

East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report 2019/20



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Foreword by Reg Hooke, East Sussex Safeguarding Partnership Independent Chair



It is my privilege to present to you the first annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) for the period 2019/20. The ESSCP replaced the previous statutory arrangements to safeguard children on 29th September 2019 and so this report overlaps with the transition to the new partnership.

It is the statutory responsibility of the local authority, police and health agencies to jointly oversee multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children in the county. As Independent Chair I assist the statutory agencies by providing independent challenge and scrutiny of those arrangements as well as helping to foment better multi-agency strategic working to protect vulnerable children and young people and ensure positive outcomes for them. Following consultation with children, families and those engaged working with children, we set four partnership priorities for 2020 to 2023 where we believe maximum improvement can be made to safeguarding in East Sussex. These are: Child Exploitation, Education Safeguarding, Safeguarding Children Under 5 and Embedding a Learning Culture. Next year's report will focus heavily on the impact of this work.

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

As new arrangements bedded in, the last few months of the year provided totally unanticipated challenges as Covid-19 hit the UK. At the time of writing I can report that the impact on children and on the safeguarding system is substantial, creating additional risk groups and major challenges to those working on the safeguarding front line. Whilst the full impact on children and services will continue to emerge in the months ahead, what is clear is that local leadership and front line dedication has already shown that the county has a highly adaptive partnership with an admirable level of flexibility to meet the new challenges. Covid-19 is a long term and persistent issue for us and I want to acknowledge the great work done by so many in rising to the challenge of the global pandemic and continuing to do so.

The safeguarding arrangements for the diversity of children in East Sussex is a complex subject but the report has been structured and illustrated to help ease the reader through that complexity. I hope you find the report interesting and informative.

1. Key Learning & Achievements 2019/20

- 2 multi-agency Rapid Reviews conducted to respond to serious incidents
- 3 learning briefings (1 joint with Safeguarding Adult's Board) and 1 Serious Case Review published
- Impact of learning from Child T Serious Case Review evident in positive outcome of Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services for children (February 2020)

- Development of new partnership framework
- Successful transition from Safeguarding Board to a Safeguarding Partnership
- Successful transition of Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) responsibility from LSCB to a new Pan Sussex CDOP led by Public Health and CCGs
- Launch of new, fit for purpose, ESSCP website
- Developing a safeguarding 'pledge' to children and young people

- 963 multi-agency staff attended 54 training courses
- 94% of evaluations rated course as Excellent or Good



Training

Serious Case Reviews

Partnership development

Agreeing Business Priorities 2020-23

Case File Audits

Safeguarding theme

- Developing a local 'Contextual Safeguarding' response to children with multiple needs
- Agreement to adopt ICON programme to reduce infant head trauma
- Supporting County-wide roll out of Operation Encompass to ensure support for children experiencing domestic abuse
- Contributed to Joint Targeted Area Inspection on mental health

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

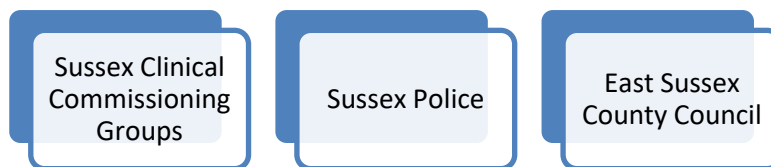
- Four audits held: one regular case file audit, one audit on strategy discussions, one thematic audit on children with disability and a deep dive audit on Care Leaver pre-birth assessment
- All cases demonstrated good initial response and an effective response to safeguard the child. No children were found to be unsafe.

2. Governance Arrangements

2.1 Overview of the Partnership

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

The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Board formally moved to the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) on the 29 September 2019. For the first half of 2019/20 the ESSCP worked to prepare and implement the transitional arrangements, whilst ensuring that the major safeguarding functions continued. The three ESSCP safeguarding partners are:



The ESSCP acts as a forum for safeguarding partners to:

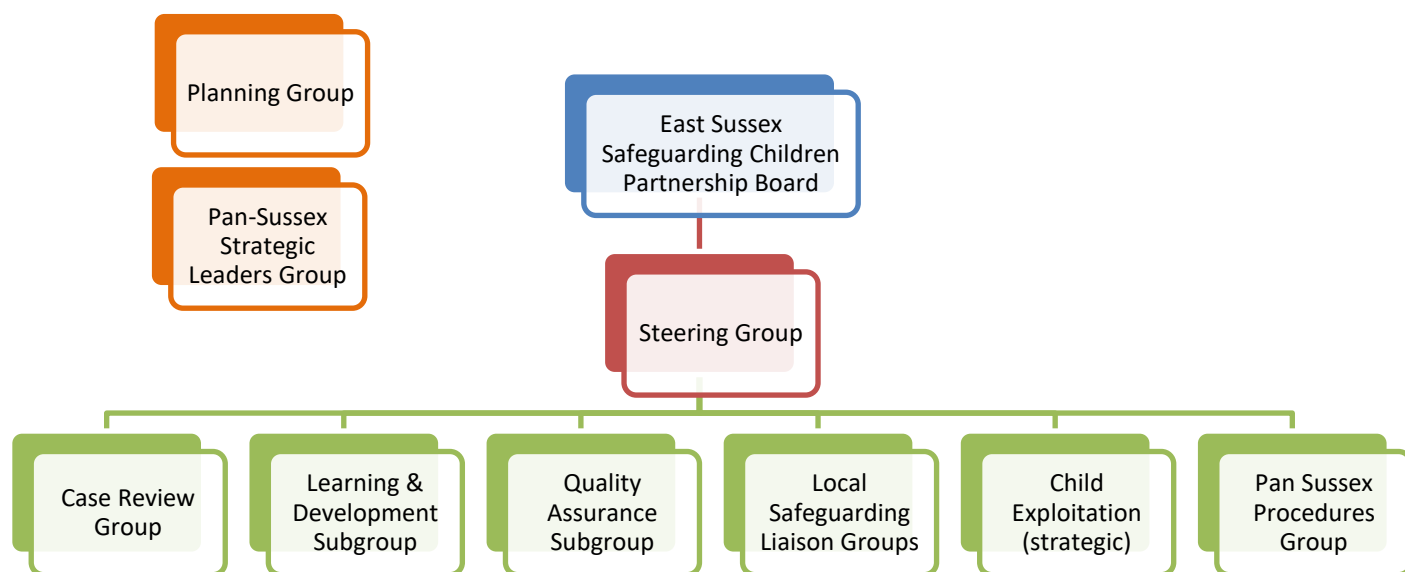
- agree on ways to coordinate safeguarding services in (the geographical local authority borders of) East Sussex;
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging other agencies across East Sussex; and
- implement local, regional and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding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

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board in East Sussex was well established and effective, as reflected in the Ofsted Inspection of East Sussex Children's Services (Sept 2018). Consultation with members resulted in minimal changes to the way the Safeguarding Board was run beyond the statutory requirements to make changes. This is because it works well, and it makes a difference to the children and young people in East Sussex.

2.2 Partnership Structure and Subgroups

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

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



The three ESSCP safeguarding partners and the Independent chair form the Planning Group, which also meets quarterly. The Planning Group discusses and agrees the short term agenda for the work of the partnership and addresses any emerging issues.

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

2.3 Links to Other Partnerships

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

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

The ESSCP produces an ‘annual report’ on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in East Sussex. The annual report will be presented to the East Sussex

County Council People Scrutiny Committee, East Sussex SAB, the Safer Communities Board and other ESSCP member organisations' senior management boards.

2.4 East Sussex Joint Targeted Area Inspection

In February 2020 the East Sussex Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) took place on the theme of children's mental health. The inspection was undertaken by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (Health), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (Police) and Fire & Rescue Services and HMI Probation (YOT). This joint inspection included an evaluation of the 'front door' and how agencies identify and respond to the inspection theme of children's mental health.

The [Inspection Letter](#) does not include an overall judgement, instead it sets out areas of strength across the partnership and areas for improvement. The letter noted that;

- *'Partnership arrangements in East Sussex are well established and effective. Children's emotional well-being and mental health are a high priority in strategic planning. Service development directed through the East Sussex local transformation plan is delivering improving services for children and young people with mental health needs.'*
- *'Leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to co-production with children and young people when implementing new or revised services. Leaders have continued to develop existing services to meet a greater range of children's emotional and well-being needs and have created new services to address emerging or lower levels of need. This work is supported by a highly effective Safeguarding Children Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.'*

The letter goes on to reference the work of the ESSCP:

- *'The Safeguarding Children Partnership provides robust scrutiny of a wide range of safeguarding arrangements. The partnership's performance dashboard has a breadth of key indicators across a range of partners and includes indicators about children's well-being and mental health, such as numbers of referrals to CAMHS. This routine scrutiny informs well-targeted quality assurance work. The Safeguarding Children Partnership also supports the strategic focus on schools and the voluntary sector having the capacity and resilience to provide accessible emotional well-being support to children. This is supported through a comprehensive training offer for partners, which is adapted to respond to demand and emerging themes, such as responding to children who self-harm.'*

During the JTAI, inspectors found that some areas of multi-agency working could be further strengthened, such as information sharing and that the use of qualitative feedback to demonstrate the impact of agencies could be improved. They also noted that most of these areas are already a focus within strategic and operational plans to improve outcomes for children. A multi-agency action plan has been developed to address these areas which is overseen by the ESSCP Steering Group.

2.5 ESSCP Priorities for 2020/23

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

Priority development took place at the start of the year, with both the Steering Group and Board, and were agreed by the three safeguarding partners in May 2020. The agreed ESSCP Priorities for 2020-2023 are:

1. Education Safeguarding

Lead: Senior Manager, Safeguarding and Assessment, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES), Children's Services

2. Child Exploitation

Joint Leads: Detective Chief Inspector, Safeguarding Investigation Unit, Sussex Police / Head Of Specialist Services, Children's Services

3. Embedding a Learning Culture

Lead: Manager, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

4. Safeguarding under 5s

Joint Leads: Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, Sussex CCG / Consultant in Public Health, Public Health

It is considered that the voice of the child and contextual safeguarding should be cross cutting over all the ESSCP priorities.

2.6 Safeguarding Context 2019/20



3. Impact of Partnership Activity during 2019/20

3.1 Voice of the Child

The ESSCP 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.

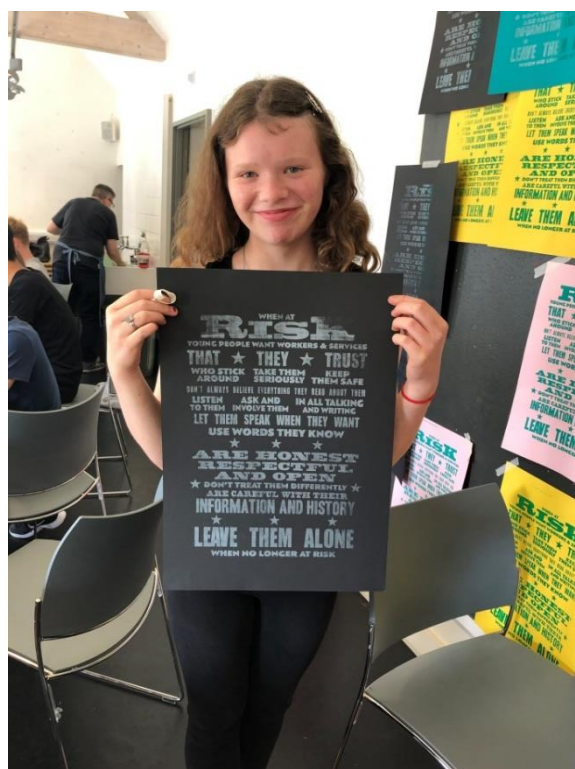
The ESSCP endeavours to ensure that children and young people are appropriately involved in the governance and decision making of the partnership. The ESSCP also challenges and holds partnership members to account on their engagement and involvement of children and young people within their own agencies, including through the section 11 audit process.

The ESSCP 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 the 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.

During 2019/20 the Partnership commissioned Priority 1-54 to work with young people from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers to develop a Pledge, for how the ESSCP would work with and support children at risk. The wording and ideas were then presented to the East Sussex Youth Cabinet for further feedback and discussion on the potential legacy of the Pledge. The final pledge artworks were created at Ditchling Museum with Screen Printer Pea Crabtree in September 2019 alongside members of the Through Care Participation Group, a Lay Member of the ESSCP and staff and young people from the Children in Care Council.

The pledge artworks provide a written manifesto directed at all staff engaged with at-risk young people, the statements read as a series of requests and recommendations on how they would like to be treated when at risk and supported. The aim will then be to use the artwork as a communications campaign and possible benchmarking process for staff and managers working with at risk young people. This could help inform, guide and shape how they directly work with this cohort.

The Partnership are considering how they can use the Pledge to challenge agencies on how they listen and engage children at risk and this will be a key action for 2020/21.



3.2 Lay Members

Lay Members play a critical role in the partnership. They act as ambassadors for the community and for the ESSCP by building stronger ties between the two, making the work of the ESSCP 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 Partnership. Lay Members support the work of the Partnership 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 ESSCP
- Ensuring that plans and procedures put in place by the ESSCP are available to the public
- Assisting the development of links between the ESSCP and community groups in East Sussex

In June 2018, the ESSCP recruited two new Lay Members – Graham Cook and Harriet Martin. Graham and Harriet are now well established as Partnership Members. As well as acting as a critical friend at Board meetings, providing additional challenge and scrutiny, during 2019/20 the Lay Members have:

- Led on the development of a Children’s Pledge through a series of art led workshops with a wide range of young people
- Participated in multi-agency workshops examining how agencies can respond to the problem of Modern Slavery, and identify and tackle county lines activity
- Attended a conference led by young people from across East Sussex where they talked about and proposed actions for their priority issues
- Become a standing member of the ESSCP Case Review Group

Graham:

This is my second year as a lay member, and I have continued to be impressed by the commitment and professionalism of all the staff I come in contact with. I had continued to attend Board meetings and other events until Covid-19 struck. This has had a considerable impact on how safeguarding work is carried out, but from my perspective all the agencies have risen to the challenge and found ways to continue to protect children and young people.

Harriet:

This has been my second year as lay member for the ESSCP. In January 2020 I became a member of the Case Review Group which has taken up most of my time as a Lay Member. This working group looks at cases where children have come to significant harm. The focus of reviews is always on the potential learning that could come out of them to reduce the risk of another child being harmed in similar circumstances. I have been fully included in the group and have endeavoured to make a contribution and not just act as an observer. As I reported last year I have been impressed by the commitment of and cooperation between agencies. I see part of my role as being a ‘critical friend’. It is worth noting that my experience on the Case Review Group is that generally all of the agencies have sufficient trust in each other to work together openly. I do not believe this is the case in many other authorities. I feel that it is partly because the ESSCP works so well that I am able to contribute. From my perspective the work is also very interesting. I look forward to continuing next year.

3.3 Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the work carried out by 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 six times per year and is made up of representatives from NHS organisations, Sussex Police and East Sussex Children's Services.

During 2019/20 the QA sub-group held four audits: one regular case file audit, one audit on strategy discussions, one thematic audit on children with disability and a deep dive audit on the assessment of Care Leavers about to become parents. Of the 18 cases audited and graded; 9 were graded Good; 8 cases were graded Requires Improvement and one case was graded Inadequate.

The deep dive audit on Care Leavers about to become parents looked at two cases in depth over a whole day. The cases were not graded, however the approach enabled auditors to capture a good understanding of the systemic and environmental challenges in achieving good outcomes for Care Leavers and their children.

The percentage of cases audited in 2019-2020 that were graded 'Good' was 50% and no children were found to be unsafe. The small number of cases audited does not necessarily reflect the overall picture of safeguarding practice in East Sussex, especially as the audits require complex cases to be chosen to enable better learning.

The majority of the cases graded Requires Improvement had evidence of very good practice but were graded as such as a result of specific individual gaps/weakness in practice.

Examples of concerns that led to the auditors grading cases as Requires Improvement included: a long delay in an assessment process; a lack of professional curiosity in a case; a long delay for the direct work to start due to a lack of suitably qualified staff and more delay at the end of the intervention; and lack of evidence in the records of direct work to improve the child's lived experience.

In the majority of cases auditors found:

- ✓ Good, quick identification and initial response to risk in all cases
- ✓ Good management oversight
- ✓ Good initial response and an effective response to safeguard the child
- ✓ Professionals looked beyond the immediate situation to identify the wider safeguarding context and risks
- ✓ The strategy discussion was held within timescales
- ✓ Good decision making and direct work with the child and family
- ✓ The voice of the child was carefully considered and reflected in child focused work.
- ✓ Good collaboration between different teams working with a child in Children's Services
- ✓ Excellent multi-agency working and record keeping

Findings from audits completed in 2019/20 included:

- Consideration should be given to inviting the relevant health professionals, including the GP, to all key multi-agency meetings.
- A child's school needs to be provided with up to date information about a child's status, the child's family situation and multi-agency decision making and activity to allow them to effectively support and safeguard that child.
- All actions in a Plan should be allocated with a clear timescale to be completed and details of what needs to change as a result of the actions.
- Social workers should capture the child's lived experience and the emotional impact upon them of their experiences when recording the voice of the child.
- The detail of what direct work is being delivered and by which agency should be clearly recorded on the child's record.
- The key role of effective and skilled communication with the care leaver in achieving good outcomes and positive change. Professionals skilfully used motivational interviewing techniques, ensured the Care Leaver was, and felt, listened to throughout, that they understood concerns professionals held and the difficulties that they would be facing. They felt that they owned the decisions and agreed with the practitioners.

With auditing such a relatively small sample of cases in a particular theme, auditors have to decide if findings could be representative of all cases, and present wider systemic issues, or an issue just within that single case.

For example, the children with disabilities audit prompted considerable discussion at the Partnership's Steering Group about learning identified in relation to joint visits and ABE interviews. The audit reports are not just useful in themselves, but useful to prompt single, and multi-agency, discussions about what may have happened in certain cases, and what action agencies are taking to strengthen practice.

3.4 Case Review Subgroup

The ESSCP Case Review Subgroup (CRG) 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 Local Children Safeguarding Practice Review is required. Cases considered by the group are referred in by group members or safeguarding professionals from partner agencies.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) Chapter 4 states that:

"The purpose of reviews of serious child safeguarding cases, at both local and national level, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally, but it has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policy-makers...Reviews should seek to prevent or reduce the risk of recurrence of similar incidents".

Local authorities notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (“the Panel”) within 5 working days of any serious incident where they know or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected and the child has died or been seriously harmed. Co-ordinated by the CRG, Safeguarding partners undertake a rapid review of the case within fifteen working days to determine if the criteria for a Local Children Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) has been met. The local authority must also notify the Secretary of State and Ofsted where a looked after child has died, whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

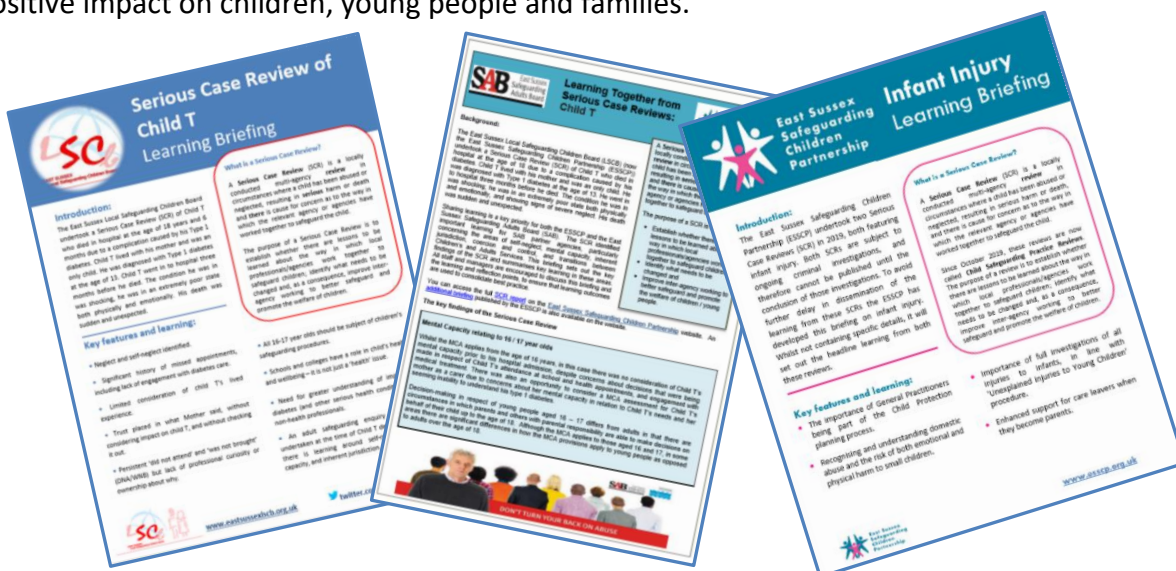
Two rapid reviews were undertaken in 2019/20. No new LCSPRs were initiated in 2019/20. Two of the Serious Case Reviews (SCR) initiated in 2018/19 both featured infant injury. Both SCR are currently subject to ongoing criminal investigations, and therefore cannot be published until the conclusion of those investigations. To avoid further delay in dissemination of the learning from these SCR the ESSCP developed a [learning briefing on infant injury](#). Whilst not containing specific details, it sets out the headline learning from both these reviews.

The third SCR initiated in 2018/19, Child T, was published on the 25th June 2019. Child T died in hospital aged 18 years and 6 months. His death was associated with his type 1 diabetes which he had developed as a child. This review highlights lessons learned about the way that agencies work together to safeguard children and vulnerable young adults in East Sussex.

- [East Sussex LSCB SCR – Child T – Overview Report](#)
- [East Sussex LSCB Child T SCR – Learning Briefing](#)
- [SAB/ESSCP Joint Child T Learning Briefing](#)

The learnings from the Child T SCR have been widely disseminated across multiagency partners, such as through the development of local procedures and the adaptation of training content. The impact of the learnings from the Child T SCR were evident in the positive outcome of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of services for children that took place in February 2020.

Alongside the new referrals, rapid reviews, and continuing SCR, the CRG are also continuously reviewing actions plans from previous reviews, ensuring that improvements are embedded in practice and there is a positive impact on children, young people and families.



3.5 Learning & Development

The ESSCP Learning & Development (L&D) Subgroup meets quarterly to review the partnership training programme, analyse training data such as attendance and evaluation feedback, and to develop training themes. The Subgroup also includes consideration of ESSCP communications which links to training and learning, such as learning briefings about audit outcomes and serious case reviews. The Subgroup comprises of representatives from the ESSCP, Health, Children's Services, Police and Education. ESSCP multi-agency training can be accessed via the [East Sussex Learning Portal](#).

The ESSCP training offer is supported by a 'pool' of experienced practitioners who give their time and expertise as part of their continuing professional development at no additional cost to the ESSCP. Only two external trainers are currently commissioned to provide courses as subject experts. To support the training pool, three development sessions were held during 2019/20. These provided the opportunity to share knowledge and information through a range of presentations delivered by practitioners and representatives from local organisations. This ensures training is evidence based, practitioners have the opportunity to support the development of the training offer and the training pool is thanked for its contributions throughout the year.

As in previous years, a large majority of participants continue to rate courses as either Excellent (49%) or Good (45%). During 2019/20 54 training courses ran with 1200 available places. 963 participants from a range of agencies attended which equates to 80% attendance across the 54 courses. Due to Covid-19 restrictions classroom-based training ceased from March 18th, 2020, resulting in the cancellation of 10 courses before the end of this reporting year. There are numerous on-line courses available through partnership with the Children's Services Workforce Development team; some as pre-requisites to the classroom-based courses as well as for the harder to reach audiences such as the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. There is now a large on-line training offer through the [East Sussex Learning Portal](#) and all the courses are currently free to access, but this may be subject to change in the future.

Extracts from course evaluations during 2019/20:

The **Neglect: Using Tools to Assess Parents' Ability to Make Positive Changes for Their Children** course in Quarter 1 had 10 returns out of 22 attendees with 8 people rating the course as **'Excellent'** and 2 as **'Good'**. Two people said they would put their learning into practice by:

'Use of toolkit to identify the extent to which neglect is a factor. Use of role play experience to apply to conversations/home visits where neglect is a possible/confirmed factor'

'Will disseminate key points to my team and suggest use of the neglect tool kit to inform referrals by other professionals when we close cases and they are dissatisfied with the outcome'

One person commented in relation to learning improving outcomes for children:

'Improved awareness of signs of neglect - being more confident to identify the signs and take these forward so they can be addressed, and thinking of ways to support the child in school with the personal, social and emotional development issues that are often caused by neglect'

The **Mental Health: Perspectives on Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues -Professional Level Workshop** that ran in Quarter 2 had 10 returns out of 21 attendees with 6 people rating the course as **'Excellent'** and 4 as **'Good'**

One person said they would put their learning into practice by:

"Now I have more knowledge of the subject it means I know what to look out for. I will be able to use what I learnt to have more effective conversations with parents and partners"

One person commented in relation to learning improving outcomes for children:

"This course has made me more aware of children's mental health and I feel more confident to support children with their emotional well-being. This will improve outcomes for children in a variety of ways. They will hopefully feel more comfortable knowing that there is somebody they can turn to who isn't their carer or close family member. Supporting them with their mental health will help them in other areas of their development and help them to feel more confident to take on the world"

The **Young People and Substance Misuse Professional Level** course that ran in Quarter 3 had 9 returns out of 18 attendees with 4 people rating the course as **"Excellent"** and 5 as **'Good'**

One person said they would put their learning into practice by:

"The twenty minutes of information from the Clinical Nurse was the most useful. The information he provided would have made a more informative training session as too much focused on basic drug awareness. Will use the risk awareness from the main course with clients. Will use FRANK and good to know about Re-Boot. Was also good to have some clarification on the law regarding possession and supply"

One person commented in relation to learning improving outcomes for children:

"Being equipped with new skills and current information prepares you for new challenges and enables you to be familiar with current languages and trends amongst our young people today"



The **Gangs, Youth Violence, Knives and Criminal Exploitation Awareness Training** course that ran in Quarter 4 had 21 attendees and 7 returns with 4 people rating the course as **'Excellent'** and 3 as **'Good'**

One person said they would put their learning into practice by:

"Within my work it has opened my eyes to the very real risk to my vulnerable boys and girls who get excluded or do not attend school, it has enabled me to be able to speak confidently to them on this subject hoping to prevent their association with those who are actively looking for vulnerable students/Young People - Adults not in EET"

One person commented in relation to learning improving outcomes for children:

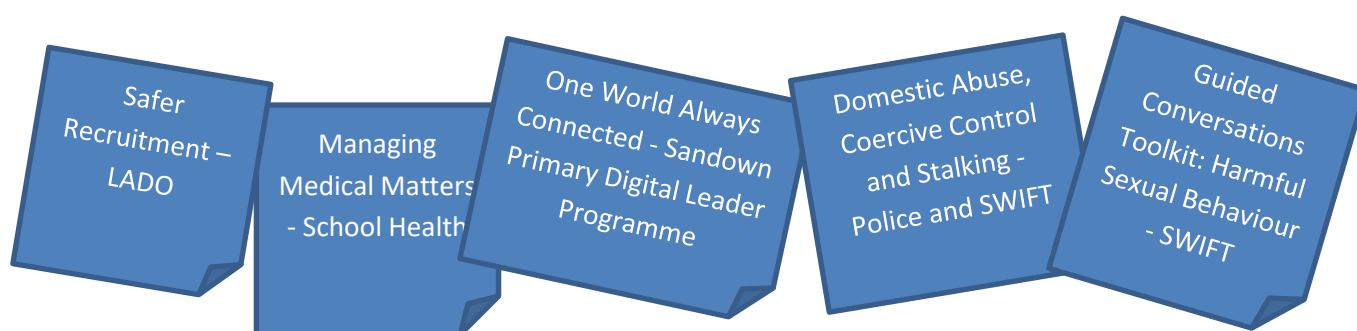
"I will be able to respond more quickly and have the necessary tools to hand when I believe a young person is at risk. Early identification and referral may help safeguard and divert young people away from crime"

Regrettably, the pan-Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Conference has been postponed to 2021/22 due to the impact of Covid-19 and social distancing restrictions. However, looking ahead to 2020/21 and beyond, the L&D subgroup have ambitious plans, including the refresh of the Learning & Improvement Framework, development of a Learning Strategy and review of the group's Terms of

Reference. The group will strengthen the consideration of pan-Sussex learning and communication opportunities, such as learning from Local Children Safeguarding Practice Reviews, procedural updates and national priorities. Pan-Sussex SCP working groups for communications and training are forming to support these themes. Alongside this, the Learning & Development Consultant will take forward with the development and delivery of virtual training sessions and resources to support distance learning and development.

Annual Schools Conference – 17th January 2020

The Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) hosted its annual Safeguarding Conference for over one hundred delegates from schools across the county, along with representatives from Health, Police, Social Care and the ESSCP. Reg Hooke, Independent Chair of the ESSCP opened the conference. Health colleagues gave the keynote speech ***'Working together to manage medical needs in schools'***. This was followed by a question and answer panel representing various elements of the Health Service for a multiagency conversation around some of the challenges of safeguarding children within the context of health and medical conditions. A key topic was that of consent and how without it Health colleagues are often not able to share information with schools. This is an area of work which SLES are taking forward with local Health partners in 2020/21. Conference Workshops offered were:



The afternoon presentation topic was ***BBC Own It App***. The Head of Editorial Standards and Safeguarding at Children’s BBC presented on the recently launched Own It App. This innovative app is downloaded onto a child’s phone and will actively monitor the content of their social media interactions. This is not an app which allows parents to spy on their children or relay data to another device, instead it will prompt children to reconsider the use of harmful language in messages or provide signposting to support if a child indicates they are distressed. The conference received positive feedback from attendees and was a great opportunity for networking with other Designated Safeguarding Leads and safeguarding colleagues from other agencies.

3.6 Child Death Overview Panel

The Pan-Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a function outside of the ESSCP that undertakes comprehensive reviews of child deaths (of children who usually reside within Sussex) in order to promote action that will reduce the risk of future child deaths occurring and support the inter-agency working to safeguard children and promote their welfare. During 2019 – 2020 the panel’s activity sought to drive improvements that would prevent child deaths, safeguard children and young people and improve care

and support for bereaved families and any affected communities. Every child death is reviewed to draw out any learning and to apply those lessons for the future.

Work has taken place to ensure that the panel is operating in line with the updated statutory requirements and that recommendations from the new National Child Death Review guidance on investigating and responding to child deaths are put in place and are working at a local level. The appointment of a dedicated nurse team has provided additional capacity alongside the Designated Doctor's for Child Deaths, adding the required strength to the review process. The new arrangements commenced in October 2019.

The CDOP Chair highlighted the following headlines from the CDOP Annual Report:

- The total number of deaths recorded during this year (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020) is the second lowest during the 11-year period that CDOP's have been in operation.
- Mortality rate for children aged under 18 in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex combined is significantly higher in the most deprived 40% of areas compared to the least deprived areas – this is in line with the national picture.
- At both a national and Sussex level the largest cause of death is a perinatal/neonatal event (37% for Sussex, 33% for England).
- Cancers are the largest cause of death in children aged 1-17 years, accounting for 24% of deaths in East Sussex for this age group.

CDOP advised the ESSCP that Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) remains one of the leading causes of infant death in the community and in all of the cases reviewed by the panel, modifiable factors were identified regarding the infants sleeping environment. The ESSCP will continue to develop and embed its multi-agency response to safe sleep learning within the 2020-2023 priority area of Safeguarding Under 5's.

In addition CDOP highlighted the role of the ICON programme, which has recently been launched in East Sussex, to support parents and carers to understand and cope with infant crying with a view to reducing the risk of Abusive Head Trauma - www.iconcope.org

3.7 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 Local Safeguarding Children 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 SCP's in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Between December 2019 to March 2020, a drive to update the pan Sussex procedures was initiated, resulting in 26 policies being updated and published in this period by the group. To further build on this progress, a jointly funded Pan Sussex Policy Lead started in post from April 1 2020 to co-ordinate a consistent approach to the development and maintenance of the pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. It is envisaged that this will provide an effective and timely response to reflect changes required to procedures from legislation updates or local and national learnings.

3.8 Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups

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

The group is very popular and is attended by a range of frontline practitioners and managers across partner agencies. In 2019/20 a total of 8 meetings were held. Unfortunately, the last 2 meetings of 2019/20 were cancelled due to the early Covid-19 lockdown period.

The group's aims include:

- To promote positive working relationships, effective communication, and information sharing between agencies.
- To ensure the ESSCP priorities and related action plans are implemented and learning from audits and 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 2019/20 meetings were presentations from:

- Police colleagues regarding Operations Encompass – the process by which a key adult in education will be informed by police directly regarding a child who was involved in a Domestic Violence incident the previous night.
- Safer Communities colleagues outlining the work undertaken around the Modern Slavery agenda in both Adults and Children's Services.
- Public Health colleagues reporting on the statistics of accidents and preventable child injuries and safeguarding, plus the interventions for prevention.
- Children's Services colleagues advising regarding the changes to Early Help Services following consultation and the development of the integrated Single Point of Advice (SPOA) front door with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service).
- ESSCP colleagues with regular training updates and opportunities and dissemination of learning and updates from the case review subgroup.

The Chair of the LSCLGs regularly invites feedback from group members to ensure the groups remain purposeful and relevant. The feedback received indicated how valued the groups are, and included the following comments:

- *“The value of the Liaison Group for the Education Futures Trust is that, as an independent charity we are able to keep abreast of child safeguarding policy and practice as it is made and carried out by our local Social Care and Health colleagues. For us, not to be ‘in the loop’ as it were, would allow the danger of our keywork and alternative education practices to drift from standard best practice. We also value the opportunity to contribute from the point of view of the independent sector.”*
Keywork Manager, Education Futures Trust
- [What works well] *“Being able to hear from colleagues’ updates and pressures on systems and also being able to share that from my perspective. Getting advice and support and hearing about new services and incentives. We can discuss case related issues and challenges and plan in a joint working way. [Encourages] Good lines of communication and knowing that, because of this, I can speak to colleagues outside of the meeting also.”* **Manager, CAMHS, East Sussex FISS/LD and ADHD Services, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

3.9 Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group

The overarching Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) priorities for the partnership in 19/20 were:

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

Key areas of work included:

- The Mace Operational Group delivered a multi-agency response to 82 children. During this period 61 children were discharged from the group with increased safety plans and 59 children were accepted as new referrals.
- The volume of referrals to MACE operational meetings had increased to a point that the process was struggling to cope with the demand. Plans to address this, whilst continuing to build greater awareness of exploitation amongst staff, were outlined to Inspectors in March 2020 as part of the JTAI and have since been successfully implemented.
- A Contextual Safeguarding assessment and response was delivered to the College Central pupil referral network through funding secured from the Violence Reduction Unit, to deliver targeted support to children at College Central.

- East Sussex professionals participated in a Sussex University research project – “What works in Criminal Exploitation”. The findings enabled a successful application to the Research in Practise Tackling Child Exploitation programme in order to improve local agency responses to Disruption.
- A contextual safeguarding approach was delivered in Hailsham and resulted in the co-ordination of a multi-agency plan to reduce environmental and peer group risks pertaining to Child Sexual Exploitation. The young women who were at the centre of concerns are no longer subject to MACE plans and local agencies have delivered a broad range of interventions, ranging from improved street lighting and CCTV to joint visits to licensed premises in order to raise awareness of child exploitation.

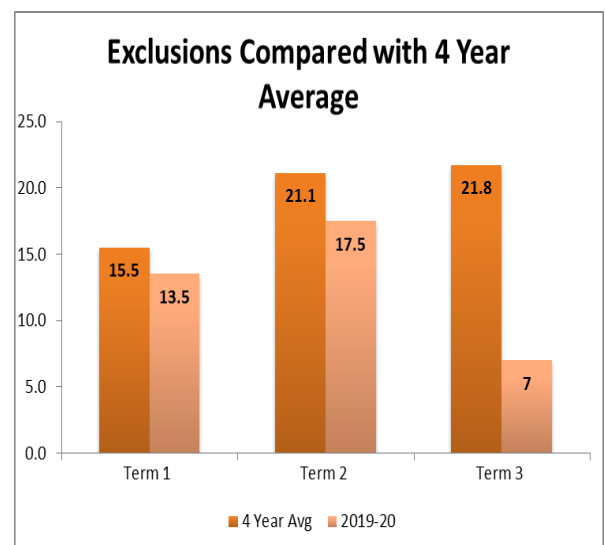
Spotlight on Contextual Safeguarding Responses across a Pupil Referral Unit Network

Following concerns raised by Police and Education colleagues through the MACE strategic group about levels of reported criminality within College Central (the local pupil referral network), a contextual safeguarding assessment was undertaken. The assessment found that a number of pupils in 2 of the 4 units were suspected to be victims of Criminal Exploitation and to be involved in County Lines. However, the initial agency concerns regarding the exchange of drugs on premises proved to be unfounded and although children were linked to County Lines, there was no actual group of pupils involved. Assessment findings concluded that this cohort of pupils was over represented in Police reports and in other agency referrals for escalating anti social behaviour and that there were significant risks of exploitation.

Funding was secured through the Sussex Violence Reduction Unit and has enabled the co-location of YOT practitioner sessions across College Central sites. This provides targeted early intervention to the most vulnerable pupils with the aim of raising awareness of risks such as knife crime and exploitation, whilst preventing escalating anti-social behaviour and criminality through an individualised pupil and family engagement offer.

Outcomes in Year 1

- Seven young people who attend College Central were discussed at MACE. Of those, none have had their risk rating increased. 29% of the College Central cohort was showing a reduction.
- No College Central pupils have been added to the MACE panel in the last 3 terms of the 2019/20 academic year
- All students have taken part in prevention interventions on knife crime
- Wider knowledge of criminal behaviour has allowed teaching staff to develop strategies for reducing risk of drugs/knives related incidents.
- All students have taken part in citizenship lessons on the criminal justice system
- 75% of students at KS4 took part in kick boxing sessions, a significant rise on participation in PE activities for this group



- Regular YOT work is taking place on site for those students with formal YOT involvement, this has removed the need to miss education during the school day
- Comparing the exclusions data for the three terms that the YOT workers have been at College Central with the average exclusion data for the previous four years shows that there have been fewer pupil exclusions in each term.

3.10 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO responds to allegations made about people who work with children. The statutory guidance Working Together 2018 sets out the requirements for all agencies providing services for children to have procedures in place for reporting and managing allegations against staff and volunteers. The criteria for LADO involvement applies when an individual working or volunteering with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children.

A further definition has been added to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, which many LADOs are adopting to provide clarity on transferable risk:

- Behaved or behave in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The work of the LADO and their team is set out in an Annual Report received by the ESSCP Board annually. The information below is taken from that report:

Activity and Demands on the LADO Service 2019-20

The number of contacts and referrals into the LADO service increased on the previous year, with 1,905 contacts, of which 940 were referrals. The contact total includes contacts classified as non-LADO, where advice was provided and signposted elsewhere. 965 were classed as consultations, which was a reduction on the number of consultations in 2018/19. The top 5 referrers into LADO were; Social Care (774), Education (430), Other (189), Residential (122), Health (100) with the most prevalent allegation types being Professional Conduct (305) and Physical Abuse (157). There is currently one full-time LADO and one Assistant LADO in East Sussex.

What Went Well?

- All referrals continued to receive an initial response within 24 hours, despite an increase in contacts and more complex referrals over the last year.
- Good communication with locality teams and partner agencies, ensuring that information on themes and trends for the year were clearly identified and responded to at an early stage.
- Ongoing review of processes and procedures has taken place building on the changes that have been made over the last year.
- 617 cases were concluded during the last year.

What Difference Has It Made?

- A new referral and webpage went live in September 2019, making it easier for the LADO service to respond to referrals and obtain information required at an early stage.
- Training has been updated to reflect concerns identified around safer recruitment, including delivery of a workshop at the Early Years and School Safeguarding Conferences during October 2019 and January 2020 to raise awareness.
- Bespoke support and training have been offered to a number of settings, and an increase in support for organisations in their learning during investigations and at the end of a process with a view to improving policy and procedures and strengthening practice.

4. Appendices

4.A Board Membership

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Reg Hooke (Chair)	Independent East Sussex SCP Chair
Sally Williams	Manager, East Sussex SCP To Oct. 2019
Louise MacQuire-Plows	Manager, Est Sussex SCP From Jan. 2020
Victoria Jones	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Graham Cook	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Harriet Martin	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Maxine Nankervis	Admin Officer, East Sussex SCP

Allison Cannon	Chief Nurse, NHS Hastings & Rother Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Gareth Knowles	Safeguarding Lead, SECAmb
Catherine Scott	Deputy Director for Safeguarding and Transforming Care East Surrey & Sussex CCGs To Jan. 2020
Dee Harris	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, East Sussex To Mar. 2020
Domenica Basini	Acting Head of Clinical Quality -Safeguarding NHS England
Jayne Bruce	Deputy Chief Nurse, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
Jeanette Waite	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children East Sussex To Jan. 2020
Jessica Britton	Chief Operating Officer, Sussex and East Surrey STP Commissioners
Martin McAngus	Acute Service Manager Coastal / AMHP Sussex Partnership
Naomi Ellis	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, Sussex CCGs
Sue Curties	Head of Safeguarding, (Adults and Children) ESHT
Tracey Ward (Dep. Chair)	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, East Sussex
Vikki Carruth	Director of Nursing, ESHT

Andrea Holtham	Service Manager, Sussex CAFCASS
David Kemp	Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
David Satchell	Snr Probation Officer, National Probation Service, Sussex
Lee Whitmore	KSS, Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Till Sanderson	Acting D/Sup Sussex Police To Mar. 2020
Jon Hull	D/Sup Sussex Police

Paul Juniper	Bede's Senior School
Kate Bishop	Rotherfield Primary School
Richard Green	Deputy Head Teacher, Chailey Heritage School
Richard Preece	Executive Head teacher, Torfield & Saxon Mount Federation

Catherine Dooley	Senior Manager, Standards and Learning Effectiveness (5-19), Children's Services
Delyth Shaw	Safeguarding Adults Board Development Manager
Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services
George Kouridis	Head of Service Adult Safeguarding
Justine Armstrong	Safer Communities Manager
Liz Rugg	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services

Rachel Doran	Legal and Coroner Services Manager
Stuart Gallimore	Director of Children's Services
Sylvia Tidy	Lead Member for Children and Families
Vicky Finnemore	Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services
Victoria Spencer-Hughes	Consultant, Public Health To Jul. 2019
Ben Brown	Consultant, Public Health, ESCC

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

Kate Lawrence	Chief Executive Home-Start East Sussex
Micky Richards	Change Grow Live, Director Operations To Nov. 2019

4.B ESSCP Budget

ESSCP – Actual Income and Expenditure 2019/20

Actual Income 2019/2020		Actual Expenditure 2019/2020	
Sussex Police	£23,750	Independent Chair	£24,789
National Probation Service	£717	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE	£62,339
Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) CRC	£1,250	Administrator	£21,080
CAFCASS	£275	Administration	£1,138
CCGs	£46,698	Child Death Overview Panel	£24,488
Change Live Grow (CLG)	£375	Trainer	£52,284
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£146,000	Training Programme and Conference	£6,840
Training Income	£13,885	Projects	£22,300
B&H CC contribution for CDOP	£4,000	Pan Sussex Procedures	£3,066
LSCB brought forward from 18/19	£64,043	IT Software & Hardware	£6,297
		Serious Case Reviews	£17,861
		<i>Carry Forward (balancing fig)</i>	£58,511
Total	£300,993		£300,993

Projected Income and Expenditure 2020/21

Projected Income 2020/21		Projected Expenditure 2020/21	
Sussex Police	£35,000	Independent Chair	£24,500
Sussex CCG	£53,400	Business Manager(s) 1.4 FTE and Administrator	£110,000
East Sussex County Council (ESCC)	£117,200	Administration	£1,400
Training Income	£7,500	Trainer	£55,900
LSCB brought forward from 19/20	£58,510	Training Programme and Conferences	£13,600
		Projects	£15,000
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£4,500
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,400
		Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£20,000
		<i>Carry Forward (balancing fig)</i>	£25,310
Total	£271,610		£271,610

4.C Links to other documents

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

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

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

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

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

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

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership undertakes a strategic assessment of community safety every three years with an annual refresh in order to select work streams and plan activity for the year ahead.

Colleagues from the ESSCP and ESCC Children's Services work closely with the Safer Communities Partnership to respond to the broader threat of exploitation. Sustaining existing work within the partnership and developing new and existing relationships with partners is of particular importance to ensure that we are supporting vulnerable individuals within the community and helping them feel safe and confident in their everyday lives.

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-20](#)

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

[DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2020](#)

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

4.D Acronyms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
AMH	Adult Mental Health
B&H	Brighton & Hove
BC	Borough Council
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CC	County Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CLG	Change Live Grow
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRG	Case Review Subgroup
CYPT	Children and Young People Trust
DC	District Council
DfE	Department for Education
EET	Education, Employment, or Training
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
ESFRS	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
ESHT	East Sussex Health Trust
ESSCP	East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
GP	General Practitioner
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
KSS	Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) CRC
L&D	Learning & Development
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LCSPR	Local Children Safeguarding Practice Review
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LSCLG	Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
NHS	National Health Service
QA	Quality Assurance
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SCP	Safeguarding Children Partnership
SCR	Serious Case Reviews
SECamb	South East Coast Ambulance
SLES	Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service
SPFT	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
SPOA	Single Point of Advice
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
SWIFT	Specialist Family Services
YOT	Youth Offending Team