspects
of their loved one's death.

Details on Cruse
Bereavement has been
included, the benefits which
their contributions bring to
the review and how we will
work to support them as
much as possible if they
decide to contribute.

## **Priorities 2023 – 24**

In April 2021, the East Sussex SAB published its Strategic Plan for  $2021 - 24^{11}$ . The key priority areas identified for the SAB in 2022 - 23 continue to be priority areas of development and require further embedding within safeguarding practice for 2023/24 and are listed below. Additional areas of self-neglect, homelessness and safeguarding the increasing migrant population will be featured in and alongside these priorities.



### **Embedding the Mental Capacity Act in practice**



Safeguarding transitions for young people at risk



#### Supporting adults who face multiple disadvantage

Specific objectives for 2023/2024 include:

- Undertaking the bi-annual safeguarding assurance activity across the partnership.
- Develop and hold ESSAB Learning Events with the purpose of promoting learning and best practice from published SARs.
- Collaborating with West Sussex and Brighton and Hove SABs on a West Sussex commissioned SAR to consider the complexity of the self-neglect process within Sussex and considering practical change in relation to support for cases who self-neglect.
- A review of the Multi-Agency Risk Management Protocol (MARM)<sup>12</sup> process.
   The review will consider the themes from referrals, emerging issues, and chairing arrangements.
- Develop and publish an East Sussex Multi-Agency Transition to Adulthood Protocol
- Progressing recommendations identified in current and future actions plans for SARs Charlie, Donna, Hannah, Finley, Gwen, and Ian.

<sup>11</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/documents/sab-strategic-plan-2021-2024/

<sup>12</sup> https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/documents/multi-agency-risk-management-marm-protocol/

## **East Sussex Contextual Information**

The State of the County Report<sup>13</sup> for East Sussex 2022 reports:

- Compared to 2022, by 2025 there will be 41,060 older people (age 65+) projected to have a limiting long-term illness whose day-to-day activities are limited a little (up 6.5%), 31,450 people's day to day activities will be limited a lot (up 6.8%).
- By 2028, around 20,000 more people in East Sussex will be living with two or more of these conditions, when compared with the needs of our population in 2018.
- 12,681 Estimated number of people aged 65+ living with dementia in East Sussex by 2025.<sup>14</sup>
- Recently released 2021 Census figures shows East Sussex has the second highest proportion of over 85s in England. This means that there is a higher percentage of the population locally, compared to the national figure who will have, or will develop, care and support needs
- The 2021 Census showed around 53,820 residents (9.9%) of East Sussex were born outside the UK, an increase of 10,970 (25.6%) since 2011.



<sup>13</sup> https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/zpqehvzy/state-of-the-county-2022-for-publication-august.pdf

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-07/ldp\_east\_sussex.pdf

#### Migrant Support, Refugee Resettlement and Asylum Dispersal

In 2022/23 SAB partners sought assurance regarding healthcare needs, mental health needs and safeguarding and potential risks of exploitation in relation to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers being accommodated in various locations in East Sussex. Updates and assurances were provided at a number of meetings of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

At the end of February 2023 almost 1600 Ukrainian guests had arrived in East Sussex on a Homes for Ukraine visa, matched with over 600 sponsors.



Homes for Ukraine<sup>15</sup> is being delivered in East Sussex through partnership of organisations across the public and VCSE sector, with coordination and leadership from the County Council. Partners help to deliver safety checks, welfare support, financial support, and assistance with key needs such as accommodation, employment, English language, and education.

SAB Partner agencies have also responded to the need to safeguard people in contingency hotels in East Sussex. A number of safeguarding training sessions have been facilitated, as well discussions around access to local services and support, meeting basic needs and community tension and integration.

More recently the Home Office have advised there is potential for a large site at Northeye<sup>16</sup> in Bexhill to accommodate male asylum seekers. The Home Office is considering options which could potentially transform the current site into suitable accommodation for asylum seekers in response to the increasing pressures on the UK asylum system.

A Northeye Multi-Agency Forum was set up in June 2023 to provide a forum to share and manage next steps and representatives include ESCC, Rother District Council, Sussex Police, ESFRS, NHS Sussex, Home Office, South-East Strategic Partnership for Migration and VCSE reps (local and national) should the Home Office pursue this option.

To address the challenges and opportunities, of the increase in asylum seekers and refugees in East Sussex, it has been agreed that an East Sussex Migration Partnership Board is established, with the overall purpose of supporting the delivery of a coherent and sustainable strategy for supporting displaced persons in East Sussex, including refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants (e.g., people on Government visa schemes), and to work collaboratively with partners and communities to achieve this.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions

<sup>-</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-factsheets/factsheet-bexhill-asylum-accommodation-accessible

## **East Sussex Safeguarding Data**



## **Adult Social Care and Health**

The Care Act 2014 sets out statutory duties and responsibilities for safeguarding adults including the requirement to undertake enquiries under section 42 of the Act. Below is a summary of key safeguarding activity during 2022/23 for both concerns raised and enquiries undertaken by Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) in East Sussex County Council.

A safeguarding concern is when someone reports an adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited,

The total number of safeguarding concerns received in 2022/23 was **5,171**, **decrease of 11.1%** compared to 5,819 in 2021/22.

A section 42 enquiry relates to the duty of the Local Authority to make enquiries, or have others do so, if an adult may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

The total number of safeguarding enquiries that commenced in 2022/23 was **2,680**, an increase of **10.4%** compared to 2,428 enquiries in 2021/22.

The table below illustrates the number of concerns raised and enquiries since 2017/18 to 2022/23

Year	Total Concerns	Concerns not progressed to enquiry	Enquiries	Percentage of Concerns progressed to Enquiry	
2017/18	4873	3317	1556	31.9%	
2018/19	4841	3713	1128	23.3%	
2019/20	4465	2437	2028	45.4%	
2020/21	4931	2915	2016	40.9%	
2021/22	5819	3391	2428	41.7%	
2022/23	5171	2491	2680	51.8%	

 Previous Audit activity provided assurance on decisions made to progress concerns to safeguarding enquiries, but the increased conversion rates will be monitored in 23-24, to ensure appropriate responses to safeguarding concerns are being achieved.

#### **Safeguarding Enquiries Outcomes**

The desired outcomes are the wishes of the adult at risk or their representative which have been expressed at some point during the information gathering or enquiry phases.

	Fully achieved	Partially achieved	Not achieved
2021/22	53%	43%	4%
2022/23	47%	47%	6%

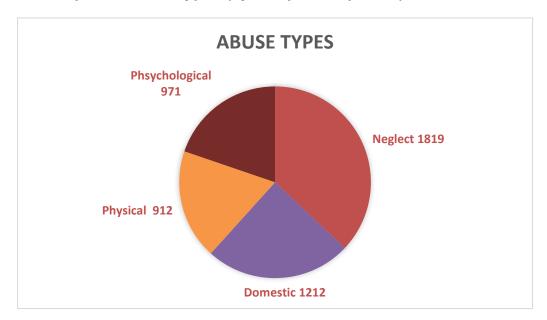
#### Mental capacity for completed safeguarding enquiries

	Adult has capacity	Adult lacks capacity	Not Known		
2021/22	72%	27%*	1%		
2022/23	71%	28%	1%		

<sup>\*</sup>Of the adults who lacked capacity, 98% were supported by an advocate.

 In March, the option of 'not recorded' for Mental Capacity within the ASC Safeguarding episode database was removed, with the aim of improving this further. Of the adults who lacked capacity, 98% were supported by an advocate.

#### Most reported abuse types (by completed episode) 2022/23



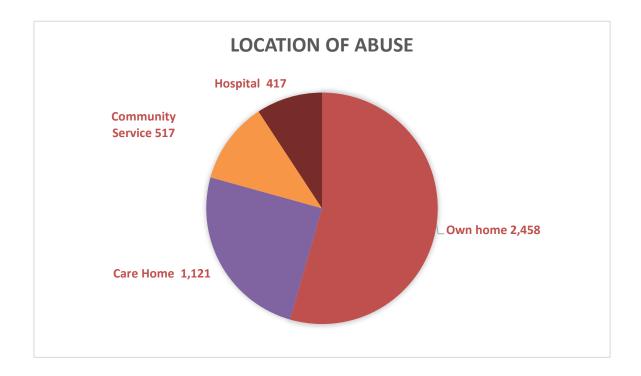
- These four abuse types remain the same as the most reported in 2021/22.
- Neglect cases have increased by 17% this financial year.

National data from 2022<sup>17</sup> reports that the most common type of risk in Section 42 enquiries that concluded in the year was Neglect and Acts of Omission, which accounted for 31% of risks.

• Domestic abuse, psychological, financial, and physical abuse have all decreased slightly compared to last year.

#### Most common locations of abuse 2022/23

- This remains the same as 2021/22 and as in previous years, the most common reported location of abuse is in the adult at risk's own home. This has increased by 6% compared to last year's figures.
- The second most common location continues to be Care Homes. This has increased this year from 954 to 1,121 an increase of 15%.

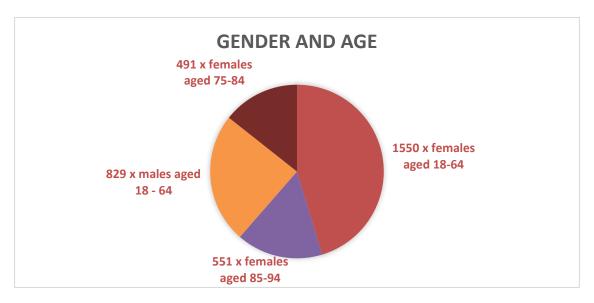


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Safeguarding Adults, England, 2021-22 - NDRS (digital.nhs.uk)

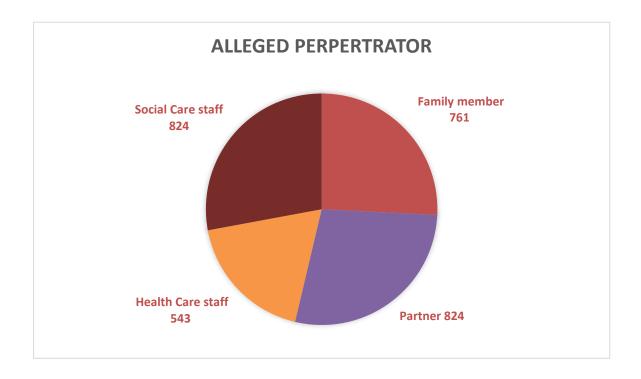
#### Type and location of risk reported nationally in 2021/22<sup>18</sup>

East Sussex data in 2022/23 is comparative with national data from 2021/22. The most common type of risk in Section 42 enquiries that concluded in the year was Neglect and Acts of Omission, which accounted for 31% of risks, and the most common location of the risk was the person's own home at 48%.

#### Most common age and gender of victims 2022/23



#### Alleged perpetrator type 2022/23



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Safeguarding Adults, England, 2021-22 - NDRS (digital.nhs.uk)

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#### Safeguarding enquiries by ethnicity

The table below shows a breakdown of the 5 most recorded ethnicity categories.



 As with the 2021/22 SAB annual report, adults of white origin continue to be the largest group, accounting for 82%(3,766) of individuals, which is consistent with East Sussex population data and in line with the previous year. The second largest recording (5%) is that of white any other background which represents 239 cases.

#### **Making Safeguarding Personal**

- There continues to be an increase in the proportion of adults who were asked for their desired outcomes.
- There will be cases where outcomes will not have been achieved where
  desired outcomes are beyond the remit and control of the enquiry, or where
  the situation has changed from the initial desired outcomes that were
  recorded.

For each enquiry was the individual or individual's representative asked what their desired outcome was?						
Yes, they were asked, and outcomes were expressed	82%	1654				
Yes, they were asked, and no outcomes expressed	13%	271				
No	4%	82				
Don't know	0.19%	4				
Not recorded	0.24%	5				
In how many of these cases were the desired outcomes achieved?						
Fully achieved	48%	800				
Partially achieved	46%	770				
Not achieved	5%	84				



#### **Complaints - Adult Social Care and Health**

The total number of new complaints received by Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) in 2022 - 2023 was **430** which is an increase of 25% from 2021/22.

Of these, 18 related to safeguarding, this is 4.2% of the total complaints received, and compares to 15 (4.5%) complaints received in relation to safeguarding in 2020 – 2021.

The outcome of the 18 complaints relating to safeguarding can be broken down as follows:

Not upheld: 12

Partially Upheld: 5

Upheld: 1

#### Learning and actions from these 18 complaints, include:

- Case audits were undertaken by the Adult Safeguarding Development Team.
- The Adult Safeguarding Development Team have developed Pressure Ulcer Guidance which has recently been reviewed and updated. Health and Social Care Connect, our contact centre, also has a specific form for providers to complete when a concern is being raised about this. Our Pan Sussex Thresholds Guidance, which was recently revised, also contains a section on pressure ulcers and how these should be reported/responded to.
- There is greater emphasis in our training on areas including:
- Professional Curiosity (described as not taking things at face value but exploring every possible indicator of abuse or neglect and the use of awareness of current evidence, applying knowledge to practice, and understanding how policies directly affect patients), and considering protective characteristics within the Equalities Act.
- Mitigating Unconscious bias is a specialised course offered to all Adult Social Care (ASC) staff by the Corporate Training Team and it includes: ageism, racism, sexism, and numerous other forms of covert or overt discrimination. This training to ASC staff is promoted through internal communication media, newsletters, and emails.
- Neglect is a subject highlighted in the Safeguarding Adults e-learning and in both the Safeguarding Adults Introduction and Refresher Training sessions. It is mandatory training for ASC staff.

- The procedures and Lead Enquiry Officer (LEO) checklist was updated and published last year and highlights the need to consider the use of an independent expert in safeguarding enquiries. The checklist also includes the consideration of equality and diversity issues, protected characteristics and ethnicity and cultural needs within the enquiry
- Working with the ASC Principal Social Worker for Adults, ASC practitioners and partners request provider reports with a view to ensuring there is a clear and consistent approach to requesting information. This information is then be analysed in line with the Pan Sussex safeguarding procedures.
- The use of multi-agency meetings including all relevant agencies should support practice as should the LEO checklist to ensure that all identified areas within the enquiry have been concluded.
  - Agenda and minute templates have been updated and published over the last few months to support the structure of enquiries and to follow up on areas of dissent, disagreement, and feedback on minutes within 10 working days.
- Apology given for the complainant not being made aware earlier that there are safeguarding reports and a copy had not been given to complainant in a timely manner. This was addressed with the Worker. The Practice Manager also followed up with their team and provided additional refresher training to all staff members to ensure safeguarding reports and plans are sent out to all parties as per the safeguarding procedures.







Number of Crimes per Category of Abuse Risk reported 2022/23 (figures are comparable with figures from 2021/22).

Physical	819
Institutional	2
Neglect	31
Discriminatory	22
Psychological	458
Sexual	310
Financial	118

 Operation Signature<sup>19</sup> is the force campaign to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud. The campaign aims to combat fraud and scams with a particular focus on protecting the more vulnerable and elderly.



- In 2022/23 Operation Signature supported 952 victims who were either standard, medium, or high-risk victims of fraud and scams
- Across Sussex vulnerable people have been targeted by scammers who have stolen more than £3.6million through courier fraud.
- The majority of the 543 reports of courier fraud reported to Op Signature have been targeted at women aged 75yrs or over. Of those cases 185 suffered a financial loss, leading to the fraudsters walking away with £3.6m.

In one instance, a woman in her 80's in East Sussex was called by a man claiming to be a police officer. The caller claimed her bank account was at risk and a member of the bank staff was committing fraud against her account. She was asked to assist with a fraud investigation and was told to withdraw £8,000 from her local branch. A courier would then collect the cash and "check that the notes were not counterfeits". Thankfully, the bank staff stopped the withdrawal having realised the scam was being carried out and stopped the woman from withdrawing the money before explaining what was happening

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/os/operation-signature/



- Sussex residents lost over £3 million to dating scams in 2022.
- The county ranked fifth in the list of areas hardest hit by such scams with 251 people in the county falling victim.

Policing has a crucial role to play in the identification, support and safeguarding of adults who are at risk of harm.



Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk forms (DASH) forms are for use by specialist domestic abuse and other non-police agencies for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'-based violence and/or stalking are disclosed

The Vulnerable Adult at Risk (VAAR) section of the Single Combined Assessment of Risk Form (SCARF) is completed by the police for every safeguarding concern



# Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



In August 2022, the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) moved to a new system for recording safeguarding concerns that are shared with local authorities. Safeguarding concerns now form part of the Trust's internal incident reporting and are recorded in its incident management system.

 The change provides a central database for the storage and analysis of the Trust's own safeguarding concern data. Prior to this system, the Trust relied on information from different sources, including local authorities, to understand its safeguarding activity.

# The table shows Adult Safeguarding Concerns raised by SPFT in East Sussex in 2022/23

• The total figures for the twelve-month period are taken from the eight months of data from August 2022 to the end of March 2023. Future reporting cycles will be based on actual data across the twelve-month period.

Categories of Abuse	Nι	ımber
Physical		90
Sexual		29
Financial		38
Discriminatory		6
Domestic		26
Psychological/emotional		63
Neglect & acts of omission		74
Self-neglect		23
Organisational		6
Modern slavery		5
	Total	360

#### **Section 42 Enquiries**

Trust safeguarding enquiry information records forty-two Section 42 enquiries within East Sussex where the Trust was believed to be the cause of risk.

 The majority of these enquiries were linked to inpatient mental health settings with a category of abuse of neglect and acts of omission. Enquiries focussed issues related to delays in admission, unsafe discharges, and incidents on the wards. Concern continues to exist about safeguarding risks arising from hospital
admission delays, especially following mental health act assessments. The
issues leading to this situation are complex and relate to the number of
hospital beds as well as available health and social care support in the
community to enable discharge of patients who no-longer need to be in
hospital.

#### **Safeguarding Adult Reviews**

The Trust participated in the Safeguarding Adult Review work of the Board which included the three Safeguarding Adult Reviews that were published in the 2022/23 business year (SAR Anna (May 2022), SAR Ben (September 2022) and a Thematic Review (November 2022).

The Thematic Review is especially relevant to the Trust as women at the centre of the review had mental health problems. The Trust is engaged in the action planning from the review and embedding learning, which focusses on trauma informed care, working with people with multiple compound needs/multiple disadvantage and suicide prevention.

#### **Safeguarding Service**

The Trust's Safeguarding Service is fully staffed and allows the Trust to deliver its safeguarding adult training in line with NHS requirements. It also enables the Trust to support its frontline services to respond to safeguarding concerns and enquiries, and to play its part in the work of the Sussex Safeguarding Adult Boards.

The challenge for the Trust is delivering core services at a time of increasing demand and continuing pressure on health and social care resources.

#### **Safeguarding Initiatives and Projects**

**Domestic Abuse** - The Trust has updated its Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence policy for working with patients and carers and created a new domestic abuse policy to respond to its own staff who are victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. A working group has begun to update the Trust's mandatory domestic abuse training.

The Trust continues to provide mental health representation to East Sussex Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and is supportive of the current East Sussex pilot to amend MARAC processes in the county.

**Safeguarding Policies -** The Trust's adult safeguarding and Prevent policies have been reviewed and updated. The updated Prevent policy now includes reference to two new posts within the Trust to support its Prevent work. These are a Prevent Practitioner (Social Worker) and a Senior Clinical Lead for Prevent (Consultant Psychiatrist).

# **East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service**

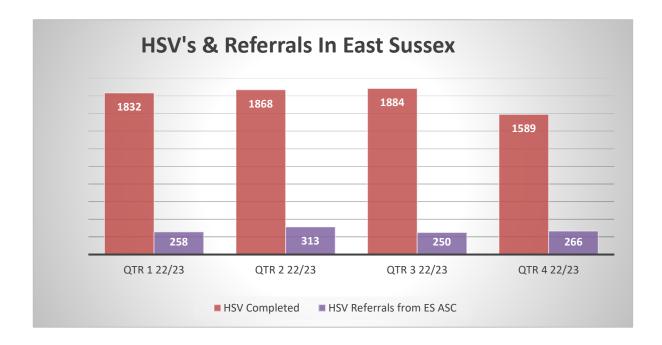


#### **Home Safety Visits**

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) provide Home Safety Visits (HSV's) to members of the community with essential information on safety in their home, escape plans and what to do in the case of a fire.

ESFRS also works with GP surgeries to deliver home safety visits to those most at risk from accidental dwelling fires.

In 2022/23 over 7,000 home safety visits were completed in East Sussex



#### Coming to Notice (CTN) forms

- 399 CTN forms were submitted in 2022/23 in relation to safeguarding concerns. Hoarding and mental health were the two most common safeguarding concerns raised.
- Hoarding represented 30% of all concerns
- Mental Health represented 13% of all concerns

#### **Safeguarding Training**

Safeguarding and community safety staff attend East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership training courses throughout the year.



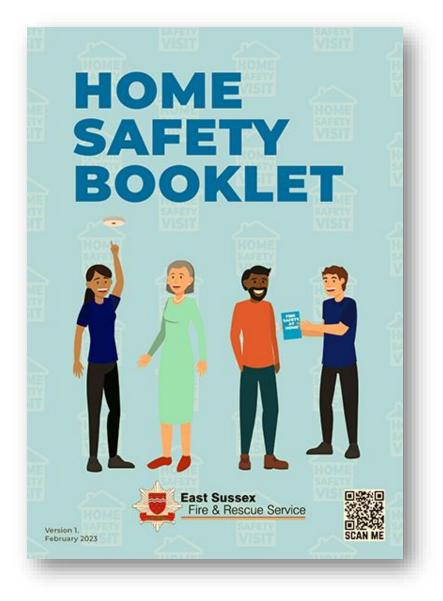
Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 staff have attended the following courses:

Safeguarding Essentials course (online course) – 675

Safeguarding Adults & Children (face to face course) – 67

The new **Home Fire Safety booklet** is an easy-to-read guide that brings together important safety information from various sources. It helps keep homes and families safe, especially children The booklet also covers topics such as:

- Mental health
- Wellbeing
- Dementia
- Cost of living



## **Probation Service**



East Sussex Probation area covers both areas of East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Therefore, the data below is reflective of both areas.

#### In 2022/23:

There has been a decrease of 71 probation cases since November 2022

There have been increases in safeguarding and police check requests and responses.

Safeguarding checks increased by 29.22%



Police checks increased by 22.54%

Police checks returned increased by 21.71%



#### Safeguarding Current Activity from Probation Service by Gender

Gender	Safeguarding - Known Persons Check	Safeguarding Referral	Safeguarding Referral (Adult)	Safeguarding Referral (Child)	Police Intelligence Enquiries Requested	Police Intelligence Enquiries -Response Received	Total
Female	39	2	2	1	327	244	615
Male	439	107	2	5	2912	1929	5394
Total	478	109	4	6	3239	2173	6009

89.76% checks and responses are for males on probation caseload

#### Safeguarding Current Activity from Probation Service by Age Group

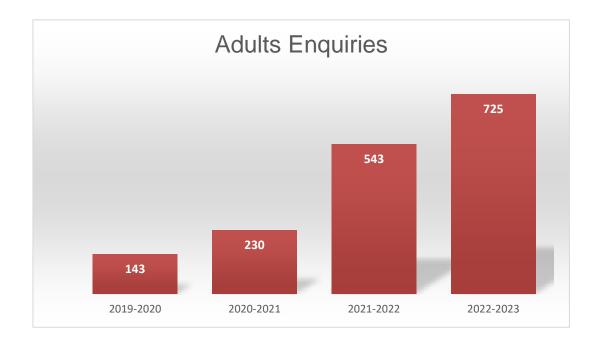
Age Group	Police Intelligence Enquiries Requested	Police Intelligence Enquiries - Response Received	Safeguarding Enquiries Requested	Safeguarding Enquiries - response received	Safeguarding - Known Persons Check	Referral	Safeguarding Referral (Adult)	Safeguarding Referral (Child)	Total
<b>■ Brighton and East Sussex</b>	3225	2149	1475	1517	473	108	4	6	8957
18 - 20	77	71	55	42	14	0	0	0	259
21 - 24	289	191	139	134	41	3	0	0	797
25 - 30	640	413	270	287	77	17	1	1	1706
31 - 40	1087	728	501	518	161	40	0	2	3037
41 - 50	546	378	259	277	101	23	3	2	1589
51 - 60	404	249	160	182	50	13	0	1	1059
61 - 70	140	85	64	51	19	6	0	0	365
71 - 80	35	30	18	21	8	3	0	0	115
81 - 90	7	3	8	5	2	3	0	0	28
91 - 100	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	3225	2149	1475	1517	473	108	4	6	8957

33.90% checks and responses are for 31 – 40 age group

# East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust



East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) has seen a year-on-year increase in the number of Safeguarding Adults enquiries, the predominate themes are neglect and self-neglect.



The trust implemented **a quality improvement plan in 2022-2023** in response to an increase in the number of enquiries about the organisation that were predominantly attributed to the discharge process and to a lesser extent to skin damage.

- Improvements in documentation and handover have supported the skin damage enquiries. Concerns regarding discharge frequently included the terms 'unsafe' and 'failed' discharge. Significant work has been and continues to be undertaken with regard to discharge. This includes safely balancing patient choice whilst also trying to mitigate the risk of harm from deconditioning. In trying to ensure that patients do not rapidly decondition; the culture and approach to falls prevention is changing as a result.
- One element of quality improvement was the development of a weekly tracker to monitor the themes alongside meetings with the Heads of Divisions and Matrons led by the Chief Nurse. The progress of completion of the provider reports is also monitored through a database and discussion within Divisional governance forums to ensure robust and timely responses.
- There has been an additional and significant challenge with the very high numbers of patient with a very extended length of stay many of whom are frail,

complex and at high risk of harm e.g., falls, pressure damage and psychological distress.

- The presentation of some cases is increasingly complex. An area where this is
  of particular note is within Maternity Safeguarding, for example domestic abuse
  considerations have also to encompass any risks to new-borns and other
  families.
- Since Covid, ESHT facilitated a level 3 Think Family Safeguarding training. This
  has been delivered through a combination of e-learning and a virtual training
  platform; this training is being updated for 2023-2024.
- The Health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (HIDVA) facilitates
  Domestic Abuse training within the trust. In 2022 the HIDVA also facilitated
  training for Domestic Abuse champions within the trust, 14 staff completed this
  programme and it is hoped this will be offered again this year.
- In 2022 the trust employed a Mental Capacity lead to support staff to be more cognisant of the Mental Capacity Act and to embed understanding about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) process. As a result, the numbers of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) applications within the trust have increased.
- The East Sussex Healthcare team has functioned alongside considerable staffing challenges in the last year with staff sickness alongside vacancies.

"Can't thank the staff in A&E enough for their dedication and care when my husband, who has dementia was taken I'll. Their kindness, humour, and especially patience made the visit less stressful for me"

"This year my wife had the onset of new Atrial Fibrillation. The care and kindness received from her Cardiologist has been and continues to be amazing. He is a brilliant listener and worked hard to find a solution to returning her to good health. Two words 'fantastic and thanks'

"Went to A&E on a Saturday
afternoon with a progressive hand
infection. I was triaged quickly,
and the subsequent assessment
was very thorough, culminating in
a course of antibiotics. The staff
were very empathic and put my
mind at rest while waiting.
Subsequently, due to good liaison
from the clinician, my GP
contacted me a few days later to
assess progress"

# **NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board**



NHS Sussex (also known as the local Integrated Care Board or ICB) became an organisation on 1st July 2022, taking on the commissioning functions previously carried out by the Clinical Commissioning Group<sup>20</sup> (which ceased to exist thereafter) and has continued to work alongside both statutory and wider Safeguarding Adults Board to safeguard the local population.

This includes providing health leadership to all SAB subgroups and chairing the Transitional Safeguarding Task and Finish group which was jointly commissioned by the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership during Quarter 4 and will continue working on this crucial piece of work in 2023/24 financial year.

In addition to fulfilling its statutory obligations, as per the NHS: Safeguarding accountability and assurance framework<sup>21</sup>, during the 2022-23 year, NHS Sussex have continued to undertake a number of actions to support strengthening safeguarding practice and arrangements across the East Sussex health landscape.

#### Some notable highlights this year have included:

Mental Capacity Act Reforms / Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)
Readiness: In anticipation of the implementation of the Mental Capacity
(Amendment) Act 2019: Liberty Protection Safeguards NHS Sussex set up a
Sussex Wide LPS implementation Board, chaired by the Chief Nursing Officer,
and a system wide LPS steering group. This was designed to be a supportive
forum as well as bringing together Integrated Care System colleagues across
Sussex to coordinate and plan the implementation for the revised legislation
across the local health economy.

Integrated care systems (ICSs) are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area.

 At the end of the 2022-23 year (April 2023), the Government announced that delay the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards<sup>22</sup> would be beyond the life of this Parliament. NHS Sussex remains committed in supporting to ensure that there is an appropriate understanding and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act within health settings, leading to improved patient experiences and outcomes. A number of training webinars

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> NHS Sussex - Sussex Health and Care (ics.nhs.uk)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> NHS England » Safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk in the NHS: Safeguarding accountability and assurance framework

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019: Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

regarding use of the Mental Capacity Act, using real case studies to putting theory into practice, have been scheduled to be held in 2023-24. Members of the Sussex wide LPS Steering Group have also agreed a change to its Terms of References, becoming the Sussex Wide MCA Steering Group moving forward.

 NHS Sussex Safeguarding Fortnight: During Q3 2022-23, NHS Sussex delivered a fortnight of multi-agency learning events covering a wide range of topics including learning from statutory reviews, exploitation, domestic abuse, and trauma informed care.

The events reached approximately 1,165 attendees across the twelve sessions with representation from 120 different organisations (including from statutory, voluntary and the independent sector).

Feedback from the fortnight indicates that the sessions were very well received, with attendees reporting that they were taking forward the related learning to embed into practice.



- Revised Local NHS Sussex Safeguarding Arrangements (Place Based Leadership): In consideration of the breadth of the revised organisational geography of NHS Sussex (when compared to the former individual CCGs) and in recognition of bespoke local safeguarding issues within Sussex, changes were made, through the implementation of ICB 'place-based' Safeguarding leadership to support the system safeguarding work.
- Since Q3, there has been dedicated Designated and Named Safeguarding Professionals for Safeguarding Adults for East Sussex. This enables our Safeguarding Professionals to work more consistently alongside multi-agency partners in identifying and support the development of local safeguarding needs, whilst maintaining the benefits of continuing to work as part of the wider Sussex system (such as sharing best practice / relevant learning from across the Integrated Care System).
- Raising awareness of Serious Violence and Exploitation: During Q4 2022-23, NHS Sussex hosted a virtual conference including sessions on 'cuckooing', tackling serious and organised crime and 'honour-based' abuse. The conference was very well attended by a wide range of professionals and has been well evaluated, with learning being shared and developed into practice.

# Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

# Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) serves a wide geographical area which includes, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and High Weald, Lewes, and Havens, and provides health services in the community to both adults and children.

- Safeguarding is a fundamental part of our recruitment process, ensuring appropriate checks are in place to ensure all staff are employed within SCFT services to contribute to the delivery of excellent care within the community.
- All staff have access to mandatory and statutory safeguarding training for adults and children appropriate to their role and position within the Trust including higher-level training for those in specialist roles.
- SCFT has a safeguarding team which provides specialist advice for both adults and children across all services and supports staff to recognise signs of abuse and how to report it. The Trust works effectively with all safeguarding partnerships to ensure a multi-disciplinary and cross agency approach.
- The safeguarding team works closely with new service developments to ensure we provide high quality and effective health services. The team is part of a Quality and Safety Department, which enables close working both with specialist safety teams and clinical staff. This ensures that we focus on learning for improvement and strengthens our personalised approach to safeguarding.





# Healthwatch- Putting a Face to Unmet Need Report 2023

Following contact from a member of the public about their father's experience of health and social care services, Healthwatch East Sussex undertook a project in 2022/23: *Putting a Face to Unmet Need*<sup>23</sup> to explore people's social care needs and how they were being met. The findings and recommendations from the project were published in May 2023.

- Working in collaboration with three partner organisations, Citizens Advice in Eastbourne, Diversity Resource International (DRI) and Care for the Carers, fifteen people were identified and interviewed. They were asked about their experience of social care and the impact of needed social care.
- People were drawn from three groups, namely unpaid carers, individuals from an ethnic minority background and people on low incomes.



#### **Unmet Need and Safeguarding**

This report looks at unmet social care needs in a broad way. People were asked about their lived experience of the social care system and based on what Healthwatch heard, the public appear to know relatively little about who oversees adult social care, how it works, how it is paid for and what help they might get.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://cdn.whitebearplatform.com/hweastsussex/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/05152842/HWES-Unmet-Need-Project-Report-2023-FINAL-5.5.23.pdf

The complexities of what is a health need or a housing need or a social care need and who might (if anyone) help or be responsible for helping was reflected in the interviews that were conducted.

A number of recommendations have been put together by a combination of Healthwatch East Sussex staff and volunteers and representatives of partner organisations contributing to this report.

#### Recommendations include:

- There is a general lack of public awareness about Adult Social Care (ASC), what it is, who is responsible for providing services and how to access advice and services.
- Adult Social Care should work with partners and in particular the Safeguarding Adults Board to develop and implement a plan to improve public awareness of safeguarding and who to contact with a concern.
- Health and social care partners including ASC, NHS and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations should develop a plan to provide information, advice and emotional support for Unpaid carers and people arranging for the care of a family member.
- Health and care strategies and delivery programmes should identify and focus resources on preventative measures, rather than just crisis management.

## Raising a safeguarding concern

No one should have to live with abuse or neglect – it is always wrong, whatever the circumstances.

Anybody can raise a safeguarding concern for themselves or another person. Do not assume that someone else is doing something about the situation.

#### You can report a concern in the following ways:

Phone: 0345 60 80 191 (8am to 8pm 7 days a week, including bank holidays)

Email: Health and Social Care Connect

Online: Via the form on the <u>East Sussex County Council website</u>

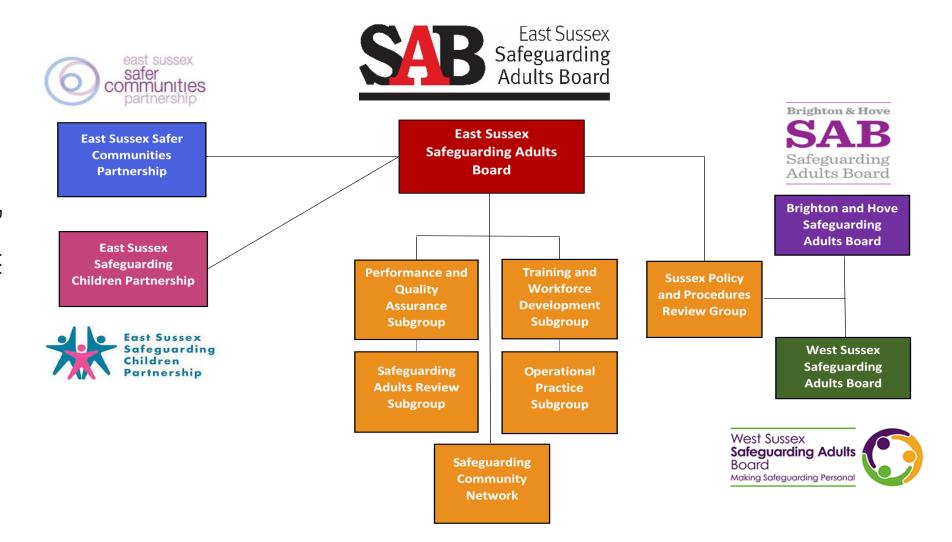
Contact the police on 101 or in an emergency 999

Find out more in our safeguarding leaflet and easy read version safeguarding leaflet.

#### Appendix 1 - Board membership

- East Sussex Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)
- NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Sussex Police
- Care for the Carers
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
- District and borough council representation
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT)
- East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP)
- Healthwatch
- HMP Lewes
- Independent Homecare representatives
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)
- Lay members
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- NHS England
- Registered Care Association (RCA)
- South-East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb)
- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- Trading Standards, East Sussex County Council
- Voluntary and community sector representation

# **Appendix 2 – Board structure**



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# East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024



You can get all our publications in a format to suit you. If you would prefer this plan in an alternative format or language, please ask us.

Please phone Health and Social Care Connect on 0345 60 80 191.

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# Introduction from Graham Bartlett, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



I'm pleased to present the Strategic Plan for the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for 2021 – 2024. This strategic plan is a statement of the SAB's vision and priorities over the next three years and details how we will work as a partnership to keep people safe from abuse and neglect.

The Care Act 2014 sets out the statutory responsibilities of SABs to work together to safeguard adults and prevent and

reduce the risk of abuse and neglect. Of crucial importance, it also outlines that agencies must enable people involved in safeguarding interventions to have choice and control over decisions about risk and safety.

As chair of the SAB I am keen to ensure that people who live and work locally in East Sussex are clear about our vision and the important role the SAB has to play in supporting an effective partnership response to abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is everyone's business. By helping people to understand what abuse and neglect is, how to report concerns and what steps agencies will take to respond to these concerns we aim to build resilience and empower communities.

Over the course of 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic presented turmoil and challenges beyond anyone's expectations. During 2021 the East Sussex SAB is working under the expectation that Covid-19 and responses to it will continue over this next year and possibly beyond, and therefore there will be specific areas of work for the SAB which directly relate to Covid-19.

Our strategic priorities for the next three years will be delivered through our annual business plan, which will be reviewed and revised regularly to ensure we are achieving what we said we would do and that safeguarding needs are being addressed across East Sussex.

**Graham Bartlett** 

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Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

### About us

The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership of key statutory and voluntary agencies in East Sussex as well as lay members. The SAB provides leadership and strategic oversight of adult safeguarding work across East Sussex.

A full list of the partners of the East Sussex SAB is listed at Appendix 1.

The work of the SAB is underpinned by the Care Act 2014. The SAB has the overarching purpose of ensuring that agencies work in partnership to deliver joined up services that safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We do this by:

- Gaining assurance that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act and its statutory guidance.
- Gaining assurance that the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) are central to safeguarding, and practice is person-centred, and outcome focused.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect, where possible.
- Ensuring partner agencies are effective when abuse and neglect has occurred and give timely and proportionate responses.
- Striving for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and that this enhances the quality of life of adults in East Sussex.

SABs are required to publish a strategic plan, which sets out how the Board will seek to prevent abuse and neglect and how it will help and protect adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The strategic plan has 2 main purposes:

- To specify the actions required by the SAB and its member agencies to implement the strategy.
- To inform the local community and all interested parties about the work programme of the SAB.

Our strategic plan sets out:

- **Our vision:** the outcomes we want to achieve for the people of East Sussex.
- Our strategic plan for 2021 2024: our aims and objectives to achieve our vision.

• Our annual work plan: the key actions and targets we will undertake to achieve our strategic plan.

### Partnership working across Sussex

The SAB has formal links with a number of other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, including the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safer Communities Partnership, Children and Young People's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Board also works closely with the neighbouring Brighton & Hove and West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards and many of our polices, protocols and procedures are adopted on a pan-Sussex basis.

### **Our vision**

Our vision is for all agencies across East Susses to work together and effectively build resilience and empower communities in responding to abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to widely promote the message that safeguarding is everybody's business in that:

- Abuse is not tolerated.
- People know what to do if abuse happens.
- People and organisations are proactive in working together to respond effectively to abuse.

### **Making Safeguarding Personal**

The East Sussex SAB is committed to the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) and this ethos is embedded in all our strategic objectives. MSP means that any safeguarding interventions should promote a strengths-based approach and be informed by what the adult or their representative would like to achieve, and which enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

# Our Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024

#### Strategic theme 1: Accountability and leadership

**SAB priority:** Ensure the SAB provides strategic leadership to embed the principles of safeguarding and contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

**Desired outcome:** To provide assurance to the people of East Sussex that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place across the partnership so that people have confidence in multi-agency safeguarding responses.

- Ensure there is effective governance in place so that all Board members understand their roles and responsibilities under the Care Act 2014.
- Ensure robust mechanisms are in place for partners to be held to account for their safeguarding practice.
- Ensure that there is appropriate representation from partners and organisations on the SAB and its subgroups.
- Ensure clear and transparent annual budget plans are in place for all SAB activities.
- Develop arrangements with other Boards to be responsive to specific safeguarding themes, including in relation to self-neglect, coercion and control, criminal exploitation, modern slavery including cuckooing, young people at risk and transitions from childrens to adults services and homelessness.
- Review our links and strengthen joint working arrangements with partnerships across Sussex including with children safeguarding partners following the implementation of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements in 2019.
- Ensure risk and impact on safeguarding from Covid-19 is evaluated and monitored, and lessons are learnt to strive for continuous improvement.

#### Strategic theme 2: Policies and procedures

**SAB priority:** To have assurance that multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and reflect up to date legal frameworks, policy and guidance and that these are easily accessible and used effectively by frontline staff.

**Desired outcome:** Our partners work within a framework of policies and procedures that keep people safe from abuse and neglect.

- Ensure robust feedback mechanisms on safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, to ensure safeguarding practice is in line with current best practice and the Care Act 2014.
- Undertake assurance activity to test compliance and effectiveness of the implementation of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.
- Raise awareness of safeguarding policies and procedures related to specific local safeguarding themes and challenges.
- Raise awareness of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)
   Protocol and its referral process and to support robust and consistent decision making.
- Ensure feedback is given consistently, where appropriate, to those who
  have raised a safeguarding concern, and that referrers are supported to
  understand the decisions made.

# Strategic theme 3: Performance, quality and audit, and organisational learning

**SAB priority:** Assure learning from SAB and SAR activity is effectively embedded into practice to facilitate organisational change across agencies, refocus quality assurance mechanisms and better use safeguarding data to define SAB priority areas of business.

**Desired outcome:** Confidence that services are learning and improving in their safeguarding practice and in managing needs and risks collaboratively.

- Ensure learning from SARs, other reviews and multi-agency audits are effectively embedded into practice and facilitate organisational change.
- Ensure the SAB has effective arrangements for the commissioning of SARs
  to ensure these reviews are precise in form and focus and take into account
  a range of case and contextual factors so as to shape learning and
  continuous improvement.
- Ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency safeguarding data to shape learning, awareness and practice.
- Ensure a culture of openess and transparency is adopted to promote learning and celebrate success.
- Share learning with neighbouring Boards and relevant national links, such as the National SAB Managers Network.

# Strategic theme 4: Prevention, engagement and Making Safeguarding Personal

**SAB priority:** Adults, carers and the local community as well as professionals assisting to shape the work of the SAB and to ensure safeguarding practice is person-centred.

**Desired outcome:** Local communities have a good awareness of safeguarding, and clients and professionals feel empowered for their voices to be heard in safeguarding practice and policy development.

- Develop a culture where all agencies engage adults in conversations from the outset as to how best to respond to and progress safeguarding concerns and achieve their desired outcomes.
- Develop processes to enable meaningful feedback to the SAB from adults and carers who have experienced safeguarding interventions.
- Build the resilience of those who may be at risk of abuse and neglect, including young people who are transitioning from childrens to adults services, and those who are homeless to improve wellbeing.
- Continue to develop approaches to safeguarding which recognise the value of prevention and early intervention.
- Produce information for the community which is easily accessible and raises awareness of adult safeguarding and increases confidence in raising concerns.
- Ensuring communication and engagement strategies consider the diversity of local communities and reflect changing demographics.

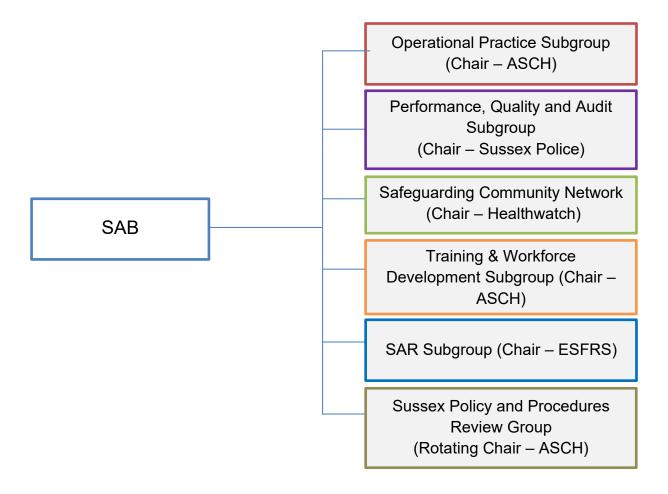
# Strategic theme 5: Integration, and training and workforce development

**SAB priority:** Ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults appropriately where abuse and neglect are suspected. This is to include emerging local safeguarding issues.

**Desired outcome:** Adults are supported by a skilled and competence workforce.

- Ensure the workforce is equipped to support adults effectively where abuse and neglect takes place.
- Ensure there are mechanisms to review the impact and effectiveness of training, including in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Explore opportunities for multi-agency training delivery that promote equality and diversity.
- Continue to implement delivery of the Sussex Learning and Development Strategy 2019 – 2022, which provides a Sussex-wide approach to sharing training resources and learning from SARs and other reviews.

### Our Annual Business Plan 2021 - 2022



# **Key priority areas for the East Sussex SAB 2021 – 2022**

- 1. Embedding the Mental Capacity Act in practice
- 2. Safeguarding transitions for young people at risk
- 3. Working with multiple complex needs

#### SAB

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Oversee the work of the subgroups and monitor progress of the strategic plan and business plan to ensure the SAB's core duties under the Care Act are met.
- Ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the SAB to oversee and lead safeguarding activities that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.
- Establish a subgroup chairs meeting which will meet on a 6 monthly basis with the aim of strengthening links and communication across the subgroups of the SAB and opportunities for peer support and reciprocal challenge.
- Develop a Board members pack outlining constitution arrangements, terms of referance and quoracy of the SAB.
- Ensure SAB budget plan reflects fair and appropriate partner contributions, evidenced by a report on budget spend given annually.
- Ensure key partners within homecare, residential and nursing care, housing providers and the voluntary and community sector are engaged with for strategic leadership to be achieved.
- Monitor the LADO's activity in 2021 2022 and ensure there is clarity on the response to allegations about people in a position of trust.

#### **SAR Subgroup**

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Ensure the core business of managing SARs and other reviews is delivered in line with statutory duties.
- Raise awareness of the Sussex SAR Protocol with the aim of improving the quality of SAR referrals and ensure the threshold for decision making is applied consistently across Sussex.
- Support and embed the learning from the SAR National Analysis, including developing core standards for SAR reports.
- Ensure that learning from SARs locally and nationally is regularly considered and supported.
- Ensure mechanisms are in place to share learning across SARs, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme.

#### **Performance Quality and Audit Subgroup**

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Ensure the SAB has robust multi-agency data to shape practice and priorities, and effect change when required.
- Through the Performance, Quality and Audit Framework support partner agencies to monitor, assess and improve safeguarding adults' arrangements.
- Provide an overview of local and regional safeguarding transitions pathways to the SAB and develop mechanisms to address the gaps for supporting young people at risk of exploitation as they transition from children's to adults services.
- Ensure the impact of the Coronavirus upon services within East Sussex are evaluated, that recovery measures are monitored, and the learning is shared both in relation to the opportunities and challenges this period has created.
- Receive assurance on the implementation of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy from April 2021 and how this informs recommissioning and developments in specialist domestic violence services.

#### **Operational Practice Subgroup**

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Seek assurance from partners on organisational arrangements to ensure compliance in relation to the Mental Capacity Act.
- Ensure the effectiveness of joint working, including information sharing and consolidation of standards for safeguarding across agencies.
- Develop a multi-agency risk management framework to enhance partnership working in supporting adults with multiple complex needs.
- Strengthen mechanisms and tools to feedback to individuals and agencies who raise safeguarding concerns to increase knowledge and confidence of safeguarding pathways.
- Review and update protocol and guidance documents to ensure they remain relevant and up-to-date for safeguarding practice. Over this financial year, this will include reviews of the Sussex Information Sharing Guide and Protocol and the Adult Death Protocol.
- Implement the Financial Abuse Strategy for 2021 2024 to ensure a coordinated partnership response to financial abuse.
- Ensure compliance with the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) ahead of implementation in April 2022.

#### Training and Workforce Development Subgroup

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Provide an overarching framework for adult safeguarding training and workforce development in all three Sussex SABs, which sets out a shared approach to the promotion of safeguarding competency frameworks and analysis of learning outcomes from SARs.
- Develop awareness amongst the workforce of the importance of an understanding of trauma within the context of safeguarding and ensure this embedded within safeguarding training.
- Keep informed on developments with Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) and ensure training programmes are developed ahead of implementation in April 2022.

#### **Safeguarding Community Network**

Objectives for 2021 – 2022

- Develop a communication and engagement strategy to ensure greater adult and carer representation within the SAB.
- Expand lay member representation to support effective links between the SAB and the local community and to independent insight on behalf of the public into the work of agencies and the Board.
- Develop the arrangements to maximise involvement and engagement across the membership of the SCN to take into account the diversity of needs and perspectives in relation to safeguarding.

# **Appendix 1: Board membership**

Partners of the East Sussex SAB are:

- East Sussex Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)
- NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Sussex Police
- Care for the Carers
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
- District and borough council representation
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS)
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT)
- East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP)
- Healthwatch
- HMP Lewes
- Homecare representatives
- Kent, Surrey, Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)
- Lay members
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- NHS England
- Registered Care Association (RCA)
- South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb)
- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)
- Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- Trading Standards
- Voluntary and community sector representation



# Agenda Item 9

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

By: Director of Adult Social Care & Health

Title: Annual Review of Safer Communities Performance, Priorities &

Issues, and Implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in East

Sussex

Purpose: To update the Committee on performance in relation to safer

communities in 2022 - 2023, priorities and issues highlighted in the

Partnership Business Plan 2023 – 2026 (Appendix 1), with a

particular focus on the Serious Violence Duty in the Police, Crime,

Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Appendix 2).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To consider and comment on performance across the Safer Communities Partnership during 2022/23.

To note the strategic priorities in the next three year Business Plan.

To note the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in East Sussex.

#### 1. Background Information

- 1.1 East Sussex remains a relatively safe place to live, work, and visit, compared to national averages. There are some collective challenges, most significantly the shortage of affordable, appropriate housing, which means that the most vulnerable members of our communities, for example victims of domestic abuse and prison leavers, will often be homeless or in temporary accommodation for many years.
- 1.2 Some communities (places and people) experience multiple disadvantage, and some are disproportionately affected by certain types of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).
- 1.3 The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership (SCP) is responsible for developing a Business Plan which addresses shared strategic priorities for community safety. This enables the Partnership to make use of economies of scale in tackling priorities across Districts and Boroughs, identify regional changes in the activities and resources of criminals or vulnerable people, and better access opportunities for county-level funding.
- 1.4. In addition to the East Sussex SCP, which is chaired and serviced by the county council, there are four local Community Safety Partnerships in East Sussex. Each of these partnerships publish a plan to address the issues raised in their local area, as defined by their own members. These plans inform the county-wide planning.
- 1.5 The SCP strives to ensure community safety work is joined up across the county. Strategies and partnerships to tackle drug-related harm, domestic abuse and serious violence operate as sub-groups under the SCP which also report into the pan-Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Board.

- 1.6 These are aligned with the work of the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Children and Young People's Trust through a Partnership Protocol.
- 1.7 The County Council's priorities for community safety are informed and delivered by the East Sussex SCP business planning process. The SCP's Business Plan is on a three year cycle (currently 2023-2026) and reviewed annually to ensure it is on track. The Business Plan is attached at **Appendix 1.**
- 1.8 The SCP has three strategic priorities: protecting vulnerable people; identifying those at risk of harm; and keeping communities safe. These priorities reflect and complement the individual priorities of all members. Other priority areas, such as road safety and managing the impact of anti-social behaviour and street communities are addressed through other partnership structures, with support from the wider partnership as appropriate.
- 1.9 The Serious Violence Duty requires councils and local services to work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence. It is only by pursuing a strategic, coordinated approach involving a range of agencies, including partnerships between statutory and voluntary organisations, that violent crime can be effectively addressed see Appendix 2.

#### 2. Summary Performance Highlights - Sussex Police Data 2022/23

- 2.1 Overall, reported crime in East Sussex remains lower than national averages. However, in line with national trends, reported crime (excluding fraud) increased by 7% in 2022/23 compared to the previous financial year. In East Sussex, the increase was highest in reports of theft (up by 20% on the previous year), burglary (up by 12%) and shoplifting (up by 32%).
- 2.2 In 2022/23, there were 496 Public Place Serious Violent Crimes in East Sussex. This was an increase of 13.2% compared to the previous year (438). The highest percentage increase has been in Robbery in a public place (41.8%). In Eastbourne there were also significant percentage increases in reports of possession of weapons between these years (21%) and a slight increase in Rother (7%); however, in the rest of the county (Hastings, Lewes and Wealden), reports of possession of weapons declined.
- 2.3 There were substantial increases in reports of vehicle offences across the county which increased by 41% on the previous year, predominantly in Eastbourne where reports increased by 107%. These offences include theft of a vehicle including motorcycles, or from a vehicle, for example of catalytic converters. Those responsible for motorcycle theft are often juveniles.
- 2.4 There was a 14% reduction in reports of drug offences across the county, including Eastbourne which saw a 15% decrease, and Hastings which saw an 8% decrease.
- 2.5 There were notable decreases in *reports* of Anti-Social Behaviour during 2022/23 compared to the previous year with almost 4,000 fewer reports of Nuisance ASB in the rolling 12 month period. However, anecdotal feedback from community safety partners suggests this may reflect a loss of public confidence in reporting this type of crime, rather than a decrease in incidence.
- 2.6 Domestic Abuse Single Point of Access (SPOA) Early Help referrals are increasing in the West of the County, with the highest percentage of referrals during 2022/23 from Wealden.

This may be partly attributable to the investment of service resource being focused on the larger coastal towns of Hastings and Eastbourne.

#### 3. Community Engagement

- 3.1 The East Sussex Reputation Tracker Survey in Summer 2022 gathered information from a cross-section of 500 East Sussex residents. Results show that 67% of residents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- 3.2 Residents were asked to select three Community Safety Priorities and three types of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) that they feel are most important for the SCP to tackle. These results informed the SCP's Strategic Assessment and selection of ongoing priorities.
- 3.3 The top three community safety priorities for residents remain: i) sexual violence and abuse; ii) serious violent crime including knife crime; and iii) online safety, harassment and abuse.
- 3.4 The three most pressing types of anti-social behaviour that residents would like to see addressed remain: i) drug dealing in public places; ii) underage drinking in public; and iii) and aggressive street begging.
- 3.5 The survey asked whether residents chose these priorities because: i) they had been directly affected; ii) it was a local issue they were aware of; or iii) they were broadly aware of the importance of the issue. The highest proportion of direct impact were road safety, fraud & scams, online safety, and domestic violence and abuse. Those seen as a local issue were domestic violence & abuse, drug & alcohol misuse, exploitation & recruitment of young people by criminals, and theft and burglary.

#### 4. Domestic Violence and Abuse

- 4.1 Domestic abuse remains a significant proportion of all violent crime across the three Sussex authorities (over 30%), although there has been a slight decrease in the number of people reporting domestic abuse to police (8%) and those accessing specialist support services (2.8%).
- 4.2 In 2021/22, three women died as a consequence of domestic abuse. In 2022/23, one woman was murdered. All were subject to Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 4.3 During 2022/23, 1,099 high-risk domestic violence and abuse cases were identified, and discussed at the East Sussex Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). This is 18% more than the expected number of 40 per 10,000 population (benchmark by SafeLives, a national domestic abuse charity). This trend is similar in Brighton and Hove.
- 4.4 Repeat referral rates in 2022/23 accounted for 36% of all cases discussed in Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden MARAC, and 40% of cases discussed in Hastings and Rother MARAC; both within the SafeLives' recommended range of 28% to 40%.
- 4.5 In December 2022, a MARAC triage one-year pilot was introduced to address the ongoing increase in volume of referrals into MARAC. The new process ensures a robust multiagency safeguarding response for high-risk victims of domestic abuse that may not need to be heard at MARAC. To date, the pilot has achieved a 35% reduction in cases discussed each week. A multi-agency evaluation will assess the impact of the pilot and inform discussions about mainstreaming this approach.
- 4.6 Although there has been a gradual increase in reports relating to older victims of abuse, they remain under-represented in the local data (and in domestic abuse services nationally). Of 2,400 referrals to the specialist provider during 2022/23, only 37 were over 60

years old. This compares to 403 over-60s domestic abuse safeguarding referrals to ESCC Adult Social Care (ASC) in 2022-2023, a 6% increase from 2021/22.

- 4.7 To increase referrals of older people to specialist services, an additional Council KPI has been agreed, supported by targeted promotion activity to older people through the commissioned DVA provider and via older people's services. In addition, Hourglass are offering a specialist older people's IDVA<sup>i</sup> service in East Sussex, funded by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (OSPCC).
- 4.8 There is a commitment to increase the number of refuge units in East Sussex from 37 to 55, in line with the recommended number of refuge places based on population size. The commissioned provider of refuge is contracted to replace the decommissioned Hastings refuge (which had 10 units) and are also currently refurbishing an additional 10 self-contained units in Eastbourne. These units will be available to male victims and others with Protected Characteristics who might find it challenging to live in a communal environment.
- 4.9 There have been significant delays with finding new premises for safe accommodation due to the difficulty in acquiring suitable accommodation in a location that is financially viable (within Housing Benefit parameters).
- 4.10 The then recently commissioned refuge provider started taking referrals in January 2022. During 2022/23, 136 women and 52 children were resident in refuge. 55% of placements were from East Sussex, with 45% from out of area. Statutory guidance stipulates that upper tier local authorities must meet the support needs of all victims residing in relevant accommodation including those who originally present from outside of the locality. Safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children in East Sussex is therefore provided as part of a national resource, although all vacancies are prioritised for East Sussex residents for the first 48 hours.
- 4.11 The vacancy rate in 2022/23 was 7%, against a target of 5%. This was due to a number of inappropriate referrals, including those where the client hadn't consented to the referral. Following engagement with housing teams and other referring agencies, along with improved referral paperwork, vacancy rates have now improved to 4%.
- 4.12 During 2022/23, New Burdens funding attached to the Duty to provide support in safe accommodation in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 enabled the Council to fund Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) co-located in Housing Options teams, build capacity in the MARAC, and commission specialist women's workers for those with multiple disadvantage.
- 4.13 Further investment has been committed to employ a specialist Family Worker in refuge, following engagement activity with women and young people residing in refuge.
- 4.14 The New Burdens Duty funding has now been confirmed to end March 2025, and spending commitments have been agreed in line with the recommendations in the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024.
- 4.15 ESCC became an affiliated member of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in 2022. Membership enables ESCC access to additional DAHA resources, best practice, and expert advice, which supports the aim and strategic objective of ESCC adopting a 'whole housing approach' to improve housing options and outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 4.16 Two Perpetrator Programmes were delivered through 2022/23 funded by the OSPCC. The low-risk groupwork programme was not re-funded in 2023; however the high-harm programme received Home Office funding and will continue to disrupt the most dangerous and serial perpetrators in the county. The intention is to support this programme with the

introduction of a MATAC<sup>1</sup> multi-agency process to manage high-risk perpetrators of domestic abuse.

#### 5. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 5.1 In February 2023 the Home Secretary included VAWG within the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) which recognises VAWG as a national threat alongside terrorism and serious and organised crime.
- 5.2 During 2022/23, the Safer Communities Team and partners ran social media campaigns, hosted a Domestic Abuse Conference jointly with WSCC, developed a comprehensive training prospectus, and delivered bystander training and schools training.
- 5.3 During the current financial year, a new East Sussex Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership will be established; open to all organisations working in East Sussex, the Partnership will provide a forum for networking and sharing best practice, alongside building capacity in local specialist 'by and for' services, which are currently underrepresented in local provision.

#### 6. Sexual Violence and Abuse

- 6.1 Across the county there was a 2% decrease in reports of sexual offences during 2022/23 compared to the previous year, which had seen a significant increase in reporting, likely due to the impact of the 'Me Too' movement. Lewes was the only area to see an increase in reports of sexual offences.
- 6.2 Specialist Rape and Sexual Violence Services are co-commissioned by ESCC and the OSPCC and provided by Survivors Network. The provider received 551 referrals in East Sussex in 2022-2023, up 10% on the previous year.

#### 7. Drug and Alcohol Related Harm

7.1 The table below shows the data from the commissioned adult drug and alcohol treatment service for the previous two years, with successful completions from treatment comparison data for England:

Table 1 Headline Indicators		April to March 2021/22	England data	April to March 2022/23	England data	East Sussex % change
The number of	Opiate	1094	-	1067	-	-2.5%
Adults in treatment	Non-opiate only	228	-	217	-	-4.8%
for Substance Misuse in East Sussex (rolling 12 months)	Non-opiate and alcohol	407	-	509	-	+25%
	Alcohol only	689	-	798	-	+15.8%
	Total	2418	-	2591	-	+7.2%
The number of Young People accessing the East Sussex Under 19s* Substance Misuse Service	Young People	234	-	262	-	+12%
Proportion of all in treatment, who	Opiate users	4.4%	5%	4.8%	5%	+9.6%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination

-

successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months

Non-opiate users	27%	34.5%	24.6%	32%	-8.9%
Alcohol	27.9%	36.6%	30.5%	35.4%	+9.4%

- 7.2 The table demonstrates that there has been a relatively stable number of people in treatment for opiate dependency in East Sussex over the last two years with increases in the number of non-opiate and alcohol users, and that the percentage of individuals completing treatment successfully, has been gradually improving through 2022/23, although is still below the national average.
- 7.3 With regard to unplanned exits from treatment, all drug groups (apart from alcohol and non-opiates) had improved performance between 2021/22 and 2022/23, although apart from alcohol users, there was a higher rate of unplanned exits from treatment than during 2020/21.

# Proportion of new presentations who had an unplanned exit or transferred and not continuing a journey before being retained for 12 weeks (DOMES):

Table 2	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Opiate	16.9%	22.5%	20.5%
Non-opiate only	20.2%	32.7%	20.7%
Alcohol only	17.2%	20.4%	16.7%
Alcohol and non-opiate	22.1%	23.4%	26.6%

- 7.4 The focus during 2022/23 was to ensure a further rise in opiate users completing treatment successfully (and not re-presenting to treatment) as the highly complex cohort engaged with Project ADDER progressed through the system. As Table 1 above shows, this was achieved. This continues to be a focus for 2023/24 as Project ADDER interventions are now being delivered across the whole of the county.
- 7.5 Hastings had been chosen as an ADDER area due to the high number of opiate-related deaths in the town. Following the additional investment, opiate-related deaths for those in treatment in Hastings have dropped from 14 in 2020/21 and remained steady at 9 in 2021/22 and 2022/23. It should also be noted that the opiate-using population is an ageing cohort and these deaths occurred while an individual was in treatment, and not necessarily due to opiate use.
- 7.6 There is a robust system of review of all drug and alcohol related deaths, so that all partners can consider any learning which might help reduce deaths in future.
- 7.7 During 2022/23, more people sought support for alcohol usage, and for use of non-opiate drugs, such as powder cocaine. There have been fluctuations in the successful completions from treatment rates for these groups (although there was a significant rise in alcohol completions), and East Sussex is still 5-7% below the national average. This is likely due to the provider having previously focused on the needs of opiate users. The treatment provider is now developing and delivering an enhanced offer for alcohol and non-opiate treatment populations.
- 7.8 During 2022/23, the local authority commissioned five new recovery services offering 'aftercare' services beyond structured treatment each on a two-year contract. This investment has seen some excellent outcomes for clients in a range of areas, notably sustaining recovery, maximising employability and maintaining stable accommodation.

- 7.9 Work to implement the Government's 10-year Strategy 'From Harm to Hope', continues via the work of the East Sussex Harm to Hope Board. A needs assessment was produced in 2022; this informed the development of specific action plans to deliver the three main aims of the national and local 'Combatting Drugs' strategies:
  - To break drug supply chains
  - To deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
  - To achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs

#### 8. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

- 8.1 In 2022/23, 44 children (under 18) and 29 adults who were potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking were referred by Sussex Police in East Sussex through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). 59 of these were male and 14 female. This is up from 21 children and 23 adults who were referred by Sussex Police in 2021/22.
- 8.2 East Sussex continues to follow the national trend where the local authority is the First Responder (organisations authorised to refer potential victims of modern slavery). 15 children and 3 adults were potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking were referred by the authority through the National Referral Mechanism in 2022/23, compared to no adults and 8 children in 2021/22.

#### 9. Fraud and Scams - Operation Signature

- 9.1 During 2022/23, Courier Fraud/Impersonator, 'sextortion', doorstep crime and rogue traders, and dating & romance were the four most common types of fraud affecting the vulnerable in East Sussex, with people most commonly being contacted initially by telephone or in person on the doorstep. There are over 900 reports to Operation Signature a year.
- 9.2 ESCC and Get Safe Online (GSO) have been promoting online safety campaigns to residents, focusing on digital footprints and online child safeguarding.
- 9.3 The Trading Standards team significantly increased their preventative scams education and outreach work during the year with different groups of potentially vulnerable residents. They have also partnered with the Financial Inclusion team at East Sussex County Council which has significantly increased their scope of influence through newly established networks. As a result of this new approach to educate and identify victims Trading Standards have achieved 414 positive interventions in the year 2022/23 compared with a target of 200.
- 9.4 Trading standards continue to partner with the police on Operation Signature and have also worked to reestablish clearer protocols and refresh awareness amongst stakeholders.

#### 10. Multiple Compound Needs (Changing Futures)

- 10.1 The Changing Futures Sussex Programme is funded by national government (until March 2025) to influence and improve the way services and systems work for individuals experiencing multiple compound needs (MCN). MCN is defined as those who experience three or more of the following issues: homelessness; mental health; substance misuse; domestic abuse; and criminal justice involvement. The Programme is aligned with the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 10.2 The Programme in East Sussex has focused on systems change priorities to improve services, enable co-ordinated and joined-up commissioning and partnerships, improve data sharing across the county, embed meaningful co-production and service user involvement within support agencies involved, and build a more trauma-informed person-centred workforce when supporting people experiencing MCN.

- 10.3 The Programme has helped to establish a new MCN governance board within ESCC, establish a pan-Sussex commissioning network to enable strategic partnerships, and is actively involved in several NHS Sussex workstreams within the remit of MCN including the Mental Health Community Transformation project and the Violence Prevention and Reduction workstream.
- 10.4 The Changing Futures workforce development strategy has seen hundreds of multiagency staff within East Sussex, from frontline workers to those in leadership positions, trained in trauma-informed practice.
- 10.5 The main priority in 2023/24 is the development of a multi-disciplinary service delivery team offering intensive, trauma-informed and person-centred casework located with ASC. Five staff have been recruited, with five more in progress.

#### 11. National Drivers influencing Safer Communities Work

- 11.1 Over the coming year, partners will work together to plan new strategies for community safety in response to several national initiatives:
- a) The <u>Beating Crime Plan 2021</u> setting out the Government's plan to deliver the 'change that Britain needs', with less crime, fewer victims, and a safer country.
- b) The <u>Domestic Abuse Act 2021</u> aiming to reform how the justice system and partner agencies work with victims of domestic abuse and placing a new Duty on local authorities to provide support in safe accommodation for victims of abuse and their children.
- c) The National Drugs Strategy From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives'
- d) The <u>Police, Crime Sentencing & Courts Act 2022</u> placing new duties on local authorities, police, and health authorities, alongside schools and prisons to prevent serious violence.
- e) The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is designed to combat modern slavery and consolidates previous offences relating to human trafficking and slavery. Councils have a key role to play including identification, referral and support of victims, providing community safety services and disruption activities, and ensuring that council and commissioned provider supply chains are free from modern slavery.
- f) New recommendations arising from an <a href="Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015">Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015</a> which concluded in 2020 and looked at the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, transparency in supply chains, Independent Child Trafficking Advocates and legal application of the Modern Slavery Act.
- g) The Queen's Speech 2022 proposed amendments to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 via a Modern Slavery Bill and will potentially mandate the contents of modern slavery and human trafficking statements, require them to be published on a public registry, and also introduce civil penalties for non-compliance.
- h) The <u>Counter-terrorism and Border Security Act 2019</u> and the <u>Shawcross Independent Review of Prevent</u> which considered the UK's strategy for protecting people vulnerable from being drawn into terrorism was published alongside the <u>government response</u> in February 2023. The review made 34 recommendations, all of which the Government accepted in totality.
- i) Changes to the Channel management process, under the Government's Prevent antiextremism programme, is anticipated as the Prevent Duty guidance and is updated and

- aligned with the recommendations of the Shawcross review giving more responsibility and autonomy to local government safeguarding panels.
- j) The counter-terrorism strategy <u>Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023</u> which aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.
- k) The draft <u>Terrorism (Protection of premises) Bill</u> published in May 2023 sets out the requirements that, under 'Martyn's Law', venues and other organisations will have to meet to ensure public safety.
- I) The Online Safety Bill is expected to pass into law this year. The bill aims to establish a new regulatory framework (managed by Ofcom) to tackle harmful content online, introduce rules for social media sites and apps, search engines and messaging platforms.

#### 12. Supporting Information – Funding and Finance

- 12.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Income secured for community safety initiatives in East Sussex in 2022/23 above and beyond core investment into services, is outlined in **Appendix 5**.
- 12.2 Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (SPCC) funding for community safety is allocated to District and Borough Council Community Safety Partnerships through the Council.

#### 13. Priorities for 2023 - 2026

- 13.1 The SCP remains focused on its three strategic priorities: protecting vulnerable people; identifying those at risk of harm; and keeping communities safe.
- 13.2 The Partnership's commitment is to:
  - Build resilience in communities, and co-design services to improve life-outcomes.
  - Identify and shape services to anticipate and respond to people and places that experience multiple disadvantage.
  - Increase awareness of violence against women and girls, the support available, and the importance of reporting to police.
  - Ensure the provision of safe accommodation options for victims of domestic abuse and their children.
  - Collaborate to tackle Serious Violence, working to address the causes of violence in our communities.
  - Disrupt Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking activity and ensure our supply chains are free from modern slavery.
  - Embed better identification and referral of adult victims of violence, exploitation and abuse.
  - Raise public awareness around fraud and scams.
  - Ensure compliance with the legislative changes following the Independent Review of PREVENT.
  - Support community cohesion initiatives around asylum seekers and migrant accommodation
  - Improve access to high quality, accessible drug and alcohol treatment services, increasing numbers in treatment by 20%.
  - Reduce drug-related deaths.

#### 14. Conclusion and Recommendations

- 14.1 The East Sussex Safer Community Partnership continues to focus on keeping communities safe; protecting vulnerable people, and identifying and responding to risk of harm, in the context of legislative and statutory guidance parameters. Its approach is collaborative and evidence-based, and underpinned by sound data quality, visibility and sharing.
- 14.2 The Committee is asked to note the performance and achievements of the Partnership during 2022/23, and its plans for 2022 to 2026 which can be found at page 11 onwards of the attached Partnership Business Plan (**Appendix 1**).

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#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2023 – 2026

Appendix 2 – Serious Violence

Appendix 3 – Serious Violence Interventions

Appendix 4 - Habitual Knife Carriers Project Evaluation

Appendix 5 – Funding

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# East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2023 - 2026



# **Executive Summary**

#### **Our Ambition**

The Partnership ambition is to optimise interventions and initiatives across the county making East Sussex a safer place to live, work and visit by protecting vulnerable people, identifying those at risk of harm, and keeping communities safe.

We are committed to working collaboratively across the statutory and voluntary sectors to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, support the victims of crime, protect our most vulnerable residents, and create more inclusive and resilient neighbourhoods and communities. We will achieve this through raising awareness, through coproduction and collaboration, and through driving wider policy and systems change.

Our objectives take account of legislative imperatives, local and national best practice, and what works well across East Sussex's services and initiatives. They are evidence and data-led and informed by a re-imagined strategic approach which recognises the impact of service design on outcomes for people and places that have experienced multiple disadvantage.

### **Our Strategic Priorities**

- In protecting vulnerable people, workstreams range from improving online safety to disrupting modern slavery and protecting people from domestic and sexual violence and abuse.
- In **identifying those at risk of harm**, workstreams range from preventing people from being drawn into violent extremism to reducing the harms associated with drug and alcohol misuse.
- In **keeping communities safe**, workstreams range from improving road safety to reducing public place anti-social behaviour (ASB) and serious violence.

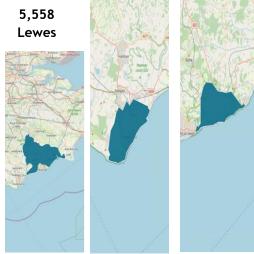


### **Key Strategic Messages**

- East Sussex is a relatively safe place to live, work, and visit, although there are some significant collective challenges - most significantly around the acute shortage of affordable, appropriate housing across the county, which exacerbates vulnerability and hinders rehabilitation.
- The Safer Communities Partnership collectively delivers a range of effective services, interventions and community safety initiatives, without which, the impact of the issues and challenging some of our residents and communities would be far more acute.
- Some communities (places and people) are disproportionately affected by certain types of crime and ASB, and experience multiple types of disadvantage and/or discrimination.
- The Partnership must comply with statutory guidance, legislation and policy with new duties and statutory requirements around Prevent and Serious Violence, domestic abuse, the reduction in the supply and demand for drugs, and the duty to deliver a high-quality substance misuse treatment and recovery system.
- There is compelling evidence to support the co-production of solutions across organisations, and in partnership with those who are most affected by these issues. Resilient communities are safer communities.
- Collaborative and evidence-based working is underpinned by sound data quality, visibility and sharing.

10,540 Hastings

The Partnership is committed to adjusting its systems to improve outcomes for those who have experienced multiple disadvantage.



9,002

**Eastbourne** 

Rother 3,857

Wealden

5,828

Number of crimes committed per 100,000 people in 2022

### 1 National Drivers influencing Safer Communities Work

Several national policy drivers and statutory duties inform the work of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership:

- The <u>Beating Crime Plan GOV.UK</u> sets out the Government's plan to deliver the 'change that Britain needs', with less crime, fewer victims, and a safer country.
- <u>The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022</u> places a new duty on schools, police, councils, and health authorities to prevent serious violence.
- The <u>Domestic Abuse Act 2021</u> reforming how the justice system and partner agencies work with victims of domestic abuse, and introducing a duty on local authorities to provide support in safe accommodation for victims of abuse.
- The <u>Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004</u> places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- New recommendations arising from the <u>Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act GOV.UK.</u>
- The Counter-terrorism strategy <u>CONTEST 2018 GOV.UK</u> aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.
- The <u>Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019</u> and the recommendations in the <u>Independent Review of Prevent's report and government response -</u> GOV.UK.
- The national Combatting Drugs Strategy <u>From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan</u> to cut crime and save lives.
- The <u>Draft Online Safety Bill GOV.UK</u> which establishes a new regulatory framework to tackle harmful content online.
- The pending Illegal Migration Act 2023.
- The pending Victims and Prisoners Bill GOV.UK and the joint statutory duty on Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities to work together when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and other serious violence - so that services can be strategically coordinated and targeted where victims need them.

### 2 Local Strategic Alignment

This Business Plan aims to have operational application and to inform the actions of agencies working across the community safety landscape in East Sussex. It reflects and complements the individual priorities of the five District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships, National Probation Service, Fire and Rescue Service, Sussex Police and the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, alongside those of our local Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Youth Justice Plan.

#### 3 Our Approach

The Partnership aims to implement a Public Health approach to improving the safety of our communities. We believe that the issues we are trying to address are not inevitable, that there are strong correlations between deprivation, vulnerability and crime, that we must do no harm, and that we must target our resources and energy in line with the evidence of 'what works'.

Our approach is underpinned by a commitment to responding to people across the entirety of their experience, and by the promotion of diversity and equity of access to service provision. Of equal importance is the proportionate targeting of resource at a place-based level, recognising that there are chronic, long-term hotspots for crime and ASB which tend to be in the most deprived areas.

There are various interdependencies between the Partnership's workstreams, with actions in one area affecting the outcomes in another. Our approach to tackling serious violence will therefore take account of the need to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm; our work on reducing re-offending will consider the impact of homelessness and worklessness on recidivism; and our actions to tackle public place anti-social behaviour will read across to our commitment to eliminating harassment and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Running through all our workstreams is a focus on online safety and an attention to individuals who have experienced multiple disadvantage (those with 'compound' needs) through an intersectional lens.

The Partnership includes representation from specialist Children's Services in recognition that communities are made up of both adults and children, and an understanding that upstream interventions that support behaviour change reduce the necessity for future crisis-driven responses. An integrated approach relies on partners taking an active role at a systems level tackling issues at scale through aligning priorities, commissioning, and external income generation; and sharing resources, data insights, intelligence, and learning. The implementation of change, however, happens at a local level - where people live, work and access services. It is at a place-based level that the contribution of our VCSE partners in enabling a safer East Sussex and as bridges to local communities is most important.

The Partnership will work together to create strong networks of support, building connections, shared values, and trust across and between communities, and empowering people in communities have a sense of control, to support each other and to take collective action. This approach draws on community assets, encouraging participation, influence, and ownership, while continuing to safeguard more vulnerable individuals and finding ways to enable their voices to be heard.

Community safety is an outcome rather than a collection of services, and the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is more than just the sum of its parts. Taking a data and evidence-informed approach to strategic and business planning, the Partnership will continue to evaluate its collective impact, developing a shared understanding of 'what works' and how best to achieve sustainability.

#### 4 Our Strategic Objectives

- Build resilience in communities, and co-design services to improve life-outcomes.
- Identify and shape services to anticipate and respond to people and places that experience multiple disadvantage.
- Increase awareness of violence against women and girls, the support available, and the importance of reporting to police.
- Ensure the provision of safe accommodation options for victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- Collaborate to tackle Serious Violence, working to address the causes of violence in our communities.
- Disrupt Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking activity and ensure our supply chains are free from modern slavery.
- Embed better identification and referral of adult victims of violence, exploitation and abuse.
- · Raise public awareness around fraud and scams.
- Comply with the legislative changes following the Independent Review of PREVENT.
- Support community cohesion initiatives around asylum seekers and migrant accommodation.
- Improve access to high quality, accessible drug and alcohol treatment services, increasing numbers in treatment by 20%.
- Reduce drug-related deaths.



### 5 Protecting Vulnerable People: Snapshot

# Violence Against Women and Girls

 Sexual Violence and Abuse was the most selected community safety category in the 2022 public Reputation Tracker Survey.

# Rape and Sexual Violence

- Accross the county there was a 2% decrease in reports of sexual offences during 2022/23 compared to the previous year.
- Lewes was the only area to see an increase in reports of sexual offences.

# Domestic Violence and Abuse

 There was a 6% decrease in reported Domestic Abuse Crimes during 2022/23 compared to the previous year. This was mirrored by a decrease in referrals to specialist domestic abuse services.

### **Hate Crime**

- Reports of Racist and Hate Crime have increased during 2022/23 compared to the previous year, with Gender Hate Crime reports increasing by over 100%.
- The Northeye proposals to house asylumseekers in Bexhill may result in tensions in local communities.

# Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

- 73 police reports of Modern Slavery to the National Referral Mechanism during 2022/23 up from 44 in 2021/22; 44 of these were under 18 years old; 59 were male.
- Placement of asylum-seeking people in hotels increases risk of criminal and labour exploitation.

## Street Community and People who Sleep Rough

 Life expectancy is much lower for people forced to sleep on the streets due to poor physical health, abuse and exploitation, and the risks of drug overdose.

### 6 Identifying those at Risk of Harm: Snapshot

# Preventing Violent Extremism

- The current national threat from terrorism level is SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely.
- Prevent and Channel referrals remain low in East Sussex.

# Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation

 A key priority in the Police and Crime Plan and Sussex Police is the disruption of organised crime groups and county lines, complemented by undertaking cuckooing checks on vulnerable people, and providing educational material to schools.

# Improving Outcomes for People who have experienced Multiple Disadvantage

• The Changing Futures Programme has been established, aiming to improve outcomes at an individual, service and systems level.

### **Drug-Related Harm**

- The number of people in drug treatment increased by 4.2% in 2022 2023 compared to the previous year.
- Successful completions from drug treatment improved by 5.1% on the previous year.

## Alcohol-Related Harm

- The number of people in alcohol treatment increased by 13.4% in 2022 - 2023 compared to the previous year.
- Successful completions from alcohol treatment improved by 8.9% on the previous year.

# **Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths**

• 60 deaths in 2022 have been notified by the Coroner's Office to date, compared to 68 in 2021 and 57 in 2020.

### 7 Keeping Communities Safe: Snapshot

### Public Place Serious Violence

- During 2022/23, Public Place Serious Violent Crimes increased by 12% compared to the previous year, with the highest percentage increase in Robbery.
- Both suspects and offenders are almost three times more likely to live in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived 20%.
- Violence Against the Person offences account for 66% of all First-Time Entrants to the Youth Justice Service.
- Serious violent crime including knife crime and robbery is the second most important community safety issue identified by residents in the 2022 Reputation Tracker.

# Reducing Reoffending

- The adult reoffending rate is 7.3%, which is lower than the 10% national average, although 80% of people who receive cautions or convictions have offended before.
- The reoffending rate for children and young people is 25%; considerably lower than the national rate which is over 30%.
- 84% of children become first time entrants to the Youth Justice Service without having previously received an informal intervention.

# Fraud, Scams and Online Safety

- Online safety, harassment and abuse is the third highest community safety concern of residents (after sexual and serious violence) in the East Sussex Reputation Tracker Survey 2022.
- Fraud is the fastest growing crime type and is responsible for 39% of all reported crime.
- Nearly 50 per cent of all adults have been targeted by fraudsters and there are over 900 reports a year to Operation Signature.
- 54% of victims of fraud are over 75 years old and live alone.

### 8 Complementary Community Safety Initiatives: Snapshot

Anti-Social Behaviour (local Community Safety Partnerships)

- Reports to police of all forms of ASB: personal, nuisance and environmental decreased substantially in the year 2022 -2023 compared to the previous year, with nuisance ASB reports decreasing by 39%.
- Residents' top two priority ASB concerns during 2022 were drug dealing and underage drinking in public places.

Street Communities (local Community Safety Partnerships)  Aggressive street begging and verbal abuse/ intimidation were residents' third and fourth ASB priorities in the 2022 Reputation Tracker.

Road Safety
(Sussex Safer Roads
Partnership and
local Road Safety
Action Groups)

- Of sites with four or more crashes resulting in injury in a three-year period, sites in Eastbourne rank the highest in the county.
- Having ranked anti-social driving and speeding as the 2nd most chosen ASB priority during 2021, residents ranked this issue at the same priority level as littering in 2022.



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# East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2023 - 2026

# Building resilience in communities

Co-Production	Produce a Safer Communities Co-Production Charter to underpin the ESCC Safer Communities	By March 2024
	Team approach to co-designing services alongside those with lived experience, community	
	members and local businesses.	

# Protecting Vulnerable People

Violence Against Women	Raise public awareness	
and Girls (VAWG)	Encourage reporting to the police	Ongoing
	Targeted prevention work with children and young people	
	Support and safeguard victims	
Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse	Commission support in safe accommodation services.	2023/2024
	Progress the East Sussex Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership Action Plans to	2023
	prevent and identify abuse early, deliver excellent services and pursue perpetrators.	with annual
		refresh
	Refresh of pan-Sussex Strategic Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, and the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support.	2024
	Refresh and expansion of domestic abuse needs assessment to include community and accommodation support needs.	2024
	Multi-agency training to be offered to schools and colleges and alternative education settings.	By end March 2024
	Ensure learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews is coordinated and shared across agencies in order to prevent future deaths.	Ongoing

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Hate Crime	Partnership action plans for addressing Hate Crime are undertaken at a Pan-Sussex level through the Hate Crime Steering Group, and at a place-based level in the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships: <u>Eastbourne and Lewes</u> , <u>Hastings</u> , <u>Rother</u> and <u>Wealden</u> .	Ongoing
	Agree a clear definition of Hate Crime, introduce a programme of engagement within affected communities to better understand the picture across East Sussex, and seek funding to commission a good quality service to facilitate reporting and support for victims of Hate Crime.	By end March 2025
	Develop a Community Engagement Strategy to foster community cohesion around asylum hotels.	By end March 2024
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	Refresh the approach to tackling Modern Slavery across the Partnership, raise awareness and encourage reporting of concerns of modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation, implementation of the Government's Modern Slavery Toolkit, establishment of a Modern Slavery VCSE Forum and ensure all supply chains are free from Modern Slavery.	By end March 2024
Street Community and People who Sleep Rough	The Partnership will develop a mechanism to better record crimes, exploitation and ASB experienced by members of the street community and those who are in inadequate temporary accommodation provision.	By end March 2024

# Identifying those at Risk of Harm

Preventing Violent Extremism	Identify emerging local counter-terrorism risks in partnership and coordinate activity to mitigate them through the East Sussex Prevent Board and the implementation of the East Sussex Prevent Plan.	2023 with annual refresh
	Ensure Prevent Duty compliance through self-assessment against the Home Office toolkit.	By end March 2024
Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation	Establish a partnership governance mechanism to share intelligence, data and best practice to safeguard adult victims of exploitation and disrupt perpetrators of adult exploitation and abuse.	By end March 2024
Improving Outcomes for People who have	Take practical steps to change the people, processes, organisations, beliefs, and cultures that make up the systems of support for people experiencing multiple disadvantage, and to prevent unnecessary deaths.	By end March 2025

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experienced Multiple Disadvantage	Establish multi-disciplinary Changing Futures delivery team to work with 125 adults who have experienced multiple disadvantage, accountable to a Multiple, Compound Needs Board at which systems barriers will be unpacked and resolved, trauma-informed care and co-production principles will be promoted, and joint commissioning will be explored.	
Drug and Alcohol related Harm	Implement the East Sussex Harm to Hope Strategy and Action Plan aiming to increase the number of people accessing treatment by 20% and increase the continuity of care for eligible individuals leaving prison and entering community treatment to 75%; accountable to the East Sussex Harm to Hope Board.	2023
	Benchmark local commissioning practice against the national commissioning standards self-assessment tool, co-design and re-commission a new treatment service with all relevant stakeholders.	By end March 2025
	Encourage people to seek help earlier especially in terms of alcohol misuse support in conjunction with Public Health through the implementation of the <a href="East Sussex Alcohol Harm Strategy">East Sussex Alcohol Harm Strategy</a>	Ongoing
	Remove stigma around accessing support by 'normalising' conversations about drugs and alcohol and raising the profile of support available.	Ongoing
Drug and Alcohol related Deaths	Contribute to a national reduction in drug-related deaths of 1,000 lives saved.	By end March 2025

# Keeping Communities Safe

Public Place Serious Violence	Implementation of Serious Violence Duty, through the production of an East Sussex needs assessment, response strategy and action plan.	By end March 2024
	Design, develop and co-ordinate a place-based response in neighbourhoods with a high risk of serious violence across East Sussex.	By end March 2025

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	Work to manage and reduce the high rates of serious violence associated with the street community in Hastings town centre; through a partnership approach including Seaview, Project Adder and the Rough Sleeping Initiative complemented by council wardens and police patrols.	By end March 2025
Reducing Reoffending	The <u>Sussex Criminal Justice Partnership</u> brings criminal justice agencies together to agree priorities and identify local strategic direction and to deliver the <u>Sussex Reducing Re-offending Strategy</u> via the Reducing Re-Offending Sub-Group.	Ongoing
	The <u>Youth Justice Service</u> Chief Officers' Group brings together the Home Office, ESCC Safer Communities and Children's Services with other providers involved in youth justice services to deliver the Youth Justice Plan aiming to prevent children from entering the criminal justice system and from reoffending, as mandated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.	2023 and annual refresh
Fraud, Scams and Online Safety	Deliver a Get Safe Online Business event: <b>Working together to keep your Business safe Online</b> ; a free training event aimed to increase awareness of the techniques used by criminals and the protective measures individuals and businesses can employ to protect themselves both at work and at home.	By end March 2024
	Initiate an annual Fraud and Scams Forum for Charter Partners.	By end March 2024
	Promote online safety to residents and provide targeted training to professionals and the VCSE; organise and support a large scale public facing event e.g. 999 festival.	By end March 2024
	Coordinate targeted Digital Ambassador training for ESCC Children's Services, Adult Social Care, the education sector, and the VCSE to grow a team of cyber-smart volunteers who can support individuals and their community as a whole to stay safe online.	Ongoing

# Complementary Community Safety Initiatives

Anti-Social Behaviour and	Partnership structures and action plans for addressing anti-social behaviour and street	
Street Communities	communities are delivered at a place-based level in the District and Borough Community Safety	Ongoing
	Partnerships of Eastbourne and Lewes, Wealden, Hastings and Rother.	

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Partners to map and understand the prevalence of day-to-day ASB, including escalating ASB and harassment that might not be reported to police, to support the development of strategic preventative initiatives to address local ASB.	By end March 2025
Partners to work together to make our streets and businesses safer, encouraging the reporting to police of shop-lifting, ASB and criminal damage in our communities.	Ongoing
Implementation of Immediate Justice Scheme for ASB offenders, and the promotion of ASB Case Reviews to the public.	By end March 2024
Plans for tackling road safety issues can be found on the <u>Sussex Safer Roads Partnership</u> website. There are Road Safety Action Groups for the <u>Eastbourne</u> , <u>Lewes</u> and <u>Wealden</u> areas and the <u>Hastings</u> & <u>Rother</u> areas which report to their own Community Safety Partnerships.	Ongoing
The Partnership will facilitate collaborative and evidence-based working through a focus on sound data quality & analysis, visibility and sharing, producing an agreement on standard KPIS, activity and demographics (including those with multiple, compound needs), establish the frequency of reporting, and jointly commit to producing analyses, identifying local trends.	By end March 2024
	harassment that might not be reported to police, to support the development of strategic preventative initiatives to address local ASB.  Partners to work together to make our streets and businesses safer, encouraging the reporting to police of shop-lifting, ASB and criminal damage in our communities.  Implementation of Immediate Justice Scheme for ASB offenders, and the promotion of ASB Case Reviews to the public.  Plans for tackling road safety issues can be found on the <u>Sussex Safer Roads Partnership</u> website. There are Road Safety Action Groups for the <u>Eastbourne</u> , <u>Lewes</u> and <u>Wealden</u> areas and the <u>Hastings</u> & <u>Rother</u> areas which report to their own Community Safety Partnerships.  The Partnership will facilitate collaborative and evidence-based working through a focus on sound data quality & analysis, visibility and sharing, producing an agreement on standard KPIS, activity and demographics (including those with multiple, compound needs), establish the frequency of reporting, and jointly commit to producing analyses, identifying local

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#### People's Scrutiny Committee Safer Communities Annual Report 2022/23

#### Appendix 2 - Serious Violence

#### 1. Context

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Duty was legislated for as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022 and received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022. It requires 'specified authorities' (Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Integrated Care Boards, Local Authorities, Youth Offending Teams, and Probation Services) to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of serious violence in a local area and then formulate and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues.
- 1.2 The Duty came into effect in January 2023, alongside statutory guidance <u>Serious Violence Duty</u>. The guidance also applies to a secondary group of 'relevant authorities' who can co-operate with the specified authorities as necessary. This includes prison, youth custody and educational authorities.
- 1.3 Serious Violence is under increasing national scrutiny. Although rates of serious violence in East Sussex are low, the ESCC Safer East Sussex Team (SEST) has an active focus on this through our partnership working to meet the new Serious Violence Duty.
- 1.4 In Sussex, the specified authorities have agreed the pan-Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) will be the accountable partnership through which the Serious Violence Duty is delivered. The Home Office has evaluated the Sussex VRP as 'mature'.
- 1.5 The focus of the Sussex and local Violence Reduction Partnerships (VRP) is public place and non-domestic serious violence. Although domestic violence accounts for around a third of all serious violence in East Sussex, governance around this issue sits with the statutory Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- 1.6 The Act and the Duty are far-reaching and will impact upon many of the services and partnership arrangements that ESCC is involved in.

#### 2 Serious Violent Crime in Sussex (SVC)

- 2.1 Across the three Sussex authorities, the rate of Violence against the Person offences per 1,000 population is lower than the national and regional averages.
- 2.2 Sussex has a lower rate of Homicide offences compared to national and regional averages.
- 2.3 The rates of Robbery offences and of Knife-Enabled crime in Sussex are also lower than the national average.

#### 3 Serious Violent Crime in Sussex (SVC)

- 3.1 East Sussex has lower rates of overall crime than the national average with an average of 69 crimes per 1,000 people compared to 94 nationally. This is also the case when compared with Brighton & Hove (103) and is comparable to West Sussex (also 69).
- 3.2 Across most crime types, East Sussex has comparable or lower averages compared to the rest of Sussex, including Violence Against the Person offences:

Crimes per 1,000 population (2022- 2023)	East Sussex	West Sussex	Brighton & Hove	Sussex	England & Wales
Violence against the person	28	25	34	28	36
Public order offences	8	8	12	9	10

- 3.3 A recent assessment of serious violence in East Sussex (excluding domestic violence) showed that:
  - SVC reduced during Covid-19 national lockdowns in 2020 and 2021; 2022 had 15% fewer SVC offences compared to pre-pandemic levels, although the volume is now rising to pre-pandemic levels.
  - SVC accounts for less than 2% of crime (encompassing homicide, serious violence with injury offences, robbery knife crime on selected offences), and is concentrated in very small areas, thus disproportionally affecting some of the county's most deprived communities.
  - In 2022/23 there was an increase in Public Place SVC in East Sussex compared to the previous year. There was an increase in robbery and knife crime, however there was a decrease in serious violence with injury.
  - Suspects and offenders of SVC were significantly more likely to live in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived.
  - Victims of SVC were more likely to live in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived.
  - Males under the age of 25 continue to be the majority of both victims and offenders of SVC.
- 3.4 The Reputation Tracker Survey of 500 East Sussex residents in summer 2022 found that:
  - 38% of residents indicated that SVC was a priority
  - 19% of residents indicated that SVC was their first priority
  - 23% of residents have been or know someone directly affected by SVC.

3.5 Serious violence has significant overlap with Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

#### 4 Governance Arrangements, Information Sharing, Monitoring and Compliance

- 4.1 The VRP structure operates in a 'hub and spoke' model with a pan-Sussex VRP 'hub' and upper tier authority 'spokes'. The East Sussex VRP 'spoke' is a sub-group of the Safer Communities Board, which is the co-ordinating body for addressing crime and disorder in East Sussex and includes elected members from across the County.
- 4.2 There are several other partnership structures in East Sussex working on the Serious Violence agenda, all of which have membership drawn from across ESCC:
  - Community Safety Partnerships
  - Health and Wellbeing Board
  - Serious Organised Crime Partnership
  - Connected Families Programme
  - Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)
  - Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
  - Sussex Criminal Justice Board
  - Sussex Violence Reduction Units (non-statutory)
  - Youth Justice Chief Officers Group
  - Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
  - Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and Boards.
- 4.3 The Youth Justice Chief Officers Group has a statutory responsibility for ensuring an integrated approach to youth crime prevention and offending. In respect of wider Children's Services, the Connected Families Board and Early Intervention Partners Board oversee other preventative strands of work.
- 4.4 The Serious Violence Duty includes specific provisions around information sharing across partners to produce a strategic needs assessment.
- 4.5 The SVRP has produced a pan-Sussex Needs Assessment and Response Strategy. The first Serious Violence Reduction Needs Assessment and Strategy specifically for East Sussex are in development.
- 4.6 The Home Office has allocated monies to Sussex to implement the new Duty and East Sussex partners submitted a successful bid for additional analyst capacity and engagement work to enable better targeting of resource through place-based responses.
- 4.7 The three national key success measures for the prevention and reduction of serious violence are hospital admissions, police recorded crime, and homicides. Locally, there will be a focus on serious youth violence in public spaces.
- 4.8 Compliance will be monitored at a national level through a cross-Whitehall Board, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the Secretary of State for Justice. At a local level, compliance will be monitored through Violence Reduction Partnerships, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships, Local Government scrutiny functions, and routine inspections.

#### 5 The Role of the County Council

- 5.1 The whole of the County Council has a role in delivering against the Serious Violence Duty:
- Public Health Collaboration with Criminal Justice Partners at the East Sussex VRP
  The Government wants to see a 'public health approach' to tackling violent crime, which
  involves treating violence like a preventable disease and using scientific evidence to
  identify what causes it and what prevents it spreading. ESCC Public Health recognises
  that violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing and is related to
  differences in health status and health-related behaviours.
- <u>Strategic Development and Commissioning Services</u>
  ASC commission and deliver a range of services which address the drivers of serious
- violence, in particular Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse.
   Resourcing and Piloting Place-Based Approaches

The East Sussex VRP has embarked on an ambitious place-based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to better understand serious violence at a place-based level. This includes scoping community development work in key locations to provide insight into the complex and interconnected risk and protective factors for violence. These profiles will be shared with lower tier community safety partnerships to enable them to target attention and resource most effectively.

#### • Safeguarding and Transitions

The Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Partnership are currently looking at the transitions of young people who are most at risk of violence and exploitation into adult services.

- Implementing a Whole Council approach to Contextual Safeguarding
   In 2022 ASC and Children's Services Department (CSD) match-funded a Contextual Safeguarding Co-ordinator to respond to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families, prevent the exploitation of young people escalating into violence, and to explore the levels of exploitation of vulnerable adults by those young people.
- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews
   The Act makes provisions for the establishment of offensive weapons homicide reviews, where adults are murdered with a weapon.
- Championing the Duty and Community Leadership Role Integrated Care Board (ICB)
   The ICB is specifically subject to the Duty and must collaborate with other Duty holders
   to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area and should consider its joint forward
   plan when developing strategies to reduce serious violence.
- Sussex VRP Home Office Funding for Serious Violence Interventions
   East Sussex has been in receipt of serious violence funding since 2019 and partners have targeted this resource at children and young people who are engaged in or at risk of serious violence and exploitation. Partners prioritised all funding available in 2022/23 to enable Children's Services Department (CSD) to deliver a Whole Systems approach to Child Exploitation over and above statutory provision. The project has extended

beyond its original scope to draw in parents/carers of the children and young people most at risk and has achieved many positive outcomes (see Appendix 3).

The Habitual Knife Carriers project has also been funded for multiple years due to its evidenced reduction in serious violence/exploitation on the target cohort. The Habitual Knife Carriers Index has been highlighted as an example of good practice by the College of Policing. See evaluation of Habitual Knife Carriers Project Appendix 4.

#### • Broader Children's Services Work

CSD are delivering a range of services which will impact on serious violence for young people under 18, including the Youth Justice Service, Early Help Services, Attendance Behaviour and Support work to address attendance and school exclusion, the Connected Families Programme, Family Hubs and Targeted Youth Support.

#### • Additional Responsibilities for Children's Services

The Duty necessitates the engagement of children and young people in receipt of statutory services alongside wider engagement through mechanisms such as the Youth Cabinet to inform the needs assessment. This will be complemented by aggregated data-sets from education, the Youth Justice Service, and children's social care. All types of residential care for looked-after children, including secure children's homes, will be the responsibility of the local authority in which they are located. The onus will therefore be on ESCC to ensure engagement between the VRP and such institutions where necessary.

#### 6 Funding to address Serious Violence

- 6.1 East Sussex is in receipt of funding from the Home Office via the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership, and alongside partners has commissioned several interventions which are predominantly delivered by Children's Services totalling £839,442 since 2019/20.
- 6.2 The Home Office has allocated further funding to Sussex to implement the Serious Violence Duty (2023/24 £301k and 2024/25 £270k for Sussex mainly for staff costs) and this is available to all specified authorities. A successful East Sussex bid for £66k in 2023/24 focuses on the need to build analytical and engagement capacity to target resources, include the voices of lived experience, and involve communities in the solutions to affect change for those most at risk of and suffering the effects of serous violent crime.

#### 7 Conclusion

7.1 The Act and Duty are far-reaching. ESCC has an essential and leading role to play in both the partnership arrangements and delivery of activity to prevent and address Serious Violence.

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#### People's Scrutiny Committee Safer Communities Annual Report 2022/23

#### **Appendix 3 – Interventions to Disrupt Serious Violence in East Sussex**

The Council's whole systems approach to Child Exploitation provides support for children and parents/carers who are at risk of, are experiencing child sexual or child criminal exploitation.

#### 1. SAFER Family Keywork

- 1.1 SAFER keyworkers work intensively with children and their families when there are risks associated with child sexual and criminal exploitation. The team works collaboratively with multi-agency partners and takes a holistic whole family approach. It considers all elements of extra familial harm and the impact for the young person, their peers, family, and community. SAFER keyworkers partake in contextual safeguarding assessments, deliver consultations, and provide specialist resources to professionals and developed a service directly focussed on parents and carers.
- 1.2 Q1 data shows the following impact for children on SAFER:
  - 31% of children saw their RAG rating reduce or they were removed completely.
  - 5% of children had a missing episode in June 2023, reduced from 17% in April 2023.
  - 18% of children were arrested in June 2023
  - 13% of children worked with in June 2023 had a school exclusion.
  - 73% of children saw their school attendance improve or remain the same.

#### 2. Collaboration Against Child Exploitation (CACE)

- 2.1 CACE is a 7-week educative programme for parents/carers that raises awareness of the risks associated with criminal and sexual child exploitation. The course aims to empower parents/carers to safeguard their children by providing accurate information on a variety of relevant topics and offering a platform whereby they can link in with other parents/carers who have similar lived experiences. Educative groups are run county wide and we also offer monthly support meet ups in various locations. There is no eligibility criteria; any parent/carer/family member affected by child exploitation is welcome to come along.
- 2.2 CACE works collaboratively with a wide range of professionals who help co-facilitate and attend sessions such as the Youth Justice Service, ESBAS, Sussex Police, U25s Substance Misuse Service.
- 2.3 In addition to the groupwork intervention, Parent Mentors with lived experience provide direct support to parents/carers through the facilitation of parent support groups. Parent mentors also run a 24 hour telephone line, email and social media accounts.
- 2.4 To see the CACE work: <a href="https://vimeo.com/833476310/b89020e4da?share=copy">https://vimeo.com/833476310/b89020e4da?share=copy</a>

#### 3. Habitual Knife Carriers Project

- 3.1 The Habitual Knife Carriers Project is an innovative partnership response between East Sussex Children's Services and Sussex Police to identifying and working with children where there are significant risks and concerns about knife carrying.
- 3.2 The project delivers a range of support including 1-1 work, detached out-reach and contextual safeguarding responses to specific locations and peer groups. The cohort of children is identified using The Habitual Knife Carrier (HKC) matrix. This is an innovative intelligence tool developed by Sussex Police, which uses police data to identify people with an increased risk for carrying a knife and/or involvement in knife crime. It is refreshed quarterly to ensure that the most current intelligence and information is informing the matrix. Peer-mapping carried out by partners also enables the project to work with children on the periphery of these risks.
- 3.3 A significant majority of the children on the matrix are already open to statutory services and the 1-1 work is dovetailed with statutory services. This ensures that it fits with existing safeguarding structures and where possible existing child-practitioner relationships are utilised, so that interventions are based on relationship-based practice. This is particularly important for these children, many of whom are experiencing exploitation, can be guarded, and who need time and consistency to develop trusted relationships with adults. Information from the matrix is used to inform assessments, plans and interventions and a range of services and interventions are available to children. These support desistance and offer constructive alternatives to violence. There is an additional financial resource that comes with this work enabling increased capacity for interventions to focus on supporting children in accessing positive and diversionary activities and extending the support to them on a voluntary basis when assessed as appropriate. A Virtual Reality headset resource that depicts a stabbing scenario has also been purchased. This has been used in creative ways with small groups of children, as well as children and parents together and has proven to be an engaging tool that has promoted discussion and debate as part of interventions.
- 3.4 Regular partnership meetings are held to review current intelligence and information and consider disruption and enforcement actions where necessary. The sharing of information between the partnership means there is the ability to be flexible and respond rapidly, and to develop additional contextual safeguarding responses in order to target the contexts in which children are at risk. This includes specific locations as well as peer groups. For example, detached outreach services have been sent out to identified hotspot areas, both to gather information about what is happening and to promote engagement and positive relationships with children, rather than just displacement and/moving children on. Anecdotally it is known that knife-carrying is often a norm within a peer group, and, through the partnership, peer-mapping exercises are undertaken. Examples of work include developing and delivering group sessions to support peer groups in accessing diversionary activities and harness the positive aspects of the peer group.
- 3.5 An independent evaluation of the project completed by the National Children's Bureau in July 2023 focused on the 44 children who had been supported by the project between April 2022 and March 2023 (see Appendix 4). Analysis of crime data in relation to these children indicated a reduction in violent offending following the support of the partnership project. Overall, there was a 76% reduction in the number of occurrences of violent crime that these young people were linked to as offenders, or suspects after referral, compared with the 12 months prior. A similar reduction was seen in the number of knife related offences that children were linked to. The majority of children linked to a knife

possession offence 12 months prior to the referral had not been linked to any further occurrences since. These findings reinforce separate analyses conducted by Sussex Police using slightly different measures.

3.6 Case study interviews undertaken as part of the independent evaluation uncovered several ways in which children's well-being changed during their participation, potentially supporting long-term behaviour change. Notable changes included a positive shift in children's outlook and motivation, with both children and their support workers indicating optimism about the future. Changes in children's lifestyles were also identified in the case study interviews, particularly building structure and routine and accessing positive and diversionary activities.





# East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme

# **Evaluation report 2022-23**

Produced by the National Children's Bureau on Behalf of the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership July 2023

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# **Executive Summary**

#### Introduction

#### Background and methodology

In Summer 2022, the National Children's Bureau (NCB) was commissioned by the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to undertake a process and impact evaluation of the Habitual Knife Carriers (HKC) Programme in East Sussex. The aims were to: a) understand how and why participants achieve outcomes, which participants do / do not achieve outcomes, and what factors are the most important drivers of outcomes; b) evidence the short-term outcomes achieved and the long-term impacts of the interventions, and; c) provide recommendations for the future delivery and evaluation of the intervention.

The evaluation methodology and research questions were co-developed with key programme staff and stakeholders. The methodology consisted of:

- Five qualitative case studies of young people's experiences of the programme. These were based on semi-structured interviews with the young person participating, their lead professional from the programme, and where possible, one of the young person's parents.
- Qualitative exploration of process and impact across the programme, based on interviews and small group discussions with nine programme staff and stakeholders.
- Quantitative analysis of project monitoring data and linked police data. This analysis considered all young people who had participated in the programme at some point between 1 April 2022 and 1 March 2023.

#### **About the Programme**

The East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme aimed to change the behaviour of a current, active cohort of young people who have previously been identified as knife carriers and divert them and their associates/local peer groups away from future knife carrying and other criminal activity. The HKC Programme was led by the East Sussex Youth Justice Service in collaboration with Sussex Police, Children's Services, the local detached youth work team and the Youth Employability Service (YES).

Young people who were most likely to be carrying knives were identified using the HKC Index, a tool developed and maintained by Sussex Police that draws on police data and intelligence across several domains of risk. The identification of young people through the HKC Index fed into a scoping exercise involving Sussex Police, the Youth Justice Service and Children's Services. The scoping exercise informed which young people enter the HKC Programme for one-to-one work and where group and outreach work delivered through the programme should be targeted.

All young people referred for one-to-one work were allocated a lead professional who oversaw the delivery of both one-to-one and group work. In particular, they utilised



methodologies such as Relationship-Based and Trauma-Informed Practice to develop trusted relationships and worked with the young person to address the range of risk factors they were facing.

By design, the programme engaged with many young people who had already received support from statutory services. The programme sought to enhance this support by improving the coordination and targeting of resources, providing more options for activities to be included in individual and group work, and reaching more young people (i.e. by including those at high risk but not already open to the Youth Justice Service).

The HKC Index and associated multi-agency scoping also informed a range of activities in the wider community. Activities included a) detached sessions carried out by trained youth workers and youth officers from the Early Help team; and b) engagement with other members of the public in high-risk areas to offer advice and training and gather insight to further inform contextual safeguarding.

#### **Findings**

#### Quantitative analysis of monitoring and police data

Analysis of the available monitoring data and linked police data found that:

- 44 young people accessed the programme between April 2021 and March 2023. The length of time these young people had participated in the programme ranged from 97 to 653 days, including many whose participation was ongoing.
- A reduction in violent offending (using the VRPs definition of serious violence) amongst these young people following their referral. More specifically,
  - A 79% reduction in the average number of occurrences per three months this cohort was linked to as offenders/suspects, comparing the 12 months prior to referral with the period since referral
  - o 37 out of 43 (86%) individuals being linked to fewer such occurrences following referral, and 32(74%) of these being linked to no further occurrences.
- There was no obvious relationship between either young people's age or their total crime severity score at referral and their likelihood of being linked to further violent offences following referral.
- A reduction was seen in knife carrying/possession offences: Of the 29 young people who had been linked to a knife-carrying or possession occurrence in the 12 months leading up to their referral, 25 were not linked to any further occurrences.
- Of the 24 young people who had been linked to a violent crime occurrence as a victim in the 12 months leading up to their referral, two were linked as victims to further occurrences following referral, whilst 22 were not linked to further occurrences.

These findings broadly reflected the police metrics reviewed regularly by programme staff (see Appendix A). It was not possible through this analysis to assess the impact of the



programme on non-crime outcomes targeted by the programme, such as improved mental health and wellbeing or access to support, due to only limited monitoring data being made available to evaluators.

#### Qualitative case studies of young people's experiences

Case studies, developed based on the experiences of interviewees, provided in-depth accounts of how participating in the programme had impacted on five particular young people. Qualitative analysis of case study data identified that:

- Most young people had aspirations for the future, and wanted to get (or continue) a
  job and earn their own money. Adults close to these young people had witnessed a
  positive shift in their outlook, motivation and optimism for the future.
- Some young people had become more engaged and self-aware during their participation in the programme and were able to think and reflect before acting on their emotions.
- Several young people were able to build more structure and routine into their lives which had facilitated their move away from criminality.

Case study data also highlighted how lead professionals successfully implement support to enable these outcomes. This included:

- Investing time and expertise into building trust and a good rapport with the young person. In order to build rapport, lead professionals acted as an ally for the young person, establishing open lines of two-way communication, and consistently offering genuine care and understanding. Also key developing a good rapport was taking account of how the young person's past trauma may affect the relationship-building process.
- Providing personalised and responsive support. Lead professionals acted as
  consistent and reliable role models for young people and worked carefully to adapt
  their approach based on each young person's individual needs, interests and
  challenges. Lead professionals also adapted their choice of learning styles in response
  to young people's immediate and ongoing needs.
- Supporting decision making and understanding the consequences of decisions.
   Young people were supported to negotiate the balance between risk and reward and develop a healthy fear around the potential negative consequences and impact of their actions on themselves and others.
- Advocating on the young person's behalf. Efforts were made by lead professionals to help colleagues within and beyond the programme to understand the young person's needs and point of view. Advocacy was potentially hampered by lead professionals lack of insight into how the support they provided related to the wider HKC programme. Some negative experiences of other services were also more difficult to overcome, such as the education system not meeting some young people's needs and some young people feeling they had been unfairly targeted by police after improving their behaviour.



#### Exploration of process and impact across the programme

In interviews and small group discussions, programme staff and stakeholders shared their perspectives on the impact of the programme. The following key themes emerged:

- The programme was effective overall in reducing offending behaviour amongst the young people it had supported.
- There were mixed views on whether the programme could impact on other areas of young people's lives that may in turn affect their offending. Whilst some interviewees were aware of examples of young people accessing diversionary activities or experiencing improved wellbeing, some others were sceptical about the ability of the programme to impact on these areas.
- There was a generally held perception that the programme supported positive outcomes in individuals that were younger at the point of their referral and whose criminal behaviour had not yet become engrained.

The same interviews and small group discussions also uncovered key insight into how the programme was implemented. Key insights indicated that:

- The use of data to target support was seen as a key strength of the programme. Two key elements of this were 1) the use and discussion of data and intelligence across multiple agencies, and 2) the identification of young people at risk due to their peers.
- Data and intelligence sharing provided opportunities to support wider activity. This included informing responses to events in the community and statutory assessments of individual young people's needs.
- Partnership working contributed to the programme in a range of ways. As well as a positive attitude to data sharing, there were examples shared of professionals from different agencies or backgrounds learning from each other and developing solutions to support young people. Partnerships also went beyond services to working with the community to gather insight into the risks facing young people and to support business and transport employees to play their part in keeping young people safe.
- Partnership working was facilitated by working relationships amongst the multi-agency group the programme. This in turn was seen to be enabled, at least in part, by the existence and work of the dedicated contextual safeguarding office and East Sussex County Council's in-house detached youth work service. It was, however, seen as potentially limited by not including the full range of agencies supporting young people. Future involvement of the adult probation was suggested in order to support transitional safeguarding, as well as potentially representation from education settings.



#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

#### **Impact**

Analysis of police data suggested that young people in the cohort had reduced their frequency of violent offending after being referred to the HKC Programme. Case study interviews illustrated how young people were able to 'stay out of trouble' using the knowledge and experience gained whilst participating in the programme.

Positive changes to wellbeing and lifestyle were also observed amongst case study young people, including positive shifts in their motivation and the development of healthier and safer routines. Positive change was sometimes underpinned by access to diversionary activities which could be hard to sustain beyond the young person's involvement in the programme.

Police data suggested that there was a reduction in victimisation amongst participating young people. Case studies described how young people's adjusted lifestyles and outlook could reduce their overall risk from crime.

Young people accessed a wide range of support during their participation in the HKC Programme. Support mostly came via the Youth Justice Service which the majority of young people were already accessing.

Whilst stakeholders interviewed suggested that the HKC Programme may be more effective for those who were younger and whose criminal behaviour had become less entrenched, this was not reflected in the police data that was analysed.

#### **Implementation**

Interviews generally suggested that good use was made of data and insight from a range of sources, both to target the resources of the programme, and to inform the ongoing work of agencies involved. Some young people still felt that the way they were treated by police did not reflect the positive changes seen in their behaviour.

The evaluation identified the important contribution of partnership working to the HKC Programme. Partnership working contributions ranged from a positive attitude to data sharing, to shared learning to a) help mobilise the support of the wider community and b) support young people to navigate services. The Programme's dedicated Contextual Safeguarding Officer was seen as instrumental in facilitating some aspects of this.

Lead professionals used their time, skills and expertise to ensure support delivered to individual young people was effective. Support included building a good rapport with young people, and providing personalised and responsive support, as well as helping young people to develop their decision making and understanding of risks and reward.



#### Recommendations

This evaluation report makes 14 detailed recommendations in relation to the future implementation, direction, expansion, and evaluation of the programme. Key themes within these include:

- Securing representation of adult probation, and potentially education, in the HKC partnership. Alongside this, setting clear parameters for new work around transitional safeguarding.
- Considering how provision of diversionary activities can be responsive and sustain diversion beyond YP's participation in programme.
- Exploring options for a new system or platform for timely, dynamic information sharing on participating young people.
- Ring-fencing police time to support collaboration, information sharing and expedited criminal investigations concerning participating young people.
- Strengthening how the role and scope of the HKC Programme is communicated to staff working directly with young people.
- Reviewing the programme's Theory of Change to clarify the range of direct beneficiaries beyond young people, the role of partner agencies, and relationship with support already offered to individual young people.
- Considering strategies for how the programme could, should it expand, accommodated different local authority structures.
- Making improvements to how and what monitoring data is collected.
- Build on current project metrics in police data so that they reflect key aims and future developments of the programme.
- Taking a progressive approach to evaluation, so that more robust methodologies can be developed as the design of the programme and key outcomes measures are refined.



### 1. Introduction

#### **Scope and Aims**

In summer 2022, the National Children's Bureau, (NCB) was commissioned by the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to undertake a process and impact evaluation of the Habitual Knife Carriers (HKC) programme in East Sussex. This report sets out the findings of the evaluation, which relates specifically to the 2022-23 financial year.

The overall aims of the evaluation were to:

- Evidence the short-term outcomes achieved and the long-term impacts of the interventions.
- Understand how and why participants achieve outcomes, which participants do / do
  not achieve outcomes and what factors are the most important drivers of outcomes.
- Provide recommendations for the future delivery and evaluation of these interventions.

#### Methodology

The evaluation methodology consisted of three main elements:

- Qualitative case studies of young people's experiences
- Qualitative exploration of process and impact with programme stakeholders
- Quantitative analysis of project monitoring and linked police data.

Detailed methodology and research questions were developed following an initial period of desk research and a co-production workshop with key programme staff and stakeholders. These were set out in an Evaluation Framework (Appendix B). A second workshop was held with this group at the end of the evaluation in order to help refine the recommendations set out in Chapter 6 of this report.

#### Qualitative case studies of young people's experiences

Case studies were undertaken of five individual young people's experiences of the programme. This involved carrying out semi-structured interviews with the young person themselves and with the person undertaking the role of their 'lead professional'. For three of the five young people's case studies, a parent was also interviewed. Participants were recruited with the support of the Contextual Safeguarding Coordinator who manages the programme. All of the young people were male, had a lead professional based in the Youth Justice Service and had undertaken engagement with this service as a result of a court order or out of court disposal.



#### Exploration of process and impact across the programme

Semi-structured interviews and small group discussions were undertaken with 9 participants not previously interviewed as part of the case studies. These participants included Youth Justice Services, youth services and police staff directly involved in the delivery of the programme as well as police and local authority stakeholders. The interviews and small group discussions explored participants' perspectives on programme-wide barriers and enablers as well as reflections in relation to the three evaluation aims.

#### Quantitative analysis of project monitoring data and linked police data

Evaluators undertook an initial assessment of the potential quantitative data sources available to inform this final evaluation report. It was anticipated that the quantitative data analysis would incorporate data for all of the young people participating in the programme from the following data sources:

- Service User Monitoring (SUM) Form; SUM form data is routinely collected in relation to initiatives commissioned through the VRP. In the case of this evaluation, it included a range of information and variables describing the characteristics of young people, such as when, where, and how they participated in the programme and how their needs and outcomes relate to the priorities of the VRP. The data was collected by programme staff, who in some instances were working directly with the young people in question. It provided data from which the sample would be defined and linked to police data (see below), as well as quantitative data on outcomes other than changes in offending or victimisation.
- Police offending data including information on crime occurrences that young people
  may have been linked to as offenders, suspect or victims before and after participating
  in the programme.
- Offending data from each of the individual records within the Police NICHE system was
  used to provide data on risk factors affecting young people before and after
  participating in the programme. As well as the ONS Crime Severity scores taken from
  the Power BI Nominals dashboard of the cohort being considered.
- In addition to these main sources, Asset Plus assessments were also identified as a
  potential source of data relating to young people supported by the Youth Justice
  Services.

Specific measures from these sources were chosen and aligned with each evaluation question set out in the Evaluation Framework.

In taking forward this originally planned approach, three main challenges were encountered:

- SUM forms were not made available to evaluators in a complete state in time to carry out analysis. A limited set of data was supplied in relation to participating young people in lieu of this.
- Metrics that had been routinely drawn from police data by programme staff did not align with the agreed measures from the Evaluation Framework. This included the



metrics using the Home Office Definition of Offences Violence Against the Person rather than the VRP's local definition of Serious Violent Crime (see below).

• Measures that were agreed to be drawn from police data required manual extraction. This was more time consuming than anticipated and was delayed due to not receiving key data in relation to the sample via SUM forms.

As a result of these challenges, quantitative analysis was primarily limited to consideration of young people's links with occurrences of violent crime (as defined by the VRP) before, during, and after participation in the programme. In order to focus on addressing challenges with the main sources of data, the initial plans to use of Asset Plus assessments were not taken forward.

Analysis of data was undertaken for all young people participating in the programme at some point from **1st April 2022 up until 1st March 2023.** Young people who joined the programme after 1st March 2023 were not included as there would be insufficient time between when the young person joined and any subsequent impacts which might be observed. This includes some young people who were originally referred to the programme in 2021.

When considering the term violent crime, unless otherwise stated, the report refers to the definition of Serious Violent Crime set out by the Violence Reduction Partnership as follows;

- Violence that occurs in a public place
- Has a victim, suspect or offender under the age of 25
- Causes or is intended to cause serious injury (GBH/wounding criminal definition)
   Or involves the use of one or more of the following: a firearm a knife or other bladed/pointed weapon, whether made, adapted or intended as a weapon other offensive weapon, whether made, adapted or intended, including acid or corrosive substance

#### Note on presentation of qualitative findings

The interviews and small group discussions, the analysis of the resulting transcripts, and the presentation of findings in Chapters 4 and 5 are an exercise in qualitative research. Qualitative research seeks to understand social realities by exploring **how** and **why** experiences occur. Unlike quantitative research, it is not typically aimed at exploring how common or generalisable these social realities may be. For this reason, findings in Chapters 4 and 5 do not attach numerical figures to the themes identified. Language and structure have, however, been used to indicate the strength of different themes. This is based on a number of considerations, including the diversity of participants (i.e. young person, school staff, programme staff) that expressed the issue in interviews, and the relative emphasis each of them gave as well as the number of interviews the issue was identified in. As a guide, 'some' or 'several' or 'a few' are statements or concepts reflected in relation to 3 or fewer case studies or 4 or fewer other interview participants; and 'most' or 'many' are statements or concepts reflected in 4 or more case studies or by 5 or more other interview participants. Direct quotes are used where the interviewees own language illustrates a concept in a richer way than is possible in prose. Participants consented to these quotes being used only



anonymously and as such they are attributed to broad categories of participant, not specific roles, settings or case studies.



#### Structure of this report

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 sets out the aims, structure, and key features of the East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme.
- Chapter 3 sets out the findings of the quantitative analysis, including the reach of the
  programme and the cohort of young people it involved, and findings in relation to the
  impact of the programme at a cohort wide level broken down by key characteristics
  of young people.
- Chapter 4 presents anonymised summaries of the five case studies of young people's experiences and analysis of the key themes emerging from them in relation to Programme delivery and impact.
- Chapter 5 sets out the findings of the stakeholder interviews and discussions in relation to how the programme works, including enablers and barriers, programme impact, and how it may be improved.
- Chapter 6 sets out the conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation across its three aims.



# 2. About the East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme

The following description of the HKC programme was developed by the evaluation team based on information from a range of written sources available to NCB<sup>1</sup> and refined following the completion of fieldwork.

#### Overview

The Habitual Knife Carriers Programme aims to change the behaviour of a current, active cohort of children who carry knives, and divert them and their associates/local peer groups from being drawn into future knife carrying and other criminal activity.

The programme is not limited to specific boroughs or sites within East Sussex but focuses on individual young people where there are the most significant concerns around knife carrying. The programme does however aim to respond to higher levels of risks linked to particular sites or geographical areas through outreach work and how risks in relation to individual young people are assessed.

Young people engaged in the programme include those already involved in the Youth Justice Service and those with open cases within local social work teams. It also includes those who do not have statutory involvement but have been assessed through the HKC Index as having an escalated risk of carrying a knife and/or involvement in knife crime either as an offender or victim.

The programme is primarily delivered by the Youth Justice Service, with contributions from the wider children's services at East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police. Young people's access to relevant facilities run by local charities and businesses is arranged and funded through the programme.

The programme is intentionally integrated with the statutory services' normal work with relevant young people. The rationale for this approach is to ensure:

- The partnership work fits with existing safeguarding structures and procedures.
- Existing child-practitioner relationships are utilised, supporting the relationship-based approach to interventions and avoiding unnecessary changes to or additional professionals involved in the children and families' lives.
- The programme can access a range of existing staff skills and expertise. This includes specialist and skilled social work, detached youth work and youth justice practitioners, as well as management oversight of assessments and interventions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These sources include the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the evaluation; the programme's funding application submitted to Home Office; the programme's theory of change document; initial interviews with project staff, and; written information provided by project staff with input from their programme stakeholders from other agencies.



#### Scoping and referral

Young people who are most likely to be carrying knives are identified using the HKC risk Index. This tool is developed and maintained by Sussex Police. It looks at the risk factors associated with known instances of knife crime and identifies young people who have these risk factors. This is based on a range of standard police data as well as analysis of intelligence reports. Young people are assigned a risk rating score based on these factors.

Data from the HKC Index is considered as part of a scoping exercise that involves Police, Youth Justice Service (YOT) and children's services. This informs which young people enter the programme for one-to-one work and where group and outreach work delivered through the programme should be targeted.

#### Targeted individual and group work

All young people referred for one-to-one work are allocated a lead professional. This lead professional undertakes an assessment considering individual, peer, family, and community factors affecting the young person. They oversee the delivery of personalised plans which can include both one-to-one and group work. The plan may also recommend onward referral to the Youth Employability Service.

Group work may also include young people who are not otherwise involved in the programme but who are associated with the young person for whom this activity forms part of their personalised plan.

The exact focus and nature of the interventions is determined through an assessment of the young person's needs and risks. Potential content of the interventions include:

- Knife crime;
- Exploitation;
- Emotional regulation;
- Healthy relationships; and
- Substance misuse.

The interventions seek to address knife crime, exploitation, emotional regulation, healthy relationships and substance misuse with a focus on also moving the child away from negative peer influences and towards pro social influences such as positive activities including music or sport.

For this work the lead professional utilises methodologies such as Relationship Based and Trauma-Informed Practice to develop trusted relationships. One-to-one activities include:

- Support for better behaviour, including social and emotional skills, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and restorative justice;
- Support for families and empowering parents/carers to become effective partners in safeguarding;
- Incentives for change such as diversionary activities;



- Pro-social activities; and
- Opportunities for new peer groups/role models.

The young person's progress is monitored through regular, multi-agency information sharing meetings informed by police intelligence submissions and information from key agencies such as schools. The disruption pathway (i.e. enforcement rather than diversion/prevention) is only to be used for young people for whom engagement is not secured or in exceptional circumstances such as, for example, where they were known to be actively involved in drug dealing, or recruiting and exploiting other young people for financial gain.

#### Work in the wider community

In addition to work with individual young people and their peers, community outreach activities are undertaken where there is a known knife-carrying problem. These come in the form of detached/mobile sessions carried out by trained youth workers and youth officers from the Early Help team. Using local knowledge and an understanding of the participating children's specific interests the team undertake activities to raise young people's awareness of the risks they are taking and help them develop skills to improve their emotional resilience and behaviour. These young people are also, where appropriate, signposted to relevant activities and services including the Youth Employability Service (YES). The team also engage with other members of the public in high-risk areas to inform this work as well as offer advice and training to those who want to take a proactive role in community safety.

The Programme also initially incorporated delivery of the established KnowKnives intervention. This had been delivered by early help practitioners and specially trained youth (police) officers via community based small group work, and community-based roadshows in local areas with known knife crime problems. This intervention was discontinued in East Sussex at the beginning of the evaluation period so did not feature as a part of the HKC Programme for 2022-23.

#### **Enhancement of existing statutory services**

It is recognised in the design of the programme that many of the young people engaged may have already received similar support from statutory services prior to the delivery of this programme. Young people involved in the youth justice system would have been allocated a professional from the Youth Justice Service and had plans developed with them to help avoid reoffending. Social workers would lead similar work for young people who had not been sentenced but were deemed at sufficient risk of harm to warrant social care intervention. The programme seeks to enhance what is already offered by statutory services in the following ways:

• Improving coordination and targeting of resources: The programme includes, for example, regular partnership meetings between Early Help, Youth Justice Service and Sussex Police to share intelligence and information, develop a partnership action plan and oversee implementation of actions. Time is also allocated to using staff working together, employing the HKC Index and associated multi-agency scoping exercise, to



target existing and additional resources. Youth offending and social care staff additionally make use of the HKC Index to better understand what is going on in the lives of young people they are working with. Police use the HKC Index and discussions with other partnership staff to inform bespoke enforcement and disruption activity.

- Reaching more young people with professional support: The programme offers support to young people identified through the Index who are not open to statutory services on a voluntary basis (i.e. the young person/family members are not required to engage through their bail terms or a child protection plan.) This is undertaken by skilled youth justice or social work practitioners via additional hours.
- More options for individual and group work as part of personalised plans: Lead professionals can access additional financial resource to support young people in accessing positive and diversionary activities in their local communities. Similarly, with group work, the resource can enable provision of venues in the children's local communities and delivery of specialist sessions (previous examples include First Aid course relating to stab wounds). It has also been used to purchase a virtual reality headset depicting a stabbing scenario, which is available for workers to use with children and families as part of their interventions. The additional staff capacity secured by the programme also allows for continuing interventions to young people beyond their legally required engagement (on a voluntary basis) where assessed as appropriate.
- Expanding coverage of outreach work: Additional financial resource is being used to develop a joined-up approach between detached youth workers and neighbourhood police teams by paying for existing professionals' overtime.



# 3. Quantitative analysis of monitoring and police data

This Chapter sets out the findings of the quantitative analysis of police data in relation to the East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme. This includes further context in terms of the reach of the programme and the cohort of young people it involves. It also sets out findings based on available data in relation to occurrences of crime amongst those who have participated in the programme.

#### Reach of programme and characteristics of young people

In total, 44 individuals participated in the programme between 1st April 2022 and 1st March 2023. All individuals were male. Just over half (n=23) were aged 16 or 17 years at the point of referral to the programme, with the remainder (n=21) aged 15 or under.

The duration of participation was, on average, 280 days, ranging from 97 to 653 days. This includes young people who were yet to conclude their participation in the programme. For the majority of young people, their lead professional was from the Youth Justice Service (YJS) (n=40), with only a small number of lead professionals from social care (n=3) or Early Help Keywork (n=1).

At the point of their referral to the programme most young people (n=36) young people were under supervision of the YJS. Just over half (n=23) were open to social care classified as looked after, a child in need or subject to child protection plan. Four young people were not open to either statutory service at their referral to the programme.

Data suggests that the programme engaged with young people with a range of levels of historical offending The ONS Crime Severity Score for the individuals is a weighted crime score across the individuals crime occurrences. The average score for all young people participating in the programme during the year was 6818, ranging from 217 to 18,987.

#### Outcomes recorded in police data

Police data was extracted for the 44 individuals who participated in in the programme between 1st April 2022 and 1st March 2023. This data included a range of metrics that align with the programme's theory of change and were agreed as part of the Evaluation Framework.

The metrics included the number of violent crime and knife carrying/possession offences each young person was linked to and associated ONS crime severity scores as well as the number of violent crime occurrences they were linked to as victims. This crime data was analysed for all individuals for 12 months prior to them being referred into the programme, through to 6 months following their participation in the programme. Findings are presented for 3 subcohorts, based on when they completed their participation in the programme (and consequently what time periods data is available for). Cohort A completed participation in the programme by 16/10/2022, Cohort B completed participation in the programme between 17/10/2022 and 16/3/2023, and cohort C had done so since 17/03/2023 or were still participating at the time this data was collected.



Findings are presented below at both an aggregate and individual level. Findings have been presented at an aggregate level to understand potential impact on overall volume of crime and allow interpretation alongside with metrics currently used by programme staff. These existing metrics did not allow comparison of young people's behaviour and outcomes before and after participation in the programme and were not always aligned with the aims of the programme and the VRP. For example, they did not use the VRP's definition of violent crime. A summary analysis using these metrics was provided to evaluators by programme staff and relevant findings are included in the commentary below. Findings are also presented at an individual level to allow analysis of outcomes in relation to individual young people's characteristics and interpretation alongside case studies as set out in Chapter 4.

#### Aggregated cohort level findings

Findings in relation to the number of young people linked with violent crime (as defined by the VRP) as an offender or suspect are set out in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Violent crime occurrences linked to young people before, during and after participation

Sub- cohort	of	Number of occurrences of violent crime linked to young people								
	Young People	12 months prior to referral	prior to participation post post following							
А	10	35	0	2	2	4				
В	10	37	7	5	$NA^2$	12				
С	24	97	97 14 NA <sup>3</sup> NA <sup>2</sup> 14							
Total	44	169	7 2 30							

As the table above shows, the whole cohort was linked, as an offender or suspect, with a total of 169 occurrences of violent crime 12 months prior to their referral. This compares to a total of 30 crimes following referral. Over two thirds of these occurrences post referral are accounted for in sub-cohorts B and C during their participation in the programme. Sub-cohort A accounts for 4 occurrences following referral, all of which happened post participation in the programme. Sub-cohort C alone accounts for well over half of the occurrences prior to referral and just under half of those following referral. However, it should be noted that as well as sub-cohorts A, B and C being of different sizes, young people within them participated in the programme for different lengths of time. To aid interpretation this same data has been

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort concluded their participation in the programme fewer than six months before data was extracted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort had either not concluded their participation in the programme, or concluded it fewer than three months before data was extracted.



presented in Table 2 below, expressed as mean number of occurrences per young person per 3 months.

Table 2: Violent crime occurrences linked to young people 3-monthly averages

Sub-	Number	Average No. occurrences per young person, per 3 months					
cohort	of Young People	months prior to referral	During participation	0-3 months post participation	3-6 months post participation	Total post referral	% Change
А	10	0.88	0.00	0.20	0.2	0.14	-84%
В	10	0.93	0.32	0.50	NA <sup>4</sup>	0.40	-57%
С	24	1.01	0.20	NA <sup>5</sup>	NA <sup>4</sup>	0.20	-80%
Total	44	0.96	0.18	0.35	0.2	0.23	-76%

All three sub-cohorts appear to have reduced their violent offending following initial referral to the programme. Sub-cohort A, who all completed their participation at least 6 months ago, were linked with an average of 0.9 occurrences of violent crime per 3 months for the year preceding their referral. This dropped to zero during their participation and reached just 0.2 by six months after completing their participation in the programme. This suggests a reduced offending level has been sustained for this sub-cohort of 10 young people. Smaller reductions can be seen for the 10 young people in sub cohort B who completed the programme at least 3 months ago and for sub cohort C, most of whom were still participating at the time data for this analysis was extracted. Overall there was a 75% reduction in the number of offences each young person was linked to, from an average of 0.96 occurrence per 3 months in the year prior to referral, to 0.24 offences per three months following referral. The impact of the programme on crime occurrences linked with the young people can also be assessed using the Home Office's Crime Severity Score. The table below sets this out for young people completing the programme at least 3 months ago (Sub cohorts A and B). Again, this is presented using averages per young person per 3 months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort concluded their participation in the programme fewer than six months before data was extracted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort had either not concluded their participation in the programme, or concluded it fewer than three months before data was extracted.



Table 3: Severity scores<sup>6</sup> for violent crime occurrences<sup>7</sup>

Sub- cohort	Number of Young People	Average combined score per young person, per 3 months			
		12 months prior to referral	0-3 months post participation	3-6 months post participation	
A	10	859.4	280.3	40.1	
В	10	717.8	80.9	NA <sup>8</sup>	

The average crime severity scores for 20 young people in sub-cohorts A and B reduced notably following their participation in the programme. The average per young person per 3 months of their combined score (taking all crimes within a three-month period cumulatively) for sub-cohort A reduced from 859.4 12 for the year prior to referral to 280.3 in the 3 months after concluding their participation, a reduction of over two thirds. Sub-cohort B saw an even larger reduction from 717.8 to 80.9

Data on knife carrying and possession was also analysed, findings from which are set out in table 4.

Table 4: Knife-carrying or possession occurrences linked to young people before, 3 monthly averages

Sub- cohort		Average No. occurrences per young person, per 3 months			
		12 months prior to referral	During participation	0-3 months post participation	3-6 months post participation
А	10	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.2
В	10	0.6	0.2	0.2	NA <sup>9</sup>
С	24	1.2	0.3	NA <sup>10</sup>	NA <sup>4</sup>

Because of the small numbers involved, caution is advised in comparing figures between the sub-cohorts. This analysis shows, however, that young people are, on average, linked to fewer knife carrying or violent crime occurrences after referral to the programme. It also shows

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Crime severity scores are experimental statistics developed by the Office for National Statistics. They are based on sentencing data for various types of crimes. Scores attributed to specific crimes range from 2 for possession of cannabis to 7,832 for homicide. For more information see

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeseverityscoreexperimentalstatistics

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Not yet available for Sub-cohort C

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort concluded their participation in the programme fewer than six months before data was extracted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort concluded their participation in the programme fewer than six months before data was extracted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Data not available as young people in this sub-cohort had either not concluded their participation in the programme, or concluded it fewer than three months before data was extracted.



encouraging signs that those young people who have completed participation may be able to sustain this reduction in violent offending. Furthermore, these findings echo those from analysis undertaken by Sussex Police as part of the ongoing monitoring of the programme.

Analysis by programme staff provided to evaluators included all young people referred to the programme between April 2022 and March 2023. It compared the final 3 months of the preceding financial year with the same months of 2023 (one year later), using a range of metrics. It indicated a halving (from 63 to 31) in the number of violence against the person occurrences that young people in the cohort were linked to as suspect or offender. It also indicated a reduction of possession of weapon offences that the young people were linked to (from 15 to 2).

#### Individual level findings

Following on from the cohort level findings above, Table 5, below sets out how many young people saw change in the number of violent crime occurrences they are linked to. This is based on 3-monthly averages for each young person, comparing this figure for 12 months prior to referral to that for during and post participation.

Table 5: Change in number of violent crime occurrences (3-monthly averages) that young people were linked to pre and post referral

Sub-cohort	Total number of young people linked to at least one occurrence in the 12 months prior to referral <sup>11</sup>	Linked to more occurrences following referral	Linked to fewer occurrences following referral	Linked to no occurrences following referral
Α	10	1	9	7
В	10	2	8	6
С	23	3	20	19
Total	43	6	37	32
Percentage	100%	14%	86%	74%

The vast majority of young people who were linked to at least one occurrence of violent crime in the year leading up to their referral went on to be linked to fewer occurrences after their referral (37 out of 43, 86%). Most of these young people (32, 76% of total) were linked to no further occurrences following their referral. Six young people (16%) were linked to more occurrences after their referral than they had been in the year leading up to their referral.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> One young person from sub-cohort C was not linked to any occurrences in the 12 months prior to referral



Box A, below, highlights findings from analysis of the relationship between young people's characteristics and violent offending, whilst Box B highlights further analysis of outcome measures.

#### Box A: Young people's characteristics and violent offending

**AGE:** Young people aged 15 or under at referral were no more or less likely than those aged 16 or over to be linked as an offender or suspect to further occurrences of violent crime.

**HISTORY OF OFFENDING AT REFERRAL:** Young people with total ONS Crime Severity Scores scores (i.e. above the median score) at referral were no more or less likely than those with lower scores to be linked as an offender or suspect to further occurrences of violent crime.

#### Box B: Further crime-related outcomes measures

**KNIFE CARRYING AND POSSESSION:** Of 29 young people who had been linked to a knife-carrying or possession occurrence in the 12 months leading up to their referral, four were linked to further occurrences after their referral whilst 25 were linked with no further occurrences. However, out of the 15 young people not linked to a knife-carrying or possession occurrence in the 12 months leading up to their referral, two went on to be linked to at least one occurrence following their referral.

**VICTIMISATION:** Of 24 young people who had been linked to a violent crime occurrence as a victim in the 12 months leading up to their referral, two were linked as victims to further occurrences following referral whilst 22 were linked to no further occurrences. However, out of the 20 young people not linked as a victim to a crime occurrence in the 12 months leading up to their referral, one went on to be linked to at least one occurrence following their referral.

**GANGS AND PEER GROUPS:** Of five young people who were recorded as being at risk due to their membership of a gang or peer group at referral (and for which there was data relating to the end of their participation) three were still recorded as being so on completion of their participation and two were no longer record as being so.

#### Other outcome measures

The analysis above has focussed on measures of impact as set out in the Evaluation Framework, using data made available to evaluators from police records. It therefore may not reflect the full range of impact perceived by staff or young people or measured through monitoring of police data. There are two key considerations in this regard.

The Evaluation Framework included a number of other measures to give a more rounded view of impact on individual young people, in line with the programme's theory of change. These related to, for example, the young people's wellbeing and engagement in diversionary activities. It was not possible to carry out an analysis of these measures as the expected monitoring data had not been consistently collected.

Furthermore, there were a wider range of police metrics that were used by programme staff to monitor the programme. The summary of this analysis (See Appendix A) provided to evaluators included measures such as the number of crime occurrences of any type that



young people were linked to as suspect or offender, the number of young people coming to police attention and the total cost of crime associated with the occurrences that young people were linked to. It showed positive impact in relation to all of these measures for young people referred to the programme during 2022.

# **Chapter conclusion**

44 young people participated in the programme between April 2022 and March 2023. The vast majority of these were already open to the Youth Justice Service and were allocated a lead professional based there. The length of time that young people participated in the programme varied greatly from 97 to 653 days. This included young people who were yet to conclude their participation in the programme.

Analysis of crime data in relation to these young people indicated a reduction in violent offending following their referral to the programme. This included sub-cohorts of young people who had concluded their participation in the programme at least 3 months and 6 months prior to this analysis and had sustained a lower level of violent offending during these intervening periods. Overall, there was a 76 percent reduction in the number of occurrences of violent crime that young people were linked to as offenders or suspects after referral compared to 12 months prior. A similar reduction was seen in the number of knife carrying and possession occurrences that young people were linked to as offenders or suspects. These findings reinforce observations made by programme staff using analysis by Sussex police using slightly different measures.

Not all young people saw reductions in the number of violent crime occurrences that they were linked to. Most (37, 86%) were linked to fewer occurrences and 32 (74%) were linked with no further occurrences at all. However, a minority of young people (6 out of 43, 14%) who were linked to at least one occurrence of violent crime in the 12 months leading up to referral went on to be linked to more occurrences after referral than they were before. The likelihood of young people being linked to further occurrences did not appear to be affected by their age or total ONS Crime Severity Score at the point of referral. Similar changes in young people's links with carrying and possession occurrences as offenders or suspects, and in young people's victimisation were also observed.

The analysis in this Chapter is based on available data that relates to the impact measures set out in the Evaluation Framework and the relevant police data that was available to evaluators. No data on non-crime related outcomes was available. A wider range of police metrics were also monitored by programme staff. Due to limitations of those metrics, however, the bespoke data extraction and analysis described in this Chapter was required.



# 4. Qualitative case studies of young people's experiences

This Chapter sets out the findings of case studies developed from 13 individual interviews in relation to the impact and delivery of the programme. It describes the nature of the impact for the five case study young people, informed by interviews with the young people, their lead professionals and parents. It presents a summary of each case study, followed by thematic analysis across case studies and the identified overarching themes.

# Case study summaries

The five case studies are summarised below including the young person's presenting needs, programme activity undertaken, and impact. Findings from interviews are complemented with relevant information from monitoring data (SUM forms) and police data.

#### Case Study A

Presenting needs: Young Person A was referred to YJS on a court order as part of their sentencing for a previous offence and was included in the programme because of their ongoing risk in relation to knife crime. Throughout their record, there was evidence of multiple crime types which are identified risk factors for serious violence. The young person was already open to the YJS at the start of intervention; and had been linked to multiple violent offences and carrying/possession offences as a suspect/offender (and as a victim in one instance) in the 12 months prior to starting the intervention. Young Person A was involved in the programme for more than 12 months and at the time of data collection, their contact was ongoing. Based on interview data, Young Person A presented with a range of social, emotional, and mental health needs and risky behaviours, more specifically emotion regulation difficulties, anxiety, stress, anger, trauma and knife carrying behaviour.

Programme activity: Young Person A's youth justice worker was allocated as their lead professional. The young person expressed an interest in physical activity, particularly going to the gym, as well as spending time with peers and gaining employment. Programme activities focused on supporting them with lifestyle changes and building a better understanding of the chain of events that led them to carry a knife. A lot of the programme was supporting Young Person A to manage their emotions, increase their level of self-awareness, and process the trauma connected to their past life. Regular one-to-one sessions consisted of: discussing the risks of carrying a knife to themselves, their family and others; encouragement to maintain a routine, stay active and occupied; discussions with family members to improve relationships; and support in planning movements to reduce risks of being drawn into further criminality.

Impact of programme on mood and motivation: Based on qualitative interview data, Young Person A found all the work they had done with the lead professional to be helpful. They reflected that although making changes was hard and stressful, they had experienced positive changes in their life and were resolute that all the hard work they had put in to affect change would not be wasted. Interviews as part of this case study reported that taking part in an



interview with people they had never met before showed how much progress the Young Person had made with their mental health. Young Person A had started to take personal responsibility for their actions, understanding that people can help them, but ultimately individuals must want to make the change. After involvement in the programme, interviews described how the Young Person's wellbeing had improved, experiencing: a reduction in stress and paranoia; less fear for their safety; increased self-awareness; lower anxiety levels; and increased openness to receiving praise.

Impact of programme on lifestyle and relationships: Based on quantitative data, since the commencement of the intervention, Young Person A had multiple occurrences whereby they were the named suspect in violent crimes. The young person's involvement in the intervention was still open at the time of data collection and no detail was available on 'post intervention' impact. According to qualitative interview data, meeting with the lead professional (one to one) and speaking about the dangers of carrying a knife was helping Young Person A to change their behaviour and to stay out of knife crime. A number of the young person's behaviours changed, such as: building more structure and routine; increased physical activity; change in activity engagement (i.e. spending more time with family, playing Xbox and going to the gym); change in peer interactions (i.e. no longer spending time with old friends they used to associate with, and had made new friends at the gym who are in employment); and improved course attendance (which would provide them with employment options).

Despite improvements, two separate risks were being managed on an ongoing basis, a) from the group of friends involved in gang behaviour and b) from members of their family who were still operating on the edge of criminality. Young Person A's opportunities for employment were connected to b) and therefore provided increased risk that they would be drawn into further criminal activity. The long-term impact of the programme on the young person's trajectory was still unknown, so moving forwards the focus of involvement work was on scaffolding the young person to support them in continuing to reinforce the changes they had made.

#### Case Study B

Presenting needs: Young Person B was referred to YJS on a court order as part of their sentencing for a previous offence and was included in the programme because of their knife carrying behaviour. The young person was already open to the YJS and social care at the start of intervention, and had been linked to multiple violent offences and carrying/possession offences as a suspect/offender (and as a victim in multiple instances) in the 12 months prior to starting the intervention. Young Person B was involved in the programme for more than 12 months and at the time of data collection, their contact was ongoing. Based on interview data, Young Person B presented to the programme with a range of social, emotional, or mental health needs and risky behaviours, more specifically concentration and attention difficulties; disruptive behaviour at school; criminal activity; substance misuse; and suspected autism or learning needs.

**Programme activity:** Young Person B's youth justice worker was allocated as their lead professional. The young person expressed an interest in fashion and they were motivated to



gain some experience for their CV to help advance their job prospects. Young Person B attended regular one-to-one and group sessions. One-to-one programme activities focused on informal discussions about decision making processes around criminal behaviour and psychoeducation i.e. weapons awareness and the impact of drug use on brain development. Group sessions involved taking part in active, recreational activities, such as go-karting or paintballing.

Impact of programme on mood and motivation: Interviews as part of this case study reported mixed findings on the changes to Young Person B's wellbeing. Young Person B said that their general mood had improved, and they felt better knowing that they had support and people to talk to. However, adults interviewed found it hard to confirm a consistent improvement, describing the young person's mood as changeable, sometimes presenting as moody and irritable, and at other times appearing to be in good spirits. The young person always felt confident and outgoing, but this was made easier through having to speak to a lot of adults about their life. The young person said that they did sometimes feel hassled by the number of meetings they had to attend with professionals. Young Person B described their motivation to get out of the youth justice system before an age when they would go on adult probation for criminal behaviour. They recognised the benefits of the programme, which kept them motivated to engage even when they felt low.

Impact of programme on lifestyle and relationships: Based on the quantitative data, since the commencement of the intervention, Young Person B had multiple occurrences whereby they were the named suspect in crimes involving knives. The young person's involvement in the intervention was still open at the time of data collection and no detail was available on 'post intervention' impact. According to the qualitative interview data, some positive shift was identified in the young person's behaviour. Young Person B said they were more motivated, planning and focusing more on their future in an effort to become self-sufficient. However, according to the parent and YJW's accounts, there was no clear change in the young person's motivation. Young Person B reported they were much busier than they had been prior to the intervention, and therefore had less time or ability to get into trouble. However, according to the YJW's account, the young person was still at risk of serious harm to others

## Case Study C

Presenting needs: Young Person C was referred to YJS on a court order as part of sentencing for a previous offence and included in the programme due to being at risk of knife carrying and low-level offending. The young person was already open to the YJS and social care at the start of intervention, and had been linked to multiple violent offences and carrying/possession offences as a suspect/offender (and as a victim in multiple instances) in the 12 months prior to starting the intervention. Young Person C was involved in the programme for less than 12 months and at the time of data collection, their contact was ongoing. According to interview data, Young Person C presented with a range of emotional mental health needs and risky behaviours, more specifically learning and processing difficulties, anger, impulsivity, antisocial behaviour, truancy, and knife carrying behaviour.



**Programme activity:** Young Person C's youth justice worker was allocated as their lead professional. The young person expressed an interest in music, sports and being outdoors. Programme activities focused on supporting Young Person C with understanding the negative consequences of their actions on their future; building the young person's strengths; setting boundaries; and engaging with activities that help release emotions. Regular one-to-one sessions consisted of reparation work, creating music, physical activity, practical support and developing a communication passport.

Impact of programme on mood and motivation: Interviews as part of this case study reported some improvements to Young Person C's wellbeing. They sometimes felt happier and experienced less stress and anger. Young Person C continued to show care and sensitivity towards their friends, demonstrating some reflective skills, including discussing the emotional impact of interactions with the police. However, due to the young person's learning needs, they found it difficult to ask for the help and support they needed and heavily relied on professionals to advocate on their behalf.

Impact of programme on lifestyle and relationships: Based on quantitative data, since the commencement of the intervention, Young Person C had multiple occurrences whereby they were the named suspect in crimes involving knives. The young person's involvement in the intervention was still open at the time of data collection and no detail was available on 'post intervention' impact. According to qualitative interview data, Young Person C was no longer carrying knives or coming to the attention of the police on a regular basis. Young Person C's behaviour had improved, with typically daily interactions with the police prior to programme involvement. Young Person C was getting on better at college, attending lessons and interacting better in class, but they still had to leave the class on occasions as they struggled to sit still and concentrate. Young Person C was trying hard not to put themselves in dangerous situations and was beginning to learn when to distance themselves when a situation did not seem right, or a person was not good for them. However, some ongoing issues were reported by interviewees, with Young Person C regularly going missing from their place of residence, and a slight increase was reported in the young person's drug taking.

Despite improvements, interviewees reflected that there was still a way to go to keep the young person out of the criminal justice system long-term. Young Person C's behaviour was worse when they did not have structure and routine, and there were ongoing concerns that they would jeopardise their situation in order to retain strict rules around their movements and behaviour. Interviewees felt that engaging the young person in employment would help provide them with the necessary structure they needed to maintain change moving forwards.

#### Case Study D

**Presenting needs:** Young Person D was referred to the group programme on a voluntary basis due to being at risk of knife carrying and exploitation. They had been recently supported by the YJS on an out-of-court disposal and therefore were already open to the YJS at the start of the group intervention. Young Person D had been linked to a violent offence in the 3 months prior to starting the intervention. Young Person D was involved in the programme for less than 12 months and at the time of data collection, they were no longer receiving one-to-one



sessions but were still involved in group sessions. According to interview data, Young Person D presented with a range of needs and risky behaviours, more specifically ADHD, dyslexia, learning needs and cognitive disability, impulsivity, drug use, safety concerns, and risky behaviour in school.

**Programme activity:** Young Person D's youth justice worker was allocated as their lead professional. The young person expressed an interest in cooking, adrenaline-based activities and going to the gym. Programme activities focused on supporting Young Person D with life skills (e.g., budgeting), learning about peer influence, drug use and impulsivity, and the long-term consequences of criminal activity. Group sessions involved recreational activities, such as cooking.

Impact of programme on mood and motivation: Interviews as part of this case study reported some changes in Young Person D's demeanour, appearing more open and engaged. Although interviews reported that the young person did not struggle with their mental health, they had remained positive and polite and had engaged well with a range of adults. A shift was reported in the young person's attitude towards knife crime, and they appeared to be more motivated for their future (i.e. getting a job and earning money). However, the young person was not motivated to continue attending group sessions on a voluntary basis, as they felt the sessions got in the way of them pursuing other recreational activities.

Impact of programme on lifestyle and relationships: Based on the quantitative data, during and since the intervention, Young Person D had been a suspect in instance(s) of violent crime. No instances of knife crime were recorded during or since their involvement with the programme. According to interview data, there had been a brief escalation in Young Person D's behaviour, which had appeared to deescalate at the point of interview. Despite less police involvement, there were still some instances of drug possession. The young person was reportedly engaging better with professionals and with programme activities, however they were still not engaging with school.

## Case Study E

Presenting needs: Young Person E was referred to the YJS on a court order as part of sentencing for a previous offence and included in the programme due to knife carrying behaviour. The young person was open to social care, but not open to the YJS at the start of the intervention. They had been linked to violent offences and carrying/possession offences as a suspect/offender (and as a victim) in the 3 and 12 months prior to starting the intervention. Young Person E was involved in the programme for less than 6 months and at the time of data collection, their contact was ongoing. According to interview data, Young Person E presented to the programme with a range of needs and risky behaviours, more specifically suspected ADHD, aggression, antisocial behaviour, criminal behaviour and suspected weapon carrying.

**Programme activity:** A youth justice worker was allocated as the lead professional. Young Person E expressed an interest in spending time with their partner, playing football and staying fit and healthy. Programme activities included discussing peer pressure, influence and



coercion, and the long-term consequences of criminal behaviour. One-to-one sessions also included support in managing emotions and taking part in recreational activities.

**Impact of programme on mood and motivation:** Interviews as part of this case study reported an overall improvement in Young Person E's mood. They felt less volatile and emotionally reactive, and as a result felt calmer and more relaxed.

Impact of programme on lifestyle and relationships: Based on quantitative data, since the commencement of the intervention, Young Person E had multiple incidences of violent crime, including knife crime (and potential possession/carrying). The young person was the victim of violent crime and had continued affiliations with gangs and 'county lines'. The Young Person's involvement in the intervention was still open at the time of data collection and no detail was available on 'post intervention' impact. According to qualitative interview data, Young Person E was taking practical steps to stay out of trouble, including staying away from certain areas and friends. Young Person E had a change in attitude, recognising that getting into trouble wasn't worth the potential serious consequences, including hurting others. The young person had made new friends who did not get into trouble, and instead they just spent time together having fun.

# Overarching themes - programme impact

Thematic analysis of case study data identified three overarching themes: 1) outlook and motivation to follow a different path, 2) impact on mood and life satisfaction, and 3) impact on lifestyle and relationships.

## Outlook and motivation to follow a different path

Several young people were motivated to change and had lost interest in continuing down a criminal path. Although making changes could be 'tiring' it was considered 'worth the effort.' Most young people had vocational ambitions and were motivated to enter or continue in the world of work. Young people were motivated to earn their own money and gain some independence and autonomy. Lead professionals talked about how earning money could be "really positive and powerful" for young people, giving them a sense of "self-worth". A contributing factor was when young people learnt to take personal responsibility for their choices. Several young people appreciated the support they had received from the YJS staff but understood that ultimately "you've got to be the one to make that change." Young people said they had to be "self-motivated" to attend one-to-one sessions, whereas with group work they motivated each other to attend. Some young people felt driven to change out of fear for what their life would be if they continued on this path i.e. entering the adult probation service where they would not receive as much support.



"I think work would give him that foundation and that support and that sense of self-worth that college doesn't give him at the moment and his friends don't give him. I think he wants to earn, and he wants to feel good about stuff because he hasn't got much that's made him feel good in his life."

Programme staff

Some young people continued to have **low motivation** throughout their involvement with the programme. Despite efforts made by the services, the young person couldn't "see the point" or the link between the support being offered and avoiding being put into custody. In a number of cases, young people were not motivated to attend or try hard at school or college. Lead professionals and parents suggested that the **traditional education system was not fitting the young people's needs** (emotional, behavioural, cognitive). Attempts to adapt the traditional school timetable sometimes back-fired, with lead professionals concerned that it would be putting young people at greater "risk of doing something silly" in the community. Interviewees identified the complex pathway forward for some of these young people, with a number of risks and "push and pull" factors to manage, "there's always a risk" that young people will "get drawn" back down a criminal pathway. Some parents were **cautiously optimistic** about their child's future, but worried it might be too late to change the path they are on. At the same time, many parents sounded resigned, knowing it wouldn't be possible to know whether something had worked until the young person was "out of it" later down the line.

"He hasn't got the motivation. He won't get himself up in the morning. Today, just to come to this meeting, he had to be woken up. It was ten minutes before he got up to get here; we're all up waiting for him to get ready."

Parent

#### Impact on mood and life satisfaction

Changes in young people's mental health and wellbeing were also explored as part of interviews. The interviews suggested that most young people had experienced difficulties with their mood, particularly with feelings of anxiety, stress, paranoia, anger, or frustration. Some lead professionals highlighted that such difficulties were to be expected amongst this cohort of young people, who would likely have experienced some form of trauma. Young people generally did not share their own views on emotional wellbeing and mental health, but evidence of change was observed through discussing their behaviours with lead professionals and parents According to them, just taking part in an interview with people they had never met before was evidence of the progress they had made with their mental health. As wellbeing improved, so too did young people's level of engagement, with individuals being more open to praise, and 'to have a laugh' with their lead professional. Some interviews highlighted the changes or challenges young people have had with managing their emotions. Some accounts of young people's journeys described a positive shift in their attitude and general temperament, but others highlighted how 'volatile' and changeable young people's mood can be in their teenage years. One parent witnessed positive changes in their child's 'temperament', seeing how they had learnt to step back from their emotions and think through their actions rather than acting on impulse. Although difficulties with emotional



reactivity were often described in the 'normal' range, in some instances young people would close up and would not readily talk about their feelings.

"He does suffer, with a lot of anxiety. I'm really impressed how he's put himself in front of two people he's never met before and that sort of thing. Most of the time it would be head down, hands on his head. Can't get a word out of him."

Programme staff

Difficulty was reported in assessing young people's emotional wellbeing. Several lead professionals were unsure about whether there had been a shift in young people's general happiness and state of wellbeing. These interviewees found it 'tricky' to report any real change in some cases, acknowledging 'there will always be something not okay with him on some level.' Lead professionals felt they could not support all of young people's mental health needs, but it was important that a young person felt ready to receive additional mental health support from other agencies. One young person did not feel they benefitted from involvement with CAMHS, but their lead professional reflected that any support given was not "wasted" as the young person would be able to think about what they had learnt when they were in a 'better place.'

"So emotional well-being, I don't know. Tricky with [young person]. I think there will always be something not okay with [them] on a level, but again, it's sophisticated... I don't know how much... He disassociates so much. It's complicated."

Programme staff

#### Lifestyle, routine and relationships

Building structure and routine helped most young people to **stay busy and keep a "low profile".** Certain activities such as work or regular gym attendance provided "natural structure". Young people's efforts to keep "occupied" through physical or vocational activities meant they did not have the time or energy to get into trouble. Young people kept themselves active by playing football, going to the gym, working, community service, job searching and vocational qualifications. For some young people, they changed what activities they took part in, and instead chose to spend more time "chilling" at home with their family and/or partner, rather than going out into town where they used to interact with peers (often still involved in criminal behaviour). It was important for young people to find the right activities to occupy their time. It took some trial and error for young people to find what worked for them. Channelling aggression through activities such as boxing was helpful for some young people, but for others this felt like a trigger and would not help them to be less reactive.

"...I feel like when I go out and I see people it's just always the same people I used to chill with and I just don't want to get back involved in that again, to be fair. So I just chill in with my girlfriend, that's it."

Young person

Some interviewees discussed the changes they saw in young people's **relationships** and the impact this had on their lives. A few young people reported **spending more time with their** 



family and their relationships had improved. Young people's peer groups played an important role in their involvement in criminal activity, and for some young people "pulling away" from associated peer groups was an important change. For some, they remained on friendly terms, and would greet each other in the street, but no longer spent time together. Friends could be a positive influence, and one young person talked about the new friends they had made who "don't get into trouble." Young people's relationships with the police also featured within the interviews. For some young people, their relationship with the police was dependant on the individual, being on friendly terms with some police officers, but other police officers were described as "not very pleasant." One young person had a unique relationship with the police, where they would regularly call the police if they felt scared or in danger. For some young people, they felt that they had gained a "reputation" with the police which meant they "don't really like them" and/or they felt unfairly targeted.

"So the fact of what I was doing could hurt other people and it just made me feel like - I stopped hanging around with my proper mates after that because they were just still getting into trouble. So he did, yes, he made me realise basically that it wasn't all worth it."

Young person

There was a positive impact on several young people's **behaviour**, with interviewees reporting that several young people had "stopped getting into trouble" and were no longer "coming to as much attention with the police." For some young people, concerns had "subsided" to the point where police involvement was no longer a topic of conversation in sessions. For some young people, they were "**trying not to put [themselves] in situations."** In some cases, working together across services was necessary in order to reduce "risks of exploitation". Some young people said that they had stopped carrying knives early on in the process, partly due to maturity or arrests, and wouldn't "stab people now". According to interviews, there was also a reduction in drug use and supply. Some young people continued to **exhibit risky behaviour**, but it was often difficult to assess the level of risk and in some cases lead professionals, parents and the police remained wary or sceptical.

"Yes, you can only go on behaviour, can't you? He might not be able to tell you about it or why it's changed but his behaviour is showing something has changed for him which is good."

Parent

"I was getting arrested maybe twice every week, two times a week, but now it isn't really happening anymore, so."

Young person



## Overarching themes - programme implementation

Thematic analysis of case study data identified three overarching themes: 1) building a good rapport, 2) personalised and responsive support, and 3) advocacy and coordination of support.

## **Building a good rapport**

Data from interviews indicated that building a good rapport between young people and their lead professional was the foundation for change. It was important for lead professionals to be aware that they are asking really personal "in-depth questions" and as such, they needed to give young people the time and space to "warm up" and not expect them to engage straight away. An important way that lead professionals helped to build rapport with young people was planning recreational activities, engaging young people in activities for the purpose of fun and relationship building. With this cohort of young people, they "fear that you're setting me up, or you're going to tell the police and I'm going to get arrested." Several lead professionals described the importance of understanding young people's lived experience, recognising that "we're not just carrying our weapons because we think we're hard, actually my lived experience is that I am scared." Although lead professionals were not mental health professionals, they acknowledged that it was essential to build in time to support young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health, and avoiding it becomes a barrier to engagement. Lead professionals made efforts to create a comfortable environment for young people to feel safe to open up in. Often, young people felt more comfortable to talk when going for a drive or eating food.

For young people, it was very important that they felt like their lead professional was an ally, someone "that is actually on [their] side." One young person described their lead professional as "funny", "helpful" "understanding" and someone that "just clicked to me straightaway." The distinction was made between the type of relationship young people had with their parents or teachers and their YJW. It was much easier for young people to open up to their lead professional. One parent described this space as "neutral ground", giving the young person their "own person" to talk to and offer support. For young people, having someone to speak to that was "always there", a constant ally was so crucial for building their trust. For one young person they struggled to engage because they didn't "see the point" of the work, so there was a focus on building the relationship back up again. Building that trust was vital for enabling lead professionals to challenge young people's behaviour, "not judging" them but allowing them to broach difficult subjects and question their choices.

"I think it helps that they listen to him. I think it feels like he's got someone that actually is on his side; someone who will listen or help him with things. I think that's probably more what helps. He won't talk to us, because we're his parents – it's a bit different, isn't it?"

#### Parent

"For someone like [Young Person], it's building up trust. It's being on their side but being a critical friend as well and being upfront with them and saying [Young Person],



that's not pretty, that's not good, and not judging him."

Programme staff

Lead professionals talked about how important it was to have "open and honest" two-way communication with young people. This was well received, with young people feeling like "they do listen to you" and "obviously help with a lot of things." It was important that the lines of communication were open both ways, with one lead professional reflecting on what a big ask it was for young people to be expected to open up on big issues, "it's a deep thing to start talking to someone about," but on the whole, young people were willing to talk. It was important for some young people that they were provided with a confidential space to talk. Although parents were informed when necessary or required, young people knew they could talk openly, and "they can talk to them without it going further on." Where appropriate, giving parents a space to talk and be listened to was also important. Building that relationship with the parent and following through on actions was important for the young person as well. It also allowed the lead professionals to learn from the parents, about the young person's learning needs, interests and hobbies.

"I can actually speak to them and they wouldn't go back and tell people, because it's their job... So yes, I knew I could kind of like trust them, even though I didn't know them, if you get what I mean? ... Yes, whereas if I spoke to one of my mates about what's going on, they would then go and tell somebody else probably..."

Young Person

For young people, believing that their lead professionals **genuinely cared** about them and understood their experiences was key. They described how lead professionals were "talking like as if [they] actually cared," as if "they want the best for me." When young people felt that the relationship they had with the lead professional was real, they understood why they were providing help and support. Having an awareness for how **trauma** can negatively impact on individuals and their ability to feel safe and develop trusting relationships was important. For some young people, being able to engage with some of the issues was important in building trust and "I got to talk to him and actually get his own perspective of it and you get the bigger picture of it." Feeling understood often came from having relatable experiences. This could be having similar interests, career ambitions, life or work experiences. In some instances, having these joint experiences allowed the young person to open up a bit more, and be more receptive to change. In some instances, not having some similarities, for example the young person and lead professional being different genders, introduced limits to what activities they could engage in together.

"I think he was just like talking like as if he actually cared, if you know what I mean? Like actually cared if I went to prison or not, because he was like talking to me about like he knows what can happen in there and stuff like that."

Young Person



## Personalised and responsive support

Interviews reflected on how young people benefitted from having access to a consistent, reliable role model in their lives. For several young people, they have had a difficult relationship with their parent(s) who were sometimes "battling their own demons". Lead professionals themselves became a positive role model for most, and they also supported young people to identify other people who were "significant in their life" who they could "easily relate to or recognise positive aspects in them." Young people were more receptive to the advice of role models, and so this was an effective way to challenge their views on criminal activity, such as knife carrying. Once a YJW was seen as a role model, they were able to provide young people with encouragement and a "gentle push" in the right direction through collaborative discussion and motivational interviewing. Lead professionals encouraged young people by reminding them of their potential and "celebrating" times when they made a different choice, showing them how many changes they had made and could continue to make. This was a careful balance, of challenging and encouraging, with some parents concerned that if young people were given too much support they would "put up a wall where [they] don't have to do it" for themselves.

It was important for young people to learn about taking personal responsibility for the actions. One young person described how they "never really had any discipline when I was growing up," so being held accountable for their actions was new to them. Lead professionals provided advice and would not shy away from important issues, at times taking a firm stand and putting boundaries in place. Lead professionals would support the young people but would not hold back from being clear about what they thought about their actions and they often had the power to send young people back to court if they did not follow the rules. "Getting into trouble" was often the result of boredom, therefore lead professionals provided practical support, helping young people to stay productive, active and busy by developing life skills (e.g. budgeting) and access to diversionary activities. In order to support these activities, the YJS provided workers with access to funds for things like ID, which would help with applying for jobs as well as for certificates, driving license, glasses, and prescriptions.

"I think it's having a positive male role model... Having somebody say to him, who's outside of the family circle and not a lecturer who's worked with children who stabbed people and stuff and just plugging away at it, using the VR thing. He respects those opinions, I think, and he responds well. Once he trusts you and likes you, I think he listens to your views. He might not absorb them straight away, but he certainly looks to take them on board and tries to impress you, I think."

Programme Staff

Lead professionals identified that helping young people **build a structure and routine** in their lives was really key to lasting change. For some young people, enforced structure was helpful, and they found it easier to continue with a strict routine once it was no longer compulsory, but another young person did not follow their "doorstep curfew" and continued to risk it as they had not yet been caught. Lead professionals recognised the importance of educational or work settings for keeping young people's "mind active" and being able to **give their day structure**, regardless of whether young people achieved any qualifications.



However, a number of young people were on part-time school or college timetables, which meant a lot of their day was unstructured. Building a routine in the evenings was also important, as often young people described being "bored" and would get in to trouble. Going to the gym or spending time at home filled young people's time and energy so they were less likely to engage in their past behaviour or meet up with certain peer groups.

Although organisational structure could be helpful for young people, most found it difficult to learn using more traditional methods, and several had additional needs which made it difficult to concentrate, sit still, and learn in a typical way. Therefore, lead professionals were **flexible** in teaching young people new ways of thinking or learning information, and a lot of the work was "unstructured" and responsive to how the young person presented on the day, or the direction the young person took the conversation or activity. For some young people this meant being outdoors, being on the move, or having a conversation whilst engaging in a recreational activity e.g. playing pool. It was important to keep conversations brief and break up discussions about "heavy" topics with conversations on other things like music.

"I've seen a decline in his routine since he's stopped going to school where he's up through the night, he's sleeping in the day, whereas when he was at school that was more balanced." Parent

"A lot of the work was unstructured and there was a lot of responsivity that's needed because you were thinking, this is work we're focussing on today. Then, he draws you in a different direction so instead of having to go with it and then park that for a while and then come back to it."

Programme Staff

#### Supporting young people to understand the consequences of their behaviour

Lead professionals identified that it was important to support young people with **making** decisions and negotiating the balance of risk to reward. For lead professionals their role was often helping young people to make a better choice for themselves, "just giving them options" i.e. how can you still hang out with your friends without getting into trouble – maybe go play pool rather than be on the streets? Interviews indicator that some young people acted on impulse or did not make a "conscious choice" to commit a crime, therefore the work was about helping them to understand that they are making a "choice". For one person, once they realised it was their choice the "penny dropped" and they decided to change their behaviour. An important activity for keeping young people busy and occupied was **planning** diversionary activities. This involved planning active pursuits that young people expressed an interest in, such as paintballing or go-karting. It was important for most young people that these activities were "sporty", but one young person also enjoyed cooking and this was an activity they took part in together with a friend. Some activities with young people were around supporting them to manage and regulate their emotions. Music, conversation, and physical activity were helpful tools to release emotions and help to learn to self-regulate.

"So when it came to planning, that's why I think he was starting to be very unmotivated, because all he could see was someone telling him this is what you need to do, but he



didn't see the benefit from it. ...it's about helping him see that his lifestyle that he's choosing is very risky, and there's other ways of earning money where the risk is not there. You can keep the money that you earn, rather than having it taken from you because the police do take all the money that you make."

Programme Staff

A clear focus of the work with all young people was understanding how actions lead to serious consequences. Lead professionals talked with young people about the potential serious consequences of their actions, such as going to young offenders, prison, having a criminal record, limited job prospects, injury, and death. Lead professionals tried to instil a "healthy fear," but reflected that it was often hard to know whether what they had said had got through. For many young people, they felt "invincible" and had not previously thought about the potential negative consequences of their criminal behaviour on their own safety (i.e., being stabbed by their own weapon) or the safety of their family (i.e. modelling certain behaviours), or wider society (ambulance workers and people processing a crime scene). One young person described how talking about these serious consequences "opened my eyes up to stop carrying knives and stuff." Reinforcing the serious nature of criminal behaviour and their consequences was particularly challenging for young people with additional needs. One young person approached low-level criminality and police involvement as "all a bit of a game," and there was increasing concern around the young person.

"[If it carried on this way] I may go... young offenders. Maybe I could get myself killed. Yes, even more other stuff, to be honest. So I've realised, I know I'm getting older and like if your behaviour, if you keep on getting arrested you can't get a job, like it's going to be hard. Yes, it's just going to be a difficult life really, to be fair."

Young Person

Discussing the risks and long-term consequences of criminal behaviour was the most commonly used approach to helping young people to learn to think differently. These conversations, although educational, were typically informal "chats" that covered issues of peer influence, and risks of exploitation, drug taking, and knife carrying. Several young people were known to be involved with drugs, and so lead professionals worked with them to explore the laws around cannabis and the impact it can have on a young person's brain and their development. The dangers of exploitation and risks of knife carrying were important topics of conversation. Although most of the input from lead professionals was more organic, in some instances they did use more structured content with written exercises. Activities covered decision making and issues around knife carrying and being safe. A couple of young people did reparation work, which involved practical activities such as making posters, booklets, a journal, and "stuff in the community." Young people had access to a reparation worker who set up projects as part of this work. Virtual reality (VR) headsets were reported to be a useful tool in challenging young people's perceptions of knife carrying and starting a dialogue. It shows a virtual reality experience of knife crime from different perspectives. Several young people and parents found the VR headset, "really helpful," "powerful" and "effective."



"Learning about the danger of knife crime and the dangers of being involved in knife crime and how to stay safe and stuff, and he's helped me get out of the knife crime stuff too I was like, I don't know, it's just, when people told me what the dangers of it, it just kind of really opened my eyes and I thought no, this isn't for me really."

Young Person

## Advocacy and coordination of support

It was important that lead professionals were able to advocate and speak up on a young person's behalf to other professionals. Lead professionals supported young people by making referrals to other services, giving families access to additional support, and having access to funds so young people could engage in "positive activities". Lead professionals took steps to manage young people's expectations around interaction with other services/professionals, as well as taking practical steps to coordinate young people's appointments. Due to additional **needs**, a number of young people relied on their YJW to ask for help on their behalf. For one young person with speech and language difficulties, the lead professional developed a report for custody so if the young person was taken in, police officers would be aware of their needs and how to ask them questions. In some cases, in order to effectively support young people, it was important to support the parents directly. Often parents were at capacity with other commitments but did really value and benefit from this support. Parents described "not feeling judged" by lead professionals, in a way that they hadn't experienced from other professionals. Supporting parents was often a way of helping to improve their relationship with their child and/or gently challenging "toxic" views around masculinity and parenting, which had directly impacted the young person. It was also useful where possible, for YJWs to be able to signpost parents to other services to meet their needs, such as housing support.

"I think because of his - the difficulties he has, I think he finds it hard asking for that help or support. If he's struggling with something, he would just continue to struggle, he wouldn't necessarily ask for the help, he does rely on other people to say things for him."

Parent

"I've done direct work with her a little bit. I think I've got quite a good relationship with [parent]. She's called me for support which is really good, and advice. When she found the [potential weapon], she was straight on the phone to me going, 'What do I do?' All that sort of stuff." Programme Staff

Access to new opportunities often needed to be collaborative, working closely with other organisations to meet individual needs. Giving young people access to new opportunities (recreational and vocational) helped to develop their prosocial identity, focusing on their individual strengths and interests. For example, young people took part in recreational activities like boxing and art courses, supported by the YJS and other organisations like Eggtooth. Another young person had started to discuss potential positive activities with other young people at a support group for cannabis users. Helping young people to "upskill", giving them access to vocational opportunities was also important. This often involved working



closely with the Youth Employment Service (YES) to support young people with finding a job, gaining relevant qualifications (e.g. Construction Skills Certification or AQA exams). Providing access to new opportunities ran smoothly in most cases but in some cases would take longer to arrange. This included if the young person was less clear what they were interested in or it was a new activity being arranged for a group of young people such as paintballing. Furthermore, although lead professionals did have access to funds which were usually granted when requested, it was not deemed sustainable to continue to fund provision such as gym membership over longer periods of time.

"...being with the [Youth Justice Service] it gives us opportunities to do things that we couldn't normally just do day-to-day life. Obviously, they can provide gym memberships so you can go to the gym, and they could plan these days out that obviously we might not be able to do by ourselves, so it's better in a lot of ways to be fair."

Young Person

For successful collaboration, it was important for lead professionals to develop good working relationships with individuals in other organisations. Notable organisations were social services and Youth Employment Service, and the Under 25 Substance Team. Interviewees reported that successful joined up work was enabled by many organisations working in the same office, and therefore being able to communicate regularly. It was important for successful collaboration that lead professionals were able to "keep [their] finger on the pulse." There would often be a number of professionals involved with one young person so this was a balancing act for lead professionals who were "mindful of not taking over" but also keeping up with what everyone else was doing. Lead professionals' role was often to coordinate with other services, which generally went "smoothly" and was "well-coordinated" and "just works well." Encouraging young people to engage with other services was important. For example, this could be explaining the referral process to the young person, so they were "open" to it. Lead professionals also supported young people with managing transitions, thinking about housing, or into adult services.

"So I'm case managing it and I speak to all the professionals that are involved; but because I have a good relationship with the social worker as well because she's in my office, we manage it and talk to each other all the time... I manage all his appointments for him and make sure the right professionals are meeting him when they're meant to, making contact with him when they're meant to, and then they share with me the work they're doing, and then I make a record of it each week."

Programme Staff

It was reported that programme workers often had to **negotiate gaps in, and negative experiences of, statutory services.** There were several instances where lead professionals and/or parents were critical of the education system, with the needs of the individual young person not being met, and YJS involvement was often crucial in these circumstances. The YJS involvement was not limited to what the young person was referred for, often supporting with education or employment in addition. For one young person, they were open to other services, some of which had covered similar issues around knife awareness, so it was important to "liaise" to make sure all content was being covered but not repeated. The



challenge of the YJS worker being the referrer/key coordinator for young people's involvement with other services was that if they took a step back it was not always clear or possible for young people to still access those opportunities; "it's a bit of a jigsaw." One young person described how it could feel "annoying" to have multiple meetings with different professionals; although they appreciated and benefitted from the support, in some ways so much support felt like being "hassled."

"...they've helped us like when [my son] has been at risk of being permanently excluded from school and having meetings. It's been helpful having them professionals involved."

Parent

Interviews also explored the relationship between the support provided to young people participating in the programme and that provided to other young people that the same youth justice workers were also supporting. Staff described how they worked with their supervisors to understand what could be offered on a personalised basis for all individual young people. They also suggested that they applied their skills and approaches in similar ways regardless of whether a young person was part of the HKC programme or not. Whilst they engaged with a wider range of professionals and services around the young person, they were generally not able to share specific insight as to what the HKC programme offered exclusively to participating young people.

## Chapter summary

In terms of impact, notable changes reported in case study interviews included a positive shift in young people's outlook, motivation, and optimism about the future despite the effort it took to change. Most young people had aspirations for the future, wanting to get a job and earn money, but had struggled in the education system. Parents and project staff hoped that existing changes would continue but recognised the ongoing risks. For some young people difficulties with motivation were ongoing.

Interview data also indicated that, during their participation in the programme, some young people became more engaged, more self-aware and were able to think and reflect before acting on their emotions. However, this experience was not universal, with some young people continuing to struggle with feeling or expressing their emotions, or not having any difficulties with their mood or wellbeing from the start.

Building structure and routine was key for a number of young people to change their life and move away from criminality. Several young people needed support to build these changes and switch unhealthy rules to more healthy ones.

In terms of programme implementation, case studies indicated that building a good rapport was crucial to engagement and positive behaviour change. The necessary ingredients for (successful) rapport building, included 1) being an ally; 2) having open two-way communication; 3) showing genuine care and understanding; and 4) taking account of how trauma may affect the relationship-building process. Interviews also highlighted specific planning, practical and emotional support activities that helped build rapport.

Personalised and responsive support that was adapted to support each individual young person and their needs was reported as essential for continued engagement and ongoing



cognitive and behaviour change. Key ingredients included: 1) access to a consistent, reliable role model; 2) providing encouragement and direction; 3) encouraging accountability and personal responsibility; 4) building structure and routine; 5) taking a flexible approach to learning and support; and 6) providing practical support.

Lead professionals talked young people through the choices they were making with an emphasis on supporting them to understand the consequences of their behaviour. Key ingredients of this approach included a focus on 1) decision-making – negotiating the balance of risk to reward; and 2) developing a 'healthy fear' – understanding how actions lead to serious consequences. These two components were supported through a range of activities, such as discussing the risk and consequences of criminal behaviour(s).

Advocacy was reported as a key to supporting young people and enabling cognitive and behaviour change. Key ingredients included: 1) advocating on the young person's behalf, and 2) working closely with other agencies to meet individual needs. This was achieved through a range of activities such as identifying unmet needs and managing transitions. Staff working directly with young people, however, had little insight into how the support provided to the young person related to the wider HKC programme and differed to that provided to others that they supported.



# 5. Exploration of process and impact across the programme

This Chapter sets out findings from the interviews and small group discussions with programme staff and stakeholders. It complements the findings set out in the previous two Chapters by exploring interviewees perspectives across the programme as a whole. It is structured around four key lines of inquiry that were pursued through these conversations – the use of data and intelligence to target support, the contribution of partnership working to the programme, perceptions of effectiveness and impact, and ideas for potential changes and improvements.

# The use of data and intelligence to target support

## Using and valuing different sources of information

Several interviewees reflected on how they felt the HKC Index had **evolved** since it was initially developed. A key part of this was increased use of children's services data and intelligence held across the partnership. Interviewees across the partnership were clear that whilst the mapping of police held data to inform this work was an important innovation, it was just the start of a more complex process – **"one piece of a puzzle"** - to identify who may most benefit from additional interventions and support. They suggested that using children's services data and discussing young people at partnership meetings helped better understand the wider context of young people's behaviours and peer connections. For example, it was suggested that using both police and children's services intelligence could identify where peer groups may be a protective factor for some young people as well as a risk. Insight gathered through the contextual safeguarding review of Eastbourne station was used to highlight how contextual risks, including those in relation to county lines, may affect young people in this area Being able to identify where young people posed a risk to others at the same time as a risk to themselves was seen as key to targeting support.

"The two key things that would be looked at is their risk of serious harm to others, and their own safety and wellbeing risks. So if you've got assessments that are indicating high risk of serious harm to others and high concerns around safety and wellbeing, then that would then be a justification that there's clearly work that needs to be done to address those risks."

Programme Staff

By using the wide range of data and having time to discuss different perspectives on the young people, staff felt that the partnership had created something "really unique" "really accurate". In particular, they found that the fact that most young people identified through the Index were in receipt of statutory intervention was **reassuring in terms of its accuracy**. They suggested that whilst different agencies may "prioritise different children for different reasons", when discussing young people as a partnership, **agreeing which children to prioritise for support was rarely a challenge.** 



## Early intervention via peer group mapping and support

A key element of the HKC programme is the mapping of peer networks and the delivery of work with peer groups as well as individuals. Staff suggested that, as part of this, a key strength was the ability to identify those who were **within the wider peer group** of a prolific offender but had **not started to engage in similar behaviour**. This was seen as creating an opportunity for early intervention and prevention through the support that the programme would offer to these young people. As a corollary it was also noted that those with highest scores on the HKC Index may not be those whom the support element of the programme would be effective for as they had got "so far down the line" of entrenched criminal behaviour and negative relationships with the police.

"There's a potential criticism. that initial identification of how we identify the young people is those which we know have come to police notice around knife carrying, knife possession, knife crime. But I guess...it's that wider piece of contextual safeguarding where we look at not just the individual, but we look at their peer groups, we look at their associates and it's kind of I guess it's the wider work they do that wider group or around those locations of risk is where we're probably getting that focus on the protective factors."

Stakeholder

## Ensuring information is up to date

Interviews highlighted the importance of keeping the HKC Index data up to date. Staff thought that it was helpful that the Index was refreshed quarterly to ensure that "children aren't then remaining on a Index when that information is really no longer relevant". Some staff working directly with young people were keen to be able to reflect on the progress those young people had made, for example going long periods without coming to the attention of the police. Interviews indicated that young people could get frustrated about continuing to be treated negatively by police despite having changed their behaviour for several months. Whether a young person has made such progress is also of course relevant in terms of deciding whether to prioritise further support for them and their peers.

Whilst some staff were satisfied that the data was regularly updated, some pointed to limitations of the Index and wider services which meant that **young people's current situation may not always be accurately reflected**. Firstly, whilst the Index was being updated quarterly, due to their manual, intelligence-based nature, some measures were only updated every six months. This would affect understanding of a young person's peer relationships, for example. Police and YJS staff also acknowledged that young people may remain under investigation for some offences for many months. This would give them a higher score under the Index (indicating higher risk) even if there had not been any new instances of suspected criminal behaviour for some time.



#### Informing reactive work

Access to the intelligence from the HKC Index and partnership mapping activities was seen as having wider benefits beyond identifying which individual young people and peer groups to support. Interviewees gave two examples of how this information helped plan responses to specific events in the community. One of these was a stabbing in an area of the county. The partnership was able to **strengthen support offered through the 'youth café'** to young people for whom information held suggested they may have been particularly affected. The other was responding to the **increased risk created by schools closing** on a strike day by targeting youth work resource at town centre locations where the information indicated that high risk young people congregated.

## Informing statutory referrals and assessments

Staff suggested that, in its current iteration, HKC Index included mostly young people who are already receiving a statutory intervention from children's services or the YJS. They did indicate, however, that discussions between members of the partnership could prompt individual staff or agencies to **reassess the risks faced by particular young people**. One interviewee gave an example of a young person who had recently been assessed by children's services and deemed not to meet the threshold for intervention, but their appearance on the Index prompted a fresh assessment which drew a different conclusion. Another staff member reflected that they thought that awareness of the national referral mechanism (for trafficking and modern slavery) had seen more use locally as a result of the sharing of information through this programme.

# Contribution of partnership working to the programme

## Constructive relationships between partners

Interviewees in different roles and from different agencies described and demonstrated the constructive working relationships they had with one another. They saw this as a **key enabler** of the successes of the programme.

"Back in the day... you didn't work that closely with the police, whereas now it's quite, you know, everyone working together."

Programme staff

Meanwhile a member of police staff said that

"What it is, is we've all got round the table. We've discussed these individuals and we've got a real openness to make a change"

Stakeholder

This appeared be underpinned by a strong sense of **respect** for each other's roles and expertise.

"[There are] some good relationships and some very respectful relationships... where these relationships have been built... I would pick up the phone and I would ask them



something and what they say to me is gospel cause I know that they're so good at what they do... I think that respect has been built between some individuals within the organisation as well."

Programme Staff

Whilst there were strong relationships between the members of the current partnership running the programme, some **limitations of the scope of the partnership** were noted. Interviewees highlighted that the relationship between these partners and (adult) **probation services** was at an earlier stage of development. It was also clear, through the case studies, how important personalisation **of education and schooling** could be for young people's progress. Despite this, schools have only been involved at an individual, and not a strategic level.

## Data sharing

One of the ways in which the strong relationships between partners was used within the programme was the sharing of data. As described above, the range of data and information used to target support was seen as important for the programme's effectiveness. This necessarily required police, YJSs, detached youthwork teams and children's social care to share information with each other in relation to the individual young people they worked with. One staff member highlighted that in their wider experience some people can be "quite risk averse". They noted that because the **right people were championing data sharing** for this programme that it had been "relatively easy".

## Interdisciplinary learning

Interviewees from different agencies and professional backgrounds alluded to differences in how they see and work with young people who have been linked to violent crime. They also suggested, however, that they had seen **shifts in understanding and attitudes** from their colleagues in other agencies.

The most widely cited area of change was in relation to more police understanding that some children and young people can be both victims and perpetrators. It was described in interviews how those responsible for youth work learnt about the rules and responsibilities which police are subject to, and about a perceived increase in social care's appreciation of risks outside the family and home.

Through sharing experience and perspectives, a number of solutions were developed to improve support for young people. For example, police and detached youth work agreed to deploy joint patrols selectively, so that in locations where young people were particularly mistrusting of police, youth workers could maintain a lead in carrying out positive engagement with young people. Another example was services coordinating their representations to court to enable young people on bail to associate with their peers for the purposes of taking part in the programme's peer group work.

One staff member described how the respect between partners had enabled honest discussions about differing perspectives:



"What's really positive about this particular partnership is that you can have those conversations and that's met with genuine curiosity and interest and is not dismissed. Whereas, I've been in other forums where that kind of approach, where if we were challenging that use of language, it would be just dismissed."

Programme staff

As with other positive aspects of partnership working, there was a **limit to the scale of change that staff felt was achievable**. One staff member reflected on their disappointment on hearing a colleague refer to a child as "working for a criminal gang". Furthermore, whilst much of the supportive aspects of the programme were described as 'trauma informed' one interviewee relayed a cautionary note that once a young person was becoming involved with the police "much of what happens to them is not trauma informed."

## Partnerships beyond statutory services

Some interviews uncovered examples of how communities had been engaged in wider partnership working. At a population level, a key example of this was the contextual safeguarding work carried out in relation to Eastbourne train station. This involved **building new relationships with local businesses** and railway employees. This led not only to consulting and sharing intelligence, but the training in de-escalation being offered to the community.

"If you see something happening, we should be going out there and challenging it in a safe way... So we're getting a lot of information and intelligence through from train staff, from coffee shop staff, from subway staff from...We are able to go in and provide training to staff that would have never had that kind of training how to deescalate situation or how to approach a young person...real tangible things are coming out from engaging with our communities, encouraging them to keep young people safe."

Programme Staff

There were examples of how, at an individual level, young people's **peers and parents had also been supported to play a positive role**, and how young people's employers could also form part of their support network. Young people in peer group sessions advised each other on how to get belongings back from the police and encouraged each other to apply for jobs. Parents were advised on how they could be a more positive role model and avoid young people using household knives.

## **Capacity for coordination**

A wide range of interviewees identified the existence of the **dedicated contextual** safeguarding coordinator role, based in the YJS, as a key enabler for maintaining the constructive relationships between partners and the benefits that flowed from this. The role was seen to be critical in providing capacity to undertake discrete work such as that in relation to Eastbourne station but also building relationships and encouraging partners contributions to the work. The skills and experience of the current postholder were identified as making the deployment of the post particularly effective. Interviewees also suggested that



basing such a role in the YJS supported the building of relationships due to being respected by both police and youth services.

"you need someone to oversee because otherwise if you've not got that personal championing it and pulling the parties together you it will not work. You need someone there to be driving it. It is [also] resource heavy initially you know when you're doing the peer group assessments and contextual safeguarding work, it does take time."

Stakeholder

#### Local authority structure

Another enabler for the partnership that was identified by interviewees related to the structure of East Sussex County Council. It was noted that unlike some neighbouring authorities, who had outsourced youth services attached to particular settings, the Council maintained an **in-house detached youth work service**. This was seen as critical for the ability of Council to deploy its youth service offer in a targeted and reactive way as described. It was also thought to enable some of the flexibility required to share information with other statutory partners, and to allocate its staff as 'lead professionals' for some young people as part of the programme's trusted adult model.

## Perceptions of effectiveness and impact

## Perceptions on effectiveness in intended outcome areas

Managers and analysts who took part in the focus groups and interviews to discuss overarching issues were **generally positive about the impact** of the programme. In addition to the examples discussed in case study interviews (see Chapter 4, above), staff from the YJS and youth services were able to identify some examples of young people being supported to **access education and employment** and maintaining engagement with **diversionary activity** such as the fishing club. Police staff said that they had observed, via official police data, a reduction in offending amongst the young people identified as knife carriers through the programme.

"I think there have been some positive results in terms of reducing knife carrying or evidence of knife carrying, but certainly increasing children's awareness of the risks of being of knife carrying and involvement in economy and exportation."

Programme Staff

Whilst staff shared their general perceptions on how the programme was impacting on different outcome areas, they often qualified this with an acknowledgement that they did not have access to detailed information across the whole cohort. In particular, they highlighted that whilst it had been discussed amongst the partnership, children's **wellbeing had not been systematically measured**.

"It's really difficult to monitor, isn't it? ... How do you capture an improved life and improved social life and improved relationship with your mum and your dad?" Programme Staff



Some staff also questioned how relevant emotional wellbeing was in terms of the programme's impact, citing the **important role of other services in ensuring young people get the support they need**. Even where staff did have access to data on offending they acknowledged its limitations. Firstly, they suggested that it would not show long term impact due to the age of the programme which is a **relatively short period of time**. Secondly, they shared examples of young people making progress with their engagement with support and awareness of risks but still coming to the attention of police, indicating that such data would not tell the whole story.

## Perceptions on differential engagement and outcomes

When discussing which types of young people typically saw more benefit from involvement in the programme, staff identified five potential factors.

- Level of criminal activity on referral. Several staff members from different agencies acknowledged that there may be a group of young people whose criminal behaviour may be too ingrained for them to respond to the additional support offered through the programme, although they may respond to focussed deterrence. They identified young people who were classified as the highest risk on the HKC Index who remain high risk. They suggested that some of these young people had had services targeted at them in the past and still escalated in terms of their offending.
- Links with adult offenders. Some staff suggested that young people who were known to have links to adult offenders were sometimes more cautious about opening up to their lead professional. This was seen as presenting a barrier to tailoring support and advice for the young person around staying safe and reducing their involvement in violent crime.
- Age at referral. Some staff highlighted what they saw as a limited time window in which young people could be most effectively supported before adulthood. This related to the difference in the type and scope of support available to young people aged under 18 compared to those aged 18 and over. It was suggested that if young people were referred into the programme shortly before turning 18 there would not be enough time to influence their behaviour.

"In terms of the support that is available for them under the age of 18. That changes and it's not necessarily that the interventions couldn't work with them. But just that they're not necessarily available after 18 and that level of support changes drastically. It takes time to get to the risk level that they're at, and then there's less time to work with them as children afterward."

Stakeholder

Family and wider support networks. Staff perceived more progress with young people
who had support from adults beyond the programme. Parents were identified as
important in terms of their attitude to engaging with services. They also were seen to
play a role, alongside schools, colleges and employers in supporting young people to
maintain structure, health lifestyles and positive activities.



• **Presence of high-risk peers.** A member of police staff described a situation where a young person who was scored as particularly high risk on the HKC Index received a custodial sentence and was sent to prison. They observed that other members of that young person's peer group, who had been identified through the programme, were more receptive to support thereafter.

## Staff and stakeholders' thoughts on potential changes and improvements

In interviews and small group discussions staff were asked for their own thoughts on potential changes and improvements they would like to see for the programme in the future. The ideas shared were as follows:

- Transitional safeguarding. Several staff indicated a desire to collaborate more with adult probation services as part of the programme. The main reason for this was to enable work with peer groups which include young people aged both under and over 18. Programme Staff suggested that some discussions had already happened between the YJS and the probation service about taking this forward.
- Targeting police resource to support programme aims. Another area that was already the subject of discussion between partners was how police resources could be targeted. In particular, police were looking at allocated additional resource to accelerate investigations relating to young people that were being supported by the programme. The rationale for this was to enable young people to move on from the episode that had led to them being investigated by resolving the case more quickly one way or another see 'ensuring information is up to date' above. One member of staff also suggested it may be helpful to have a staff member dedicated to coordinating the police contribution to the programme, in addition to the coordinating role based in the YJS.
- Expanding area-based contextual safeguarding activity. Several staff members reflected on what they saw as the successes of the contextual safeguarding activity undertaken around Eastbourne station. They suggested that it may be beneficial to expand this work.
- A more explicit focus on early intervention. After discussing their observation that young people with a higher level of criminality on referral appeared less responsive to support, some staff suggested that the programme could seek to better identify and target those young people whose behaviour had not yet become as engrained. They suggested that this could build on peer group mapping and support to address the risks some young people face through their associations with offenders.
- How the programme is named and described. Some staff were keen to find a new name for the programme so that its supportive aspects could be better communicated to young people.
- Enhancing the supportive role of schools. In addition to some of the negative experiences of young people highlighted in the case studies, some staff also expressed frustration that schools in the area were not as supportive and inclusive as they could



be. They suggested that the current partnership could work more closely with school leaders to encourage more trauma-informed approaches to behaviour management and coordinate support for individual young people.

• Using technology for dynamic coordination of support. One staff member suggested that it may be beneficial to share information about young people between members of the partnership more dynamically. Whereas there are currently monthly meetings to discuss developments and progress of young people involved in the programme, sharing information about events in a young person's life as and when they happen may enable staff to respond more rapidly. The staff member suggested this could be facilitated by a digital information sharing platform.

## **Chapter Summary**

Staff generally thought that the programme made good use of data to target support. This was thought to be particularly effective because of the layering of social care data on top of police data and discussing the young people amongst agencies to refine understanding. The HKC Index and wider system used was seen as useful in identifying peers of higher-risk individuals who may benefit from early intervention. There were also examples of how the data collected had informed responses to events in the community and contributed to statutory assessments of individual young people. Some police data, however, particularly that informed by intelligence reports or focussing on investigations into young people, did not always paint an up-to-date picture of the young person's level of risk.

Staff and stakeholders from different agencies felt that they had very constructive relationships with each other, and that partnership work made a major contribution to the programme. This contribution was seen as taking several forms including a positive attitude to data sharing, learning from each other's experience and perspectives, and developing partnerships with the community. The strength of partnerships in the programme was seen to be facilitated, in particular, by the existence of dedicated staff members that coordinate the work, and an in-house detached youth work team.

The programme was thought by staff from different agencies to be effective overall in reducing offending behaviour by the young people that it had supported. There were mixed views on whether the programme could impact on other areas of young people's lives that may in turn affect their offending such as wellbeing and access to diversionary activities. Staff thought that the programme was more likely to secure positive outcomes for young people who had not yet developed the highest risk patterns of offending, were younger, had seen their highest risk peers incarcerated, were not connected with known adult offenders and who had strong informal support networks.

Staff and stakeholders shared a range of ideas on how the programme could be improved or further developed. Two popular ideas which were already being initially explored were the expansion of the partnership to include adult probation service and the targeting of dedicated police resources to support the programme. Other ideas supported by multiple interviewees included changing the name of the programme and giving it a more explicit focus on early intervention.



# 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

This report has set out the findings of a process and impact evaluation of the East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers programme for 2022/23. The programme aimed to change the behaviour of the current, active cohort of children who carry knives and divert them and their associates/local peer groups from being drawn into future knife carrying and other criminal activity. It was funded by Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) and delivered by East Sussex Youth Justice Service (YJS) in collaboration with other council services and Sussex Police. At the heart of the programme was the use of intelligence, data and partnership working to identify young people at risk and plan support and deterrence. Between April 2022 and March 2023, 44 young people participated in the programme.

The evaluation assessed the programme through analysis of programme and police data, five qualitative case studies of young people's journeys, and reflections from programme staff and stakeholders collected through interviews and small group discussions. It had three aims in relation to: a) understanding the programme's impact on outcomes for young people; b) exploring the programme's implementation and how this relates to outcomes; and c) making recommendations for future delivery and evaluation of the programme. This concluding Chapter of the report sets out a summary of findings and makes recommendations under these three headings. The recommendations of this evaluation may also support the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 national evaluation of Violence Reduction Units (see Appendix C). Particular synergies are highlighted against each relevant recommendation or group of recommendations.

## Findings on impact

## Knife carrying and involvement in violent crime

Analysis of police data suggests that young people reduced their frequency of violent offending after being referred to the programme. Available data was analysed in terms of the average number of occurrences young people were linked to as suspects or offenders per three-month period. Figures for twelve months prior to young people's referral were compared to those for the varying periods of time that had passed since each young person's referral. This analysis found a 76% reduction in the frequency of such occurrences after referral to the programme for the participating group of 44 young people as a whole. It found that, of the 43 young people that were linked to least one occurrence in 12 months prior to referral, 37 reduced their frequency of offending, of which 32 had been linked to no further occurrences after referral. The majority of young people who had been linked to a knife carrying or possession occurrence 12 months prior to referral had not been linked to any further occurrences since.

Interviewees suggested that several of the case study young people had stopped 'getting into trouble' since commencing their participation in the programme. Some young people explained that they had found ways to avoid certain situations and areas and had stopped carrying knives. A small proportion of young people were linked with increased frequency to occurrences of violent crime and carrying or possession and not all young people interviewed described a positive change in terms of their interactions with the police.



#### Emotional wellbeing, motivation and outlook

Case study interviews uncovered a number of ways in which young people's wellbeing changed during their participation, potentially supporting long term behaviour change. Notable changes reported included a positive shift in young people's outlook and motivation. Young people and the adults working with them indicated optimism about the future despite the effort it was taking them to make change. Most young people interviewed had aspirations for the future, wanting to get a job and earn money, but had struggled in the education system.

Interviewees indicated that, during their participation, some young people became more engaged, more self-aware and were able to think and reflect before acting on their emotions. However, this experience was not universal. Some young people continued to struggle with feeling or expressing their emotions. When reflecting on the programme as a whole, some staff and stakeholders stressed that such difficulties were to be expected amongst this cohort and that any progress young people make on mental health would be dependent on availability of support from specialist mental health services. Furthermore, not all young people (and their parents and programme staff) had ever identified emotional wellbeing as a particular barrier.

## Lifestyle and diversionary activities

Case study interviews identified changes in young people's lifestyle during their participation in the programme, which may support long term behaviour change. Notable changes included building a structure and routine. Young people, their parents and staff supporting them identified how keeping active and busy through physical, recreational, or vocational activities occupied their time and energy. They described how, in turn, this helped them to stay away from places or peers that were linked to criminal behaviour.

Planning diversionary activities was an important way to keep young people busy and occupied. According to case study interviewees, it was important for young people to find the right activities to occupy their time, and this often took some trial and error. Lead professionals were able to facilitate young peoples' access to a wide range of pursuits such as cooking, music and sports as well as vocational opportunities in collaboration with the youth employability service. Activities took longer to set up if the young person was not sure what they were interested in, suggested something the service had not facilitated before, or the activity was arranged as part of a group. Support towards the costs of activities could also only be provided for a limited period of time.

## Victimisation and general risk from violent crime

Analysis of police data indicated that 24 young people participating in the programme had been linked to a crime occurrence as a victim in the 12 months prior to referral. The vast majority (20) of these were not linked to further occurrences as victims after referral. Changes to lifestyle that some case study young people made also meant they spent more time at



home, which had a positive impact on family relationships. Parents and lead professionals reported that some young people continued to exhibit risky behaviour, but it was difficult for parents and staff to know for sure about all of the activity they were engaged in.

Case study interviews identified the importance of working together across services in order to reduce risks of exploitation. Young people often reported feeling unfairly targeted by the police, even when they had exhibited positive behaviour change, they had built a negative reputation.

#### **Access to support**

Case study interviews suggested that participating young people accessed a holistic range of support. Lead professionals often supported with education or employment, as well as more directly addressing offending behaviour, and most young people had accessed the Youth Employability Service. Some young people also accessed treatment for substance misuse and social work from professionals within the YJS. Some young people accessed other statutory and voluntary services with support from their lead professional, but most support that the young people were accessing came from within the YJS. Lead professionals sometimes adapted their approach to negotiate gaps in, and negative experiences of statutory services, in particular education.

It is important to note that out of the 44 young people who participated in the programme, 36 were already being supported by the YJS at referral. Furthermore, lead professionals interviewed as part of this evaluation were generally not able to distinguish unique aspects of support offered through this programme versus what they would normally provide to other young people they worked with. The range and nature of support provided by YJS, including those as part of the HKC programme, makes it inherently difficult to attribute impact on young people to the specific programme.

#### Variations in outcomes

Staff and stakeholders reflecting on the programme as a whole suggested that it may be more effective for young people who: had not yet developed the highest risk patterns of offending, were younger, had seen their highest risk peers incarcerated, were not connected with known adult offenders and who had strong informal support networks. Analysis of police data, however, did not indicate that frequency of violent offending post-referral was related to age or total crime severity score at referral.

All case study data was collected from young people in their mid to late teens, and therefore it was not possible to establish how important age was in terms of outcomes. However, some young people's reflections provided potential explanations for older, higher risk individuals being motivated to change and therefore benefiting from the programme. They indicated that discussions around consequences of their actions may not have been so well received if they had been younger. Several young people in their late teens expressed concerns about entering the adult probation service and were motivated to be out of the criminal justice system before they reached 18. Some reported that experience such as attending court or



being put on a tag, alongside discussions with their lead professional about the long-term consequences of criminal behaviour, opened their eyes to the seriousness of their actions.

## Findings on implementation

## Identifying young people at risk

Several interviewees reflected on how they felt the HKC Index had evolved since it was initially developed. A key part of this was increased use of children's services data and intelligence held across the Partnership. Interviewees across the Partnership were clear that whilst the mapping of police held data to inform this work was an important innovation, it was just the start of a more complex process. An important element of the HKC programme is the mapping of peer networks and the delivery of work with peer groups as well as individuals. Staff suggested that, as part of this, a key strength was the ability to identify those who were within the wider peer group of a prolific offender but had not started to engage in similar behaviour. Access to the intelligence from the HKC Index and partnership mapping activities informed reactive area-based interventions and the day to day work of statutory agencies as well as identifying which individual young people and peer groups to support through the programme.

The importance of keeping the HKC Index data up to date was reported in a number of interviews, including some in relation to the young people's case studies. Whilst some staff were satisfied that the data was regularly updated, others reported limitations of the Index and wider services which meant that young people's current situation was not always accurately reflected. Staff suggested that, in its current iteration, the HKC Index was mostly populated by young people who are already receiving a statutory intervention from children's services or the YJS. They did indicate, however, that discussions between members of the partnership could prompt individual staff or agencies to reassess the risks faced by particular young people.

#### Partnership working

Staff stakeholders in different roles and from different agencies described and demonstrated the constructive working relationships they had with one another. Strong relationships were seen as a key enabler of the successes of the programme, underpinned by a strong sense of respect for each other's roles and expertise. Interviewees from different agencies and professional backgrounds alluded to differences in how they see and work with young people who have been linked violent crime. Through sharing experience and perspectives, a number of solutions were developed to improve support for young people. Case study data also highlighted the importance of partnership working to supporting young people in the education system, as well as to giving them access to new opportunities. Notable organisations were social services, Youth Employability Service and the Under 25 Substance Team.



Interviews with staff and stakeholders identified how communities had been engaged in wider partnership working, which had involved building new relationships with local businesses and railway employees. There were also examples of how, at an individual level, young people's peers and parents had also been supported to play a positive role, and how young people's employers could also form part of their support network.

A wide range of interviewees identified the existence of the dedicated contextual safeguarding coordinator role, based in the YJS, as key enabler for maintaining the constructive relationships between partners and the benefits that flowed from this. Partnership working was also enabled by the structure of East Sussex County Council, where an in-house detached youth work service has been maintained. This was seen as critical for the ability of Council to deploy its youth service offer in a targeted and reactive way as described above. Some interviewees noted the limitations of the scope of the current partnership as not including representation from services that impacted on participating young people, such as adult probation services and education settings.

Interviewees suggested ways of expanding partnership working in order to strengthen the impact of the programme. In particular, plans for working more closely with adult probation services were described. This was being explored in order to enhance transitional safeguarding, that is, as young people become adults. A particular aim of involving members of young people's peer groups who were over 18 was highlighted. Some staff also felt that education settings may have a contribution to make to the programme, given the impact their practices and approaches were seen to have on young people's progress.

## Delivering support to individual young people

Case study data indicated that building a good rapport between young people and their lead professional was the foundation for change. For young people, it was very important that they felt like their lead professional was an ally, and someone who genuinely cared about them and understood their experiences. Case study interviews also uncovered evidence of lead professionals building strong two-way conversations with young people and showing patience in response to the challenges that young people may have faced in building relationships due to trauma. The resulting trust that was built was seen as vital for enabling lead professionals to start to influence young people's behaviour. This included challenge the behaviour directly in conversation, carefully broaching difficult subjects and questioning their choices.

Interviews also highlighted the importance of taking a personalised approach to support. Lead professionals described how they aimed to provide the young person with a consistent and reliable role model and took a different approach to this based on the needs of the young person. This role facilitated encouragement and direction specific to the young person's interests and challenges.

Although consistent structure could be helpful for young people, most found it difficult to learn using more traditional methods, and several had additional needs which made it difficult to concentrate, sit still, and learn in a typical way. Lead professionals responded by being flexible and teaching young people new ways of thinking or learning new information. They



moderated the use of structure and forward planning of sessions in response to how the young person presented on the day or the direction the young person took the conversation or activity. The bespoke nature of practical support offered to young people by some lead professionals, particularly in relation to accessing other services (see 'Partnership working' above) was also a key feature of this personalised approach.

A clear focus of the work with all young people was understanding how actions lead to serious consequences. These conversations, although educational, were typically informal "chats" that covered issues of peer influence, and risks of: exploitation, drug taking, and knife carrying. The dangers of exploitation and risks of knife carrying were important topics of conversation. Virtual Reality (VR) headsets were a useful tool in challenging young people's perceptions of knife carrying and starting a dialogue.

## Recommendations

## Programme design features

Findings of this evaluation, including the many ideas shared by staff and stakeholders for potential improvements, have informed the following recommendations on strengthening the delivery of the programme as it is currently conceived.

- 1. To build on existing successes in partnership working, the current programme partners should consider how a wider range of the statutory organisations that impact on young people's progress could be engaged in the programme. This would include:
  - a. Progressing existing work to explore how adult probation services may be able to help coordinate support for young people who have adults in their peer groups.
  - b. Exploring how insight and intelligence from the education sector can be brought into the partnership through representation by local authority, schools or alternative provision staff. Whilst developing a proportionate and sustainable approach to this may take particular care, it may also present important opportunities for understanding how participating young people can be better supported in their educational settings.
- 2. The programme's approach to facilitating diversionary activities should be reviewed and rationalised with a view to:
  - a. Ensuring more young people, particularly those undertaking group work, can access these in a timely manner. This may involve researching activities that have been suggested or requested by young people to date and maintaining an up-to-date process and relationship with relevant providers. This could then be mobilised quickly when future programme participants express and interest in such activities.
  - b. Exploring ways that young people may be supported to sustain their engagement in diversionary activities beyond their participation in the programme. This may include identifying low/no cost activities to pursue a particular area of interest that a young person may have developed through the more substantial activities they were involved in through the programme.



- c. Defining activities that are supported exclusively for programme participants, so that lead professionals are aware of the options available to young people (see also recommendation 5 a)
- 3. The partnership should consider options for more timely and dynamic information sharing about participating young people. At the time of interviews being undertaken, some staff were already exploring potential digital platforms which may be suitable for sharing information about young people in-between the current monthly partnership meetings. This may enable staff from different agencies to alert each other to significant events affecting the young person so that support can be targeted promptly. How any new system is implemented will need to take account of the potential impact on staff capacity across all agencies involved. Opportunities for existing information sharing exercises to be made less frequent or discontinued could be explored if the new system is deemed to offer a suitable alternative.
- 4. Ways of ringfencing police staff time to contribute to the programme aims should be considered. This may involve protecting time within multiple roles to reflect the several areas in which the evaluation has indicated police contribution could be enhanced.
  - a. Implementing the information sharing system referenced in recommendation 2 and cascading information within police to inform both deterrence and positive reinforcement.
  - b. Accelerating investigations relating to young people that were being supported by the programme.
  - c. Data and monitoring related tasks such as implementing relevant recommendations on monitoring and evaluation (below) and more frequent refreshing of the intelligence-based metrics within the HKC Index.
- 5. The way the programme is **defined and described** to individuals beyond those coordinating it should be reviewed and updated. This could involve:
  - a. Detailed briefing of all staff that have been allocated as lead professionals for participating young people. Staff working directly with young people would benefit from understanding the options for support for young people that are part of the programme compared to those who are not. It may also provide opportunities for them to contribute to the ongoing learning about the strengths of the programme and ways in which it may be improved and expanded.
  - b. Developing a set of materials to encourage young people's voluntary engagement in the programme. This may help to expand the reach of unique preventative aspects of the programme to involve more young people.

## Focus and scope of the programme

The East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme is a complex and ambitious initiative involving many partners and a range of potential direct and indirect beneficiaries. To build on past success it will be important for those leading the programme to maintain a shared



understanding amongst all partners of the aims of the programme and of how it delivers behaviour change amongst individual young people and any other direct beneficiaries. Two key recommendations are made to this end:

- 6. The Programme's Theory of Change should be reviewed and updated at least annually. This will support implementation of recommendation 8 from the national evaluation, which calls for VRUs to be clear on how interventions meet identified needs and for this to be reflected in Theories of Change. Issues to consider in the first review could include:
  - Clarifying and prioritising any direct beneficiaries beyond young people (such as parents and professionals) and the outcomes that the programme aims to achieve for them.
  - b. Describing inputs and activities in ways which clearly state how they add to what is normally provided by statutory services, particularly in terms of how support for individual young people is informed or enhanced.
  - c. Reviewing and defining the role of agencies that make up the partnership e.g. in light of the small number of young people with a lead professional based outside the YJS, considering if, and in what cases, other agencies should continue to take on this role going forward. The activities, and roles of different agencies, in delivering focussed deterrence work could be similarly clarified.
  - d. Considering how, and the extent to which different strands of the programme are interdependent i.e. what inputs, activities and outcomes are shared by support for young people, focussed deterrence and community mobilisation? This may inform which activities to prioritise in further programme development and outcomes to prioritise in future evaluations.
- 7. The scope of planned activity and collaboration to support transitional safeguarding should be carefully considered and defined. Programme staff and stakeholders set out a compelling case in interviews for working with adult probation services to include young people aged over 18 in group work. Joint work with adult probation could also help young people participating in the current programme to sustain their progress if they are still under supervision when they reach the age of 18. It will be important to clearly define the aims and scope of this work to manage the expectations of young people and stakeholders and ensure the programme as a whole remains manageable. This would support implementation of recommendation 2 from the national evaluation, which calls for partners' contributions to violence reduction to be 'proportionate and manageable'.

## **Expanding the programme**

Findings of this evaluation have a number of implications for how expansion of this programme to other localities may be most effectively pursued:

8. Building on implementation of recommendations 5 and 6, clear, concise and accessible documentation should be developed to describe the programme design to external partners. This will help the programme leaders' counterparts in neighbouring local



- authorities to consider, in an informed way, how implementation of the programme may work in their area.
- 9. Agencies looking to implement the programme in new localities will need to consider how relevant elements may be adapted to work within their specific local authority structures. In particular they may need to consider how to implement the programme without access to an in-house detached youth work service. This could include:
  - a. Engaging an existing independent provider of youth work or similar interventions. This should look to facilitate reactive activity informed by the programme partners shared intelligence and priorities, which may not always be possible in highly specified commissioned services. To help establish this, learning could be drawn from interventions were commissioned providers have delivered in a particularly flexible and dynamic way. This may include building on the work of independent organisations delivering other programmes on behalf of the VRP. Pursuing this option may support implementation of recommendations 1. and 6. of the national evaluation, which calls for involvement of voluntary, community and grassroots organisations in VRU activity.
  - b. Alternatively, supported by implementation of recommendations 6 and 8, a modular approach to expansion of the programme may be pursued. This would involve partners in new localities choosing specific strands or elements of the current programme to implement based on their amenability to their current structures and priorities.

#### Monitoring and evaluation

The scope of quantitative analysis in this report has had to be limited in order to work around difficulties in accessing relevant, complete data. In addition, whilst qualitative interviews drew rich insight into what the programme has achieved and how, there remain a wider range of stakeholders and potential beneficiaries who may have valuable unheard reflections on the programme. These might include, for example, police involved in delivering bespoke focussed deterrence with young people, youth workers, and members of the public from targeted localities and settings. The following recommendations are made with a view to ensuring effective monitoring and facilitating further and more robust evaluation.

- 10. Service user monitoring (SUM) forms should be consistently completed and collated in relation to all direct beneficiaries across all strands of the programme. The cohort for which this information is recorded should be defined through implementation of recommendation 6a above.
- 11. Further improvements to data collection should be considered to enable assessment of how effective the programme is for different individuals. This should include:
  - a. Inclusion of new fields which enable clear recording of which strands of the programme have been implemented with each individual (e.g. recording where partners have agreed to use focussed deterrence with a young person)
  - b. Further guidance on definitions for those completing SUM forms.



- c. Continuing work to simplify and lock down the data entry spreadsheet. Programme leads have recently been consulted on some of these changes which will hopefully help programme staff to understand what is required of them but avoid having to enter repetitive information (such as delivery model, which will be consistent with programmes). Locking down the SUM form enables data cleansing to be undertaken automatically as it minimises the chances of incorrect data being inputted. This could also be programmed with a range of formulae to automate the analysis in terms of the production of tables and charts.
- 12. Police metrics currently used by programme partners to monitor progress should be reviewed and revised. The programme partners' existing approach of drawing on available police data to regularly assess impact in an evidence-based way represents an important opportunity to develop further learning. Specific adjustments to and development of these metrics would facilitate robust quantitative impact evaluation going forward. This should include:
  - a. Adopting the VRP's local definition of serious violent crime when measuring frequency or relevant crime occurrences
  - b. Reviewing and prioritising other metrics, informed by implementation of recommendation 6.
  - c. Considering development of metrics that enable the comparison of young people's behaviour before, during and after their engagement with the programme. This would involve, if feasible, automating the creation of additional variables in relation to young people's links with crime occurrences within specific time periods unique to those young people (i.e. replicating the manual extraction and analysis carried out for this evaluation).
- 13. Improving the range and consistency of data collected will require investment of staff time across the partnership. This may include:
  - a. Programme organisations protecting time at regular intervals to complete SUM forms and being proactive in seeking out guidance or support from VRP spoke leads when needed.
  - b. VRP spoke leads working with programme delivery organisations to clarify expectations and identify and solutions to challenges in collecting data in a timely and consistent manner.
  - The VRP considering protection of further police analyst time to undertake ongoing improvements in data collection tools, data linkage and reporting.
- 14. As with any complex and ambitious programme, it may be beneficial to adopt a progressive approach to evaluation, incrementally building understanding of the workings of the programme and refining its design and outcomes metrics. Priorities for further evaluation should be developed to take this forward, and may include:
  - a. Undertaking further qualitative interviews or a survey with staff from the wider range of agencies involved in the programme to explore aspects of partnership working. This in turn may help to identify future quantitative metrics for more complex



- intended outcomes of the programme related to partnership working, effective targeting of support, and community mobilisation.
- b. Developing more sophisticated modelling of impact on young people relative to cohorts who have not accessed the programme. This may involve defining a local cohort of young people to which the outcomes of those participating in the programme may be compared (I.e. young people in West Sussex or Brighton and Hove who have a similar risk profile to those accessing the programme in East Sussex) and relevant analysis carried out using existing police metrics. Alternatively, the approach used in the national evaluation of developing a theoretical counterfactual<sup>12</sup> could be adapted and applied to this specific intervention.

These recommendations (10 to 14) align with and support implementation of recommendations 5., 9. and 10. of the national evaluation which relate to access to data, evidence-based interventions and monitoring and evaluation strategies:

## **Concluding remarks**

This evaluation has uncovered a range of evidence of the impact the East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme has had on the young people it engaged with during 2022/23. This includes the journeys that many young people have gone on to reduce the frequency of their violent offending as well as a wider range of positive personal changes some young people have made when accessing support through the programme. The evaluation has, in particular, highlighted the mechanisms and approaches employed by youth justice workers when acting as lead professionals within the programme. It has also uncovered insight into the process and impact of the extensive partnership working that the programme involves. The wide-reaching recommendations made are a reflection of scale and complexity of the programme. It is hoped that these recommendations and wider learning from the evaluation can contribute to more young people experiencing positive transformational change along with the accompanying benefits for services and communities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See the section of the Technical Appendix on 'Constructing the Counterfactual' <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-reduction-units-year-ending-march-2022-evaluation-report/violence-reduction-units-year-ending-march-2022-evaluation-report#annexb">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-reduction-units-year-ending-march-2022-evaluation-report#annexb</a>

# **Appendix A: Summary Analysis of Police Metrics**

# The Star Project: What has been the impact on the 2022 cohort?

Analysis of police metrics for the core group of 45 young people identified through the Star project and starting their engagement in the 2022/2023 financial year. Data available for Q4 period (January to March 2023) with comparison to Q3 (October to December 2022) and the equivalent Q4 period in 2022

Police metrics	Q4 2022/2023	Difference (+/-)	Q3 2022/2023	Difference (+/-)	Q4 2021/2022
No. of nominals coming to police attention	32	-13.5% (-5)	37	-22% (-9)	41
No. of police occurrences	119	-42% (-86)	205	-54.8% (-144)	263
No. of occurrences as suspect or offender	96	-18.6% (-22)	118	-42.9% (-72)	168
No. of violence against the person offences (suspect or offender)	31	72.2% (13)	18	-50.8% (-32)	63
Possession of weapon offences	2	-77.8% (-7)	9	-86.7% (-13)	15
Home Office crime severity score	14,560	-49.4% (14,241)	28,801	-51.8% (15,653)	30,213
SCARF submissions (child to notice forms)	41	-56.4% (-53)	94	-61.7% (-66)	107
Home Office Economic and Social Cost of Crime measure – Police Cost (£)	£55,040	-14.8% (-£9,560)	£64,600	-36.1% (£31,160)	£86,200
Home Office Economic and Social Cost of Crime measure – Total Cost (£)	£423,060	-18.8% (£97,760)	£520,820	-45.5% (£353,060)	£776,120

## Data summary

- No. of nominals coming to police attention Total number of nominals with any recorded interaction with the police, such as a
  victim, suspect, offender or witness of a crime
- Police occurrences All crime and non-crime incidents where the nominal has been linked
- No. of occurrences as suspect or offender Total number of crimes where the nominal has been linked as a 'suspect' and/or 'offender'
- No. of violence against the person offences Total number of crimes as per Home Office crime type 'violence against the person'
  where the nominal has been linked as a 'suspect' and/or 'offender'
- Possession of weapon offences Total number of possession of weapon offences (including) where the nominal has been linked
  as a 'suspect' and/or 'offender'
- Home Office Crime Severity Score Total harm score for all crime using the Office for National Statistics (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-severity-score-experimental-statistics)
- SCARF submissions Single Combined Assessment of Risk Form (or SCARF) is completed following a child (anyone under the
  age of 18) coming to the notice of the police. Total number of SCARF submission is indicative of the number of police interactions
  with the group during the period analysed.
- Home Office Economic and Social Cost of Crime measure The "cost of crime" estimate the costs across the full impact of the crime, including anticipation, consequence and responding to the crime. The police cost is estimated as part of responding to crime. (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime)

### **Caveats and data limitations**

- Analysis of police metrics for the core group of 45 young people identified through the Star project and starting their engagement in the 2022/2023 financial year. Data available for Q4 period (January to March 2023) with comparison to Q3 (October to December 2022) and the equivalent Q4 period in 2022
- All data referenced within this report has been downloaded from a live system (PowerBI Nominals dashboard) and as such is a snapshot at that point in time (data accessed on 2206/2023 @1145hrs).
- The data referenced has not been audited or verified by Statisticians at Police HQ, therefore it represents a reflection of crime rather than the authorised and fully verified "Performance Data".

# **Appendix B: Evaluation Framework**

## 1. Introduction and purpose of this document

This evaluation framework sets out detailed evaluation questions and indicates the data and analysis that will be used to answer these. Alongside the project management and delivery plan and the contract, it is an important document for communicating and understanding the scope of NCB's evaluation activity including what existing data will be used to answer the questions, what new data we will be collecting and how this, will all be analysed and reported. It consists of the following elements:

- Aims and scope confirms the scope of the evaluations and how we interpret the aims specified in the tender
- Methodology summarises the key elements of the evaluation methodology, which has been refined following the co-production workshops
- Evaluation questions sets out the proposed detailed evaluation questions for each programme
- Quantitative Measures and Analysis indicates our approach, including key dependencies and limitations, to developing quantitative findings
- Qualitative Analysis sets out how we intended to analyse the qualitative data collected for these evaluations.

Further detail, including topic guides for primary research, is included in the appendices.

## 2. Aims and scope

NCB is conducting a process and impact evaluation of two programmes that are part of wider programme of work coordinated by the Sussex VRP. These programmes are

- The Schools Exclusions programme in West Sussex; and
- The Habitual Knife Carriers programme in East Sussex.

These projects have been running since July 2021 and were evaluated in 2021/22 by another research and evaluation organisation. This evaluation will consider process and impact of the above two programmes for the **2022/2023 financial year**.

There are other programmes being delivered in these areas on behalf of the VRP and these are not part of the evaluation.

The overall aims of the two evaluations are to:

- Understand how and why participants achieve outcomes, which participants do / do not achieve outcomes and what factors are the most important drivers of outcomes (evaluation aim #1)
- Evidence the short-term outcomes achieved and the long-term impacts of the interventions (evaluation aim #2)
- Provide recommendations for the future delivery and evaluation of these interventions. (evaluation aim #3)

Detailed evaluation questions have been developed using the Theories of Change for each programme. Some outcomes and impact described in these theories of change relate to long term, population level, change. Due to the range of interventions being undertaken and wider range of factors that may influence such outcomes, it will not be possible to draw conclusions about the impact of these two specific programmes at the population level. This evaluation will focus on programme level assessments, drawing on the experiences and outcomes of young people and young adults **directly engaged in the programmes,** perspectives of relevant VRP partners, and the processes they engage in to deliver these programmes.

# 3. Methodology

Table 1, below sets out the key elements of the evaluation methodology, including data collection methods, the specific participant groups and data sources for each programme being evaluated.

Table 1: Methodology Overview

Method element (and finding type)	Data collection method	Participant group/ Data source
Young people case studies  (Qualitative)	Face-to-face Interviews* with up to 8 young people per programme  For each young person, face-to-face interviews with 2 adults close to them**  Qualitative analysis of up to 2 short documents (e.g. case notes from project, written answers to questions from YP/Parents) or recordings (lyrics, poems or conversations recorded by the project) per young person***	Young people Programme staff working directly with them Parents (See Appendices C-E for draft topic guides)
Exploration of process and impact across programme  (Qualitative)	Online focus groups (x2 per programme, 3-6 participants)  1 to 1 interviews with key stakeholders who cannot attend focus groups (up to 3 per programme)	Programme delivery staff Stakeholders (School staff, local authority and police managers) (See Appendices I-J for topic guides)
Analysis of cohort-wide implementation and outcomes data  (Quantitative)	Requesting data reports from police analysts  Collation of data from existing databases  (See also quantitative measures and analysis below)	HKC Index Data Standard police reporting data Asset plus assessment data Service User Monitoring Forms

Notes:

- \* Project staff may be present for some or all of the interview with a young person. Face-to-face interviews will take place during site visits of which there will be 4 for each programme. In the event of industrial action on public transport, the number of site visits and face-to-face interviews may be reduced and will be replaced with online interviews where appropriate so as not the compromise the deadlines for evaluation outputs
- \*\* Face-to-face interviews with staff and parents will be conducted where participants are available during pre-arranged site visits. Online will be offered as an alternative where individuals are, for reasons outside their control, not available at the site visit.
- \*\*\* Analysis of up to two short documents or recordings will only be undertaken for case studies where there are difficulties hearing the young person's perspective via interviews.

Deadlines for NCBs outputs are set out in the project management and delivery plan. This includes an agreed deadline for NCB to **finish all primary fieldwork is 31 March 2023**, to present final reports by 31 May and interim reports by 1 February. In order to complete the above activity in the specified timescales, NCB will require timely input and cooperation from colleagues. Table 2, overleaf, indicates the timescales within which key shared milestones will need to be achieved and which groups of staff will need to be involved in addition to NCB.

Table 2: Key shared milestones an input from local staff

Timescale	Activity	Evaluation project sponsor (VRP manager)	Project leads (Audio Active, The Sid Youth, East Sussex CC)	Analysts (at Sussex Police, East Sussex CC)
January 2023	Evaluation framework agreed			
	Initial site visits scheduled – confirming location, date and start/finish time			
	At least two of eight case study young people identified for each programme			
	First site visits take place for each programme incorporating at least 3 interviews each			
February 2023	All eight case study young people identified for each programme			
	Remaining site visits scheduled			
	NCB's access to data sources confirmed, code books info initial data 'cuts' provided by analysts			
	Interim report shared and any actions revisions agreed			
	Second and third site visits take place (third may take place in early March with mutual agreement)			
	Online focus groups scheduled			
March 2023	Final site visits take place			
	Online focus groups take place			
April 2023	Final data collated (including quantitative data)			
May 2023	Draft final reports shared and feedback incorporated			

# 4. Evaluation Questions

Tables 3 to 5, below, set out the detailed evaluation questions developed from the programme's theory of change (see appendix B. Each table relates to one of the three overarching evaluation aims and indicates which method element will be used to answer them<sup>13</sup>.

Table 3: Evaluation questions for East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme (Evaluation Aim #1)

	Unde	rstand how and why participants achieve outcomes, which participants do / do not achieve outcomes and what rs are the most important drivers of outcomes		Ш
	E1.1	How effectively implemented are the programmes plans in terms of using data to identify young people most at risk of being involved in violent crime?		
Page 264	E1.2	How effective is partnership working in the delivery of the programme and how does this contribute to programme outcomes?		
	E1.3	Which characteristics of the process for developing young people's personal plan are most critical to ongoing engagement and positive outcomes? Why is this the case?		
	E1.4	Which young people engage better/worse with the development of their personal plan? What barriers and enablers do they face in this process and why?		
	E1.5	Which characteristics of individual activities and services are most critical to achieving positive outcomes for young people? And Why?		
	E1.6	Which young people engage better/worse with the activities and services to which they are signposted? What barriers and enablers do they face in accessing these services?		
	E1.7	Are there any groups of young people who appear more likely to achieve positive outcomes? If so why is this? What are their characteristics? How does this mirror groups who engage better/worse with the development of their personal plan and with activities and services?		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See table 1 for explanation of method elements.

Table 4: Evaluation questions for East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme (Evaluation Aim #2)

Page 265

Evidenc	e the short-term outcomes achieved and the long-term impacts of the interventions		圃
E2.1	To what extent do young people have different access to support after participating in the programme?		
E2.2	To what extent has young people's engagement in education, employment and other pro-social activities changed during their participation in the programme?		
E2.3	In what ways, and to what extent, have young people's internalised wellbeing changed during their participation in the programme?		
E2.4	In what ways, and to what extent, has young people's knife-carrying behaviour changed during their participation in the programme?		
E2.5	In what ways, and to what extent, has young people's association with peers involved in violent crime changed during their participation in the programme?		
E2.6	In what ways and to what extent are young people affected differently as victims following their participation in the programme?		
E2.7	To what extent, and in what ways, do young people's overall risk of, and from, knife carrying changed?		

Table 5: Evaluation questions for East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme (Evaluation Aim #3)\*

Provide	recommendations for the future delivery and evaluation of these interventions		dil
E3.1	What changes to the delivery of the programme may lead to more consistent engagement and positive outcomes for young people? Why is this?		
E3.2	Which, if any, outcomes (including interim outcomes) should be prioritised in the future development of the programme? Why is this?		
E3.3	What, if any, challenges might be encountered in the process of extending the programme to new geographic areas and Youth Justice Services? How might these be addressed?		
E3.4	How can data collection be enhanced to improve evidencing of the programme's impact?		
E3.5	Which new evaluation questions and methodologies could be used to assess all of the above?		

<sup>\*</sup>Questions under evaluation aim 3 will primarily be answered through analysis of data collected in relation to aims 1 and 2.

## 5. Quantitative Measures and Analysis

This evaluation will draw on a significant amount of quantitative data from a variety of sources including the Service User Monitoring (SUM) Form, Police offending data, the Habitual Knife Carriers (HKC) Index and Asset Plus Assessments. We have mapped these various sources against each of the evaluation questions above. In Appendix A, it can be seen that data for a number of the evaluation questions will come from one or more of these sources, whilst others will rely solely on qualitative data. The following are examples of evaluation measures mapped against potential data sources for two of the three applicable evaluation aims:

#### Examples of measures and data sources for East Sussex Habitual Knife Carriers Programme

Evaluation aim #1 - Understand how and why participants achieve outcomes, which participants do / do not achieve outcomes and what factors are the most important drivers of outcomes

- Measure E1.4: Which young people engage better/worse with the development of their personal plan? What barriers and enablers do they face in this process? Data sources include:
  - No. and % of YP who are recorded as having intervention stopped because of disengagement. Break down by age, gender, ethnicity, district (urban/rural), risk level/type. (Sum Form)
  - Breakdown by risk level/type in HKC Index and/or coded data from Asset Plus assessments (for young people in contact with Youth Justice Services) that aligns with risks recorded on SUM Forms.

Evaluation aim #2: Evidence the short-term outcomes achieved and the long-term impacts of the interventions

- Measure E2.2: To what extent are young people engaging more education, employment and other pro-social activities?
  - No. and % YP reported to have improved attendance/behaviour/progress at school/college' by project staff (SUM form)
  - % of YP who had relevant presenting need reported to have improved 'attendance/behaviour/progress at school' by project staff (SUM form)
  - Type of engagement/training engaged in at beginning and end of intervention + coded data from Asset Plus assessments for young people in contact with youth justice services. (Quantitative data from Police database, HKC Index and Asset Plus Assessments)

Below we summarise our approach to collating and analysing this quantitative data and our key asks in terms of how the data is provided to us.

#### 5.1 Approach to quantitative data collation and analysis

The following points summarise our approach to undertaking analysis of the quantitative data:

- High-level data analysis: We will produce a suite of charts, graphs and tables for each evaluation measure. These 'toplines' will provide a descriptive picture of each of the programmes in terms of the scale of their delivery, geographical reach and programme impact by collating data for individual young people (where available) from multiple data sources
- **Sub-analysis / data splits:** Dependent upon the amount of data available for individual young people, we will undertake sub-group analysis for each evaluation measure by age group, ethnicity, geography (urban vs. rural)<sup>14</sup>, presenting need and risk factor identified as recorded in the SUM form. These data splits will help to build up a picture of the impact of each programme and the extent to which the programmes have been more/less successful for particular groups of young people;
- Exploratory data analysis: appropriate statistical techniques may be applied to understand whether any differences in outcomes (e.g. between those in urban areas vs those in rural areas) are statistically significant. The statistical test used will depend on the type of data available and the amount of data available. For example, if we have access to the Cambridge Harm Index score for each young person, we may be able to apply an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test where we can understand whether there are differences in this score based on a particular characteristic of the young person (e.g. their ethnicity) and whether any differences are statistically significant or not.
- **Profiling:** We will undertake a more detailed profiling exercise by combining elements of the data analysis performed above with an end goal of creating a small number of distinctive groups of young people who have achieved varying degrees of success in terms of their engagement with the programme and the outcomes they have achieved. The purpose of this exercise is to create mutually exclusive groups where we can identify what works for particular young people and why.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Please note that we intend to use the Urban/rural classification as defined in the attached document: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-of-local-authority-and-other-higher-level-geographies-for-statistical-purposes">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-of-local-authority-and-other-higher-level-geographies-for-statistical-purposes</a>

It is important to note that the extent to which we can undertake the analyses above is contingent upon the availability of data for individuals involved in each of the programmes. For the sub-group analysis, in particular, low numbers within particular groups (e.g. male vs. female or white vs. other ethnic group) will limit the extent to which this is appropriate.

Existing databases contain different amounts of data in relation to young people, depending on which aspect of the programmes that young person is involved in. Most of the analysis above will only be possible in relation young people receiving a one to one intervention. Analysis in relation to young people accessing RealTalk sessions (West Sussex Schools Exclusion Programme) and detached youthwork (East Sussex HKC Programme) will be limited as data on individual young people has not been collected.

The analysis described above assumes that police and project staff will provide the following:

- Provision of 'cuts' of SUM database / Police database for interim and final reports in a consistent/locked down format which we will programme to produce charts and graphs. This means data is provided in MS Excel format with no additional rows and columns add at each timepoint it is provided. This means we can set up our analysis in advance of reporting and it means we can easily copy 'new' data cuts into the database with our analysis updating automatically.
- Data is as complete as possible and missing values are kept to a minimum. Where there is missing data, it is important to note where there are substantial gaps as we can make a note of these for the interim and final reports. It also means that we can select the appropriate analysis techniques to apply.
- Provision of a data code book outlining each variable in SUM form / police data and definition of each for inclusion in reporting outputs. We are happy to produce an initial draft and will share this with you for your review and comments. The final version of this will be shared with you and included in all reporting outputs.
- Identification of a designated individual(s) for each dataset to direct queries from the evaluation team at NCB. From our side, this will be Keith Clements (Project Manager) and Dr Richard Nugent (Quantitative Data lead).

## 6. Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative analysis of interview and focus group data will explore the relevant evaluation questions indicated in tables 2 to 7, above. We will employ the Framework approach to thematic analysis and use specialist software (NVivo) to facilitate efficient refinement of themes/exploration of their interrelationships.

Case studies will be developed from data collected in the one to one interviews with young people, their parents and adults working directly with them. These case studies will be used in our analysis and as evidence to inform a series of overarching findings in our report. To avoid identification of individual young people, these case studies will not be presented in their complete form in the final report. Where appropriate, parts of them maybe used in short, anonymised, vignettes and stories to illustrate key elements of a young person's journey and experience.

Where key themes and patterns are identified in the data this will be used to inform the structure of findings in the final report. This may mean reporting on several evaluation questions in combination and we will share an outline report structure with the VRP for input and feedback.

Anonymised quotes, taken from interview and focus group data, will be used as evidence to illustrate some key findings. Inclusion of quotes will be subject to our ability to ensure that the participant in question is not identifiable in the report.

# Appendix C: Recommendations from the 2021/2022 national evaluation of Violence Reduction Units

The table below sets out the recommendations included in Home Office (2023) *Violence Reduction Units, year ending March 2022 evaluation report.* (The report of the evaluation of VRUs in their third year of operation, undertaken by Ecorys UK, Ipsos UK, the University of Hull and the University of Exeter and commissioned by the Home Office). Recommendations have been numbered in this table to ease cross-referencing with Chapter 6 of this report.

Continue to engage with a wide range of partners, in particular, the Core Members from health and VSO partners, where engagement may again have been limited, to further the wholesystems approach 2 Linked to the above, work with partners to ensure their role within the response to violence is strengths-based, proportionate and manageable; this would help ensure meaningful engagement and added value from partners, including those with more limited capacity; in other words, VRUs should continue to focus on the quality of partnerships, which might require focusing on key partners initially and gradually involving others 3 As far as possible, focus on providing non-financial support to partners to support and develop their capacity, which will support more sustainable and longer-term impacts Aim for access to at least sub-area level data from key sources so that interventions and wider 4 activity (for example, multi-agency responses to hot spots) can be targeted at areas/groups most in need; VRUs could facilitate this through sharing learning and tools (for example, standardised data-sharing protocols) 5 Ensure there is sufficient expert capacity available to, or within, the VRU to negotiate access to data and provide actionable insights from the analysis; this could include expanding data teams. working with external experts and/or learning from other VRUs Ensure there is representation in the Core Membership from community leaders and 6 representatives of groups / grassroots organisations that can provide valuable insights to (and experience of working with) the at-risk cohort 7 Focus on co-development with young people and communities to ensure that evidence-based interventions and VRU activities are tailored to local contexts and needs; consider drawing on the evidence base to inform engagement approaches so they effectively engage different groups; where possible, consider a dedicated community engagement role to facilitate this Ensure that updated Response Strategies clearly articulate how interventions meet identified needs (based on data), that the VRUs capture these in both their Theory of Change (ToC) and Evaluation Plan/Strategy, and that progress towards meeting these needs can be monitored; this will help ensure interventions are evidenced-based and developed to meet local needs Ensure that intervention portfolios include interventions where there is strong evidence of effectiveness to maximise the impact of the VRU; this could include interventions detailed in the YEF Toolkit (or similar) and local evaluation findings; where existing evidence is more Limited, VRUs should ensure they conduct appropriate monitoring/evaluation to build the evidence base 10 Develop monitoring and evaluation strategies; this would improve the consistency, comparability and quality of evidence generated, which would provide learning for future commissioning decisions; where possible and appropriate, VRUs could seek to strengthen their evaluation capacity through increased collaboration with the What Works Centres and research bodies (for example, local universities)

Appendix 5

#### People's Scrutiny Committee Safer Communities Annual Report 2022/23

#### **Appendix 5 – Funding**

- 1.1 The Safer East Sussex Team (SEST) successfully secured several income streams during 2022/23 totalling over £3.5m.
  - 1. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) New Burdens funding to provide support in safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse: £1,072,232; this is above the core funding commitment into refuge services.
  - 2. There has been significant investment into drug and alcohol treatment and recovery above the core funding commitment:
  - Project ADDER: £1,350,000
  - Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant (SSMTRG): £390,000
  - Individual Employability Placement Support Grant (IPS-AD): £138,937
  - Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG): £245,935
  - Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant Housing Support Grant (SSMTRG HSG): £78,996
  - 3. East Sussex is in receipt of funding from the Home Office via the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership and alongside partners have commissioned several interventions which are predominantly delivered by Children's Services totalling £839,442 since 2019/20.
  - 4. The SEST supported Children's Services in a successful bid to the pan-Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership for £19k for work around the educational authorities and engagement with young people requirements of the new Serious Violence Duty.
  - 5. The SEST bid for additional funding to support the work in Devonshire Ward, Eastbourne securing funding from Safer Streets 4 (£25k).
- 1.2 This funding was complemented by over £300k of additional funding secured by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for domestic and sexual violence initiatives, sex-work outreach, and to disrupt Modern Slavery during 2022/23 (above the core funding into domestic and sexual violence services jointly commissioned with ESCC):
  - £5k into Across Rainbows domestic abuse service for members of the LGBTQ+ community.
  - 2. £40k for Brighton Women's Centre to offer women only hubs in St Leonards-on-Sea and Eastbourne.
  - 3. £137k for Change, Grow, Live to offer additional IDVA<sup>1</sup> capacity.
  - 4. £40k into Counselling Plus Community to provide therapeutic support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

- 5. £20k into Home-Start East Sussex to deliver a Lotus groupwork programme for survivors of domestic abuse who are parents.
- 6. 27k into Sussex Community Development Association to employ an IDVA to work with Black, Asian and Minority survivors of domestic abuse.
- 7. 40k for a Victim Navigator to support Modern Slavery cases within Sussex Police.
- 8. £19k into the Oasis Sex Work Outreach Project.
- 1.3 In addition, the OPCC secured funding for several pan-Sussex services which benefitted residents of East Sussex, including:
  - Capa First Response: an online platform supporting families and professionals impacted or working with child to parent abuse.
  - Home-Start East Sussex to deliver a 'Who's in Charge' programme for parents experiencing harmful behaviours from their children.
  - Friends, Families and Travellers supporting Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.
  - Hersana: provision for those affected or at risk of harmful practices and for Black and Asian communities.
  - Hourglass: Community Response model for older victims of domestic abuse.
  - LGBT Switchboard to employ a specialist IDVA and offer group support.
  - Mankind to provide a specialist Male ISVA<sup>2</sup> and counselling support in partnership with Survivors Network.
  - Survivors Network for additional ISVA capacity (including for those with multiple, compound needs) and a groupwork programme.
  - My Sisters House to deliver a DART+ (Domestic Abuse Recovery Together) 10-week programme for mothers and children affected by domestic abuse.
  - RISE to deliver ReGroup Programme for survivors of domestic abuse.
  - Streetlight which supports women who face sexual violence and exploitation, alongside police operation support.
  - YMCA Downslink to work with children and young people subject to exploitation alongside Sussex Police.
  - Victim Support for additional IDVA support in their multi-crime team.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Independent Sexual Violence Advocate