

# East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2017-18



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## Foreword by Reg Hooke, East Sussex LSCB Independent Chair



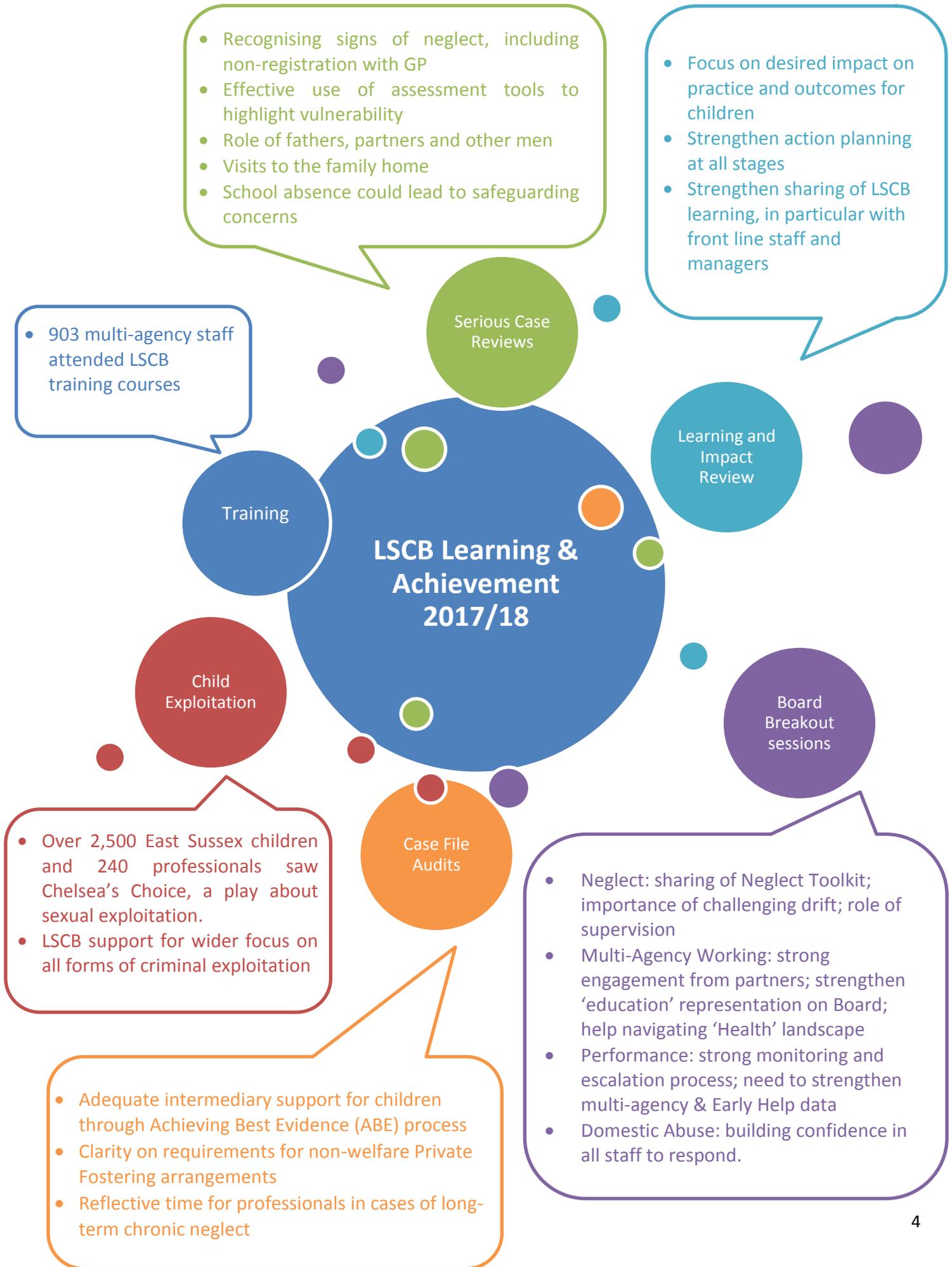
It is my privilege to present to you the annual report of the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 2017/18. This statutory partnership works to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in East Sussex by working with, and scrutinising the work of agencies with key responsibilities for keeping children safe. This includes staff working in health, social care, police, probation and education settings, as well as voluntary sector organisations. Our primary concern is the safety of children who are the most vulnerable, and who are most at risk of harm; we seek to ensure positive outcomes for these children. We do this in three main ways:

- holding organisations to account at regular Board meetings,
- providing vital multi-agency training to professionals, and
- improving practices by conducting targeted reviews and audits

I believe this year's report provides an excellent overview and summary of the work done to improve life and opportunities for specific risk groups across the county, as well as illustrating the learning and achievements of the LSCB. It is a big challenge to communicate the complexity and wide diversity of the LSCB's work. We have therefore worked hard to make this report accessible to a wide audience and, although there is considerable detail in it, much effort has gone into making it easy to read. With you, the reader, in mind, it has been carefully structured and uses a good number of graphics and other illustrations to help. I hope you find it informative.

The Overview on page 5 alludes to new national legislation and guidance that may mean potential changes to child safeguarding oversight arrangements from 2019 and these will be reported upon next year. In the meantime the LSCB will work closely with all partners to ensure future arrangements are at least as robust as the current ones in safeguarding the children of East Sussex.

# 1. Key Learning & Achievements 2017/18



- Recognising signs of neglect, including non-registration with GP
- Effective use of assessment tools to highlight vulnerability
- Role of fathers, partners and other men
- Visits to the family home
- School absence could lead to safeguarding concerns

- Focus on desired impact on practice and outcomes for children
- Strengthen action planning at all stages
- Strengthen sharing of LSCB learning, in particular with front line staff and managers

- 903 multi-agency staff attended LSCB training courses

Training

Serious Case Reviews

Learning and Impact Review

LSCB Learning & Achievement 2017/18

Child Exploitation

Board Breakout sessions

- Over 2,500 East Sussex children and 240 professionals saw Chelsea's Choice, a play about sexual exploitation.
- LSCB support for wider focus on all forms of criminal exploitation

Case File Audits

- Neglect: sharing of Neglect Toolkit; importance of challenging drift; role of supervision
- Multi-Agency Working: strong engagement from partners; strengthen 'education' representation on Board; help navigating 'Health' landscape
- Performance: strong monitoring and escalation process; need to strengthen multi-agency & Early Help data
- Domestic Abuse: building confidence in all staff to respond.

- Adequate intermediary support for children through Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) process
- Clarity on requirements for non-welfare Private Fostering arrangements
- Reflective time for professionals in cases of long-term chronic neglect

## 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 5A.

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.

A revised and updated version of Working Together was anticipated in 2017 following the legislative changes brought in by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Towards the end of 2017 a further, and final, consultation was undertaken by Government, which LSCB contributed to. Working Together 2018 is likely to be published during 2018/19 and may mean potential changes for the LSCB. This will be the key focus of the 2018/19 Annual Report.

The key aims 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.

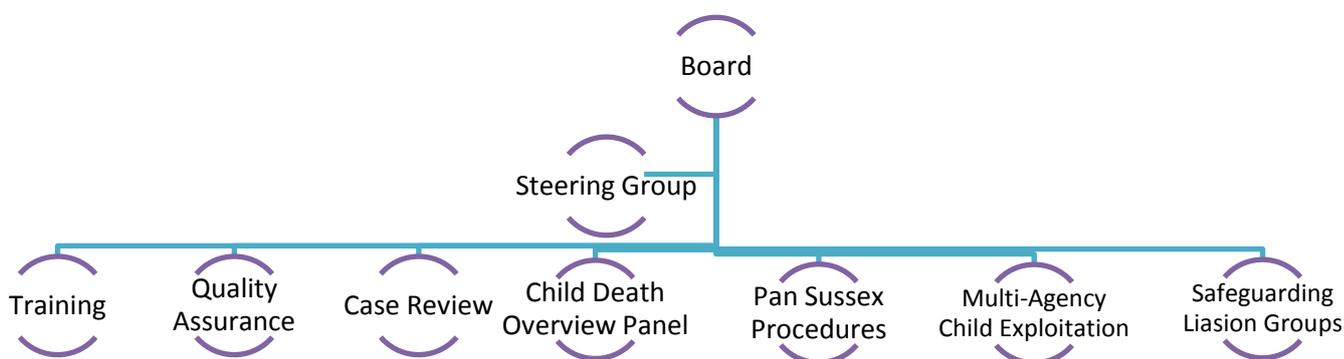
### 2.2 Board Structure and Subgroups

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

#### 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.

Each subgroup has a clear remit and a transparent mechanism for reporting to the LSCB, and each subgroup's terms of reference and membership are reviewed annually.



## 2.3 Links to Other Partnerships

The Board has formal links with other strategic partnerships in East Sussex, namely 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 commitment to these important links is set out in the [Joint Protocol – Partnership Working](#) which was agreed by all relevant Boards during 2016/17 and ensures that strategic priorities are better aligned and focussed on making child safeguarding everyone's business. The Joint Protocol will be reviewed and updated in 2018/19.

The LSCB Chair also maintains regular liaison with other key strategic leaders, for example, the Police and Crime Commissioner, neighbouring LSCB Chairs and Government inspection bodies.

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 People's Scrutiny Committee; the Children and Young People's Trust; the Safeguarding Adults Board, and other LSCB member organisations' senior management boards. It will also be presented to the Clinical Commissioning Groups, and to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## 2.4 Safeguarding Context

The information below is a summary of the safeguarding context in East Sussex. A full analysis of multi-agency safeguarding activity and the number of vulnerable children can be found in the [East Sussex LSCB Local Safeguarding Context 2017/18 document](#).



### 3. Evaluation of Board progress on 2015-18 Priorities

Between the beginning of April 2015 and the end of March 2018 the LSCB supported key priorities, or areas of work, as set out within the three year business plan. Now that the business period has ended, the sections below will consider each priority in turn, and summarise what has been achieved during this period. The progress made during the past year 2017/18 will also be highlighted with special 'spotlight' sections focusing on key events and achievements.

#### 3.1 Strengthen the Multi-agency Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

During the past three years the LSCB has supported a wide variety of work to strengthen the multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation (CSE). During 2017/18 this work has also broadened to include all forms of child exploitation.

##### The key aims of this priority are to:

- Reduce 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
- Disrupt organised crime groups linked to CSE
- Improve inter-agency response when there is evidence of CSE

##### What has been achieved:

- ✓ Multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Subgroups became well established and well attended. With agreement, and support of the LSCB during 2017/18, the Subgroup changed its name to Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Subgroup (MACE), to reflect better recognition of the changing nature of exploitation.
- ✓ A two day awareness raising event was held for 400 taxi drivers and local community businesses such as licenced premises and hoteliers, in recognition of the important role that they can have in the identification of children who are at risk of becoming victims of exploitation.
- ✓ Dedicated audits on CSE cases have been facilitated by the Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup and MACE Bronze Subgroup. This ensures that work completed on cases involving exploitation is regularly reviewed and informs learning and practice.
- ✓ Following direct feedback from children and young people, Sussex Police launched a comprehensive awareness raising campaign about child sexual exploitation. This included the use of a wide range of media and social media to raise community awareness. The feedback and independent evaluation of the campaign demonstrated the significant success of the campaign.
- ✓ Support Pathways are well embedded e.g. East Sussex Child Sexual Abuse pathway provides coordinated response to disclosures of sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation. The pathway includes consideration of the support or therapeutic needs of every child who discloses sexual abuse, and SWIFT (Specialist Family Services) have a dedicated sexual risk practitioner to advise on each case.

## Further progress made in 2017/18:

Operation Rattle was launched, building upon the existing good work around CSE between partners across East Sussex to support children and young people experiencing wider forms of exploitation. This includes being drawn into serious crime such as drug dealing, and being pressured into carrying weapons. The phrase “County Lines” refers to when drugs are being distributed by Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) from major cities. There have been two predominant methods for these OCGs supplying drugs: ‘cuckooing’ (i.e. taking over the home of vulnerable adults), and using children as runners. Operational Rattle has been raising awareness and coordinating the response to County Lines.

The MACE guidance was updated to reflect the changing nature of child exploitation. It is recognised that CSE and other forms of criminal exploitation are not mutually exclusive, and that the response to individual children must reflect the child’s individual needs and circumstances, which is set out in the guidance.

A Voluntary Sector partner, WiSE (YMCA What is Sexual Exploitation? project) launched their Boys and Young Men’s campaign which is a Sussex wide campaign, raising awareness about sexual exploitation happening to boys and young men. This has also led to new LSCB training course being run in conjunction with WiSE.

Work has taken place to raise the profile of Children Missing Education who may be vulnerable to exploitation. New updated attendance guidance for schools was created and disseminated and includes reference to the increased CSE risk when children are missing education.



### Spotlight on 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 issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The production shows how young people, boys and girls, are groomed by adults who want to exploit them.

In June 2017 Chelsea’s Choice was performed at 21 Schools across East Sussex during a two week event. Over 2,500 children saw the production. Two teacher only sessions were held covering 140 teachers, and two professionals’ sessions were held with over 100 professionals attending from a range of agencies.

The LSCB coordinated the planning and delivery of this event as part of the priority on CSE. Chelsea’s Choice was commissioned by the five District and Borough Councils. In recognition of the need to offer support to pupils and teachers at each session, and further follow-up support, the LSCB funded, WiSE to attend all of the sessions that included children.





WiSE also undertook an evaluation exercise with the children who saw the performance. Evaluation postcards, designed with the LSCB, were placed on each chair at the beginning of each performance. Children were asked to answer 3 basic questions to score how much they knew about CSE at the start, and then again at the end of the performance, and were asked if they would recommend the performance to a friend.

In total 2,359 postcards were completed; 75% of the completed postcards evidenced an increase in children's knowledge of CSE after seeing the production. 90% of the completed postcards were answered "yes" they would recommend the performance to a friend.

Feedback from professionals attending the events included:

*"Just wanted to say thanks for the opportunity to attend this, it was brilliant, emotional and thought provoking."*

*CJ*

*"I wanted to say thank you for organising the Chelsea's Choice session yesterday. The message that they delivered was very clear and excellently done. I was grateful for the opportunity to see it. "*

*DK*

*"Seeing the performance really had an impact on me, the actors and the play delivers the message so well and it is great that we are showing this to so many young people"*

*SH*

### **Next Steps – looking beyond 2018:**

Over the next 12 months, the LSCB will continue to support the response to the threat of child exploitation in all of its forms. The LSCB will monitor the work of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation subgroup at the Steering Group and at the full Board, given the high-profile and changing nature of this work in East Sussex.

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

Everyone who comes into contact with 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 are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from getting worse. Schools and colleges and their staff form a key part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

### The key aims of this priority are to:

- Ensure that schools are aware of the implications for their children and staff of child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and the dangers online.
- Support all schools to complete individual Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Ensure the Schools' Designated Safeguarding Leads' training continues to be reviewed and updated.
- Ensure that all independent schools are linked into the LSCB Independent Schools Safeguarding Group.

### What has been achieved:

- ✓ Strengthened and extended the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) Safeguarding Team now in place, and effectively support schools to develop their safeguarding functions.
- ✓ Significant improvement in the proportion of schools completing the Section 175 Safeguarding Audits.
- ✓ Range of services designed for schools to strengthen safeguarding practice, including: Whole School Safeguarding Training, focused support for Record Keeping and Single Central Records, and Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- ✓ Significant uptake of Safeguarding Practice Reviews which provide an externally moderated view on the standards of safeguarding in an establishment.
- ✓ Well established Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Network, which operates alongside the 9 existing School-to-School support alliances. This includes a DSL network with a specific Further Education focus.
- ✓ Regular DSL newsletter for all schools which provides updates and signposting of resources.
- ✓ Delivery of three annual *Best Practice in Safeguarding* Conferences for schools.
- ✓ Updated Record Keeping Guidance for Schools (September 2017) and the new model safeguarding and CP Policy for schools and the Code of Conduct for staff in schools (July 2017) were published in September 2017.

## Further progress made in 2017/18:

Safeguarding continues to be a significant priority for schools, supported by key staff in ESCC. Schools and academies in East Sussex have demonstrated a greater commitment to keeping children safe by attending central training, requests for support, training and intervention work within schools, and readiness to participate in Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) networks which are now operating across the county. The current OFSTED common inspection framework retains a significant focus on safeguarding and there is an additional element now in OFSTED monitoring visits of “good schools” where safeguarding is of paramount importance in determining the type of inspection that will be commissioned. This external inspection focus supports our local work.

ESCC has supported the enhanced focus on safeguarding through the strengthening and extension of the SLES safeguarding team with a new full-time appointment of the Support and Intervention Manager role, from September 2017. There is now a small team of officers who are available to provide guidance and advice to schools. From April 2018 the SLES Senior Manager will also oversee work in nurseries and playgroups in order to ensure coherence of strategies and approaches across the whole age range.

Over the past three years, SLES has re-designed safeguarding support services to schools which are available on a traded basis, or fully funded by SLES where there are significant concerns. These include a Whole School Safeguarding Training package and specifically focussed support visits such as record keeping. The new range of safeguarding traded services provide schools with the opportunity to access expert advice and guidance which is up to date and compliant with local and national frameworks.

At the end of March 2018, 110 schools had already undertaken a full School Safeguarding Practice Review. All schools that have accessed the safeguarding practice review service have support with developing an action plan on the basis of the judgements, and an optional follow up sessions.



### Spotlight on the s175 Safeguarding Audit

The 2017/18 175 safeguarding audit has been returned by 94% of schools to date – this represents a significant increase on 2015-16 returns and is further evidence of more schools understanding their key role in keeping children safe.

The 2017/18 175 safeguarding audit helps SLES to better understand schools’ strengths and areas for development. There is a programme of support in place for responding to the audits through enhanced training/targeted support

The DSL Network is now well established and attended. The networks have been successful in helping professional development, as well as in building capacity for schools to support each other in safeguarding practice. The LSCB and SLES also support and attend a refreshed DSL network for independent schools (ISSG).

The SLES Safeguarding team has updated the Whole Governor Body Training programme in safeguarding and has produced tools to help governors focus on keeping children safe in their schools. There is growing evidence through the S175 audit returns of governors reporting that they have the knowledge and tools to support and challenge schools to focus on safeguarding.

Independent Schools in East Sussex are invited to join the Independent Schools' Safeguarding Group (ISSG) which is supported by the LSCB and by SLES. The group now has a schedule of meetings which are increasingly well-attended, thus improving the continued professional development (CPD) opportunities for colleagues in independent schools.

#### **Next Steps – looking beyond 2018:**

- Update all school policies, guidance documents and training in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.
- Update the 175 audit on an annual basis and ask schools to return this annually.
- Increase the percentage of returns of the 157 Audit for Independent Schools 2018-19.
- ESCC, SLES and the Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability (iSEND) teams are working with local Special Schools to offer training on how to keep children with complex special educational needs and disabilities safe. The first sessions will be offered for schools in autumn 2018.
- Offer a new supervision service for DSLs'.

### 3.3 Strengthen the Multi-agency Response to Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

During the past three years the LSCB has supported a wide variety of work to strengthen the multi-agency response to children affected by domestic abuse.

#### The key aims of this priority are to:

- Develop a domestic abuse protocol for schools, and support its implementation.
- Develop interventions to use with the perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly to increase the awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- Review how Children's Services responds to domestic abuse.
- Raise public awareness of domestic abuse and the impact it has on children.

#### What has been achieved:

- ✓ Successful launch of 'the Portal' which offers a single point of contact and information for victims of domestic abuse living within East Sussex or Brighton and Hove.
- ✓ Established programme of group work for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- ✓ Quality Assurance audit for domestic abuse cases, which evidenced good multi-agency work and support for families in all cases audited.
- ✓ Successful conference held on Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse, attended by 170 staff across a wide variety of partner agencies.
- ✓ Reviewed training offer so that domestic violence forms one of the key thematic training pathway, ensuring staff across agencies are well informed, and well equipped to intervene when children are affected by domestic abuse.
- ✓ Developed and rolled out a protocol for schools to guide them through working with children who have experienced domestic abuse.
- ✓ Effective Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in place to share information and plan coordinated responses to high risk domestic abuse victims.
- ✓ Participation in Sussex wide awareness raising including the 16 days of action against domestic abuse campaign, and the white ribbon campaign.

#### Further progress made in 2017/18 includes:

At a presentation to the Board in January 2018, further information was shared about MARAC, learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) that related to domestic abuse cases, and the wider domestic abuse strategy so that Board members could focus on how their agency responds to domestic abuse and the impact on children.

A domestic abuse pathway, guidance and training was developed by CAFCASS and SWIFT (specialist family services) for private law cases where domestic abuse is a feature. A new Court template was agreed, along with associated guidance, by all three Sussex Local Authorities and is being used successfully.

The multi-agency LSCB training on 'Adopting a Whole Family Approach to Domestic Abuse and Promoting Safety' has proved hugely popular, with all courses run in 2017/18 being fully subscribed. This two day 'professional level' workshop gives an overarching and updated view on current research, theory and practice for professionals across a variety of agencies who work with domestic abuse cases.

The work with perpetrators of domestic abuse was reviewed, updated and has continued and evolved to include a perpetrator intervention programme rolled out to domestic abuse champions within Children's Services.

A specialist post, funded by Public Health, was created to assist the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in assessing risk and responding to domestic abuse cases. This new post has also enabled the recommendations of the LSCB domestic abuse audit to be implemented in SPOA and MASH, and has assisted with supporting Schools with the Domestic Abuse protocol.

'The Portal' which was successfully launched in 2016, developed an East Sussex Directory of Interventions for 2017/18, and offered a series of parent victim focussed workshops which includes subjects such as: family courts, safe contact, parenting resilience, and the impact of domestic abuse on children.

A Pan Sussex Review of MARACs was completed in 2017 with positive findings for MARACs in East Sussex. A number of findings from the review were considered by a working group and a local action plan developed. There remain a number of areas of risk, including the increasing number of cases being brought to the MARAC. A review of whether children are being kept safe by MARAC plans is scheduled for 2018/19.

### **Next Steps – looking beyond 2018:**

Prioritising domestic abuse work will continue via a strategic group made up of representatives from a wide variety of agencies.

During 2018 the Schools Safeguarding Audit will be repeated; this includes dedicated questions on the implementation and use of the domestic abuse protocol for Schools. The results will be used to target any further support required in order to make sure the schools workforce feels confident and knowledgeable about support children who are affected by domestic abuse.

In addition, Operation Encompass, a Police led initiative to inform Schools when domestic abuse has occurred in families, is being rolled out locally in a planned way.

During 2018 work is also taking place by partners in the Safer Communities Partnership to refresh the Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA), Sexual Violence (SV) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. The LSCB will be a key contributor to this review.

### 3.4 Coordinate a Multi-agency Approach to Online Safety for Children, Young People and their Families

The aim of the LSCB has been twofold: to build the skills and resilience of children and families so that they make safe and positive use of the internet and social media; and that online safety for staff is integrated and considered as part of their overarching approach to keeping children safe online.

#### The key aims of this priority are to:

- Improve professional's knowledge about e-safety and how to support children, young people and parents to stay safe online.
- Improve children and young people's knowledge and confidence about how to keep themselves safe online
- Improve parent and carers' knowledge and confidence on how to help their children keep safe online.

#### What has been achieved 2015-18:

- ✓ Coordinated online safety resource available on the LSCB's website.
- ✓ Took part in Safer Internet Day raising awareness of online safety resources with the LSCB's 800 twitter followers
- ✓ Updated Pan Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures to provide guidance on how to identify, intervene in and escalate safeguarding incidents such as online grooming and abuse, and youth produced sexual imagery
- ✓ Supported the development of a model online safety policy for schools
- ✓ Supported schools to develop their online safety education through workshops at the annual Safeguarding School Conferences, distribution of resources from national sources, including Ofsted, and regular work via the DSL networks.
- ✓ Supported Sussex Police's 'Sexting in Schools and Colleges' to raise awareness of, and how to manage, incidences of sexting.
- ✓ Supported the training of Youth Cabinet and CiCC members to become 'Digital Leaders' where young people become accredited trainers on online safety delivering peer-to-peer workshops and workshops for parents and carers.
- ✓ Developed guidance for schools on best practice in engaging parents and carers in online safety awareness raising.

#### Further progress made in 2017/18 includes:

Over 200 professionals, from a range of multi-agency backgrounds, have attended the LSCB's '**Safeguarding in a Digital World**' training course, since it began in December 2015. This training will remain a regular feature on the LSCB's Annual Training Programme. Feedback from the training course has been overwhelmingly positive with the majority of attendees saying the course was good or excellent with evaluations noting the positive impact on practice. Comments have included:

*“I feel more aware of issues relating to safeguarding... as I work in ASC I have shared feedback from the training in my team meeting and discussed the overlaps with the client group we support.”*

*“I am going to talk to our Digital Leaders about online safety and their online 'language'. I would like to run a parent workshop to increase awareness.”*

*“Share relevant information and safeguarding policies/advice in practice and also with colleagues”*



A total of 114 delegates attended the **Building Digitally Resilient Children conference** in January 2018, with over 45 schools represented. Seventy-eight percent of respondents rated the quality of the conference as excellent. Attendees said they would do the following things differently as a result of the conference event:

- *Organise a parent online safety workshop led by the young people*
- *Update our PHSE/computing curriculum and better liaise with our IT department.*
- *I learnt more about my own use of social media and how I need to be an online role model*
- *We will train some pupils as digital leaders and also get the older pupils to run assembly for younger pupils on internet safety*
- *Will be more open about talking to children about their online behaviour*
- *Develop further training for foster carers/ Looking at having foster carer training with young people present*

Of the 207 schools which completed the 2018 section 175 safeguarding audit all schools have online safety and acceptable use policies in place. Nearly all schools also teach pupils how to keep themselves safe online and on social media and have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place. Where schools rated themselves as having more work to do in this area, this was because they recognised the need to update these policies. This is a significant improvement from 2015/16 where only 43% of all schools rated themselves as having a written e-safety policy and procedures in place.

Nearly all (97%) of the 3089 Year 10 pupils in East Sussex who took part in the Health Related Behaviour Survey in 2017 said they had been told how to stay safe while online.

### **Next steps - looking beyond 2018:**

The LSCB will continue to run training on safeguarding in a digital world and ensure that all safeguarding training considers the risks posed by the use of technology. LSCB managers will also continue to signpost professionals to resources via the LSCB's website and professional forums.

The Steering Group will be asked to agree that online safety – as a separate issue - no longer needs regular monitoring but should be integrated and considered as part of the overarching approach to safeguarding. This will then be monitored via the LSCB's Section 11 regular safeguarding audit process.

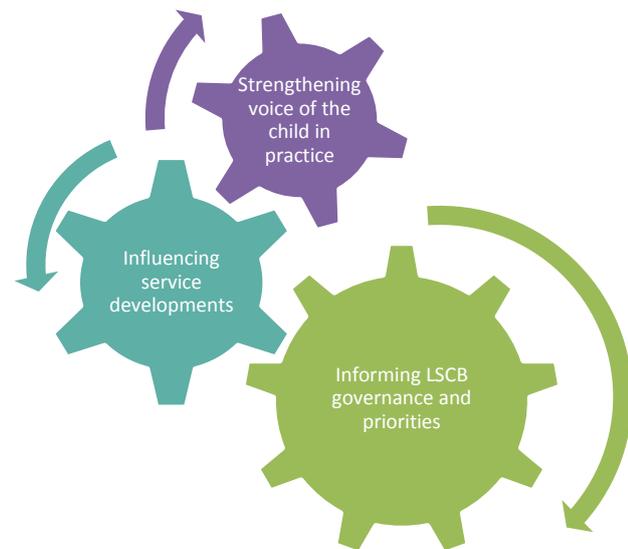
## 4. Impact of Board Activity during 2017/18

### 4.1 Voice of the Child

East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board strongly believes that children and young people should have a say when decisions are made which may affect them. We also believe that children and young people should have the means and opportunities to be able to raise issues which are important to them, and ensure they are listened to. By doing so, we believe that this will create a stronger child protection system that is more responsive to the needs of our most vulnerable children.

East Sussex LSCB endeavours to ensure that children and young people are appropriately involved in the governance and decision making of the board. The LSCB also challenges and holds Board members to account on their engagement and involvement of children and young people within their own agencies.

The LSCB has continued to request that all reports presented at the Steering Group or main Board meetings contain a section on the 'voice of the child'. Agencies are required to consider how the voice of the child has impacted on this area of work. These contributions have provided a rich evidence base of how services are responding to children's voices in the day to day delivery of services and in longer term strategic work. Examples include:



#### SPOA and MASH report to Board (January 2018)

- *“Effective screening decisions are informed by practitioners and managers seeking to understand the day to day experience for the child at home, in their school or education setting and in their community. Building relationships with children is a core part of the training of and supervision for staff at all levels.*
- *When the welfare and safety of children is being considered through formal Strategy Discussions, the experience of the child is also central to decision making. All social care staff have been reminded about the need to speak to children directly as part of reaching an effective assessment of risk. Keeping the experience of the child in mind is reinforced by the identification of a trusted adult for children at risk of or subject to exploitation.”*

#### Child Exploitation Update to Steering Group (March 2018)

- *“Effective safeguarding for children who go missing and/or are vulnerable to or experiencing criminal exploitation needs to be underpinned by an understanding of the day to day experience for the child. Understanding the barriers to engagement for individual children and ensuring the best chance for the child to be heard, relies on each child having a trusted adult and professionals developing good relationships with children. This is fundamental to our approach.”*
- *The experience of the child is the central focus of Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) practice. There is clear evidence from Bronze meetings that children are listened to and heard and that their experience informs multi-agency risk assessment and planning in order to reduce vulnerability to Criminal Exploitation”*

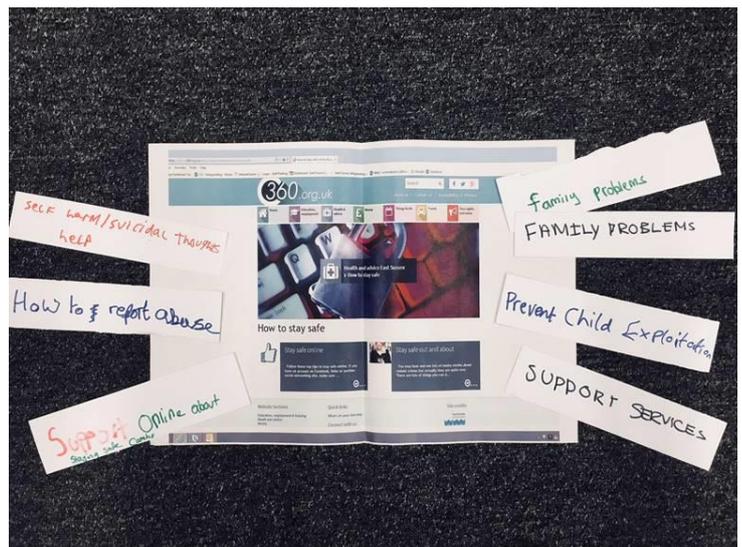
The LSCB Lay Member attended the East Sussex Children in Care Council and Youth Cabinet, in summer 2017. The young people spoke about how they felt it was important for the LSCB to support parents to

engage with their children around online safety; asked what the LSCB was doing around road safety; and how the LSCB should improve its presence online.

As a result of these conversations, the LSCB agreed to contribute funding towards the ‘Safeguarding Children in a Digital World’ conference, held in mid-January, for children and young people, schools and professionals. While it was not possible for parents to also attend the event, one of the workshops focused on how professionals can engage parents in online safety, and the LSCB produced a guide for schools on how to engage parents. This was also circulated to all schools across East Sussex via the DSL network and is on the LSCB’s website. The LSCB has also updated the advice and guidance for parents on online safety on the LSCB’s website and focused on advice and guidance for parents in its communication around Safer Internet Day.

The LSCB Manager and Lay Member attended the East Sussex Takeover Day for young people in November 2017. The group talked about the role of the LSCB and of the agencies involved, the type of issues the LSCB is concerned about and numbers of vulnerable children and young people in East Sussex.

The LSCB manager has started working with the designers of the County’s c360 website ([www.c360.org.uk](http://www.c360.org.uk) – the ‘information portal’ for East Sussex children and young people) to update the information on keeping safe. The



Takeover day provided the LSCB with the opportunity to consult with young people about what information they wanted on the website. This work will continue in to 2018/19.

Within the LSCB’s training, the ‘Voice of the Child’ continues to be strengthened. At a Training Pool development session, three members of the Children in Care Council, along with adult supporters, attended to talk about their experiences and did a really powerful interactive exercise on separation and loss with the group. The LSCB also ran a course on ‘Whole Family Approach – Integrating the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 into Practice’ where young carers came along with a supporter to present and deliver their experiences to a multi-agency group of LSCB and SAB participants.

#### Next steps – looking beyond 2018:

- Ongoing and meaningful engagement with Youth Cabinet and Children in Care Council.
- Involving young people in recruitment for new Lay Members and in the Section 11 Challenge Events.
- Strengthen the voice of the children in the LSCB’s audit, training and case review work.
- Continue to develop and strengthen the safeguarding information available for children and young people on the county’s c360 website.
- Consult with children and young people in the development of new safeguarding arrangements.

## 4.2 Lay Members

Lay Members are a critical part of the Board. They act as ambassadors for the community and for the LSCB by building stronger ties between the two, 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

In May 2016 Maria Bayne joined the LSCB as a new Lay Member and has brought with her knowledge and skills in relation to safeguarding international language students, as well as enthusiasm for all aspects of online safety, and talking to children and young people about safeguarding. During 2017/18 Maria has:

- ✓ Met with young people from the Children in Care Council and Youth Cabinet to talk about the role of the LSCB and their safeguarding priorities
- ✓ Attended the Annual Safeguarding in Schools Conference
- ✓ Delivered a workshop, with the LSCB Manager, at the November 2018 'Takeover Day' for children and young people.
- ✓ Met with the Head of Safeguarding and Assistant Director of Early Help and Social Care to find out more about their work and how it fits in to the overall structure of the LSCB.
- ✓ Contributed to the summary of the 2016/17 Annual Review



### Next Steps – looking beyond 2018:

- Recruit further Lay Members to the team.
- Strengthening the engagement of Lay Members with local groups for youth voice.

## 4.3 Quality Assurance

The QA 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 regular scrutiny of multi-agency performance data and inspection reports, and through an annual programme of thematic and regular case file audits. The group meets 6 times per year and is made up of representatives from NHS organisations, Sussex Police and East Sussex Children's Services.

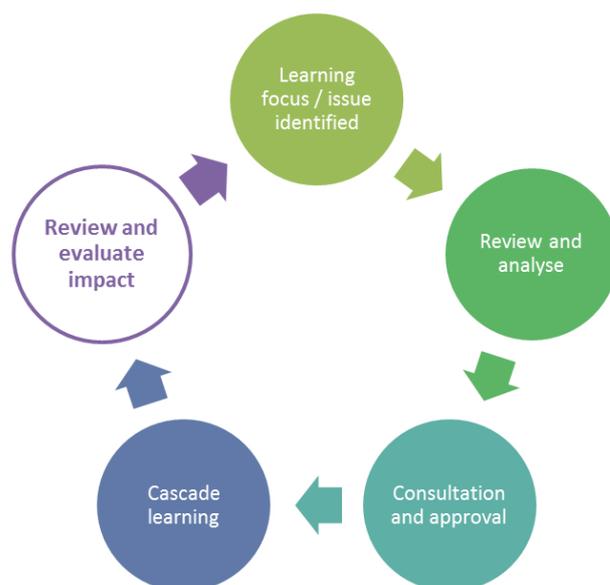
### What has been achieved 2017/18:

- ✓ Strengthened the LSCB's Performance Dashboard to include a wider range of multi-agency data and make the impact of multi-agency work and outcomes for vulnerable children clearer to monitor.
- ✓ Conducted a 'Learning and Impact' Review of the LSCB's case review and audit work over the past three years. This involved reviewing the impact on practice, and outcomes for children, from the recommendations made in serious case reviews and audits, and identifying how the learning from LSCB activity could be strengthened.
- ✓ Developed and strengthened the 2018 'Section 11' toolkit which supports agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of their arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- ✓ Held a 'deep dive' audit on two long-term neglect cases, engaging a range of practitioners involved with the families. The approach allowed auditors to get a better view about the challenges of the work, and to recommend piloting a new way of working with families where there is neglect.
- ✓ During 2017/18 the QA sub-group held three thematic audits: Children with Disabilities, Sexual Abuse and Private Fostering. Auditors were also involved in the annual MACE audit on child exploitation.
- ✓ Developed the first learning summary for managers and practitioners on the findings from the Child Sexual Abuse Audit, which includes '[learning for practice](#)' discussion points for team meetings and group supervision.

The Quality Assurance Subgroup facilitated a 'LSCB Performance' breakout session at the November Board meeting; this was to ensure all Board members were engaged with the LSCB's performance management arrangements and to identify ways to strengthen the LSCB Performance Dashboard. While the LSCB agreed that oversight by the QA Subgroup and escalation process was robust, further improvements to the dashboard could be made.

Since November, the dashboard has been updated to include significant events and benchmarking, where available, and improved commentary. The Dashboard has been reorganised to better display 'multi-agency impact on practice' and impact on vulnerable children's outcomes. Additional indicators relating to children with health related vulnerabilities and children with family related vulnerabilities have been added. This has made it easier to link performance in similar areas and escalate indicators for LSCB attention at the Steering Group.

During 2017/18 the QA subgroup has overseen the 'Learning and Impact' Review of the LSCB's case review and audit work. The review was tasked with providing an evidence base for the LSCB's impact on frontline safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and families. 147 recommendations from serious case reviews, management reviews and case file audits, conducted over the past three years, were analysed to identify: a) any common learning, issues or areas for safeguarding development; and b) inform future learning and improvement activity or strengthen the LSCB's capacity in this area. The results of the Learning and Impact Review were shared with Board members at the April Board meeting with a final report due to be published in summer 2018.



### Spotlight on Learning & Impact Review

Recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the LSCB's learning and improvement function included:

- ✓ Guidance for Serious Case Reviews amended to ensure recommendations are consistent in each report and proportionate to desired impact
- ✓ Recommendations and actions arising from serious case review work to be clearer and more specific about the desired impact and/or change to be achieved.
- ✓ Consider prioritising recommendations for immediate or longer term action
- ✓ Action planning more robustly tested with agencies and Board
- ✓ More frequent review of the impact of SCR work at QA Subgroup and Board
- ✓ Frequent sharing of learning with Training Subgroup to review and inform training plans.
- ✓ Strengthen ways to disseminate learning to front line staff, for example learning briefings.

During 2017/18 the QA Subgroup has steered the development of the pan-Sussex 2018 Section 11 self-evaluation audit tool. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on organisations to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Section 11 Audit is a key source of evidence, for agencies and the LSCB, of how well organisations are working to keep children safe. In consultation with the QA subgroup, the 'recognition and response to risk' section was updated to include current safeguarding issues such as agencies recognition and response to: the role of fathers, male partners and significant males; safeguarding children who do not attend school; working with 'hard to engage' families; neglect; and online safety. The Section 11 audit tool was sent out to agencies at the start of April 2018 and results will be reported to the Board in autumn 2018, and captured in next year's LSCB Annual Report.

During 2017/18 the QA sub-group held three thematic audits: Children with Disabilities, Sexual Abuse and Private Fostering and one 'deep dive' audit on neglect. The Forward Plan of thematic audits reflects the LSCB priorities, learning identified in Serious Case Reviews and issues identified from performance information. Additionally, many of the QA sub-group auditors took part in the annual Multi-Agency Child Exploitation audit. Of the 24 cases audited 9 were graded 'Good' and 13 were graded with elements of practice that 'require improvement'. The majority of the cases with this grading were as a result of specific individual gaps/weakness in practice. However, auditors identified elements of good practice in almost all of these cases.

In the majority of cases, auditors found: the immediate risk to the child was removed quickly after a disclosure or referral; very good multi-agency work and communication, including across local authorities; well attended strategy discussions; the child's needs were considered using relationship based practice; the voice of the child was carefully considered and reflected in child focussed work (including the use of specialist communication tools, observations and discussion with siblings to gain the views of children with disabilities); and assessment and support was good. In the neglect deep dive audit, auditors found evidence of: very good and creative practice to engage the parents and children, to create change and strong evidence of good relationship based practice.



### Spotlight on Neglect Deep Dive Audit

The LSCB's Quality Assurance Subgroup conducted a 'deep dive' audit, involving practitioners engaged with the families, on two complex neglect cases in September 2017.

Both cases had had children's services involvement for around 20 years. They both involved large family groups with long term complex problems including parents out of employment, parents with a mental health diagnosis and children with differing needs and vulnerabilities.

The audit involved a reflective discussion with practitioners about what had enabled good practice with the family and what challenges they had faced at various key points.

There was evidence of very good and creative practice to engage the parents and children, to engender change and strong evidence of good relationship based practice. Recommendations included: Children's Services consider developing a way or working with families where there is long term chronic neglect.

- The East Sussex LSCB to raise a request with the Pan Sussex Procedures subgroup to consider whether the procedures could be worded to promote **group supervision to core group professionals in complex cases** and/or direct to local operational instructions (guidance to staff) that promote this
- Children's Services consider having a **legal advisor at Care Planning Forum meetings**. *This is now happening.*
- Social workers to also record the **positive achievements in the chronology so that professionals can see the family's potential** and what is working well.

### Recommendations/findings made in 2017/18 included:

- The continuing local and national shortage of appropriately qualified intermediaries to support young children through the Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) process.
- Better local reporting of privately fostered children coming to England to study.
- The need for greater clarity and consistency around the requirements for Social Workers to undertake a home visit children who are placed in families by local language schools.
- The importance, in cases of long term chronic neglect, of having reflective time to robustly discuss cases within, and between, teams and agencies.
- Children's Services to consider developing a different strategic model of service delivery for long term chronic neglect.
- The LSCB to raise a request with the Pan Sussex Procedures subgroup to amend the procedures so that they can provide the basis for group supervision to core group professionals in complex cases.

The Quality Assurance subgroup has also started to produce 'learning briefings' for practitioners and managers on the key learning and recommendations arising from the subgroup's audit work. The first briefing, following the Child Sexual Abuse audit, included key findings, areas of good practice, recommendations made, links to further information, and 'learning for practice' discussion points to take forward in team meetings or group supervision.

### Next steps – looking beyond 2018:

- ✓ Strengthen 'early help' performance information in the 2018/19 LSCB Dashboard.
- ✓ Update the LSCB's Learning and Improvement Framework to include recommendations from the LSCB's Learning & Impact Review.
- ✓ Ensure recommendations from the LSCB's Learning & Impact Review are taken forward in current/future Serious Case Reviews.
- ✓ Promote learning and best practice from the Section 11 evaluation of safeguarding practice.
- ✓ Consider how to better involve LSCB Lay Members and capture the voice of the child in audit work.
- ✓ Ensure that learning from audit work is regularly shared with the Training Subgroup so that recent learning is reflected in the LSCB's training programme.

## 4.4 Serious Case Reviews

The LSCB Case Review Subgroup meets every month and is a well-established multi-agency group which reviews cases and, using the guidance set out in Working Together, makes recommendations to the Independent Chair and Board, about whether a Serious Case Review (SCR), or another type of review is required.

Cases considered by the group are referred in by group members, professionals from partner agencies, or are identified by the Child Death Overview Panel.

Between April 2017 and March 2018, there were no new SCRs started, although a number of new referrals were considered. One SCR (which had begun in a previous year) was published. This concerned Family S, a case where two young children had experienced significant neglect.

The full SCR report can be accessed here: [Family S Serious Case Review](#).

In addition, a learning briefing can be accessed here: [Family S learning briefing](#). This provides a useful four page overview, including the reasons for undertaking a SCR, the key features of the case, headlines about the recommendations made, example of actions taken since the review, and further reading and links e.g. to the East Sussex neglect toolkit.

The final page of the learning briefing, which has been distributed widely and is available on the LSCB web-page, encourages teams to use the learning for practice questions to ensure the learning is disseminated:

**Learning for practice**

The LSCB invite you to discuss some of the issues raised in this serious case review in your team meetings or during group supervision. We encourage your responses to be included in your team minutes and forwarded to the safeguarding lead within your organisation.

**Points for discussion:**

- Signs of neglect**
  - ✓ What are the signs of neglect that might have been evident in a family like this?
  - ✓ How confident are you/your team at recognising neglect?
- Professional curiosity**
  - ✓ How are you professionally curious? How might you have been professionally curious with a family like this?

The slide features a circular diagram with five segments: 'Recognising signs of neglect, including non-registration with GP', 'Effective use of assessment tools to highlight vulnerabilities', 'Visits to the family home', 'Role of fathers, partners and other men', and 'school absence and managing safeguarding concerns'. A small number '4' is in the top right corner of the slide.

## 4.5 Training

East Sussex LSCB provides a thriving and well attended training programme, which is well respected by partner agencies. During 2017/18 the training programme continued to offer a diverse range of courses, including new subjects such as Harmful Practices and Child Sexual Exploitation: Boys and Young Men.



All of the forthcoming LSCB training courses can be accessed via the [ES Learning Portal - LSCB](#).

The LSCB Training Subgroup meets quarterly to review the training programme, and to analyse key data including: number of courses run, numbers of attendees, attendees by agency, courses that were cancelled (and reasons), use of free e-learning modules, and the evaluation/feedback from attendees. The Subgroup now also includes a regular slot on LSCB communication which links closely to training and learning e.g. learning briefings about audit outcomes and serious case reviews.

The LSCB training offer is planned and delivered by the LSCB Training Consultant alongside a 'pool' of 63 experienced local practitioners. Only a very small number of external expert trainers are commissioned to provide courses. The training pool, which delivers the majority of LSCB courses, is a valuable resource and mutually beneficial to the training programme and to the practitioners who deliver training as they are able to gain new skills alongside their day to day practice.

To support the training pool, three development sessions were held during 2017/18; this provided an opportunity to share knowledge and information, look at local and national developments, and ensure that the training pool is thanked for its contributions.

Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, 52 training courses were delivered, attended by 903 participants from a variety of statutory, private and voluntary agencies. In 2017/18 the LSCB ran approximately 10 fewer courses than the previous year, but achieved an increase in the number of overall participants. This is the result of targeted publicity for courses, and the work of the Training Subgroup.

The courses offered in 2017/18 cover a wide range of subjects, some examples being:

- ✓ **Understanding Safeguarding in a Digital World**
- ✓ **Working with Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues**
- ✓ **Identifying Sexual Abuse of Children**
- ✓ **Consent, Sex and Young People**
- ✓ **Learning from Serious Case reviews**
- ✓ **Safeguarding Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities**

Participants are invited to evaluate, and give feedback about, the training they attend. On average around 46% of participants complete the evaluation which is sent to them electronically after the training has taken place. Over time it has become clear that the online version of the evaluation form

results in more in-depth narrative or qualitative information, which can be used purposefully to review, inform, and improve the training offer.



### Spotlight on Parental Mental Health

During 2017/18 there were five professional level workshops held on the Impact of Parental Health on Children and Young People, attended by 93 professionals. This training is designed and delivered collaboratively by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) and the LSCB.

Children who live with parents with severe and enduring mental health problems, particularly where there are additional risk factors such as drug and alcohol use and domestic abuse, are particularly at risk of harm. For example, parents and carers may: experience inappropriate or intense anger or difficulties controlling their anger around their children, have rapid or extreme mood swings, leaving children frightened, confused and hyper-vigilant, be withdrawn, apathetic and emotionally unavailable to their children, have trouble recognising children's needs and responding to them, and/or may neglect basic standards of hygiene and their own and their children's physical needs (NSPCC resource: [Cleaver et al, 2011](#); [Hogg, 2013](#))

Following the workshops, 31 attendees completed the evaluation/feedback questionnaire about the course, of those: 10 rated the course as 'Excellent', 14 gave an overall rating as 'Very Good' and 7 gave an overall rating as Good. All 31 attendees took time to write comments which gave a good level of feedback about the impact of this training course.

Below are some examples of answers to the question: 'How will your Learning Improve Outcomes for Children?'

*"I have a more in depth understanding about how children react to their parents that have mental health issues and feel I now have the skills to look out for these indicators"*

*"My learning will improve as I will be able to see early signs of parent mental health and can use this knowledge to support parents in my setting"*

*"I shall include this learning when considering the day in the life of the child" feel that I am better able to discuss the impact on adult mental health on children and hope that through practice and use of the resources my confidence continues to develop in this area"*

*"Promote open discussion about mental illness in families. I feel more confident in raising questions to children & young people about their experiences & feel better equipped to respond"*

The evaluation returns tell us that training is very well received with the vast majority of participants rating their training as either good or excellent. For example, in Quarter 4 (January, February and March 2018), 14 courses ran with a total of 235 participants, 46% of whom completed the evaluation survey. From those returns: 6% rated their training as 'average', 50% rated it as 'good', and 44% rated the training as 'excellent'

## 4.6 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 therefore reviews the deaths of all children in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

### The work of the CDOP

Between April 2017 and March 2018, the CDOP was notified of 42 deaths in total; 34 deaths were children living in East Sussex, and 8 deaths were children living in Brighton & Hove. The number of children who died has increased since last year when there were 32 deaths notified (21 in East Sussex and 11 in Brighton & Hove). During this period, the CDOP met 11 times, reviewing a total of 42 (34 East Sussex & 9 Brighton & Hove) deaths.

The CDOP is well attended. There is a strong commitment from the Chair and multi-agency panel members to carefully consider the information presented about each child death as this can make a real difference to keeping children safer by informing future practice. The opportunity to provide the panel function for Brighton and Hove LSCB widens the learning and knowledge sharing about child deaths, particularly where there may be preventable factors.

### Local Developments, Challenges and Achievements

During the last year the CDOP co-ordinator function has been fulfilled by the CDOP co-ordinator for West Sussex CDOP. This has been a positive development and currently the three LSCBs are considering whether there could be closer working arrangements in the future which would enable all three areas to meet the requirements of the new national guidance for CDOPs which will be published soon.

An example of improved joint working across the three LSCBs has been the work undertaken in the last year on deaths from suicide. As all three LSCBs had experienced a number of such deaths, some of which have required serious case reviews, there was some co-ordinated work across the three LSCBs. All areas felt there was merit in better linking work on children and young people to improve our learning about risk and preventative factors. In February, facilitated by the LSCB Business Manager in East Sussex, the three Public Health leads from West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, and East Sussex met with a view to: pull together available data and analysis on suicides across Sussex; and scope areas that would benefit from a joint focus and sharing of best practice. The group met subsequently in July. These meetings have informed local suicide prevention thinking for children and young people which will be included in the updated Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan for East Sussex.

## CDOP Recommendations to East Sussex LSCB 2017-18

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.

During 2017/2018 there were no recommendations made to the LSCBs regarding the need for a serious case review and there were also no recommendations made regarding matters of concern about the safety and welfare of children, and wider public health concerns.

## 4.7 Pan-Sussex Procedures

### [Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual](#)

The Pan Sussex Procedures Group reviews, updates and develops safeguarding policies and procedures in response to local and national issues, changes in legislation, practice developments, and learning from serious case reviews and audits. The procedures are a tool for professionals working with children and families across Sussex. The group meets four times a year and has a membership drawn from key agencies across the LSCBs in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.



### Spotlight on Pan Sussex Procedures Conference on Neglect

Each year the Pan Sussex Procedures Group hosts a conference based on an important area of practice development, and related to reviewed or updated procedures. In 2017 the theme of neglect was chosen, and a conference was held with over 100 delegates attending from a wider range of agencies.

The key themes of this conference included:

- The importance of remaining child focussed when identifying and tackling neglect
- Understanding, and working with disguised compliance (giving the appearance of cooperation)
- Understanding the long term impact of neglect on children
- Reflect on the timing and effect of professional intervention
- Sharing good practice across Sussex to improve outcomes for children



**Local Safeguarding Children Boards**  
**Pan Sussex Neglect Conference**  
Monday 27 November 2017, 9am-4.30pm  
Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Rd, Brighton BN2 9XZ

One of the key speakers at this event was Dr Jenny Molloy, author of *Hackney Child*, published in 2014. Jenny's presentation on childhood neglect and her reality of being invisible [as a child living with neglect] really set the tone for a thought provoking and purposeful conference.

## 4.8 Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups

The LSCB facilitates two 'Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups' (LSCLG) which cover the East and the West of the county. The group provides a dynamic forum for sharing information (e.g. about service developments or referral pathways), strengthens multi-agency working, disseminates learning, escalates practice issues, and promotes LSCB training courses relevant to topics discussed and group membership.

The group is very popular and is attended by a range of front-line practitioners and managers across partner agencies. In 2017/18 a total of 12 meetings were held.

### The group's aims include:

- To promote positive working relationships, effective communication, and information sharing between agencies.
- To ensure the LSCB priorities and related action plans are implemented and learning from audits and serious case reviews is disseminated across partner agencies.
- To allow a safe forum for professional challenge and case discussion in order to learn, develop and improve practice.

The group invites guest speakers, or speakers from within the group membership, and covers a diverse range of topics. Some of the highlights of the meetings this year have been:

- ✓ Presentation on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) – this included the latest research and practice, and led to group discussion about the lack of awareness of FAS by professionals working with children, and the wider population. Information was available for group members to take back to their teams to share.
- ✓ Presentation from the Principal Social Worker in Children's Services on the neglect strategy and toolkit - this led to discussion about responses to neglect and the experience of the child. Copies of the toolkit, which uses evidenced based tools to work with families, were available for group members to take away, use and share.
- ✓ Presentation on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and the Government Dispersal Scheme – this included information about the work East Sussex are doing with vulnerable children, and a number of Syrian families, as part of the Government's national dispersal programme. Housing and education provision were highlighted as priority needs.
- ✓ Presentation on Electively Home Educated (EHE) Children – this included information about the number of EHE children in East Sussex, and discussion on the key safeguarding issues that can be relevant for this group of children. It was also an opportunity to discuss case examples, and the potential legislative changes which could raise the profile of this group of children. The LSCB training on 'Hidden Children' was also promoted at this session.
- ✓ Presentations by Hastings Voluntary Action, and Eastbourne Voluntary and Community Sector – this included practical information about the range of groups in East Sussex within the voluntary sector and how they support children and families.
- ✓ Presentation about the role of Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHW) – this included information about the weekly GP drop-in service and the Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder service. The group were keen to know about how to access the PMHW service and took back information to their teams.

Each year the Chair of the LSCLG invites feedback from group members to ensure the group remains purposeful and relevant. The feedback received indicated how valued the group is, and included the following comments:

*“As a newer member of the group I would like to express how valuable I find attending the LSCLG. I have particularly valued the speakers who have attended to share information about the services they offer and the opportunity for discussion which I am then able to share with colleagues.”* **Primary Care Safeguarding Trainer.**

*“The subgroup provides the opportunity to look at different aspects of safeguarding from the perspective of a range of services and disciplines. It also helps in keeping up to date with current practice across a range of services.”* **Area Manager for Health Visiting and Children’s Centres.**

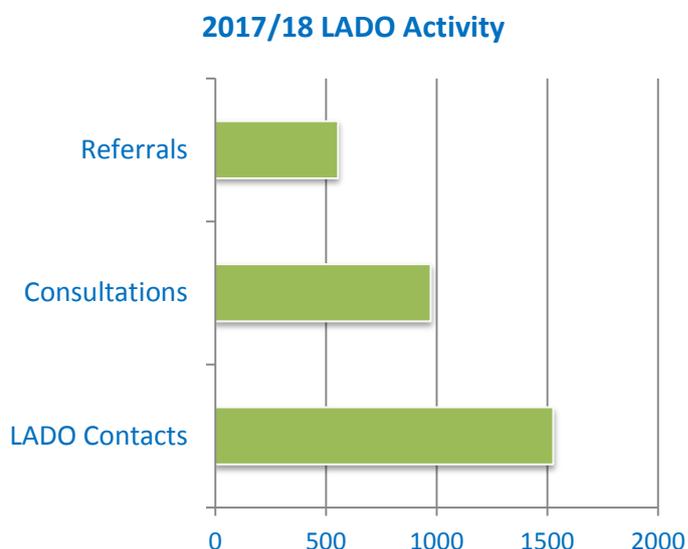
*“I find the group very useful for keeping up with the local picture for safeguarding across the agencies. I find all the updates useful in getting a cohesive picture. The recent presentation on social media and apps was very useful and we used this in recent staff training and in some recent presentations with parents and carers around online safety.”* **Designated Safeguarding Lead for a local school.**

## 4.9 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO responds to allegations made about people who work with children. There were 1,528 LADO contacts in 2017/18, which is an average of 127 contacts per month or 29 new contacts per week. There were a total of 974 consultations during 2017/18, a slight increase on 964 from the previous year. Referrals to the LADO increased from 416 to 555, an increase of 33%. This increase in referrals means that the LADO now has an average of 140-175 open cases compared to 90-100 during 2016/17.

With the focus on case work, the increase in open cases during 2017/18 has impacted on the administrative capacity of the LADO. A new LADO case management system, to help with the recording and tracking of cases, should be available from July 2018 to help relieve pressure on the service.

Allegations about professional conduct was the highest category of referral at 35%, and allegations around suitability linked to a person’s private life accounted for 29% of all enquiries; overtaking physical abuse in professional role as the second highest category. There were 402 contacts regarding education staff, an increase of 25% from the previous year. Contact with schools increased by 20%, with Education being the highest referrer by a significant margin, followed by Social Care.



During 2017/18 there has been increased awareness regarding concerns linked to private tutors, including in elective home education settings, and recording has been strengthened regarding adults who have come to attention. National statistics suggest that at least 44% of teachers have, at some point, offered private tuition and approximately 25% of children have had some form of private tuition. It is estimated the industry is worth £2bn and it is currently unregulated. Locally, the LADO focus has been to promote the routine requesting of DBS checks and references by parents via schools.

Over the last year referrals were made about 29 sports coaches, 5 private tutors (two of whom have recently been subject to Police investigations), 9 drama or dance teachers, and 3 music teachers. If those adults are self-employed and not affiliated with a professional body, disrupting their activities in the event of serious concerns is a challenge, and work is ongoing around sharing information when risks are identified, in addition to developing safer practices for settings promoting activities or renting out their premises to individuals. The LADO is developing a leaflet giving advice to parents around safeguarding checks for tutors, sports coaches and other extra-curricular activities.

There have been some recent issues in East Sussex regarding safer recruitment of taxi drivers and passenger escorts. Safeguarding training is planned in 2018/19 with ESCC Transport for taxi licensing teams and providers. Topics will include understanding and effective reporting of child protection concerns, safer recruitment and allegations management to be set up with Transport over the next year, with a view to considering the need for additional training if required.

The LSCB's Managing Allegations training was delivered twice a year, but six sessions have taken place since January 2018 with a further three planned between October and December. The training has been updated and is run over four hours instead of three, to allow more time for case studies, incorporating learning from serious case reviews, DBS disclosures, safer recruitment, the role of HR and social media issues. This will continue to be kept under review, with additional dates offered if there is a demand for more sessions.

## 5. Appendices

### (5.A) Board Membership

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Reg Hooke (Chair)	Independent East Sussex LSCB Chair
Sally Williams	Manager, East Sussex LSCB
Victoria Jones	Manager, East Sussex LSCB
Maria Bayne	Lay Member, East Sussex LSCB
Maxine Nankervis	LSCB Administrator

Alice Webster	Director of Nursing, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (ESHT)
Allison Cannon	Chief Nurse, NHS Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Debbie Barnes	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, East Sussex
Domenica Basini	Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality, Nursing and Quality Directorate NHS England
Jane Bruce	Deputy Chief Nurse, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
Jeanette Waite	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children East Sussex
Sharon Gardner-Blatch	Deputy Director of Nursing, ESHT
Sue Curties	Head of Safeguarding, (Adults and Children) ESHT
Tracey Ward (Deputy Chair)	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, East Sussex
Vikki Carruth	Director of Nursing, ESHT
Sara Songhurst	South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb)

Carwyn Hughes	Det. Superintendent, Public Protection Command, Sussex Police
Fiona McPhearson	Det. Superintendent, Sussex Police
Hannah Willard	DCI Public Protection Command, Sussex Police
Jason Tingley	Head of Public Protection, East Sussex Police
Andrea Saunders	Head of the National Probation Service, Sussex
Debbie Piggott	KSS, CRC – Head of Service, Assessment & Rehabilitation
David Kemp	Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Andrea Holtham	Service Manager, Sussex CAF/CASS

Jerry Lewis	Principal Deputy Head Teacher, Bede's Senior School
Jo Cruttenden	Student Services Manager, Plumpton College
Richard Green	Deputy Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School
Richard Preece	Executive Head teacher, Torfield & Saxon Mount Federation
Sarah Pringle	Head Teacher, Seahaven Academy, Newhaven

Catherine Dooley	Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness (5-19), Children's Services
Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services

<b>Fraser Cooper</b>	Safeguarding Adult Board Manager
<b>George Kouridis</b>	Head of Service Adult Safeguarding
<b>Justine Armstrong</b>	Safer Communities Manager
<b>Liz Rugg</b>	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services
<b>Richard Grout</b>	Legal Services Manager
<b>Ruth Szulecki</b>	Early Years Development Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, Children's Services
<b>Stuart Gallimore</b>	Director of Children's Services
<b>Sylvia Tidy</b>	Lead Member for Children and Families
<b>Tania Riedel</b>	Operations Manager, Youth Justice Team, Children's Services
<b>Vicky Finnemore</b>	Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services
<b>Victoria Spencer-Hughes</b>	Consultant in Public Health

<b>Jeremy Leach</b>	Principal Policy Adviser, Wealden District Council
<b>Malcolm Johnston</b>	Executive Director for Resources, Rother District Council
<b>Pat Taylor</b>	Strategy & Commissioning Lead for Community & Partnership Lewes & Eastbourne District Councils
<b>Verna Connolly</b>	Head of Personnel and Organisational Development, Hastings Borough Council

<b>Micky Richards</b>	Change Grow Live, Director Operations
<b>Kate Lawrence</b>	Chief Executive Home-Start East Sussex

## (5.B) LSCB Budget

### Actual Income & Expenditure 2017/18

Actual Income 2017/18		Actual Expenditure 2017/18	
Sussex Police	£12,500	Independent Chair	£20,500
National Probation Service	£1,434	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE	£79,700
Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) CRC	£2,500		
CAFCASS	£550	Administrator	£20,400
CCGs	£40,000	Administration	£6,825
Change Live Grow (CLG)	£750	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	£33,300
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£168,000	Trainer	£53,700
Training Income	£12,380	Training Administration	£810
		Training Programme and Conferences	£6,700
		Projects	£16,100
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£2,015
Brighton & Hove CC contribution for CDOP	£12,500	IT Software & Hardware	£1,000
		Serious Case Reviews	£0
LSCB brought forward from 16/17	£35,736	Carry forward	£45,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£286,350</b>		<b>£286,350</b>

## Projected Income and Expenditure 2018/19

Projected Income 2018/2019		Projected Expenditure 2018/2019	
Sussex Police	£12,500	Independent Chair	£21,000
National Probation Service	£1,434	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE	£83,300
Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) CRC	£2,500		
CAFCASS	£550		
CCGs	£40,000	Administrator	£20,100
Change Live Grow (CLG)	£750	Administration	£10,000
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£168,000	Child Death Overview Panel	£33,500
Training Income	£7,500	Trainer	£53,800
Brighton & Hove CC contribution for CDOP	£12,500	Training Administration	£1,000
		Training Programme and Conferences	£14,700
		Projects	£15,000
LSCB brought forward from 17/18	£45,300	Pan Sussex Procedures	£2,500
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,000
		Serious Case Reviews	£15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£291,034</b>		<b>£270,900</b>

## **(5.C) Links to other documents –**

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

[Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2017-21](#)

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

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

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2016-17](#)