

East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2015 - 2016



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Forward by Reg Hooke, East Sussex LSCB Independent Chair



It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (ESSCB) for 2015/16.

The ESSCB is a partnership that works to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in East Sussex by working with, and scrutinising, the work of agencies with key responsibilities for keeping children safe in the County. These include staff working in health, social care, police, probation and education settings as well as voluntary sector organisations working with children in East Sussex. We concentrate our attention on the safety of children most vulnerable and at most risk of harm and we ensure that positive outcomes for children remain a priority.

The purpose of this report is to assess how we are doing in ensuring local services are keeping children safe. We do this in three main ways:

- Holding organisations to account at regular Board meetings
- Providing vital training to professionals through the ESSCB training programme
- Driving improved practices by conducting targeted reviews, audits of cases and through serious case reviews.

This Annual Report covers the first year of the 3-year Business Plan for 2015-18. The plan has five priorities:

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Improving Safeguarding in Education
- On-line safety
- Mental health service provision to those who need it
- Tackling the impact of domestic abuse on children

The report sets out a summary of some of the key objectives for each of the priorities, what has been achieved and what the impact of any work undertaken has had. The report also summarises the local context for East Sussex, and the ESSCB activity in relation to serious case reviews, training, and the supporting sub-groups. Behind these summaries sits a very busy and productive year for the Board, where the strength of our partner agencies commitment to the Board, and our commitment to listen to children and young people, really shines through and we have seen some excellent benefits delivered to the most vulnerable children this year. The reduction in the numbers of children needing protection plans and the improvements in earlier intervention are commendable. Quality training has been delivered to many schools and the focus on schools and on mental health has improved joint working.

For 2016/17 challenges remain of course. Agencies are implementing substantial financial cuts and it remains a big challenge to ensure children are protected. The ESSCB will play an important role in

supporting improved multi-agency working and more efficient ways to maintain the right level of service. Work to tackle the complex risk of child sexual exploitation has been substantial this year and I anticipate the Board identifying specific successes over the next year. Similarly, work tackling domestic abuse and protecting children from the harm it does to them will be a key area of our attention.

The next year will bring further challenges and indeed potentially major developments and change to arrangements for child safeguarding oversight and scrutiny. The recent Government Review of LSCBs (The Wood Review) will lead to legislation that will likely strengthen local partnerships and scrutiny arrangements for child protection, especially the role of local authorities, police and health. This will be a significant evolution of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

As Chair of the ESSCB I will continue to work closely with leaders in the County, and with neighbours, to ensure safeguarding of the vulnerable remains at the heart of any reforms. The Board's ambition is to ensure that arrangements to safeguard children are outstanding. By continuing to work together and engage our whole community I am confident we are achieving this goal.

Reg Hooke, Independent Chair, East Sussex LSCB

Challenge and Change: an effective LSCB raises challenges and ensures positive change.

Some examples from this year:

- The LSCB sought improved Public Health representation at the Board; as a result the Board now has an active and permanent member from Public Health
- Work was undertaken by the Multi-Agency Gold Group to further strengthen the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation, and missing and trafficked children; as a result there is increased reporting to the Board on the work of the strategic and operational sub-groups already in place (see section 3.1)
- A goal was set to involve children and young people in all parts of the LSCB work; as a result a young person's version of the 2014/15 Annual Report was produced and this was used to facilitate consultation with the Youth Cabinet and the Children in Care Council (see section 4.1)
- The Board challenged itself to better identify emerging areas of potential concern; as a result the audit team developed an escalation process to ensure new risk areas are routinely analysed and presented to the Board for action

1. The Local Area Safeguarding Context

1.1 Local Demographics

East Sussex, covering 660 square miles, has an estimated population of 539,766. There are many affluent areas as well as areas of significant deprivation. East Sussex has 22 lower super output areas among the top 10% of the most deprived in England; 15 are in Hastings, five are in Eastbourne, and two are in Rother.

In 2015 there were estimated to be 105,392 children and young people between 0 and 17 years old, accounting for 19.5% of the total population of East Sussex. The area with the highest proportion of under 18's is Hastings (21.2%) with Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden all approximately 19-20%. Rother has the lowest with under 18's accounting for 19.7% of the total population.

East Sussex is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. Locally the proportion of school age children from minority ethnic backgrounds increased from 10.4% in 2013 to 11.5% in 2015, but is still significantly lower than the national figure of 26.4% in 2013 and 28.6% in 2015. 'White Other' and 'Mixed Heritage' population groups are the most common BME groups.

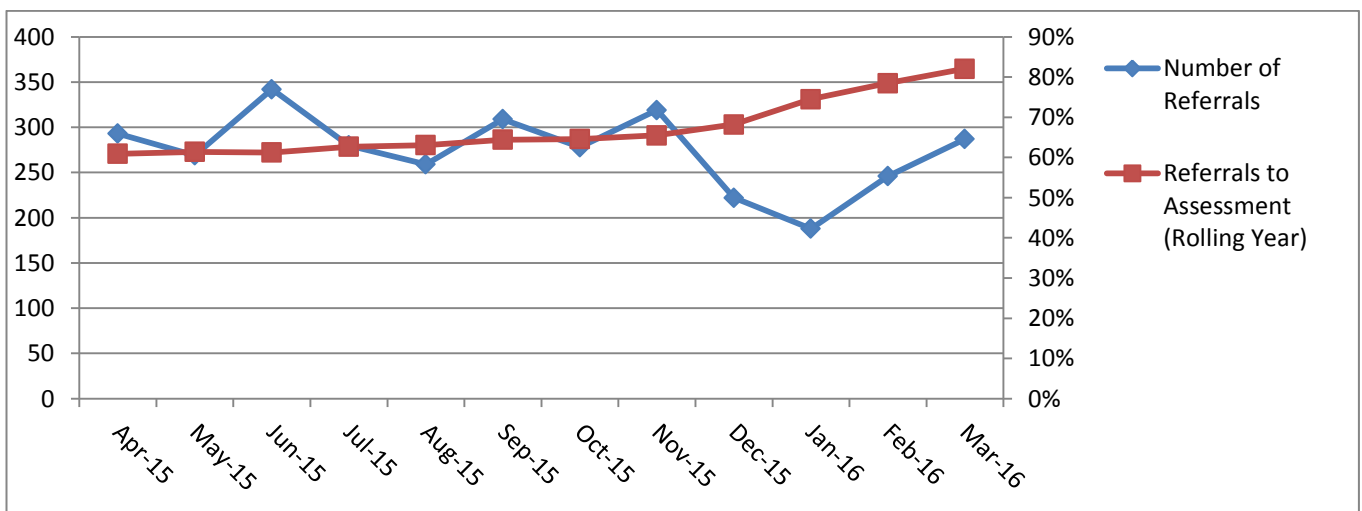
A large proportion of people who define themselves as White Other are Polish, but there are also other European groups and other white migrants. The profile of the Mixed Heritage group is made up of White and Asian, White and Black Caribbean.

3.7% of local children have Special Educational Needs or disabilities which result in an Education, Health and Care plan against an England average of 2.8%, with the biggest proportion within the secondary age group.

The level of child poverty is better than the England average with 17.4% of children aged 0 - 15 years living in poverty. The rate of family homelessness is also better than the England average.

1.2 Vulnerable groups

As in other parts of the country, some children and young people in East Sussex will be vulnerable and at risk of being abused or neglected.



During 2015/16 the number of referrals to Children’s Services was 3,119, compared to 4,396 in 2014/15 and 7,430 in 2013/14. The rate of referrals per 10,000 0-17 year olds is 295.9, compared to 378.6 in 2014/15 and 709 per 10,000 in 2013/14. This is the result of an improved early help offer to target families before they develop significant additional needs with an increase from 6,500 children helped in 2014/15 to 7,000 a year later.

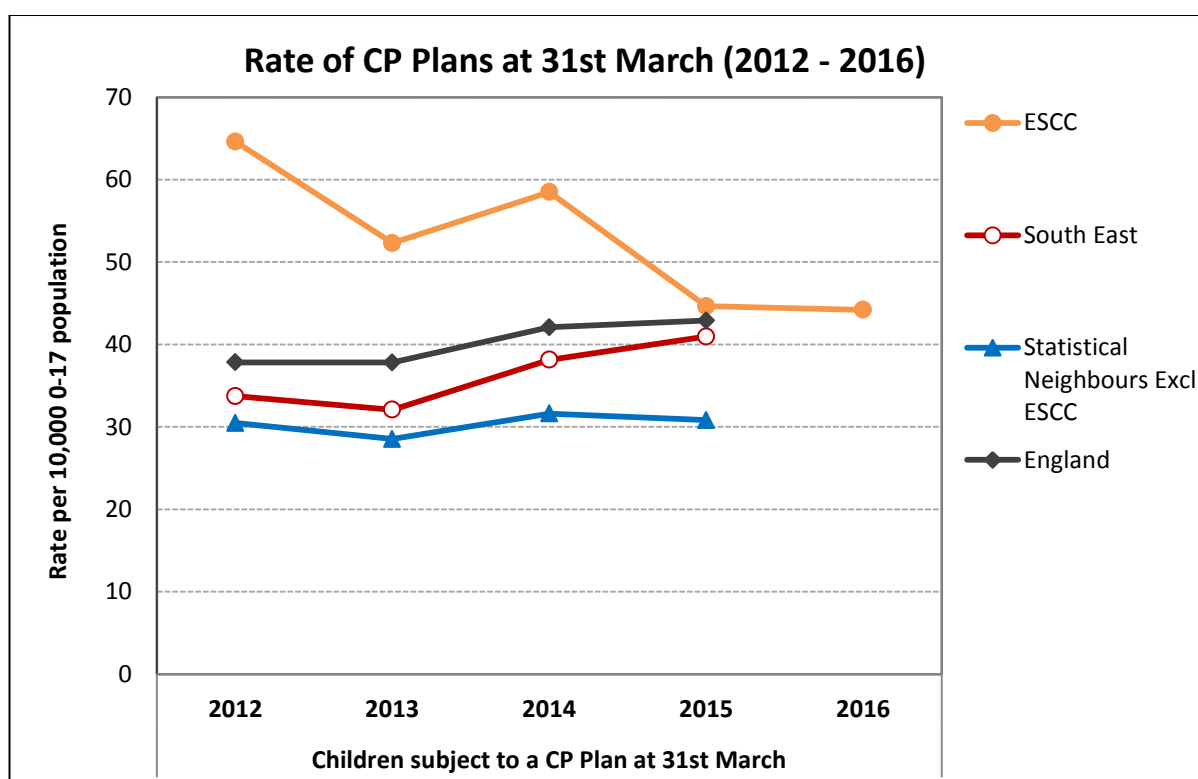
As early help services have become stronger, the rate of referrals to social work team received in East Sussex has reduced considerably bringing us more in line with other local authorities that are like us in and with the national figures.

Rate of Referrals Summary

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
East Sussex	1542.2	927.3	709.0	378.6	295.9
SN Excl. East Sussex	447.2	411.0	483.1	469.0	#N/A
South East	544.0	514.4	543.8	508.9	#N/A
England	533.6	520.7	573.1	548.3	#N/A

1.3 Child Protection Plans

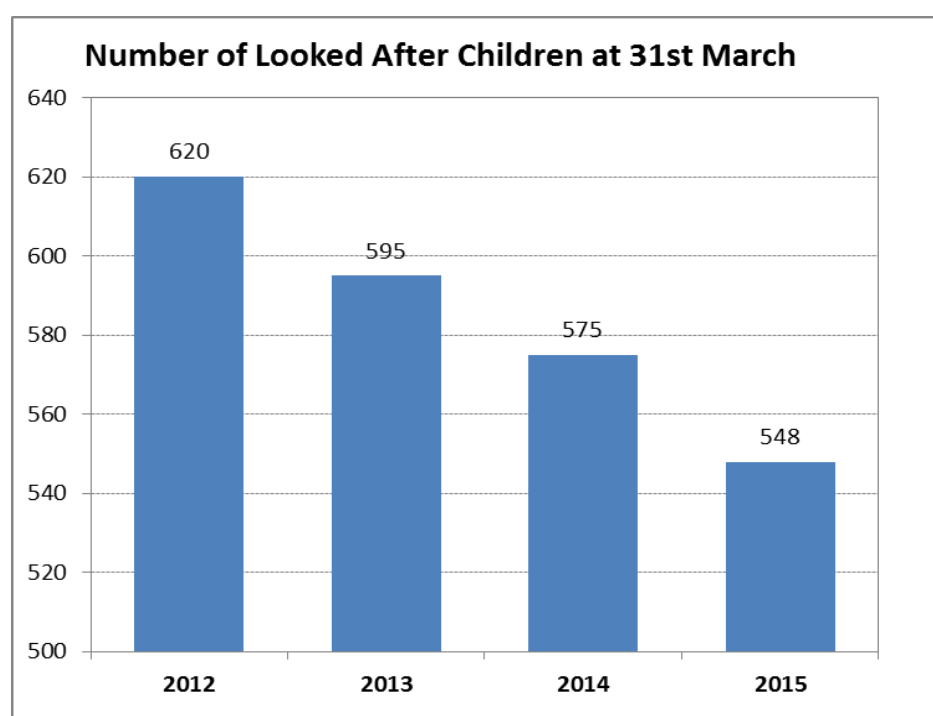
Children who have a Child Protection Plan (CPP) are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse; or a combination of one or more of these. The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns, by whom, and how we will know progress is being made.



The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in East Sussex reduced from 469 in 2014/15 to 462 in 2015/16. In 2013/14 this number was 617. Only those children who really need a protection plan should be subject to that formal process, so we have been using increased Government funding from the Troubled Families initiative to strengthen and increase Early Help services and we have improved links between Early Help Services and Social Care Teams to prevent the need for a protection plan if possible and to help maintain improvements in families once the need for a plan has come to an end.

When comparing the rate per 10,000 0-17 year olds with the South East Region (see chart above), East Sussex has moved from being considerably higher than the region in Q4 of 2013-14 to being almost equal to the regional figure in Q4 of 2014-15. The rate of children subject to a CPP in East Sussex at the end of March 2016 was 43.8 per 10,000 0-17 year old population, compared with 44.7 per 10,000 at the end of March 2015, and, 58.9 per 10,000 at the end of March 2014.

1.4 Looked After Children



Children in care are those looked after by the Local Authority. Only after exploring every possibility of protecting a child at home or with wider family members will the Local Authority seek a parent's agreement or a court decision to remove a child from their family. Such decisions, whilst difficult, are made when it is in the best interests of the child.

There were 544 children looked after by East Sussex County Council at the end of March 2016; this continues the gradual reduction in numbers over the past five years from a high of 620 in 2012.

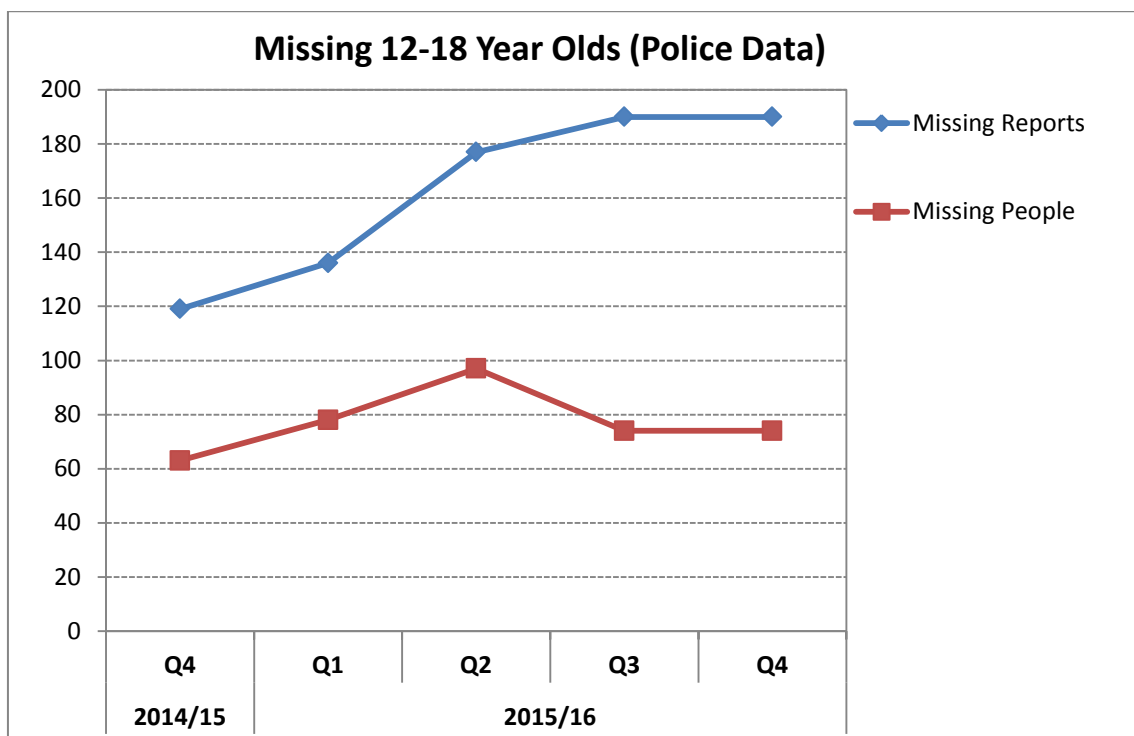
The reduction in the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged 0-17 years means the rate in East Sussex is now more in line with the rates across the region and in other authorities that are like East Sussex. The rate of Looked After Children has reduced to 51.6 per 10,000 population aged 0-17 years at the end of March 2016, compared to 52.2 per 10,000 in March 2015 and 54.9 per 10,000 in East Sussex in 2014. The South East average for 2015 is 49.0 per 10,000.

There are also a number of children who are looked after by other local authorities who live in East Sussex. While the placing authority retains responsibility for them, services in East Sussex may still support these children. At the end of March 2015 there were 209 children looked after by other local authorities living in East Sussex. However this figure may not be completely accurate as East Sussex relies upon other local authorities to inform us of children coming into the area and when they leave.

In common with many other Local Authorities, East Sussex is seeing a growing number of children who become looked after because they are unaccompanied asylum seekers; in addition young people who are remanded by the criminal Courts now benefit from looked after children (LAC) status.

1.5 Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Missing children

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Trafficking and Missing Children Subgroup of the LSCB took a lead to improve the identification and recording of children who are vulnerable to being sexually exploited in East Sussex. In order to make a more accurate assessment of CSE within East Sussex, the Subgroup draws in data based on known risk factors and behaviours.



Young people who go missing or run away regularly are vulnerable and are at particular risk of sexual exploitation. Going missing may also place children at greater risk of being exploited sexually or via other sorts of criminality. Data on missing 12-18 year olds is collated by the police. During 2015/16 there were 693 reports of incidents of children who were missing, compared to 559 in 2014/15.

The number of missing reports, and missing children, during Q4 of 2015/16 was higher than in the same period in 2014/15.

1.6 Electively Home Educated Children

EHE	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013-14	456	427	439	479
2014-15	509	491	481	513
2015-16	486	497	561	621

East Sussex supports the right of parents to educate their children at home. Home-education is not, in itself, a risk factor for abuse or neglect. However, there is a danger that these children can become invisible to local services and that a small minority of parents may withdraw their children from school as a means of avoiding services. Some recent national serious case reviews have highlighted that, in a small number of cases, elective home education can lead to isolation and to children becoming 'invisible' to the universal services such as schools that would otherwise be in a position to monitor their welfare.

The number of children known to East Sussex as being Electively Home Educated (EHE) went up each quarter throughout 2015/16, ending on a high of 621 in March 2016.

1.7 Private Fostering

Private fostering is an informal arrangement made between private individuals and is different from public fostering which is arranged by and paid for by the Local Authority. Any child under 16 who is living for more than 28 days with someone who is not a close family member is privately fostered. Private fostering is a key focus for child protection and privately fostered children can be particularly vulnerable if the Local Authority is unaware of this arrangement. All professionals working with children have a responsibility to safeguard privately fostered children.

Number of CYP who are Privately Fostered	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013/14	14	13	14	16
2014/15	12	18	19	23
2015/16	20	22	25	26

The number of children and young people who are known to be privately fostered has increased in 2015/16. The LSCB and the Private Fostering Team led an awareness raising campaign to highlight safeguarding issues for privately fostered children and the responsibility of professionals to notify the Local Authority about children who are privately fostered.

1.8 Offending

A total of 146 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time in 2015/16, compared to 94 in the previous year.

There were 12 young people sentenced to custody in 2015/16. This was an increase on the previous year (9) but is still the second lowest total in the last ten years.

Because of the increased vulnerability of children within the care system to commit offences, a snapshot is taken of the legal status of cases open to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) on the last day of each quarter¹. The percentage of LAC on the YOT caseload fluctuates between 8-15% throughout the year. Not all looked after young people working with the YOT are East Sussex children because the YOT will manage the work with children who offend and who are placed within East Sussex by other local authorities.

The LSCB has also considered the number of children who have been held overnight in police cells and have asked for this to be included in the regular data monitoring report.

¹ This is a count of young people rather than interventions, so if a young person has multiple interventions open they will only count once.

1.9 Substance Misuse

Public Health England produces an Annual Executive Partnership Summary which reports the profile of drug and alcohol misuse within East Sussex presenting within young people's Community Substance Misuse Services. From the 2015/16 report there are some activity headlines worthy of note and also some local service characteristics that are highlighted as likely to influence the data reporting:

- i. The rolling trend since 2013 for young people presenting to treatment services both nationally and locally, has seen a steady decline since the revised specialist service thresholds proposed within the previous national drugs strategy. However, within East Sussex during 2015/16 there was an increase of 10% of young people in treatment with the local specialist provider. This is in contrast to the national picture which reports a 7% reduction in young people's treatment presentations. It is considered that the locally joint-commissioned model of a multi-disciplinary specialist service, co-located within level 4 statutory services, has negated any adverse impact linked to a reduction in Children's Sector resource, and/or the screening/referral capacity routinely provided by other Children's Sector Services. This is evidenced further by the wider vulnerabilities that are locally presenting at treatment start (sexual exploitation, anti-social behaviour, child of substance misusing parent and domestic abuse) and are significantly greater than the national treatment picture reports.
- ii. There is also encouraging news regarding the number of planned treatment exits which is up by 16% to 94% and the number of young people discharged from treatment who re-present within six months, which is reported as 1% locally compared to 6% nationally. This reporting is in line with the evidence base regarding treatment retention which reports that the longer the period

retained in treatment, the greater the likelihood of better outcomes. For example, the average treatment length in East Sussex is 30.23 weeks against a national average of 22.7.

- iii. The substance misuse profile is similar to the national report with cannabis and alcohol most commonly reported. However, where East Sussex differs is in relation to the increased reporting of ecstasy (33% locally and 9% nationally), cocaine (20% locally and 6% nationally) and new psychoactive substances (NPS) (24% locally and 6% nationally). In line with this reporting, it should also be noted that East Sussex has a higher rate of poly drug use (89% locally as opposed to 61% nationally) reported than other areas.
- iv. The new reporting arrangements for young people detained within local secure accommodation have resulted in the local provider, Under 19's Substance Misuse Service (SMS), providing integrated treatment services within the local welfare secure provision to 14 young people during 2015/16 and also providing through care services to 11 young people ordinarily resident within East Sussex but detained outside of the County.
- v. The age of first use is slightly later in East Sussex (aged 13 plus) than the national report, although the age profile of those within the service is very similar to the national picture with ages 15 -17 years presenting most frequently in need of treatment. The local service also has an increasing number of 18 years plus, with 34 currently in treatment within the Under 19's SMS.

1.10 Prevent

The Prevent, or preventing violent extremism, agenda within East Sussex is overseen by the Safer Communities team within the County Council and an update report on progress has also been presented to the Board.

Over the past few years, Prevent referrals have been received and managed by Sussex Police. However, referrals for young people are considered via normal safeguarding routes.

East Sussex saw a seven fold increase in the overall number of referrals made during 2015 when compared to the previous year - up from five in 2014 to 36 in 2015. The largest increase amongst these referrals related to extreme right wing referrals - up from 1 to 12. The majority of referrals concerned boys and young men aged between 12 and 19. There are a number of these referrals where young people are on the autistic spectrum, therefore staff working with children and young people who have this profile will be prioritised for training and awareness raising.

The LSCB will continue to work with the Safer Communities team to oversee progress and to ensure that awareness of PREVENT is incorporated within training for staff from LSCB partner agencies.

2. Governance Arrangements

2.1 Overview of Board

The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is made up of senior representatives from all the organisations in East Sussex involved in protecting or promoting the welfare of children. The aim of the LSCB is to work cooperatively to safeguard all children in East Sussex and ensure that this work is effective. This requires proactive intervention for children who are abused; targeted work with children at risk of harm; and preventative work within the community, to develop a safe environment for children. A full list of LSCB Members can be found in Appendix A.

The LSCB was established in compliance with the Children Act 2004. The work of the LSCB is governed by the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. The Government published an updated version of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) in March 2015.

Key priorities:

The key priorities of the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board are to:

- Ensure children in East Sussex are protected from harm;
- Coordinate agencies' activity to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- Ensure the effectiveness of agencies' activity to safeguard and promote the welfare of children through monitoring and review.

2.2 Board structure and subgroups

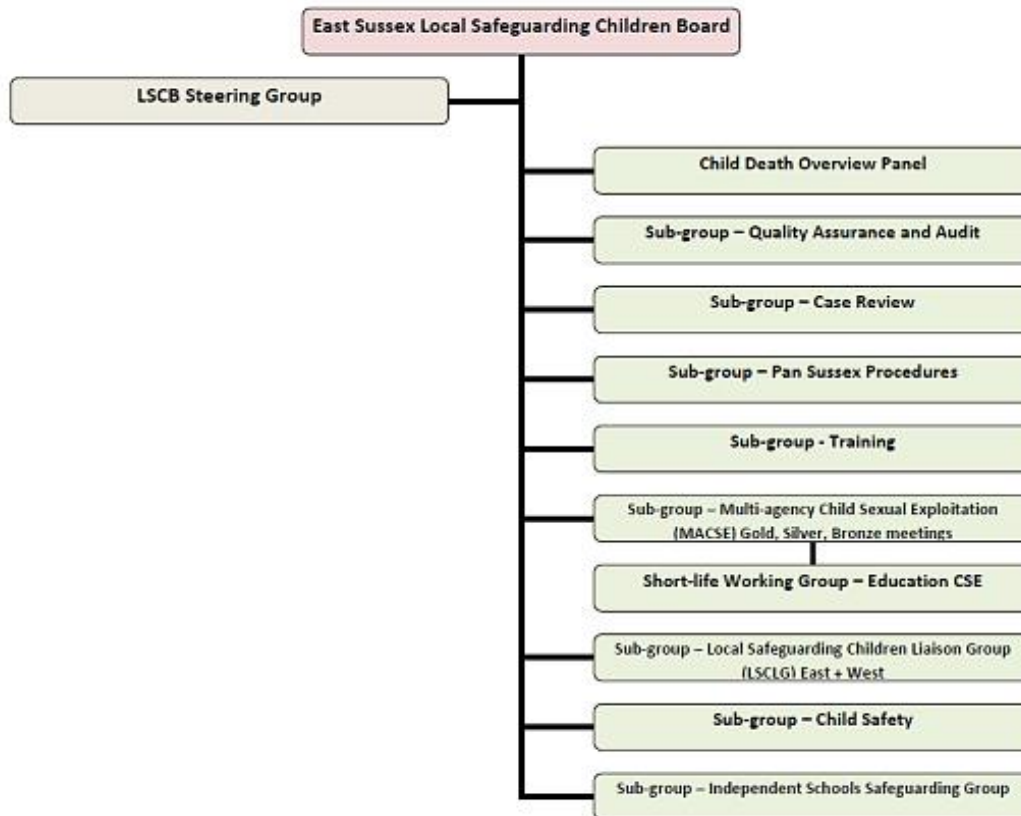
The Board is chaired by an Independent Chair and meets four times a year. The Independent Chair also chairs the LSCB Steering Group which also meets four times a year.

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

To progress activity in a certain area, the LSCB often sets up short life working groups. Towards the end of 2015 a short life working group was set up for Education in relation to child sexual exploitation and is chaired by Catherine Dooley, Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES). This working group will continue throughout 2016.

Major functions:

- Ensure the coordination of child protection activity in East Sussex;
- Evaluate safeguarding activity
- Develop robust policies and procedures
- Coordinate multi-agency training on safeguarding which meets local needs
- Conduct audits and monitor performance of safeguarding activity
- Raise public and professional awareness of safeguarding issues
- Participate in the planning of services for children in East Sussex
- Carry out serious case reviews where abuse or neglect is known or suspected, and there is concern about the way in which agencies worked together
- Ensure that the wishes and feelings of children and young people, and their families, are considered in the delivery of safeguarding services.



2.3 Links to other partnerships

The Board has important links with other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board; Adult Safeguarding Board; East Sussex County Council’s Scrutiny Committee; the Children and Young People’s Trust and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The LSCB provides important peer challenge on areas of child safety and welfare to these partnerships, to ensure that activity to protect children is effective and coordinated. The LSCB does this by:

- Providing analysis and information on key safeguarding data and activity
- Identifying any issues or areas for improvement which require joint working and action by strategic partners in East Sussex
- Providing input and comment on the actions plans of other strategic partnerships
- Promoting and raising awareness of safeguarding issues and the work of the LSCB.

This Annual Report will be received by the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board; East Sussex County Council Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee; the Children and Young People’s Trust; the Primary Care Trusts’ Professional Executive Committee; and other LSCB member organisations’ senior management boards. It will also be presented to the Clinical Commissioning Groups, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. Evaluation of Board progress on 2015-18 Priorities

3.1 Strengthen the multi-agency response to Child Sexual Exploitation

The LSCB's priority to strengthen the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation has made significant progress in 2015/16.

Five of the key aims of the LSCB's lead on this issue are:

- Reduction in the risk/incidence of children sexually exploited, missing and trafficked in East Sussex
- Ensure that CSE is embedded into the work of all LSCB agencies
- Disruption of organised crime groups where CSE is an issue
- Improved inter-agency response when there is evidence of CSE
- Improve the opportunity for young people to raise their own concerns

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

The Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group (MACSE Silver) is well attended and has a robust action plan which is divided in to four strands of work: Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue. The sub-group met regularly during 2015/16 to plan and progress work.

Via regular links between the LSCB, the East Sussex Youth Cabinet and the Children in Care Council, a valid concern was identified by young people in East Sussex; this related to a lack of awareness about CSE 'that could happen to you' as opposed to the extreme cases such as Rotherham. Young people thought that there needed to be more awareness about what grooming was and how it begins. As a direct result of this, Sussex Police launched a Sussex-wide CSE campaign.



The first phase of the campaign was launched on 18 January 2016 making use of a range of media to raise community awareness. The second phase focused on raising awareness of CSE amongst professionals that work with young people.

The third phase started on 11 April 2016 and focused on raising the awareness of CSE amongst taxi drivers and those who manage and work in hotels and bed and breakfast establishments. An evaluation of this comprehensive CSE awareness campaign has been commissioned and will report in 2016-17.

During 2015/16 a MACSE response was developed within the Children's Services Multi-agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH). The outcome of this has provided a clear pathway for referral and has been strengthened by increased management capacity to chair CSE strategy discussions.

Since November 2015 there has been additional social work capacity with expertise in CSE within the East MASH. In the West MASH the Senior Social Worker, who started in January 2016, is specialist child victim interview trained and takes a lead on CSE cases. There are also Missing People Return Home Interview (RHI) coordinators co-located in the MASH teams strengthening the response when concerns are reported about CSE or children who have gone missing.

As well as the MACSE Silver group, which takes a strategic lead in the CSE priority, MACSE Bronze meetings were set up in 2015/16 to take an operational lead in identifying children living in East Sussex who are at risk of CSE and ensuring risk reduction plans are in place across partner agencies. Representatives from a variety of partners meet monthly at both Hastings and Eastbourne for the MACSE Bronze meetings. The meeting is well represented with attendees from Sussex Police, Children's Social Care Services, Health, Youth Offending Team, WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation), Missing People, Education, FE Colleges and Children's Homes.

During 2015/16 the MACSE Bronze meetings looked at 174 referrals of which 34 are still subject to a MACSE plan. The Bronze meetings also enhance intelligence submissions to better inform the CSE picture. The meeting identifies links between children at risk, perpetrators and location hot spots. Information is freely shared across all agencies to ensure an enhanced response to CSE within East Sussex.

In East Sussex, the Return Home Interview (RHI) service has been commissioned from the national charity, Missing People, since July 2015. From April 2016 this has been extended on a Sussex-wide basis and via a three year contract with the commissioning process and contract management led by East Sussex Children's Services staff. The coordination of information about children who go missing is an additional safeguard to tackle CSE.

Chelsea's Choice

Chelsea's Choice is a 40 minute production provided by AlterEgo Theatre Company; it is innovative and powerful in highlighting to young people, aged 12 years and over, the serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. The production shows how young people, boys and girls, are groomed by adults for the purposes of sexual exploration.

East Sussex LSCB and Eastbourne Borough Council arranged for AlterEgo to run the production in 9 schools across Eastbourne during February 2016. Schools that hosted one of the productions linked it to their Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) agenda so that children were prepared and received this production as part of the curriculum subject about issues such as healthy relationships, domestic abuse or other similar topics. After each production there were support sessions for pupils wanting to talk further about CSE; this was organised by WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation). A further production was held for teachers, staff and parents.

3.2 Strengthen Safeguarding in all schools (including Early Years and Further Education providers)

The LSCB's work on the priority to strengthen safeguarding in all schools (including Early Years and Further Education providers) is well underway, led by the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES).

Five of the key aims of the LSCB's lead on this issue are:

- Recruit to the new post of Schools Safeguarding Officer
- Ensure that schools are aware of the implications for their children and staff of CSE, radicalisation and online safety
- Support all schools to complete individual Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Ensure the Designated Safeguarding Leads' training continues to be reviewed and updated
- Ensure that all independent schools are linked into the LSCB Independent Schools Safeguarding Group

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

In October 2015 the new post of Schools Safeguarding Officer (SSO) began within SLES. The SSO post has quickly become established as key to supporting schools with consultation of all safeguarding matters, delivering targeted training, and conducting reviews. One area of focus has been to improve record keeping in schools. The SSO post has been key to writing the questions for the section 175 audit report for schools which provides a wealth of information and will inform training and future support to schools. The section 175 audit is due to report in 2016-17; the audit takes place every two years.

The first School's Safeguarding Conference took place on the 14th January 2016 and was well attended by Head Teachers and Governors across a range of educational establishments. A number of workshops were offered which generated rich discussions in sharing knowledge, best practice and building networks of support. Included in the workshop subjects offered were:

- PREVENT (counter-terrorism strategy/preventing violent extremism)
- Outstanding Practice in Online Safety
- Domestic Abuse and Impact on Children (linked to DA protocol for schools)

The impact of this conference increased awareness and knowledge of key safeguarding issues for schools which contributes to keeping children safe. There was very positive feedback from the evaluation of the event and plans are underway to hold a second conference in 2017.

During 2015/16 the SLES team completed around 45 Safeguarding Practice Reviews in schools. These reviews provide a forum for immediate feedback to Head Teachers and Governors about identified areas of strength as well as areas of concern and areas for development. The outcomes of Safeguarding Practice Reviews are reviewed by the SSO to identify patterns and themes which can feed in to the established Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) network, and have been used to redesign the training

offer for DSLs and Governors. The learning from the Safeguarding Practice Reviews is also triangulated with information from LSCB audits, Serious Case Review learning, learning via the complaints process, or other sources of information.

The SLES team is committed to supporting the LSCB priority on on-line safety and acknowledges the role that schools can play in helping children to keep safe and/or report concerns they have about all safeguarding matters relating to on-line safety. In 2015/16 SLES began work to commission an on-line safety policy and guidance pack for schools. This work will be completed during 2016-17.

In addition to the provision of Chelsea's Choice to a number of schools in Eastbourne during February 2016, a short-life working group (Child Sexual Exploitation Education Group) was set up so that additional support could be provided to Schools in relation to CSE. The objectives and progress for this group are outlined on the Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) action plan. The CSE Education Group will continue to run during 2016.

Independent Schools Safeguarding Group (ISSG)

The ISSG began in May 2014. There were three ISSG meetings held between April 2015 and March 2016 with around 25 attendees per meeting. A diverse range of subjects was covered including: PREVENT and radicalisation, School Nurse provision for independent schools, services within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), child protection investigations, and disability and safeguarding. A presentation was also provided on the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Jerry Lewis, the Principal Deputy Head of St Bede's Senior School is a member of the Board and regularly attends meetings. This activity and network enable the LSCB and local independent schools to share information and knowledge to keep children safe and/or to know what to do when there are concerns about a child and its family.

3.3 Strengthen the multi-agency response to mental health issues to ensure safeguarding concerns for children are minimised

The LSCB's priority to strengthen the multi-agency response to mental health issues to ensure safeguarding concerns for children are minimised included the following key aims:

- Develop an agreed multi-agency understanding of the available mental health support for children and young people at an early stage of additional needs being identified.
- Ensure that when a child needs specialist provision at tier 4, mental health support is delivered jointly by the relevant agencies.
- Young people are adequately supported where there are issues of self-harm or suicide

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

Work to champion the well-being and mental health of children and young people in East Sussex through a range of activities with LSCB members such as: raising awareness of the range of current support services available from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); promoting the Twilight Training Programme; promoting the use of the on-line mental health training module for non-mental health staff working with schools; encouraging closer links between the School Nursing Service and primary mental health workers; and publicising the launch of the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) for concerns about the social welfare of children and young people.

In April 2016 the LSCB held a Development Day which included workshop style focussed sessions of the LSCB priorities. The Development Day was attended by a range of partner agencies. The session which considered the priority of mental health issues for children and young people identified key areas of concern as: access to services out of hours, specialist services, crisis care and the appropriate use by the police of mental health orders. Among the things which were working well were schools providing counsellors to support children and young people with lower level needs.

Following NHS England's approval of the East Sussex CAMHS five year Transformation Plan developed jointly by ESCC and the three clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), which has the remit of improving the emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, LSCB members felt that the lead responsibility for improving mental health services should sit with the Transformation Board. It was therefore agreed that mental health would no longer be a separate workstream for the LSCB, but key indicators e.g. numbers of children in crisis could be monitored via performance reporting to the LSCB.

3.4 Strengthen the multi-agency response to children affected by domestic abuse

The LSCB's work on the priority to strengthen the multi-agency response to children affected by domestic abuse made good progress during 2015/16.

Five of the key aims of the LSCB's lead on this issue are:

- Develop a Domestic Abuse (DA) protocol for schools, along with resources to support this work
- Raise awareness with the perpetrators of DA of the impact of their abusive behaviour on children
- Review Children's Services assessment and intervention responses to DA
- Ensure universal services such as schools and youth organisations have access to expertise and support for DA
- Raise public awareness of DA through campaigns, such as the White Ribbon Campaign

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

Members of the LSCB have developed a protocol for recognition and working with domestic abuse in schools. The protocol was finalised in March 2016 and has also been endorsed by the Safeguarding Adults Board; it supports schools in understanding how children are affected by domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and introduces a screening function for school staff alongside a referral pathway into Early Help Services. Plans are underway to disseminate the protocol to individual school leads via a series of presentations at the area school network meetings and to monitor its impact; this will take place during 2016-17.

The Schools' Protocol, the new Children's Service front door the "Single Point of Advice" or SPOA, coupled with the launch of the Multi Agency Screening Hub (MASH) will now enable children's sector agencies to outline clear care pathways for intervention and support for children whose exposure to domestic abuse may leave a risk of lasting emotional or psychological harm.

The development of the schools' protocol has also prompted a revision of the multi-agency training offer in DVA. In order to build upon the dissemination of clear referral pathways and improve the children's sector workforce response to domestic abuse along a continuum of need, training leads will participate in a multi-agency thematic review of DVA training.

Practice in domestic violence and abuse (DVA) has changed considerably in recent years with researchers, academics and practitioners recognising the dynamics and complexity for families affected by domestic abuse. While current DVA training provision in East Sussex, accurately represents basic factors and features of DVA, the training content is specific to a small (although highly concerning), number of families, i.e. those potentially at risk of significant physical harm and possible death.

This does not reflect the dynamics within the majority of families accessing universal services through to Children's Social Care where DVA may be a factor, but where the risk of significant physical harm and possible death may be lower and therefore require different responses from the practitioner. The outcome of the thematic review will report in 2016-17.

This year the local prioritisation of domestic abuse as part of the governments Troubled Families 2 (TF2) delivery programme has also merited an increased focus upon DVA by Family Key Workers. At March 2016 of the 944 households counted as 'in TF2' programme, 404 have DVA recorded as a vulnerability indicator. Furthermore, in terms of the East Sussex outcome claims, 85 of these have been claimed for as making 'significant and sustained progress' and 6 have been claimed for as moving 'Into continuous employment & off benefits'.

Work with perpetrators has also been a focus of agencies working with high levels of risk at level 4 on the continuum of need. East Sussex delivers a jointly facilitated programme of group work intervention that adopts the Home Office accredited Building Better Relationships (BBR) programme. This is a joint East Sussex Children Services and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSSCRC) programme that enables perpetrators who are not subject to a high threshold of criminal proceedings but assessed as having a significant risk of further domestic abuse without intervention, to be referred to the intensive group work programme via Children's Social Care. During 2015/16 there were 20 referrals to the BBR programme; of these, 1 did not take up the place, 19 accepted a place and of these 2 did not finish the programme.

The joint programme is now in its second year and has prompted the development of a subsequent DA rehabilitation intervention that is targeted at those service users whose risk of domestic abuse falls below the threshold for BBR, but who have an active and current risk of harm to a known or former partner.

The Portal East Sussex – support for survivors of abuse and violence

In January 2016 East Sussex launched a single point of contact for victims and survivors of domestic or sexual abuse and violence, helping them to find the right help, advice and support. This service is known as ‘the Portal’ – it provides a support service to victims and survivors of domestic or sexual abuse and violence who are aged 16+ and living in, working in or visiting Brighton & Hove or East Sussex, and it can also give advice and support to friends, families and professionals. The launch of the Portal was supported by an awareness campaign using social media and community events, materials were also disseminated across East Sussex highlighting the availability of local services for those affected by domestic abuse.



Freephone 0300 323 9985
info@theportal.org.uk

CLICK TO LEAVE

About Us  

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU'VE JUST BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

Domestic or sexual abuse and violence can happen to anyone.

You are **not** alone.
We understand, and we believe you.

The Portal helps you to find advice and support in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.

If you've been affected by domestic or sexual abuse or violence in Brighton & Hove, or East Sussex, get in touch to find out more about the help, advice and support available.

In an emergency call the police on 999

You can also use 101 to give information to the police or make an enquiry.

FEMALE



MALE



LGB&T*



FRIENDS & FAMILY



PROFESSIONALS



Translate »

3.5 Coordinate a multi-agency approach to online safety for children, young people and their families

The LSCB's work on the priority to coordinate a multi-agency approach to online safety for children, young people and their families progressed in 2015/16 with the key aims being:

- Improve children and young people's knowledge and confidence about how to keep safe online.
- Empower children and young people to make better choices online.

- Improve parent and carers' knowledge and confidence on how to help their children keep safe online.
- Improve professionals' knowledge about e-safety and how to support children, young people and parents to keep safe online.
- Reduce cyber-bullying

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

Information about online safety, and links to useful resources have been updated on the LSCB website; online safety information has also been updated on East Sussex's school information site 'Czone'. National organisations such as the NSPCC offer informative, creative and up to date information aimed at children, parents and professionals relating to online safety; where possible the LSCB aim to sign-post to existing advice and resources as opposed to creating a separate local resources as the risk would be that it becomes out of date quickly given that the world of online safety evolves quickly.

Plans and discussions have begun within the Pan Sussex Procedures sub-group to develop an online safety section of procedures; this was agreed at the March 2016 meeting with work expected to be completed on this during 2016-17. Definitions of sexting, online grooming and other related areas will form part of this new section alongside advice to professionals in responding to online safety concerns.

A new half-day LSCB training course began in December 2015, with a further session run in March 2016; the courses named 'Safeguarding in a Digital World' attracted nearly 70 attendees. Further courses are planned in 2016-17 with the potential to consider providing stepped learning 'basic' and 'advanced' courses, following feedback.

During 2015/16 work was commissioned by SLES to develop an online safety policy for schools. This will be completed and implemented during 2016-17. In addition, the Schools Safeguarding Conference held in January 2016 included workshops on best practice for online safety support for children, and online safety updates have been included in the two of the termly ICT newsletters to school.



The LSCB uses its website and twitter pages to regularly post news and information about online safety resources, particularly where it can be linked to national initiatives such as the anti-bullying (including cyber-bullying) week in November 2015, and Safer Internet Day in February 2016.

3.6 LSCB Development Day (April 2016)

Over 30 members of the East Sussex LSCB attended the Board Development Day on the 14 April. The Development Day had four key purposes:

- To review the LSCB's current priorities, agree whether they are fit for purpose, update, give views on what other areas the Board should be concentrating on, and identify what actions the Board should focus on during 2016-18
- To hear from local children and young people on what they think the LSCB should be prioritising
- To provide an opportunity for Board members to network and get to know each other better
- To discuss the proposals set out by the Government's National Review of LSCBs, what the impact of these proposals could be locally, and how the East Sussex LSCB could view these proposals as an opportunity to improve local practice

National Review of LSCB's – key points from group discussions:

- Board members were interested in the potential to rethink the way Child Death Overview Panels operate and how this could benefit the collation of learning on a national level
- Members felt that strengths of the East Sussex LSCB included:
 - Good communication between agencies
 - Vibrant partnership with stable core members
 - Solid functioning of Board and subgroups
 - Ability to hold professional challenge without assigning blame
- Areas to improve included:
 - How we capture and utilise learning from SCRs
 - Reducing the complexity of the various subgroups and strategies
 - Clarifying the relationship between the LSCB and the Health and Wellbeing Board, Community Safety Partnership, and Safeguarding Adult Board.
 - Greater confidence in that we are effective in 'getting the message out'. Do front line staff know what the LSCB is and what learning it is communicating?

Feedback on LSCB priorities – key points from group discussions:

- Board members generally felt that the priorities set for 2015-2018 needed to remain; however, there was debate about priority 4 – Mental Health and whether this priority is too broad by definition and covered within other local strategies
- A focus for 2016-18 should be to ensure that the Board and leads are clear about how we measure the impact of our work in each area
- Board members felt that that the focus of the LSCB should be to:
 - i. Drive forward work in areas which wouldn't get done without LSCB involvement.
 - ii. Make links across partnerships and agencies.
 - iii. Ensure that there is an effective focus on children's needs at the heart of all work



4. Impact of Board Activity during 2015/16

4.1 Voice of the Child



At the start of 2015 the Board and Chair set out an ambition that the East Sussex LSCB is a leader in how LSCBs engage with and listen to the voice of local children and young people. Although there are many good examples of how the Board, and its partner agencies, engage and consult with children and young people, the Chair felt this area of work could benefit from a greater degree of clarity and focus and an explicit articulation of the Board's intentions.

The Board agreed that to do this it would need to focus on a) how the Board involved children and young people in the governance and decision making of the LSCB and b) how the Board encouraged a 'child focused system' where services are informed, shaped and responsive to service users. Central to plans was that engagement with children and young people is not seen as an added extra but as business as usual.

Considerable effort has been made to engage children and young people in the development of the Board's key priorities. A [Young Person's version of the 2014/15 Annual Report](#) was created and included engagement exercises which were completed with the Children in Care Council and Youth Cabinet.

On each of the Board's priorities, young people were asked:

1. Why is this issue important for young people?
2. What are you and your peers concerned about?
3. What message do you have for any one professional on this issue?
4. What would you like to say to all of the LSCB members about this issue?

Their views were captured in the [Voice of Young People – Consultation on LSCB Priorities](#) presentation.

Specific feedback from agencies included:

“Feedback from East Sussex Youth Cabinet and from the Children in Care Council to the LSCB highlights that young people are concerned that there is not enough awareness about CSE, with a sense that awareness focuses on the 'extreme' cases such as Rotherham with insufficient awareness about grooming and how it can happen to them and their friends. They also identified the need to know more about consent and healthy relationships.

In response to this we have refined out priorities for 2016-17 to explicitly include an action to build on the awareness campaign to ensure it is reaching target audiences and having an impact. This is about ensuring that the materials used in the communications and awareness campaign is reaching children, young people and their families and is making a difference to them, in particular recognising when they may have been groomed.”

“What we heard was powerful; young people confused by a modern world where they are exposed to so many pressures and expectations, often from peers, that my generation never faced.

It reinforced for me the need for parents, adults and schools to give the appropriate support and guidance about what is normal, acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour, especially around healthy relationships, and that the LSCB should continue to contribute where it can to these important issues.”

Other areas of progress to strengthen the voice of the child during 2015/16 include:

- The Board has now included a statement of intent in their terms of reference that sets out how important the Board’s commitment is to listening, and responding, to the voice of local children and young people in East Sussex.
- All reports to the Steering Group and the Board now include how the voice of the child has influenced/impacted on service developments.
- Stronger links with the East Sussex Youth Cabinet were developed to enable opportunities for consultation on key LSCB work streams. A new Youth Cabinet was elected in December 2015 and the LSCB were one of the first organisations to consult with the Youth Cabinet.
- The voice of children and young people in the LSCB’s audit and case review work and in the development of training for professionals was strengthened. Case review audits are now much more explicit about evaluating the impact the voice of the child had on decision making and the child’s journey.
- The publicising of opportunities for Board members to engage with existing youth forums.
- Members of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) were involved in the selection panel for the Board’s new Lay Member in May 2015.

4.2 Lay Members

Lay members are a critical and unique part of the Board. They act as ambassadors for the community and the LSCB by building stronger ties between the LSCB and local community, making the work of the LSCB more transparent. The lay members also act as a further independent insight on behalf of the public into the work of agencies and of the Board. Lay members support the work of the Board by:

- Encouraging people living in East Sussex to become involved in child safety issues
- Helping people living in East Sussex to understand the work of the LSCB

- Ensuring that plans and procedures put in place by the LSCB are available to the public
- Assisting the development of links between the LSCB and community groups in East Sussex

East Sussex LSCB has two Lay Members: Janet Dunn joined us 2012, and in May 2015 we were joined by Joan Eades.

Lay Members act as rich and vital contributors to the Board in many ways and the LSCB is proud to have three active members, each of whom has written their own contributions below:

Statement from Janet Dunn – Lay Member:

“By March 2016, I was coming towards the end of my second two year term with the LSCB which has continued to be enlightening and empowering but also a continuing process of learning.

I have been able to spend time with those who manage the process of children leaving care and the Youth Offending Team. I have also attended LSCB training on Missing Children, Female Genital Mutilation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Managing Allegations against Staff and Making Referrals in Child Protection.

I also attended a case file audit held by the QA sub-group; six cases of neglect were audited; this was a very useful exercise in understanding the complexity of cases, the relationship between the various agencies working with families, examples of good practice and also difficulties which could occasionally lead to a less than seamless and ideal outcome for some children.

In addition to the main Board, I have attended the Steering Group, the Child Safety sub Group and the Independent Schools Safeguarding Group. Last Summer I led a session on the role of the Lay Member at the meeting of South East Lay Members in Portsmouth.

I have continued my work as a School Governor, Appropriate Adult for young people in police custody or migrants requiring an age assessment and as a Panel Member for Referral Orders handed out to young offenders by Magistrates. All of this is very useful background to the work of the LSCB.

Regular meetings with the Children in Care Council and Youth Cabinet, amongst others, have enabled us to seek helpful ideas and opinions on the priorities for the Board”.

Statement from Joan Eades – Lay Member:

“This first year as lay person has certainly opened my eyes to the role of the LSCB and their continuing work to maintain the safeguarding of children and young people. During the first month of my appointment I attended the Lay Members conference and learnt more about the expectations of my role and the varying approaches employed by different Local Authorities.

I have attended Board meetings and learnt about the roles of the participating agencies and the barriers they often encounter when pursuing their goals towards more robust safeguarding systems within their

services. The Steering Groups have provided a more in-depth look at the work and challenges for individual agencies.

The most enjoyable event of this past year was meeting with the Children in Care Council (CiCC) to elicit their opinions and ideas on the LSCB main priorities, it was an enlightening experience. Their eloquence was inspiring and an insight into how to progress safeguarding information to young people. The views and wishes of the young people I met at the CiCC help to inform planning and discussions at the LSCB Development Day in April 2016 and their PowerPoint presentation certainly informed the discussion and challenged practices.

In my role as Time 2Talk Service Manager I have seen an increase in parental concern over CSE, online bullying and also extreme stress, leading to self-harming. Parents are often signposted to this service as their children do not meet the criteria for CAMHS Tier 3. This supports the concerns expressed by young people about where they can go for support with the issues that are important to them”.

4.3 Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Subgroup is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the work carried out by Board partners to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and to give advice on the ways this can be improved. It does this through its annual programme of case file audits and scrutiny of multi-agency performance data and inspection reports.

During 2015/16 the subgroup held detailed audits on child sexual abuse, strategy discussion meetings, child on child sexual abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and unaccompanied minors, private fostering, and one ‘regular case file audit’ which audited random cases of children referred to social care services.

To support the LSCB in this work, the LSCB has continued to fund support from the Local Authority in quality assurance, performance management and data collection. A new Audit Officer started in January 2015 and continues to support the capacity of the subgroup to undertake audit work and fulfil its scrutiny role on behalf of the LSCB. Over the past year, the Audit Officer has developed audit tools to strengthen the focus on quality of practice and impact on outcomes for children and young people, while still ensuring that multi-agency safeguarding processes are being followed.

Audit reports highlight areas of good practice, as well as any immediate action needed following the audit, and recommendations for individual agencies and the LSCB. These reports are scrutinised by the LSCB Steering Group, to ensure that learning is shared. The subgroup also regularly monitors progress with implementing the recommendations from each audit. This cycle of monitoring and review means that audit activity has a direct impact on policy making and professional practice on outcomes for children and young people.

In all of the audits, there was evidence of effective practice which was improving outcomes for children and families. The audits also found evidence of good communication and joint working between agencies.

Learning points for the LSCB during 2015/6 included:

- There may be a real safeguarding vulnerability where parents have independent budget control via Direct Payments and may not carry out full checks before recruitment of someone in a caring role for a child with significant disabilities
- When children are initially presented at hospital or a new school it is not current practice to request evidence of parental responsibility, which might then highlight more Private Fostering arrangements
- Sussex Police learned that Border Force do not organise or attend an Achieving Best Evidence interview, (ABE), in relation to an unaccompanied minor entering the country
- The long delays in accessing intermediary services which assist children through legal proceedings can lead to reduced take up of ABE interviews and there may be scope for suitably trained Children Services professionals to fulfil the role of intermediary
- Some birth parents of privately fostered children live overseas and in some cases birth parents live in remote villages and may have no written language. It can be extremely difficult to clarify family structure and parental wishes in these circumstances and extra efforts will be required
- The ESCC External Funding Team may be able to help identify sources of grants to cover basic and training costs incurred by vulnerable young people
- The generic Health Visitors' email is monitored at all times and therefore the ideal one for sending Strategy Discussions invitations and relevant case notes
- Parents of children who have experienced sexual abuse may benefit from additional information explaining how a medical is carried out and its benefits
- Therapeutic work can be provided to children who have experienced sexual abuse while any police investigations are on-going, as long as Sussex Police are consulted first and any direct work is carried out in collaboration with Sussex Police

During 2015/16 the Quality Assurance subgroup has also:

- Scrutinised Critical Learning Reviews undertaken by the Youth Offending Service in response to serious incidents involving young people engaged with the Youth Offending Team
- Continued development of the LSCB Dashboard, which clearly presents performance information from a range of agencies and outcome data for children and young people
- Developed the forward plan of audits to ensure that it comprehensively sets out the rationale for conducting each audit (e.g. is it because it is a new area of concern, a priority area of the LSCB, a particular vulnerable group, or testing partnership working in a particular area)

- Scrutinised audits of safeguarding practice completed by single agencies.
- Agreed to proposals for Lay Members to attend and scrutinise multi-agency working on specific case file audits.

S11 Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key agencies to ensure that they pay due regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children when discharging their functions. Section 14 of this Act requires LSCBs to ensure the effectiveness of this work; therefore the LSCB carries out a self-evaluation exercise every 2 years to assess the implementation of the Section 11 obligations. As there are several agencies who work across Sussex, the toolkit used for this audit is jointly agreed with Brighton & Hove and West Sussex LSCBs, and the time frame for the S11 audit is also agreed across all 3 LSCBs.

The request for section 11 audits to be completed was sent out in January 2016. Agencies sent their returns in by the end of April 2016. The work on the audit, which includes a Sussex-wide Challenge Day and an East Sussex Scrutiny Day, continues in 2016 and will be reported on in the next LSCB Annual Report.

4.4 Serious Case Reviews

The LSCB Case Review sub-group meets monthly and is a well-established and well attended group where cases are considered in detail and decisions are made about whether a Serious Case Review (SCR) or other type of review is required under guidance set out in Working Together 2015.

Cases considered by the group are either referred in by group members, professionals from partner agencies, or are identified via the audits undertaken by the Quality Assurance sub-group.

Between April 2015 to March 2016 there were two East Sussex SCRs published:

- In June 2015 the SCR Overview Report was published for Child K, a case which involved the death of a young baby; the baby's father is currently in prison having been convicted of manslaughter. The overview report concluded that this death was neither predictable nor preventable. Key issues from this SCR included: communication between different Health Services such as GP's, Midwives and Health Visitors; the impact of non-epileptic seizures in adults on parenting capacity; management support for front-line staff and accountability.

- In March 2016 the SCR Overview Report was published for Child P, a case which involved the death of a 7 year old child who was shot and killed by her father; he then took his own life. The overview report concluded that this death was neither predictable nor preventable. Key issues from this SCR included:

the management of risk when a victim of domestic abuse and violence moves across Local Authority boundaries and the role of MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) arrangements; arrangements for ensuring addresses are marked confidential on recording systems; and the problems that social media and powerful search engines can cause when families are fleeing domestic abuse and need to keep their whereabouts confidential.

➤ The full SCR overview reports are published on the LSCB website. In addition, the LSCB Independent Chair provides an annual report and presentation on the findings and learning from published SCRs to the Children's Scrutiny Committee.

4.5 Child Safety subgroup

The Child Safety Subgroup has a broad agenda and aims to strengthen the preventative work by agencies in keeping children and young people safe and protecting them from harm. The subgroup scrutinises multi-agency activity in the following areas:

- Children who are electively educated at home
- Children who are privately fostered
- Children missing education
- Harmful traditional practices, including FGM
- Accidents and injuries to children under the age of five
- Preventing radical violent extremism
- Online safety
- Voice of children and young people

The Child Safety subgroup has its own work plan and, in addition, links to other groups – such as other LSCB subgroups, the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and the Safer Communities Partnership.

During 2015/16 the Child Safety Subgroup has:

➤ Continued to monitor the number of accidents to children under the age of 5. Over the past few years East Sussex has had a higher rate of accidents and injuries than the national average, with particular hotspots in Eastbourne and Hastings districts. Public Health coordinates a 0-5 Accident Prevention Working Group, with the lead from Public Health reporting in to the Child Safety Subgroup. Multi-agency working with Health Visitors and Children's Centres has ensured an increase in referrals to the Child Home Safety Advice and Equipment Service, which can provide stairgates and other home safety equipment to vulnerable families.

➤ Scrutinised the awareness raising of private fostering among key agencies. Information has been targeted on universal and early help agencies that have day to day contact with families. An LSCB training course on 'Hidden Children' was delivered during 2015/16, and there was a programme of targeted workshops for staff within the wider Children's Services, and to the networks of school Designated Safeguarding Leads.

- Monitored action to raise awareness of safeguarding risks to children who are missing from education. This has included developing closer links with the Child Sexual Exploitation subgroup - including how CME data can be used to identify children at risk of CSE – and work around female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The Child Safety Subgroup specifically identified a number of recommendations to incorporate in the County’s latest CME Policy and Procedures for schools.
- Challenged the increase in the number of children who are electively home educated (EHE). At the end of March 2016, this figure had increased to 621 compared to 513 at the end of March 2015. Following the presentation of the EHE Annual Report at the Board and update at the Child Safety Subgroup, there is much greater awareness by agencies and professionals of the additional vulnerabilities of some children who are educated at home. The LSCB’s ‘Hidden Children’ training, which includes a focus on EHE is attended by a wide range of multi-agency professionals.
- Monitored work to ensure that agencies and professionals know how to respond to concerns about risk of female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices. In March 2016 the Child Safety Subgroup scrutinised the FGM training run by the LSCB.

4.6 Training

The East Sussex LSCB provides a thriving training programme which is well respected by partner agencies. During 2015/16 the training programme continued to offer a wide range of courses. There is a regular programme to review what training is offered, who attends the training, the evaluation of the training and related data reports.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, 66 training sessions were delivered, attended by 1104 participants from a variety of statutory, private and voluntary agencies.

The LSCB training offer is designed and delivered by the LSCB Training and Development Consultant alongside a ‘pool’ of experienced practitioners and several externally commissioned training providers. The training pool is a valuable resource and mutually beneficial to the training programme and the practitioners who deliver training and gain new skills alongside their day to day practice.

To support the training pool, development sessions were held three times during 2015/16; this provided an opportunity to share knowledge and information, look at local and national developments, and ensures that the training pool is thanked for its contributions throughout the year.

The following analysis is based on evaluation forms completed for 10 typical courses provided by the LSCB, which are:

- Understanding Safeguarding in a Digital World
- Working with Resistance and Disguised Compliance in Child Care
- Domestic Abuse: Recognition and Response Module 1
- Working with Faith Groups Developing Cultural Competency whilst recognising Safeguarding Issues
- Developing a Positive Response to Bullying Behaviour - a Safeguarding Approach
- Young people using violence and aggression towards their parents
- Child Protection Awareness for Private, Voluntary, and Community Groups

- A Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT and How and When to Support Vulnerable Young People
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Awareness Workshops
- Impact of Adult Mental Health on Children and Young People

In total 119 staff members (11% of all course attendants from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) participated in the above 10 courses.

96% of participants in the 10 courses were of the view that the course sessions met the stated aims and objectives.

98% of the participants rated the trainer’s knowledge of the subject as excellent or good (62% rated this as excellent); 96% of the participants were of the view that practice exercises and presentations were effective (49% rating this as excellent).

Participants rated course effectiveness highly. At the end of the courses, almost all participants (98%) rated their confidence level around the course topic as excellent or good. Participants were also asked to rate the courses overall. 95% of the participants found the courses to be excellent or good (56% rated the courses as excellent).

In January 2016 East Sussex introduced a Training Portal across all Training Departments including the LSCB. The Training Portal offers an easier way to look up and apply for LSCB training (below is an example of how a course looks on the new portal). Between January 2016 and the end of March 2016 there was some bedding-in of the new system as it represented quite a change in the way training courses were accessed.

LSCB : A Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT and How and When to Support Vulnerable Young People Code: LSC388

The UK faces a continuing threat from international and domestic terrorism. The UK’s Counter Terrorism Strategy Contest sets out the steps that need to be taken to protect the public. Preventing violent extremism in the pathway to terrorism forms a vital part of that strategy.

PREVENT aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Essential Information

Session	Session Date	Session Time	Session Venue	Map
1	21 September 2016	09:30 - 11:30	East Sussex Training & Development Centre (St Mary’s House)	Map

Take this course

Full details

Print Course

4.7 Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a statutory function of the East Sussex LSCB. The overall purpose of the child death review process is to determine whether a death could have been prevented; that is whether there were modifiable factors which may have contributed to the death and where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future death could be reduced.

East Sussex LSCB is commissioned to also carry out this function on behalf of Brighton & Hove, and this CDOP reviews the deaths of all children in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Between April 2015 and March 2016 the CDOP was notified of 48 deaths in total; 33 deaths were children resident in East Sussex, and 15 deaths were children resident in Brighton & Hove. The number of children who died in East Sussex increased from the previous year which was 26 but was still lower than the number of deaths reported in 2013/14 (36 deaths). During this period the CDOP met 11 times, reviewing a total of 43 (26 East Sussex & 17 Brighton & Hove) deaths.

The CDOP run by East Sussex LSCB is well attended and there is a strong commitment from the Chair and multi-agency colleagues who attend to carefully consider the information presented about each child death because this can make a real difference to keeping children safer in the future and informing practice.

The opportunity to provide the panel function for Brighton and Hove LSCB not only contributes a small amount of income for East Sussex LSCB but also widens the learning and knowledge sharing about child deaths where there may be preventable factors.

If during the process of reviewing a child death, the CDOP identifies: an issue that could require a serious case review (SCR); a matter of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area; or any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in the area, a specific recommendation is made to the relevant LSCB.

There were no recommendations made to the LSCBs regarding the need for a serious case review. The following recommendations were made regarding matters of concern about the safety and welfare of children, and wider public health concerns:

- That the Chair of the LSCB raise with the Chair of a neighbouring LSCB, the CDOP concerns regarding the non-compliance by agencies and the coroner to follow appropriately, the national CDOP procedures following the unexpected death of a child.
- The Board seeks assurance from all health agencies where they have professionals that have contact with children who are eligible for annual flu vaccinations that they are promoting take up of this vaccination with families.

Of the 26 deaths reviewed of East Sussex children during 2015/16, 4 were identified as having factors which may have contributed towards the death of a child and where action could be taken to reduce the risk of future deaths. In summary, the relevant preventable factors related to guidance regarding safe sleeping and smoking around young children, the use of flu vaccination and supervision of children particularly where there is access to water.

Since the CDOP started in 2007 smoking and unsafe sleeping arrangements have regularly featured as modifiable factors in deaths. Following this issue being discussed in the previous year the following actions have been taken by East Sussex Health Trust: -

- There have been two Safe Sleep training sessions delivered by the Lullaby Trust. These were well attended by Health and Children's Services colleagues.
- Champions/link professionals have been identified and established within Special Care Baby Unit, Acute Paediatrics, Accident & Emergency, Health Visiting and Midwifery.
- There has been agreement for the use of baseline resources for staff delivering advice to parents and these will be available on a rolling basis.
- Midwifery and Health Visiting teams have adopted the use of Lullaby Safe Sleep resources
- Electronic records systems now include specific records regarding Safe Sleep advice that require completion and serve to prompt all colleagues delivering care.

4.8 Pan-Sussex Procedures

The Pan Sussex Procedures Group amends and develops safeguarding policies and procedures in response to lessons learned from serious case reviews and audits, as well as local and national issues, changes in legislation and any key practice developments. The procedures are a vital tool for professionals working across all agencies, and there are additional benefits from having this resource shared across Sussex and the three LSCBs.

The group meets four times a year and has a membership drawn from the LSCBs in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove, as well as representation from Sussex Police. During 2015/6 Brighton & Hove chaired this group and undertook any necessary updates to actions following the quarterly meetings. The chairing and actions for the Pan Sussex Procedures were transferred to East Sussex LSCB in April 2016.

Progress made in 2015/16 includes:

A survey of professionals across the three areas was undertaken to inform the recommissioning of the Pan Sussex Procedures website. This resulted in the commissioning of a new provider for the website which allows greater ability to control and amend our local procedures; it also offers better value for money.

- Information for professionals on how to respond to unexplained injuries to young children was reviewed and updated.
- Procedures and guidance on how to respond to risks around female genital mutilation were updated.
- Procedures and guidance were developed for professionals to follow when they have concerns about a young person self-harming or displaying suicidal behaviour.
- Procedures and guidance about what to do in response to children and young people vulnerable to violent extremism were updated.
- An amendment was made to the wording around responding to child deaths to ensure that the right level of police officer attends the scene of death.

4.9 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO responds to allegations against people who work with children. The number of calls to the LADO service for consultation and allegation management support has shown an increase over the last year. Between April 2015 to 31 March 2016 there were a total of 944 recorded LADO contacts, which is an average of 78 contacts a month or 18 contacts a week. These figures do not include any consultations with members of the public or agencies regarding children where there were concerns below the LADO threshold. There continues to be an average of five formal allegations per week over a 12 month period.

A total of 295 contacts over the 12 month period related to ongoing casework, which included queries and updates including police and internal investigations, standards of care and other consultation work which was not resolved quickly. A particular example would be police investigations regarding historic or current sexual offences which can take several months or over a year to complete and accounted for 48 cases, some of which remain ongoing or resulted in no further action due to a lack of evidence. Some cases have resulted in a decision to proceed with prosecution and again there is often a delay in criminal trials commencing. This is an area which continues to cause concern, and has been discussed with police colleagues.

There continues to be a need to raise the awareness of the LADO role, functions and responsibility across all agency sectors. The LADO will continue to deliver training for designated safeguarding leads and school governors, and offer separate Managing Allegations Training for staff as part of the LSCB training offer. An updated LADO Flowchart and guidance has been distributed and it is hoped this will help agencies to better understand the referral and investigation process.

Three examples of key areas of work for the LADO looking ahead to 2016-17 are:

- responding to allegations made about foster carers and agency foster carers
- working with local language schools in relation to improving safeguarding practice and responding to concerns about host families
- working with transport and licensing authorities around the risks associated with taxi drivers, including those where a licence is not required.



5. Appendices

(5.A) Board Membership

East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Members

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Reg Hooke (Chair)	Independent East Sussex LSCB CHAIR
Alice Webster	Director of Nursing, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (ESHT)
Alison Eaton	DCI, Sussex Police
Allison Cannon	Chief Nurse, NHS Hastings & Rother CCG
Andrea Holtham	Service Manager, Sussex CAFCASS
Andrea Saunders	Director of Public Protection East Sussex, National Probation Service
Andy Chequers	Head of Customer Services, Lewes District Council
Andy Reynolds	Director of Prevention & Protection, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, (ESFRS)
Angie Turner	Head of Adult Safeguarding, Adult Social Care, ESCC
Arwyn Thomas	CEO SPARK
Ashley Parrott	Head of Quality, High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Brenda Lynes-O'Meara	Assistant Director of Nursing, Safeguarding Lead, Practice and Standards (ESHT)
Catherine Dooley	Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness (5-19), Children's Services, ESCC
Debbie Barnes	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, East Sussex
Debbie Piggot	KSS, CRC – Head of Service, Assessment & Rehabilitation
Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services, East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
Edmund Hick	Child Protection and Safeguarding Manager, Public Protection, Sussex Police
Emma Wadey	Director of Nursing Standards and Safety, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Fraser Cooper	SAB Manager, ESCC
Ian Fitzpatrick	Senior Head of Community Services, Eastbourne Borough Council
Jane Mitchell	Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Manager, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB)
Janet Dunn	Lay Member, East Sussex LSCB
Jason Tingley	Head of Public Protection, East Sussex Police
Jeremy Leach	Principal Policy Adviser, Wealden District Council
Jerry Lewis	Principal Deputy Head Teacher, Bedes Senior School
Jo Monnickendam	Student Services Manager, Plumpton College
Joan Eades	Lay Member, East Sussex LSCB
Justine Armstrong	Safer Communities Manager
Liz Rugg	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services, ESCC

Louisa Havers	Head of Performance, Engagement and Safer Communities, Adult Social Care, ESCC
Malcolm Johnston	Executive Director for Resources, Rother District Council
Mark Rist	Temporary Head of Prevention and Protection, ESFRS
Micky Richards	CGL Deputy Director Operations – South
Neil Small	Head Teacher, Castledown Community Primary and Nursery School, Hastings, and Executive Head Teacher, Ore Village Primary Academy
Pat Taylor	Strategy & Commissioning Lead for Community & Partnership
Paul Furnell	Branch Lead for Child Safeguarding, Lead for LSCBs, Sussex Police
Peter Joyce	Manager, East Sussex/Brighton and Hove CAMHS
Richard Green	Deputy Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School
Richard Grout	Legal Services Manager, ESCC
Richard Preece	Executive Head teacher, Torfield & Saxon Mount Federation
Ruth Szulecki	Early Years Development Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, Children’s Services, ESCC
Sally Williams	Manager, East Sussex LSCB
Sarah Pringle	Head Teacher, Seahaven Academy, Newhaven
Simon Yates	Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School
Stuart Gallimore	Director of Children’s Services, ESCC
Sylvia Tidy	Lead Member for Children and Families, ESCC
Tania Riedel	Operations Manager, Youth Justice Team, Children’s Services, ESCC
Tracey Ward (Deputy Chair)	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, Conquest Hospital, ESHT
Verna Connolly	Head of Personnel and Organisational Development, Hastings Borough Council
Vicky Finnemore	Head of Specialist Services, Children’s Services, ESCC
Victoria Spencer-Hughes	Consultant in Public Health, ESCC

(5.B) LSCB Budget

Actual Income and Expenditure 2015/16

Actual Income 2015/16		Actual Expenditure 2015/16	
Sussex Police	£12,500	Independent Chair	£18,600
Sussex & Surrey Probation Trust	£5,000	Business Manager	£68,412
CAFCASS	£550	Administrator	£18,867
CCGs	£39,999	Administration	£5,413
CRI	£1,000	Child Death Review Panel	£22,634
East Sussex County Council (ESCC) – inc CDOP grant	£164,600	Trainer	£51,214
Training Income	£9,490	Training Administration	£468
Action in Rural Sussex	£750	Training Programme	£17,564
CDOP (Brighton & Hove CC)	£10,000	Projects	£15,000
Carry forward of 2015/16 under spend	-13,186	Serious Case Reviews	£8,925
		CP Procedures	£1,657
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,949
Total	£230,703		£230,703

Projected Income and Expenditure 2016/17

Projected Income 2016/17		Projected Expenditure 2016/17	
Sussex Police	£12,500	Independent Chair	£18,000
National Probation Service and CRC together - negotiating	£5,000	Business Manager	£72,500
		Administrator	£20,250
CCGs	£39,999	Administration	£5,200
CRI (now CLG)	£750	Child Death Review Panel	£21,000
East Sussex County Council (ESCC) – inc CDOP grant	£164,600	Trainer	£52,500

Training Income	£7,500	Training Administration	£500
CAFCASS	£550	Training Programme	£24,000
CDOP (Brighton & Hove CC)	£10,000	Projects	£15,000
Carried forward from '15/'16	£13,186	Serious Case Reviews	£22,135
		CP Procedures	£1,500
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,500
Total	£254,085		£254,085

(5.C) Links to other documents

[Children and Young People's Plan – 2015-18](#)

[East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board \(2013-16\)](#)

[Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2014-17](#)

[East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership – Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-19](#)

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2014-15](#)