

East Sussex
Safeguarding Children
Partnership
Annual Report 2023/24

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Foreword

We are delighted to present this annual report on behalf of the three statutory partners of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.

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

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

On behalf of the partnership, we hope you find this report to be informative, and open and honest regarding our achievements and challenges over the last financial year.



Becky Shaw
Chief Executive, East Sussex
County Council



Adam Doyle
NHS Sussex (Sussex Integrated
Care Board)



Chief Constable Jo Shiner
Sussex Police

1. Introduction

Welcome to the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership 2023-2024 annual report. As Delegated Safeguarding Partners we are committed to improving outcomes for children and families in East Sussex by embedding learning and sustaining improvements in our local safeguarding system by ‘holding up a collective mirror’ to practice on the ground.

We continue to encourage a culture which is open and able to challenge all partner agencies to identify learning, improve, and then establish effectiveness - ultimately demonstrating impact on outcomes for children. Through risk analysis and decision making at the right levels we are proactive in identifying emerging challenges and respond as a multi-agency group. The revised Working Together 2023 guidance is an opportunity to reflect on how, through continuous improvement in practice and our collective service delivery, we will develop the role of the partnership and lead partners.

The partnership delivers and supports extensive activities within its financial envelope and throughout this report you will see the evidence and impact of these endeavours. As a collective group we will be ensuring that the partnership continues to make best use of its resources to meet statutory requirements and support positive outcomes for children.

In 2024-2025 we are excited to further explore the partnership’s role in the oversight of how safeguarding partners seek and utilise feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision. We are also excited to develop our engagement with Education partners and Voluntary, Charity, Social Enterprise organisations.

A priority for the remainder of 2024 is to formalise the partnership’s programme of scrutiny, which includes our approach to commissioning scrutiny activity in response to local trends and learning through a network of independent scrutiny professionals, the development of the Lay Member programme, and specific activity to strengthen the voice of child.

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



Naomi Ellis
Deputy Chief Nursing Officer,
Director of Patient Experience
& Involvement, NHS Sussex



Carolyn Fair
Director of Children’s
Services, East Sussex County
Council



Richard McDonagh
Chief Superintendent, Head of
Public Protection, Sussex
Police

2. Key Learning & Achievements 2023/24



3. Safeguarding Context 2023/24

Impact of multi-agency working

- 17,855 family contacts (to SPOA and other excluding MASH)
- 22,699 information gatherings by the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- 4400 referrals to statutory social care
- 33 Privately Fostered children

Children supported by statutory services

- 688 children with a child protection plan
- 664 Looked After Children
- 69 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- 14 young people at high risk of child exploitation
- 577 sexual offences against children

East Sussex child population

106,575 children aged 0-17 years
19,183 children aged 0-17 live in low income families

- 108 children living in households where there is high risk domestic abuse
- 380 vulnerable young carers
- 1755 children educated at home

Children with family related vulnerabilities

- 21 children with disabilities with a Child Protection Plan
- 786 children attending A&E due to self-harm
- 5963 contacts to child mental health services

Children with health related vulnerabilities

- 2380 missing episodes
- 126 permanent exclusions from schools
- 85 young people entered the youth justice system
- 6 occasions of young people held overnight in Police custody

Children whose actions place them at risk

See **Appendix A** for more detailed information.

4. Partnership Arrangements

4.1 Overview of the Partnership

The East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) acts as a forum for the lead safeguarding partner organisations ([Sussex Police](#), [East Sussex County Council](#), and the [NHS Sussex](#)) to:

- provide strong, collaborative leadership and timely decision-making to ensure the effectiveness of multi-agency working to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- engage with, and develop the role of, wider local organisations and agencies in the coordination of safeguarding services in (the geographical local authority borders of) East Sussex.
- implement local, regional, and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

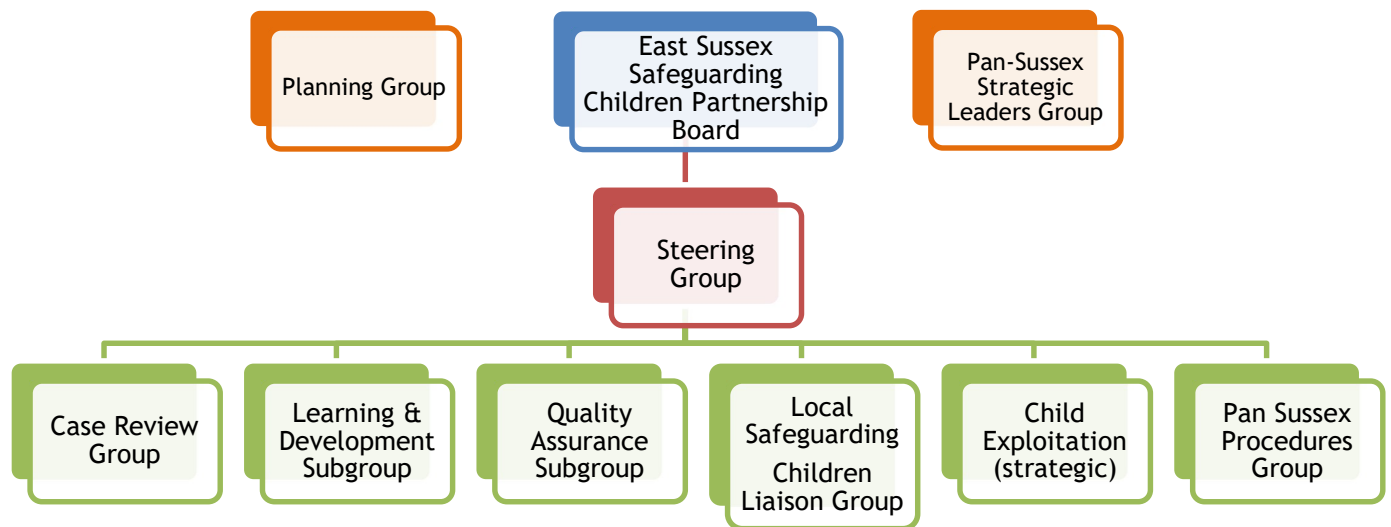
4.2 Partnership Structure and Subgroups

During 2023/24 the Partnership Board was chaired by an Independent Chair. The Board met four times a year and included the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) and relevant agencies (full list of board members is included in Appendix B). The Independent Chair also chaired the ESSCP Steering Group which met four times a year. The Independent Chair fulfilled the role of the Independent Scrutineer and acted as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

Also during 2023/24 the three ESSCP DSPs and the Independent Chair formed the Planning Group, which likewise met quarterly. The Planning Group's purpose is to discuss and agree the short-term agenda for the work of the partnership and address any emerging safeguarding risks and issues requiring strategic input. In addition to this, the Independent Chair and DSPs across East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton & Hove met as a pan Sussex Strategic Leaders Group. The group's purpose was to focus on setting the 'road map' for future partnership development and identify shared safeguarding priorities and opportunities across the three areas.

The Partnership has 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.

ESSCP Structure during 2023/24, up to 31st August 2024:



Terms of Reference for partnership groups are available on the ESSCP's website here: [Subgroups - ESSCP](#)

As noted in last years annual report, at the end of 2022/23 the ESSCP Business Unit sent a questionnaire to all Board and subgroup members to consider the effectiveness of the partnership. Actions taken in response to the feedback includes:

- ✓ The ESSCP Induction Pack has been updated and is sent out to all new members and available to existing members on the partnership website.
- ✓ Past Board, Steering and Liaison Group agenda items, reports and published documents are available to partnership members on the partnership website. Alongside this the partnership Digest newsletter provides local and national information and signposting.
- ✓ All partnership meetings have a formal action log with allocated SMART actions.
- ✓ The DSPs are committed to the continuous development of scrutiny across the partnership and its members, and has a strong focus on 'holding up a mirror' to local practice and the experience of children and families.
- ✓ All partnership meetings have a formal action log with allocated SMART actions.
- ✓ 2024/25 will focus on the engagement of Education partners and consider the implementation of an 'education' subgroup.

4.3 Review of Partnership Arrangements

In previous years the Partnership has undertaken a self-assessment as part of the activity to review the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements, using approaches such as the 'six steps for independent scrutiny of safeguarding children partnership arrangements' developed by the University of Bedfordshire and the National Safeguarding Panel's 'reflective questions for safeguarding partners', as set out in their annual report.

The publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 in December 2023 provided the opportunity to review the partnership arrangements in East Sussex and across the pan Sussex footprint. The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs), DSPs and partnership members undertook extensive work to develop and shape the future partnership arrangements. This included consultation with partnership agencies, through discussion and activities with the Partnership Board and Steering Group. In addition to this, communications have been shared with wider relevant agencies, such as education and Voluntary, Charity, Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations, to invite them to collaborate with the safeguarding leads to explore how they will work together to improve outcomes for children and families.

For many years there have been common formal child protection procedures across Sussex and colleagues within each of the three partnerships have shared information and insight on an informal basis and developed some strong common processes and protocols, most recently in response to child suicides over the last two years. Through the new arrangements LSPs are committed to working ever more closely together to develop the strongest possible arrangements to ensure consistency in strategic approach while continuing to engage local partners, including partners in education.

In May 2024 LSPs proposed a partnership structure with the following components:

- (i) A single **Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive (SSCE)** responsible for determining multi-agency safeguarding strategy and agreeing models for multi-agency working to safeguard children and young people.
- (ii) Three **Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs)** which each reflect the role of the SSCE while exercising separate responsibility for decision making about individual cases of serious incidents, rapid reviews and local practice reviews, through Case Review Committees. DSPs will be the Partnership Chair, reporting annually to the Sussex LSPs, meeting together as a group to review the effectiveness of arrangements across Sussex. The three partnerships to continue to make arrangements for the independent scrutiny of the operation of local partnerships.
- (iii) Three local **Partnership Groups (PGs)** which support the work of each LSCP, with a rotating DSP chair. These groups replace the current Boards and Steering groups. The broad membership of the PGs will be consistent across Sussex comprising representatives of local statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. The engagement of education partners in each area will be strengthened building on existing local arrangements.

Following this proposal and further consultation with partnership members, revised [ESSCP Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#) came in to force on 2 September 2024, ensuring the requirements set out in Working Together 2023 are fully met. Through further engagement the ESSCP will define what agencies they require to work with them as ‘relevant agencies’, setting out any funding or resources agreed in connection with the arrangements, plus the approach to the monitoring of ‘relevant agencies’ responsibilities. Published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be updated throughout this process.

The arrangements will be reviewed annually and take in to account any future updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children. It is expected that a final version of the arrangements will be published in December 2024.

4.4 ESSCP Priorities

In March 2023 the ESSCP held an extraordinary Board meeting to discuss local evidence - including learning from case reviews, quality assurance activity, and the voice of children - and propose future priorities for the partnership. Proposed priorities were scoped which clearly identified the evidence to choosing as a priority, the intended impact on practice and outcomes for children, and how success would be evidenced. From the priorities proposed, the DSPs agreed on the following priorities for 2023 -2026:

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

4.5 Pan Sussex Working

Although the ESSCP's focus is on safeguarding children in East Sussex, it should be expected that child protection and safeguarding procedures continue to be developed at a Pan Sussex level, and opportunities for joined up working across Sussex promoted where appropriate. Examples of Pan Sussex working in 2023/24 include:

- **Pan-Sussex Learning & Development opportunities:**
 - Considerable work has been undertaken to develop learning at a pan Sussex level, and opportunities for joined up working across Sussex are promoted where possible. During 2023/24 pan Sussex training continued with: *Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children* and *Harmful Practices*. From December 2023 pan Sussex Safer Sleeping courses were offered to raise awareness of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). From January 2024 Suicide Prevention courses continued to run as a pan Sussex offer via Grassroots - with four sessions planned, two focussing on under 16-year-olds and two at 16-18-year-olds.
 - All three partnerships have reciprocal arrangements for shared learning, where certain courses are commissioned by one, but co-funded across the three, such as with *Adulthood (WS)*, *Equalities: Exploring Inclusive Practice - Racial, Ethnic and Religious Diversity (ES)* and *LGBTQ+(B&H)*.
 - Brighton and Hove SCP lead on a pan Sussex 'Virtual' Conference on Child Neglect and Co-existing Factors on November 29th, 2023. This was attended by 185 multi-agency professionals across Sussex, who heard from two keynote speakers - Dr Tracee Green, Head of the Centre for Child Protection and Reader in Child Protection and Social Work at the University of Kent presented *Neglect in the Context of Parenting Assessments & Parenting Capacity* and Dr Sheena Webb, Consultant Clinical Psychologist presented *Trauma Informed Assessment of Neglect Experienced by Children, Young People, and Within Families*. Four breakout sessions were also offered incorporating learning from reviews across Sussex.
- **The Pan-Sussex procedures working group** co-ordinates the development and timely review of policies, procedures and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare

of children and young people across the three Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Partnerships. There is excellent attendance and buy in from all lead agencies and Pan-Sussex Local Authorities. Since March 2023 a number of new policies have been published. These include:

- Pan Sussex Protocol on the Transfer of Young People to Local Authority Accommodation from Police Custody
- Sussex Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Procedure
- Pregnancy of Children/Young People Under 18 Who Become Parents
- Sussex Joint Protocol to Reduce the Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers

Over 50 existing policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure they remain current and effective for practitioners across the multi-agency workforce. In addition, the publication of "Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023" necessitated a revision of the group's planner to ensure that adjustments mandated by the updated statutory guidance were promptly addressed and prioritised. The Group actively engages with other pan Sussex committees, groups and forums. For instance, the Group regularly collaborates with the Harmful Practices Working Group on specific policy edits, including this year, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and alternative medicines.

The group produces a quarterly briefing for all practitioners, summarising changes and new policies, for onward cascading to front line professionals. These can be read online [Welcome to your Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual | Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual](#). While some practitioners respond to these briefings and limited analytics show visit statistics, assessing the actual impact on safeguarding practice remains challenging.

In July 2023, a survey was conducted; all respondents (58 practitioners) indicated that they find the policies, procedures, and guidance relevant and helpful in their practice. However, 11% of respondents noted that the policies, procedures, and guidance were not written clearly and succinctly. In 2024/25 the procedures will move to a new platform/provider, which will offer the opportunity to review the accessibility of the content. Identifying and establishing alternative hosting arrangements for the procedures presents a critical challenge that the group is actively addressing.

4.6 Links to Other Partnerships

The Partnership has formal links with other East Sussex and Pan-Sussex strategic partnerships, namely the Health and Wellbeing Board; Pan Sussex Child Death Review Partnership (CDRP), Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB); Safer Communities Partnership; West Sussex and Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnerships; the Sussex Integrated Care System Children and Young People's Board, Children and Young People Trust (CYPT) and Local Head Teacher Forums. The **East Sussex Partnership Protocol**, which includes a number of the aforementioned partnerships, was refreshed for 2023/24. The protocol is intended to support effective joint working between strategic partnership boards in East Sussex, working together at every level to keep people in East Sussex safe from harm and abuse and improve their health and wellbeing. Links to significant partnership documents are highlighted in Appendix D.

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

The CDRP Chair presented the **Child Death Review Partnership (CDRP) Annual Report** to the ESSCP board in October 2023. Actions undertaken in response to this include activity to improve the sharing of relevant learning with the East Sussex Housing Partnership with regards to room temperature relating to Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID). Also incorporating the CDRP learning from suicides into safeguarding training for Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools.

From August 2023, through partnership working with **Adult Social Care (ASC)** and the **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)**, the partnership offered free training to the multi-agency audience on *Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)*. Additional ASC/SAB training courses that are relevant to the ESSCP audience regularly appear in ESSCP training publicity, such as: *Modern Slavery; Impact of Sexual Violence and Abuse; Responding to First Disclosures*. The two latter courses are delivered under a commissioning arrangement regarding pan Sussex sexual safety and awareness. The partnership continues to offer joint training on *Coercion and Control*, with Adult Social Care and Change Grow Live.

Following the previous successful collaboration on the '*Preventing online Radicalisation*' events with **Safer East Sussex**, the SCP and Safer East Sussex offered free online safety training, delivered by GetSafeOnline. Professionals who attended were able to: identify online fraud; recognise if someone is at risk and take protective steps to keep safe. Participants can then become Online Safety Ambassadors to raise awareness in their own fields. Also, in October 2023 SEROCU (Southeast Regional Organised Crime Unit), delivered the *Cyber Choices* programme which educates young people about legal boundaries, so they can make informed decisions about their online activity. They are a policing unit that seeks to reduce criminal computer use in young people and to avoid criminalising them where possible.

5. Evidence

This section of the ESSCP Annual Report sets out how the partnership is using evidence to determine its priorities; shape the way multi-agency partners have taken actions or adopted specific practice models; and evaluate the impact of partnership work. Examples of how the partnership are evidencing the impact of its work are also given in section 7 (Impact).

In March 2023 partner agencies held an extraordinary Board meeting to consider local evidence to set future priorities for the partnership for 2023-2026. The evidence presented included learning from local case review work, the ESSCP dashboard of indicators, multi-agency audits and self-assessments (Section 11 and education section 175/57), national safeguarding reviews, and the voice of local children and families.

A range of priorities were posed, with lead safeguarding partners agreeing on a final three:

- ✓ **Safeguarding in education**
- ✓ **Safeguarding adolescents**
- ✓ **Embedding learning**

ESSCP priorities for 2023-26 were chosen because they include the highest risk children in the county, where multi-agency working is essential and where significant change and/or commitment is necessary to reduce risk. It is in such areas where the partnership can be most effective in scrutinising and supporting practice.

5.1 Safeguarding in Education

Why is safeguarding in education a priority?

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

The ESSCP agreed that by making this area a priority for 2023-26, there would be a continued focus on effective joint working between local agencies and education settings, strategically and at a setting level. The COVID-19 pandemic and extended school closures for most children highlighted to many services the critical importance of education settings' role in safeguarding. Given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on safeguarding issues, including the rise in children being electively home educated and/or missing education, the ESSCP agreed that 'safeguarding in education' needs to be a priority for the partnership for 2023-26.

The evidence used to inform agreement as a priority includes:

- **ESSCP dashboard** - sustained rise in numbers of children who are electively home educated and missing education, rise in number of children excluded from school.
- **Case Review learning** - exclusions as a risk factor to exploitation (Child AA), EHE a feature within several local case reviews.
- **Audit learning** - Pan Sussex audit on safeguarding children who are electively home educated.

Using evidence to deliver safeguarding in education

The education safeguarding agenda has significantly altered as a result of COVID-19 national lockdowns with safeguarding, alongside emotional wellbeing, now a higher priority within all local education settings. Most education settings report that new safeguarding issues for different groups of children have emerged; these include higher incidences of children witnessing domestic abuse, demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour, and experiencing mental health issues. Improving school attendance in order to safeguard children is a priority both nationally and locally. The focus of the partnership in this priority is to:

- Provide **multi-agency expertise and support** to schools to effectively respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Schools have the **right information** to support their pupils.
- There is a **multi-agency informed preventative curriculum** available for schools to access.
- The partnership responds to the requirements in **Working Together 2023 to engage education as a fourth safeguarding partner**.
- There is a partnership wide approach to **safeguarding vulnerable children who are not in school**.
- **Schools effectively respond to learning** identified by the Partnership.

Examples of using local and national evidence in 2023/24 has included:

- The *Self-Harm Toolkit: Resources for East Sussex schools and colleges to help support students who self-harm or are at risk of engaging in self-harming behaviour*, was implemented in September 2023. The toolkits development was led by East Sussex County Council Education Division and East Sussex Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
- Nationally permanent exclusions have increased, and in East Sussex this rise is also reflected. In response to this, children at risk of multiple suspensions and/or permanent exclusion are identified earlier and schools are contacted earlier. At secondary level the Inclusion Partnerships are the multi-agency monthly forum for raising complex cases and this has supported schools in not permanently excluding over 50 children this academic year as well as reducing their suspensions.
- Schools' Safeguarding Conference (October 2023) and Early Years Safeguarding Conference (February 2024) both included keynote presentations with learning from local and national reviews. The Business Unit held a trade stand at the October conference, promoting the ESSCP's purpose, training offer and how education partners could engage further with the partnership.
- The multi-agency Neglect Task & Finish group reviewed and updated the existing neglect toolkit, matrix and training offer for the multi-agency workforce, incorporating new areas - including home school education. The case studies used in the training now include an electively home educated child and incorporates the learning regarding EHE children from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- 100% of state funded schools completed the annual section 175 audit this year. The outcome of the audit led to the establishment of Online Safety Task & Finish Group,

which undertook activity to map and signpost to interventions and support that exists within East Sussex around Online Safety.

- Following on from the launch of the Harmful Sexual Behaviours Protocol for schools in January 2023, further development work has taken place to design a multi-agency briefing session for the wider children's workforce, with collaboration between the Education Division and SWIFT Sexual Risk Lead. Sessions will run throughout 2024/25.

5.2 Safeguarding Adolescents

Why is safeguarding adolescents a priority?

During adolescence, the nature of the risks faced by children, and the way that they experience these risks, can differ from earlier childhood - as do their needs. Specifically, children may be faced with a new set of complex risks - ones not posed by families, but instead by peers, partners, and adults unconnected to their families in communities and online. Peer and social relationships become more central to children's lives and their identity.

The evidence used to inform the decision to make 'safeguarding adolescents' a priority included:

- **ESSCP Dashboard:** increase in attendances at A&E due to self-harm, increase in the number of permanent exclusions from school, rise in number of children reported as missing, and continued levels of children at risk due to exploitation.
- **Case Review Learning:** learning from recent local safeguarding practice reviews (Child AA and Thematic Review), which identified the need to strengthen support for vulnerable school leavers, including those with an Education and Health Care Plan, and those young people at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation, who are moving into adulthood. Learning about safeguarding adolescents was also highlighted in the East Sussex safeguarding adult reviews SAR Charlie, and in the West Sussex SCP thematic review featuring suicide.

Using evidence to safeguard adolescents

For many young people adolescence can be a challenging time. Alongside the many physical and emotional changes that are part of adolescence, growing up also involves changes in roles, relationships, expectations, and status within family, amongst friends and the wider community of home, school, and work.

The focus of the partnership in this priority is to:

- To work collaboratively to **safeguard children from all forms of exploitation** and oversee the effective service provision and support for victims of exploitation, and their families.
- To ensure the **disruption of perpetrators of child exploitation**.
- Ensure a **coordinated multi-agency response when child suicides** occur, which also identifies any at risk children within the wider network.
- Develop a **Transition to Adulthood protocol** that outlines key principles for joint working across agencies when supporting vulnerable young adults.

Examples of using local and national evidence in 2023/24 has included:

- The multi-agency **Child Exploitation Strategic Group** continues to coordinate multi-agency activity to safeguard children from all forms of child exploitation. During 2023/24 the group has focused on:
 - Delivering evidenced based preventative interventions within schools and communities. This has included the commissioning of Theatre performances for Year 9 and 10 pupils, specifically on drug and alcohol misuse.
 - Delivering a holistic and effective response to children and young people referred to SAFER, that reflects learning from previous case audit and service user feedback.
 - Strengthening support and safeguarding arrangements for those young people who are reported Missing or are referred to SAFER.
 - Delivering ‘disruption measures’ to divert children and young people away from being exploited and stop those engaging in child exploitation.

In June 2023, partners were invited to the two-year celebration of CACE.

Collaboration Against Child Exploitation (CACE) is a parent-led partnership between East Sussex Youth Justice Service (YJS) and local parents with lived experience of child exploitation. It seeks to provide support for parents/carers of children who are at risk of, or experiencing, criminal or sexual exploitation.

SAFER keyworkers - YJS staff and parent mentors - offer intensive 1-2-1 support to children and families, identified through the YJS SAFER panel, as being at most risk of exploitation. They also run a 6 session groupwork programme for parents and carers. In addition, parent mentors lead monthly, open access, support groups, providing parents/carers a space to come together to share their experiences and support each other, and run a parent helpline, Facebook and Instagram pages, and WhatsApp groups, to enable parents/carers to get support from CACE mentors 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. There is also a [video for parents and professionals about CACE](#), and the experiences of those involved, featuring a number of parents.

Feedback from parents who have been involved with CACE show that it provides valuable support for them, as well as helping those whose children are at risk to help keep them safe from exploitation.

- A transitions task and finish group was established in 2023 by the ESSCP and East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), chaired by the Head of Safeguarding for NHS Sussex. A scoping activity was undertaken to identify current pathways for children who reach eighteen in East Sussex. The work of the task and finish group concluded in January 2024 with the production of the [East Sussex Multi-Agency Transition to Adulthood Protocol](#). The protocol sets out a commitment, from the partner agencies of the ESSAB and the ESSCP, that a young person’s transition experience is positive, coordinated, and supportive. The protocol is supported by individual ‘pledges’ from agencies on how they will respond and implement the six principles for joint working in transition to adulthood.

- The [ESSAB Safeguarding Adult Review SAR Charlie](#) recommended that the ESSCP should undertake a multi-agency audit young people aged between 16 and 18 subject to child protection plans, to provide assurance that effective safeguarding arrangements were in place. In February 2024 a ‘deep dive’ audit was undertaken by the QA Subgroup, involving front line professionals working with the child and family, of two recent cases where a 16-18-year-old had a child protection plan. In both cases, the CPP was seen as appropriate, robust, and supported the family to reduce risk. The audit identified strong social work, and multi-agency, practice in both of these cases. The audit also explored the challenges to safeguarding vulnerable young adults and identified areas for multi-agency learning.
- In January 2024 the ESSCP hosted a ‘learning from the multi-agency response to suspected child suicide’ event. The event explored the impact and learning from the introduction of [Pan Sussex procedures on responding to suspected child suicide](#) in 2022.
- Following a rapid review in 2022, which concerned the suspected suicide of a young person, a multi-agency action plan was developed and monitored by the ESSCP Case Review group during 2023/24. Action taken following the rapid review has included:
 - All post 16 colleges participated in a safeguarding review of college provision for students aged 14-16. (these students are made up of two groups - EHE students, and students accessing the college as Alternative Provision, organised by schools). Strengths and areas for development were identified and shared with relevant colleges, and all secondary Heads. Individual Colleges have reported that significant improvements have been made since - for example in considering the separation of under-16 and over-18 year old students, and the creation of pastoral hubs for this group of students.
 - Children/young people who are admitted to hospital following suicide attempt are assessed by Mental Health Liaison in a rapid and timely manner. This work with young people includes their families to create a care plan to identify and engage with community provision and ensure they are followed up appropriately. This follow-up includes, for those not known to CAMHS, a 7/7 follow up call from paediatric liaison.
 - SPFT recruited to a (interim) CAMHS Suicide prevention lead, working across Sussex.
 - Professional development sessions in schools were undertaken in January and July 2023 to promote the timely identification of substance misuse needs and making appropriate referrals.
 - The independent Cass Review made recommendations on the services provided to children and young people who are exploring their gender identity or experiencing gender incongruence. We know many families, children and young people in Sussex are looking for emotional wellbeing and mental health care to support them. NHS Sussex has developed a list of services and support that professionals can signpost children and their families to: [Support for children and young people exploring their gender identity](#)

5.3 Embedding Learning

Why is embedding learning a priority?

The ESSCP is committed to creating and strengthening a learning culture across all agencies in East Sussex who work with children and young people. A culture which is open, and able to challenge all partner agencies, will be able to identify learning, improve, and then evaluate effectiveness. The ESSCP agreed to make 'embedding learning' a priority to ensure that the partnership becomes better focused on learning with the following three aims: the learning reaches the right people; there are effective mechanisms for sharing learning; and learning is embedding into practice and outcomes for children.

It is the focus of the partnership in this priority to ensure:

1. Mechanisms to **disseminate learning** from Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and audits (multi-agency and single agency), and national reviews are reviewed and improved.
2. **Training** delivered by the ESSCP is effective, responds to local learning, and is having a measured impact on safeguarding practice.
3. The ESSCP is able to evidence that **ESSCP learning is impacting on safeguarding practice** and is making a positive impact on outcomes for children.
4. The ESSCP promotes a **culture of learning from experience**, including the experience and views of children and parents/carers.
5. The ESSCP promotes a culture of learning through **effective scrutiny of safeguarding practice** which is transparent and recognises the importance of challenge to drive improvement.
6. Learning regarding the **safeguarding of infants** is embedded into practice.

Using evidence to embed learning in East Sussex

The arrangements for assuring the effectiveness of safeguarding practice are set out in the **ESSCP's Learning & Improvement Framework**. This framework and the priority action plan are overseen by the ESSCP Learning & Development Subgroup, chaired by the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding, NHS Sussex.

Examples of using local and national evidence in 2023/24 has included:

- The ESSCP Business Unit has supported the Case Review Group to develop and publish three learning briefings, which concisely highlight key learning for professionals arising from local rapid reviews and LCSPRs. The business unit has also coordinated multi-agency learning events, or contributed to materials, for the annual **Schools Safeguarding conference**, the **Early Years Safeguarding Conference**, responding to suspected child suicides, safeguarding and domestic abuse, and Pan Sussex Conference on neglect.
- In collaboration with the Safer Communities Team and the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board, **Professional Curiosity Resource Pack** has been developed and published. Professional curiosity was an area identified as a common theme across East Sussex reviews. The resource pack was based on the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership resource pack. This resource aims to raise awareness of professional curiosity and how being professionally curious is necessary to fully understand a situation and the risks an adult may face, which are not always immediately obvious. The expectation is that practitioners will share the resource pack and use it in team meetings and as part of group/individual supervision or for their own development.

- The ESSCP Business Unit promoted a culture of learning through effective scrutiny of safeguarding practice by making improvements to the **ESSCP Dashboard** - aligning with priorities, deep dives and escalation into concerning areas and developed a log of escalated indicators.
- Development of inclusion of the **voice of the child**: Focused Board activities and specific consideration of the child's voice for every item brought to Board and Steering groups, young people attendance at the Liaison Group and the child's view (and family) sought as part of the case review process.
- The ESSCP Business Unit has continued to ensure that learning regarding the **safeguarding of infants** is embedded into practice. Examples have included:
 - Presentations on key local and national learning at the East Sussex Early Years Safeguarding Conference and senior social worker forum.
 - Creation of partnership resources on the engagement of fathers and male carers, on the ESSCP website: [Unseen Men \(engagement of fathers and male carers\) - ESSCP](#)
 - Supporting the delivery of briefing sessions on safer sleeping, in particular in out of routine situations, over the past year.
 - Coordinating multi-agency input into the pan **Sussex ICON Steering group**. The purpose of the group is to ensure that the ICON message is embedded across agencies in the partnership, support practitioners in their role with families, and to ensure consistent messaging across the partnership.

6. Learning

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

Below are examples of ‘learning’ within and across the ESSCP in 2023/24.

6.1 Learning from Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Case Review Activity 2023/24

In 2023/24 the ESSCP undertook four Rapid Reviews following serious safeguarding incidents, where a child had died or been seriously injured, and where abuse or neglect is known or suspected. Of the four Rapid Reviews undertaken:

- ✓ Two progressed to Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR); Child E and Child F, which both have commissioned independent authors and will be completed mid-2024.
- ✓ Two did not lead to a LCSPR. In these cases learning was shared via learning briefings and multi and single agency actions from rapid reviews monitored by CRG.

There was one referral into CRG that did not progress to a Rapid Review due to limited multi-agency involvement and the child not being seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect. In this case a single agency review was undertaken and shared with CRG for oversight.

There is one ongoing review from 2022/23; the joint LCSPR and Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) (Family D). This large complex review, adhering to both LCSPR and DHR requirements, involved an extensive period of information gathering from single agencies and is working alongside a number of parallel procedures. The review is due to be completed by autumn/winter 2024.

During 2023/24 the ESSCP published two LCSPRs:

<p>Child V (published 14 Nov 2023)</p> <p>Child V SCR Overview Report (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Child V SCR Addendum (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Infant Injury Learning Briefing I (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Infant Injury Learning Briefing II (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Key learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The importance of GP’s being part of the Child Protection planning process ✓ Recognising and understanding domestic abuse and the risk of both emotional and physical harm to small children 	<p>Family CC (published 6 Nov 2023)</p> <p>Family CC Executive Summary (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Family CC Partnership Response (esscp.org.uk)</p> <p>Family CC and Neglect Learning Briefing (esscp.org.uk) <i>This briefing also reflects on learning from rapid reviews, featuring significant neglect</i></p> <p>Key learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with ‘highly resistant’ parents ✓ Safeguarding children who are EHE in the context of neglectful parenting
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Importance of full investigations of <i>all</i> injuries to infants ✓ Enhanced support for care leavers when they become parents ✓ Importance of proactive information seeking and sharing across agencies ✓ Professional confidence to challenge families and other professionals ✓ Understanding of the role and remit of other professionals working with a family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Relevance of neglect and/or abuse of animals when assessing risks to children ✓ Relevance of history when screening for service delivery ✓ Role of voluntary sector agencies in providing support to vulnerable families ✓ The cumulative risk of harm when risk factors are present in combination or over time
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One LCSPR is awaiting publication:

<p>Child Z (delay in publication due to gaining parent input into the review. Criminal proceedings completed January 2024, sentencing due late July 2024)</p> <p><u>Child Z Learning Briefing 2022 (esscp.org.uk)</u></p> <p>Key learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The legacy of relationships characterised by domestic abuse ✓ Information sharing about adults who may pose risks to children ✓ The importance of assessing background information ✓ Assessing risk to children from risky adults who are not household members, but part of the child’s wider network
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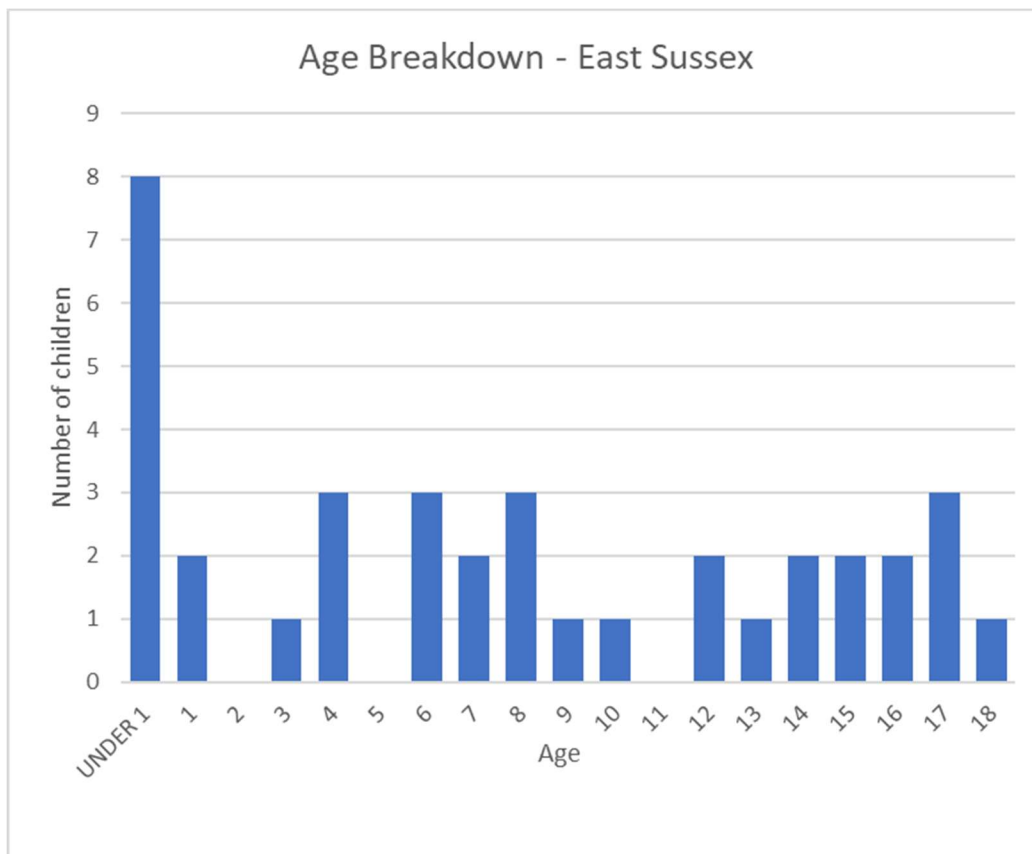
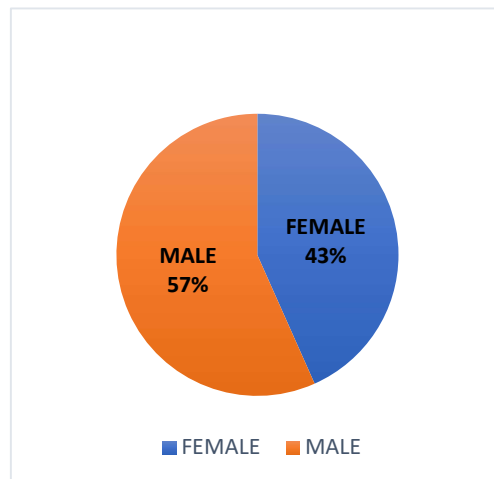
Rapid Review learning

<p>Child 2 Rapid Review</p> <p><u>Learning Briefing - Child 2 Rapid Review (esscp.org.uk)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information should be shared regularly through professional networks and through effective core groups convened to review risks ✓ Pre-birth and subsequent assessments should always include information about significant adults, such as grandparents, or other children, living at the same address, and be informed by a full picture of what is happening in the household as a whole ✓ Importance of secure housing - stable housing should be considered by the core group in assessments and interventions. 	<p>Child 3 Rapid Review</p> <p>Key learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Senior Manager oversight of effective and efficient screening of referrals ✓ Safety planning at point of case closure, where a known risk is likely to result in fluctuating periods of instability ✓ Cumulative impact of parental mental health and emotional neglect on a child’s development ✓ Effective multi-agency assessments, the engagement of fathers and use of Family Group Conference ✓ The significance of non-attendance of under 5’s at an Early Years setting when assessing Early Years settings referrals about children they are worried about.
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Analysis of Case Review Activity

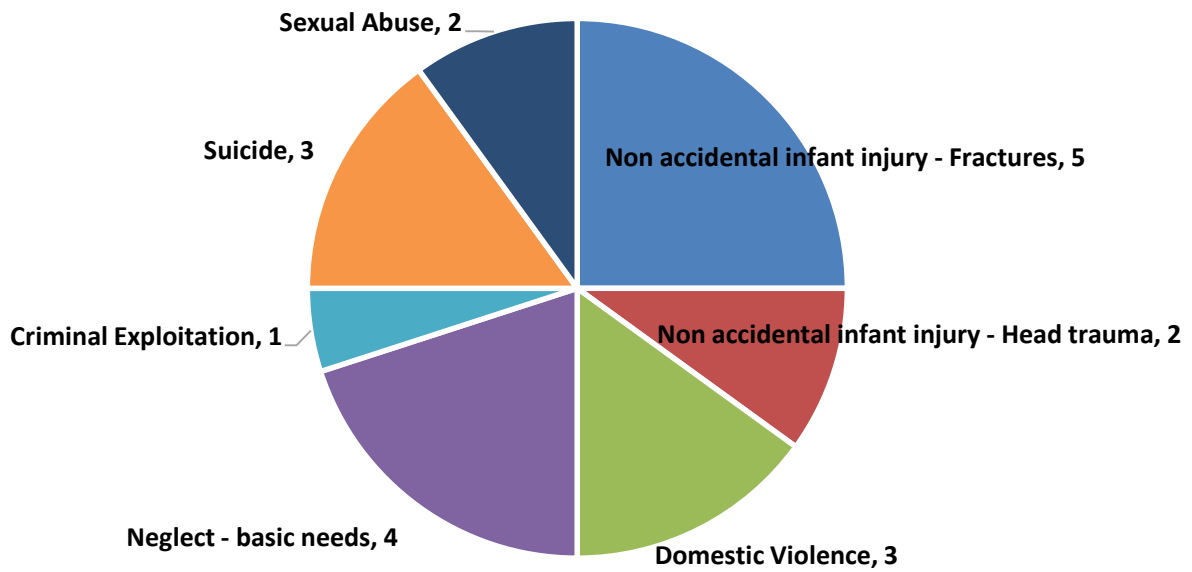
Since March 2020, the partnership Case Review Group (CRG) has undertaken **20 Rapid Reviews**, resulting in **9 (45%) progressing to Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** (figures up to March 24). A total of 37 children are the subjects of the 20 Rapid Reviews; 57% male, 43% female. This remains the same proportion as reported in last years annual report and is in line with national figures, where males are the most common gender at 55% (March 2023).

Under 2 year olds represent 27% of all children considered within rapid reviews in East Sussex. This age group featured predominately due to experiencing non-accidental injuries, such as fractures and abusive head trauma. This is slightly less prominent than reported in 2022/23 (30%), but remains in keeping with the national picture which also shows a predominance of infants under 1 amongst children involved in serious incidents notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (35% of 456 children notified 2022/23)

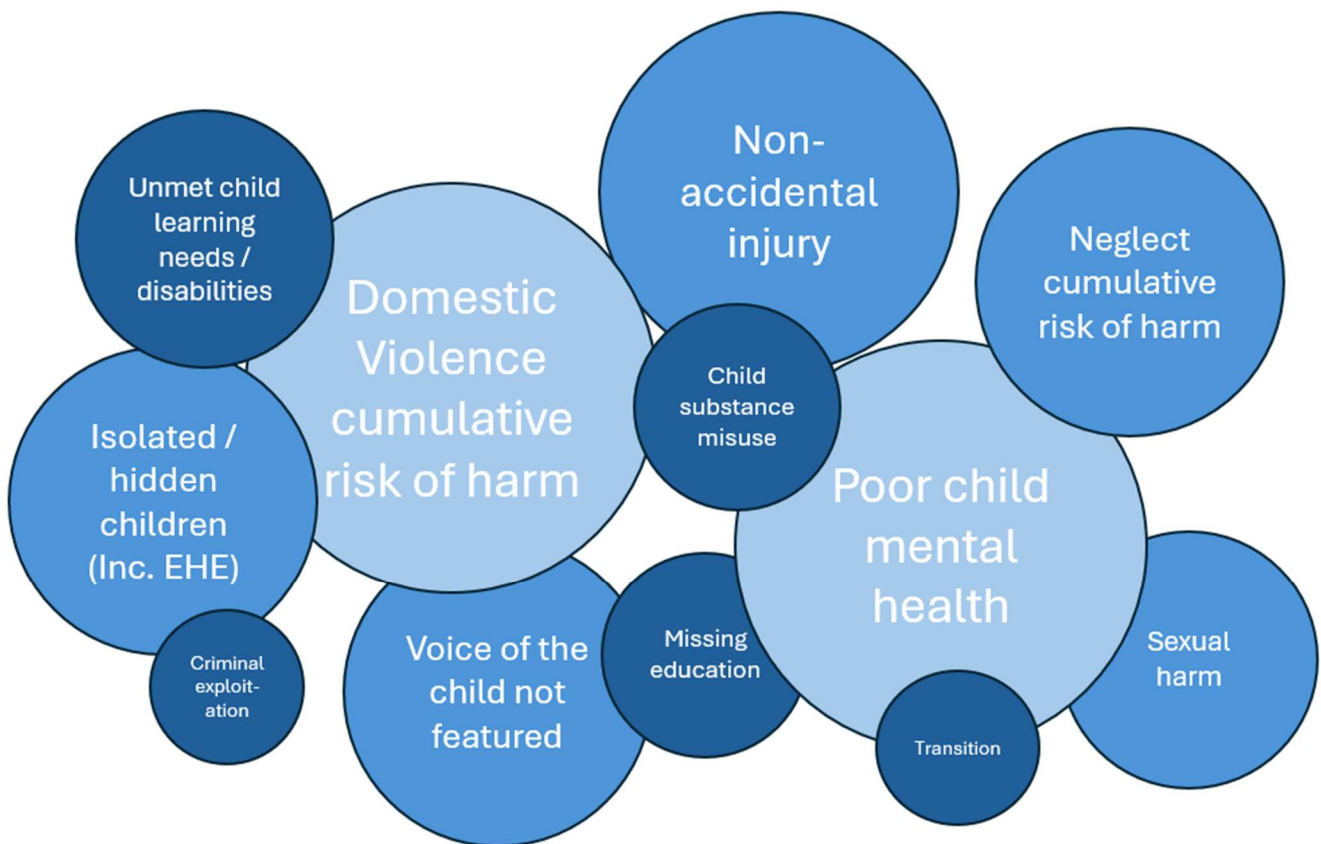


When the East Sussex rapid reviews are analysed by the primary types of abuse and/or neglect known in the family at the point of notification of the serious incident, non-accidental infant injuries (fractures and/or head trauma) featured in 7 of the cases; followed by neglect (4) and domestic violence (3) and suicide (3). However, most cases involved complex families with multiple factors contributing to the safeguarding risk to the child/children.

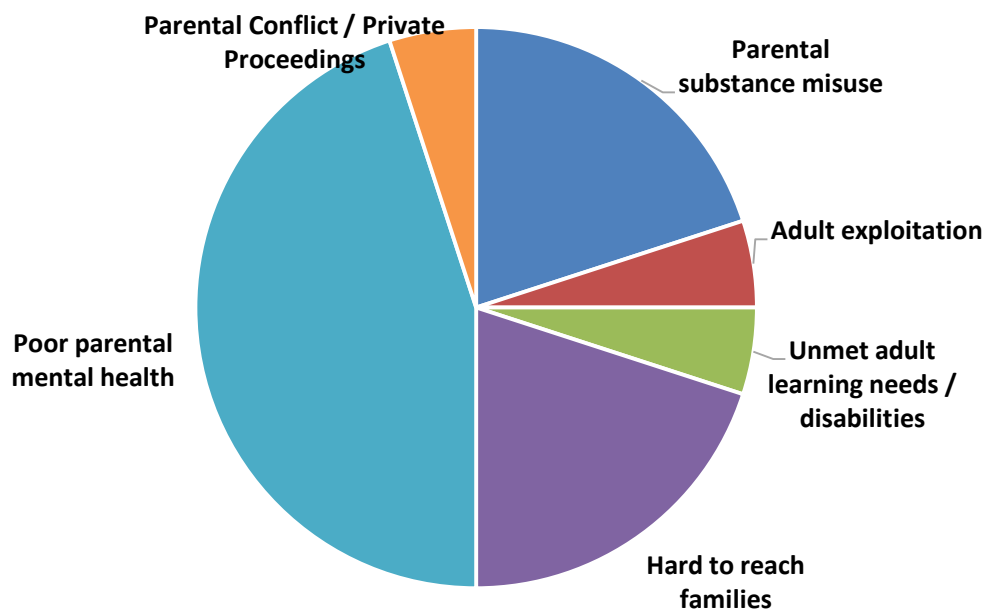
Primary Types of Abuse/Neglect recorded in Rapid Reviews



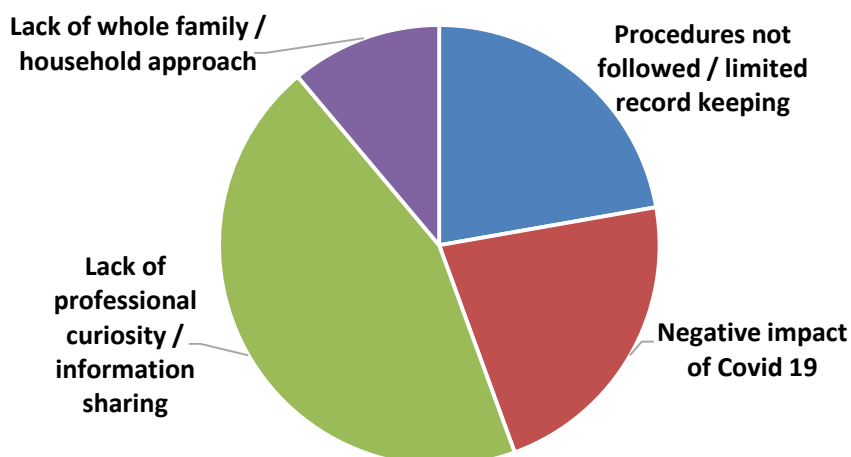
Each Rapid Review and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review can result in a number of key themes for learning. The graphic below shows the breadth of learning themes for children and young people captured across the reviews undertaken since March 2020:



Learning Themes - parent/adult



Learning Themes - system



New learning themes in 2023/24 are the **impact of significant parental conflict** and the **importance of a whole family/household approach to safeguarding**. The five most commonly occurring learning themes in Rapid Reviews and Local Child Safeguarding Practice reviews remain the same as reported in 2022/23:

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

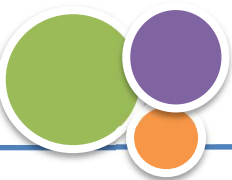


Multi-agency Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse (DA) - Learning from reviews (Jan 23):

Brought together ESSCP and East Sussex DSVA Oversight Group members to digest **national** and **local** review learning in relation to children and DA and consider this in the context of current DA provision and planning in East Sussex, including;

- What works well
- Improvement opportunities
- How we consider children as victims of DA/the cumulative effect of DV
- Current systems, training and resourcing

Discussion and learning was incorporated into the DVA Oversight strategy refresh.



National Learning:

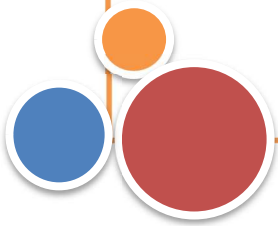
[Children with disabilities and complex health needs placed in residential settings](#)
[Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Immediate action taken:

Completed Quality and Safety Reviews for each of the children resident at the provisions listed by Ofsted. Partnership are assured that children reviewed have their social, emotional, health and educational needs met, and are safe in their placement.

Further action, Phase 2:

Routine assurance programme includes a thematic review of children with complex needs and disabilities resident in dual placements. Eight recommendations taken forward through national implementation plans or local partnerships. Additional consideration of current arrangements to ensure quality of provision for children with complex needs.



6.2 Quality Assurance Audits

The QA subgroup held **three audits** during 2023/24: an audit on the quality and effectiveness of s47 strategy discussions; an audit on safeguarding children who are ‘missing from education’; and a ‘deep dive’ audit, with front line practitioners, on the robustness of child protection plans for 16-18-year-olds.

Learning from the audits is shared at the ESSP Steering Group and one page learning briefings are shared with the wider ESSCP network and on the ESSCP website [Quality Assurance Group - ESSCP](#). QA audit reports are routinely shared at the Learning & Development Subgroup and Liaison Group to ensure that learning arising from audit activity is more efficiently and effectively embedded into local training and learning activity.

Key learning across audits include:

- The complexity of cases involving Perplexing Presentations and the considerable time it takes to pull together all the information that is needed for a Strategy Discussion.
- Following disclosures and/or observations of physical abuse, consideration must be given for a Child Protection (CP) medical in all cases, and if this is not pursued, a clear rationale must be added to the file to evidence decision making.
- The limited power to challenge lack of parental engagement with the elective home education and children missing education teams. Parents can choose not to allow home visiting. Where there is a lack of evidence that suitable home education is being provided, or a child missing education persists, the processes to address this can be protracted. The difficulties around relying on parental engagement when cases were held under s17 was identified in four cases, where parents declined the service.
- Once a parent is prosecuted the School Attendance Order process starts again if the child remains not on a school roll. This is difficult as a parent can be prosecuted a number of times and does not necessarily result in the child returning to education.
- Before the EHE team refers to CME the service should consider submitting a Statement of Referral to the front door for screening if the child has not been seen. The EHE service will action this on a case by case basis and update all internal processes to reflect these new steps.
- Primary Care need a system in place to follow up with Children’s Services when a Family Assessment has taken place to inform their view on future risk and vulnerability when the parent/child accesses health care again.
- Supporting health and wellbeing in relation to emerging sexual orientation and gender identity is a core aspect when working with young people. There is a need for further guidance to be given around this area within all agencies.
- The importance of agencies attending multi-agency meetings, including initial and review CP conferences. The agencies who do not attend the meeting are unable to provide challenge, scrutiny and share ownership of the plan.
- The need to pursue young carer provision when appropriate to reduce the negative, and highlight the positive, impact of being a carer, such as increased resilience, empathy, non-judgemental attitude and caring nature.
- The difficulties when children and young people move between Local Authorities and transferring case responsibility in a timely manner. It demonstrated the importance of alerting managers of the issues and the impact this can have, so timely escalation can be taken forward.
- The off-rolling form completed by schools should always contain safeguarding concerns.

Further details on the ESSCP QA audits in 2023/24 can be found in the **Assurance** section of this report. Following are examples of actions taken in response to learning arising from audits:

- The **Professional Difference Statement** is routinely read out and included in the minutes of Strategy Discussion Meetings. In 2023 East Sussex Children's Services developed a 'good strategy discussion' guide which was disseminated to all practice managers and was the focus of a development session.
- The Partnership has increased the profile of the additional vulnerabilities of children missing education, replicating communication work previously undertaken regarding children who are electively home educated. Children missing education has frequently been flagged in the ESSCP monthly digest, was an agenda item at the ESSCP steering group, and a separate indicator on CME was added to the 2024/25 Section 11 audit tool that all agencies complete, to ensure that the vulnerabilities of CME are promoted internally within agencies.
- The Partnership has shared and promoted the '**Transition to Adulthood**' protocol, to ensure that professionals and agencies are working towards the key transition principles.

6.3 ESSCP Learning & Development subgroup

The Learning & Development (L&D) subgroup reviews learning from safeguarding practice reviews and audits, reviews the training programme, analyses training data such as attendance and evaluation feedback, and develops effective strategies for sharing learning. The subgroup also includes consideration of ESSCP communications which links to training and learning, such as learning briefings about audit outcomes and local and national safeguarding practice reviews. The subgroup comprises of representatives from the ESSCP, Health Services, Children's Services, SAB, Police and Education.

The work of the L&D subgroup is to ensure that the East Sussex workforce and volunteers working with children, young people and/or adults who are parents/carers are provided with appropriate and effective multi-agency training to meet their needs, and that practice is underpinned with appropriate policies and procedures. The activity of the L&D subgroup continued to be monitored in line with the ESSCP Priority 'Embedding Learning', the ESSCP Learning and Improvement Framework and undertook its functions in line with the ESSCP Learning Strategy.

The ESSCP L&D subgroup complimented the pan-Sussex Learning & Development Planning Group, whose function was to agree and co-ordinate the planning of pan Sussex Learning and Development activity. This group agreed and monitored a 2-year plan for pan Sussex L&D activity, including a 2-year cycle for pan Sussex Conference and Section 11 audit.

Following the publication of Working Together 2023 in December 2023, the Lead Safeguarding Partners for the respective local authority areas within Sussex agreed to move to a Sussex wide model for L&D, with a Sussex wide Learning and Development subgroup (reporting to the new Sussex Safeguarding Executive Group) and the delivery of a Sussex wide learning and development programme. This model, due to be implemented from September 2024, will replace the current three place-based L&D subgroups and pan Sussex Learning & Development Planning Group. The ESSCP Learning and Improvement Framework and ESSCP Learning Strategy will also be amalgamated into pan Sussex relevant strategies as part of this work.

6.4 ESSCP Training Programme

The ESSCP L&D subgroup has continued to offer both classroom-based training courses as well as virtual sessions for multi-agency practitioners. This mixed mode of delivery is now embedded within the training programme and continues to be positive, most practical, and cost effective for the growing number of pan Sussex events and in-house shorter courses.

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, 50 training courses ran with 718 participants from a range of agencies attended, which equates to 71% attendance rate across the 50 courses. This compares with 68% attendance on the courses during 2022/2023 and an increase in numbers, with 166 more professionals attending, which is encouraging given work pressures across the range of partnership agencies.

The rate of evaluation returns from the 718 participants is 80% (573 returns). This figure is the highest recorded to date and almost double the average return rate per quarter of 45% (recorded since the introduction of on-line recordings in 2016). This indicates that the introduction of the QR code evaluation process in September 2022, where participants scan at the end of the training, has become an extremely effective method of obtaining high evaluation returns. The majority of participants continue to rate courses as either Excellent (75%) or Good (25%).

A number of new developments are planned in 2024/2025 in response to learning from local and national safeguarding practice reviews:

- *Harmful Sexual Behaviours* multi-agency briefings.
- Relaunch of multi-agency *Neglect* training, to include the updated Neglect Toolkit and Matrix, is planned for July 2024.
- Secured ongoing training on self-harm, with trainers from the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust and Schools Mental Health Support Team service offering courses on *Understanding Self-harm in Children and Young People and the East Sussex Toolkit*.
- pan Sussex delivery of *Abuse Linked to Accusations of Witchcraft and Spirit Possession* training provided by an expert provider, who is the National Chairperson for NWG Forum for Abuse Linked to Accusations of Witchcraft and Spiritual Possession (ALWSPA).

As stated in 6.3, following the publication of *Working Together 2023*, the SCPs will move to a Sussex wide model for L&D with one Sussex wide Learning and Development subgroup from September 2024. The development of this group will capture the new work areas identified above and explore further opportunities for effective approaches to L&D.

7. Impact of Partnership Activity

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

The **Child Z LCSPR** highlighted professional uncertainty regarding what information can be shared with parents about individuals who pose a safeguarding risk to their child.

As a result, a multi agency task and finish group developed and published pan-Sussex guidance:

[2.3 Sharing information with family members about other adults and the risk they may pose](#)

The guidance was shared via ESSCP and pan Sussex procedures communications routes, with professionals reporting use of the procedure to enable effective conversations with parents.

Impact of ESSCP training on practice

“I am more confident with safety planning and working with perpetrators. I feel more empowered through the knowledge gained”

“This course has given me more confidence to be curious and ask questions and not to be worried about the response”

“I now have greater awareness of the signs and indicators of suicide which enables me to offer improved direct support to young people”

“I am now better informed about how to help parents/carers to understand behavioural differences and how to go through the process for diagnosis”

Thematic Review Action Plan

Following the review, the introduction of the Family Safeguarding Model (Jan 2024) invested in skilled and qualified practitioners who sit in front line Social Work teams working with parents around mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse enables the allocated social worker to devote more time to working directly with the child to understand the impact on them of the parents difficulties.

These additional resources have enabled the children’s social workers to focus to a greater extent on the needs of the child, whilst the allocated Adult Mental Health Practitioner in the team (for example) devotes their time to parental needs.

Evidencing Impact: Family CC LCSPR

The review, and increasing vulnerabilities of the local community, offered the opportunity for Eastbourne Foodbank to reflect on safeguarding provision within the organisation, including staff awareness and training, policy, reporting and recording of concerns.

Through this development work the Foodbank implemented a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) role, similar to the model used in schools, to act as the lead for co-ordinating safeguarding processes and best practice within the organisation.

“The Family CC Review has led us to make substantial changes to how we work, and to our lines of communication with other services, which we feel would have made a real difference in this case. If a similar situation were to occur now, our robust procedures would mean that we’d be an effective part of the bigger safeguarding picture.” Eastbourne Foodbank

Evidencing Impact Activity: Child Y LCSPR

Sexual Abuse is an extremely complex area of practice where no one size fits all in terms of response. Notable **improvements in practice** in response to child sexual abuse/Child Y LCSPR learning include:

- Routine SWIFT and CSARC involvement in all CSA strategy discussions (and/or consultation post strat in the event SWIFT are unable to attend)
- Improved pathway for accessing CSARC
- Evidence of SMARTer outcomes arising from strategy discussions
- Procedural changes around additional strategy discussions chaired by Operations Managers in CSA cases where the child was still facing risks following s47 - to mirror the same approach children’s social care use in physical abuse suspected NAI cases
- Evidence of therapeutic needs considered (and recorded) as part of strategy discussions
- Sharing of ABE notes with social worker are explicitly stated within the strategy discussion action plan.

A recent audit (April 2024) of CSA cases by children’s social care evidenced the above is embedded in case work.

Safeguarding in Education Priority:

Due to the high profile of **Safeguarding in Education**, and the range of resources and training available to East Sussex Schools, the **Primary and Secondary Improvement Boards** have commissioned a further set of bespoke focussed reviews for schools.

All maintained primary and secondary schools, and all special schools, are now part of a cycle of regular **Quality Assurance** and support visits based on the **175 safeguarding audit**.

Safeguarding Adolescents Priority: Multi-agency response to suspected child suicide

In January 2024 multi-agency partners attended a learning event to explore the impact from the introduction of [Pan Sussex procedures on responding to suspected child suicide](#) in 2022. The event found:

- The procedures had provided a clear process for identifying those affected by the death, identifying vulnerable contacts and their support needs; identifying possible clusters requiring an enhanced preventative response; and provided a coordinated response that reduced duplication and contained professional anxiety.
- Multi-agency involvement in the procedure has been exceptional and provided a coordinated and comprehensive approach.
- The support provided by the wider network was welcomed by all professionals, in particular schools.


Embedding Learning Priority:

The **Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Group** continued to expand and thrive in 2023/24, since the meetings were moved to MS Teams, enabling more professionals to attend.

In the past year, the group has an average of over 20 professionals attending from across multi-agency partners, including the three statutory partners, schools and voluntary and community groups.

In 2023/24 the LSCLG held two **multi agency case discussions** to explore learning for multi-agency work, such as procedural and practice development across the system.

One case discussion led directly to amendments to the [harm linked to alternative health practices](#) pan Sussex procedure.





The **Family CC LCSPR** was a significant review regarding the neglect of a large sibling group. In response to this a multi agency pan Sussex Neglect Task & Finish Group was initiated to refresh the neglect toolkit and matrix to consider the impact of poverty, develop guidance with regards to self-neglect/medical neglect, teenagers, and broaden out the consideration of race / religion / ethnicity / disability.

The **Young People's (YP) Reference Group (Feb 2023)** undertook a facilitated discussion on neglect to feed into the work of the Task & Finish group. The YP provided reflections on what kind of parenting they felt they needed, what YP felt workers should ask them about neglect at home and how workers can support YP better with self-care.

The refreshed neglect matrix and toolkit was launch in **July 2024** offering effective resources and training that provides practitioners with the skills and tools to place sufficient focus on understanding the lived experience of the child with regards to neglect.

During 2025 the refreshed multi agency training will be evaluated by attendees and also in line with the ESSCP Learning Strategy and Framework.

The neglect strategy, toolkit and matrix will be reviewed regularly in conjunction with Children's Services and wider partners, and in view of any new learning from local and national reviews.





Voice of the child:

July 2023 Board focussed on '**Student and Schools Voice**' including responses from children to the *My School My Health* survey, alongside the school S175 audit and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) data. Discussion groups considered the issues raised and actions to take forward for the safeguarding children in schools priority.

September 2023 Liaison Group attended by **Children in Care Council** members who provide an overview of their role and the development of a 'rucksack' resource containing objects representing significant elements to a child in care.

Direct and indirect activity undertaken by the partnership includes:

- Each Board/Steering report is asked to consider how work is informed by the voice of child.
 - Agency challenge and participation of care experienced young people in Section 11 scrutiny process.
 - Childs view (and family) sought as part of case review process.
 - Oversight of agency activity capturing children's views
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8. Assurance

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

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

Examples of assurance undertaken by the ESSCP during 2023/24 include:

- The **ESSCP Independent Chair** whose function is to provide challenge and scrutiny of the effectiveness of the lead partners and other relevant agencies, via the Board and Steering Group meetings, and to also work with the lead partners to ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding work carried out by partners. The approach of the Chair is to act as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection and continuous improvement and to provide support to that improvement. This included:
 - Reviewing and endorsing the recommendation to conduct two Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) arising from serious safeguarding incidents, and providing support and challenge to the National Safeguarding Panel on the rationale for local decision making following one further rapid review.
 - Reinforcing key multi-agency actions arising from LCSPRs, in particular raising concerns with agencies regarding their attendance and participation in Child Protection Conferences processes and requesting agencies consider their responsibilities.
 - Overseeing the development of a partnership Scrutiny Plan providing an overview for lead partners on key areas of challenge to multi-agency working and progress with responding to national learning.
 - Escalating concerns about the long-term viability of the ESSCP budget with the Lead Safeguarding Partners.
 - Providing a bi-annual report to the Lead Safeguarding Partners on current key risks and issues to safeguarding children in East Sussex.
 - Coordinating Public Health messages across the three Sussex safeguarding children partnerships in relation to safer sleeping for babies, over the Christmas and holiday periods.
 - Providing challenge to agencies in the Peer Review scrutiny of Pan Sussex agencies 2023 Section 11 returns.
 - Presenting the 2022/23 ESSCP Annual Report, on behalf of the lead safeguarding partners, to the East Sussex People's Scrutiny Committee, and the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board.

“As the Independent Scrutineer for the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership I am happy to be able to say in this report that the Partnership continues to do all it can to safeguard children and improve outcomes for them and

their families. They have developed and maintained a culture where independent scrutiny is seen as a vital part of their core business. I believe that they will focus on developing this culture to provide the best possible scrutiny and seek opportunities for continual improvement.

Looking forward, Working Together 2023 provides an opportunity to further optimise independent scrutiny. The removal of the Independent Chair role will afford the Partnership to task individual pieces of scrutiny to be completed more frequently. These pieces of work should be focussed on priority areas. It will also increase opportunities to engage with children, families and practitioners, gaining valuable insight into their lived experiences.” **Chris Robson, Independent Chair**

- In addition to the Independent Chair, **three Lay Members** play a critical role in the partnership. The Lay Members act as further independent insight, on behalf of the public, into the work of agencies and of the partnership. As well as acting as critical friends at Board meetings, providing additional challenge and scrutiny, one Lay Member is a standing member of the SCP Case Review Group (CRG), and Lay Members are involved in the panel meetings for all LCSPRs. Their role has been critical at CRG, via the rapid review process and subsequent LCSPR process, in advocating the voice of the child. Lay Members are also invited to meet with individual members of the Board, for example one of our Lay Members met with the Head of Service for Looked After Children, after their presentation of their annual report on the services for Looked After Children.

”I have been a lay member for the ESSCP for nearly six years now and continue to be impressed by the diligence and commitment of its members. In particular I would like to commend the Case Review Group. Every case is carefully considered and the learning, which should help prevent harm to children in the future, is teased out and widely disseminated. Resulting action plans are well monitored by the Partnership and, where possible, their impact assessed. Every attempt is made to obtain the views of the families involved. Practitioners are treated with respect.

Considerable time over the last few months has been taken up with making the changes to the organisation of the Partnership required by Working Together (2023). While there are some positives, for example greater opportunities to work closely with Brighton and Hove and West Sussex and to re-examine how partnership working is kept under scrutiny, it is to be hoped that the new arrangements, and the recent cuts in resources, will not have an adverse effect on the high quality of multi-agency work that currently goes on within East Sussex to keep children and young people safe.”

Harriet Martin

”Over the last year I have witnessed many examples of dedicated professionalism across the Partnership, and I am greatly reassured by the exemplary work being undertaken to safeguard children in East Sussex.

The changes that Working Together 2023 brings to the structure of the Partnership will pose some challenges, particularly with regards to independent scrutiny, but I believe the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership is forward thinking, and well placed to adopt new and robust procedures” **Nick Porter**

“Safeguarding Children and Young People has always been challenging and to offer effective protection to children requires a high level of understanding of the key issues faced by children and their families in today’s world.

The ESSCP has a clear understanding of protecting children and has worked hard on case reviews, disseminating information, supporting teams of professionals and ensuring a high level of work takes place protecting children and young people across the county. The ESSCP is well placed to mirror the expectations outlined in Working together (2023) keeping children at the heart of their exemplary practice.” Anne Moynihan

- The QA Subgroup reviews the ‘**ESSCP Performance Dashboard**’ on a quarterly basis. The dashboard includes 60 performance indicators which are presented by: impact of multi-agency practice; children supported by statutory services; children with family related vulnerabilities; children with health-related vulnerabilities; and children whose actions place them at risk. Indicators are reviewed by the QA subgroup and escalated to the Steering Group if required. During 2023/24, performance indicators escalated by QA to Steering included:
 - **Indicator 46 and 47 (% of routine CAMHS assessments and attendances)** was escalated to consider the reasons behind the decline in the percentage of CAMHS routine assessments and treatments completed within target timescales. The CAMHS service manager explained that although the majority of initial assessment appointments were offered within four weeks, the service had been impacted by a 54% increase in accepted referrals into CAMHS over the past three years, and the CAMHS caseload had increased by over 60%, with an excess of 7,000 children currently open to CAMHS in East Sussex. The Manager also noted that reporting on wait times had changed in the previous year: if a young person does not attend a planned appointment, this does not stop the waiting time clock (as it did previously). SPFT have a robust 'Child Not Brought' (CNB) policy to address potential safeguarding concerns around a young person not being brought to appointments. Further appointments and proactive contact attempts will be offered, until CAMHS has direct contact with a young person and family for assessment.
 - **Children missing education:** was escalated to consider the sustained increase in the numbers of children recorded as missing education, alongside the continued increase in children who are electively home educated. The QA subgroup proposed that they conduct an audit to review the multi-agency safeguarding response to CME when there were current or previous safeguarding concerns. The final report was presented at Steering in December 2024 alongside a report from the CME Service Manager identifying current service response and proposals on multi-agency action to support this vulnerable group.
 - **Indicator 42 (Attendances at A&E due to deliberate self-harm)** was escalated to consider the significant increase in attendances by children to East Sussex A&E departments due to deliberate self-harm. A detailed report was shared with Steering providing further analysis of the cohort of children presenting and the current system in place to triage and support children’s immediate mental health needs. The QA subgroup proposed to conduct an audit of a selection of cases to

provide further insight into the quality and robustness of safeguarding response to these children. This was scheduled for May 2024.

- The QA subgroup held **three audits** during 2023/24:

The QA subgroup held an audit to review the quality and robustness of safeguarding response on six recent multi-agency **Strategy Discussion meetings**. The purpose of the audit was to test how learning and action identified in the May 2022 multi-agency audit of the 'Front Door', based on the Ofsted JTAI inspection criteria, was embedded. In the 2002 audit, several cases identified issues around the strategy discussion process, around either the initial identification of strategy discussion threshold being met, or quoracy and multi-agency representation at the meeting itself.

The children featured in the audit had experienced a range of safeguarding needs: domestic abuse, neglect, Perplexing Presentations (PP), missing education, physical abuse and parental mental health issues. Three of the children were on Child Protection Plans and one child was a Child in Need. Three cases were closed to Children's Services following an assessment. One child was Electively Home Educated, and another had a disability.

The audit found evidence of effective practice in identifying and reducing risk. The audit also found effective assessment, application of thresholds and collaborative multi-agency working resulted in proportionate outcomes in the majority of cases. In four of the cases all relevant agencies attended the Strategy meeting. However, the audit found that multi-agency representation, in particular ensuring Health input, at the Strategy Meetings continued to be an issue. In two cases, the GP did not attend or reply to the Strategy Discussion invite but MASH Health did attend in one of those cases and provided relevant information.

Learning from the audit was shared by agency representatives at the QA subgroup and Steering Group, with agencies reminded of their responsibilities to ensure minutes of strategy meetings are uploaded in to their relevant recording systems. The 'statement of professional difference' is routinely read out at the start of Strategy Meetings and is recorded in the minutes. Within Children's Social Care, a 'good strategy discussion guide' was developed which was disseminated to all practice managers and was the focus of a practice manager development session. A single agency strategy discussion audit is scheduled for early 2024/25 to take stock of how recommendations are impacting on practice.

The QA audit group held an audit on the safeguarding of **Children Missing Education**. This audit theme was chosen given the sustained increase (over 25% increase over the previous year) in the number of children recorded as missing education. These are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. The purpose of the audit was to provide assurance on the quality and robustness of the safeguarding response for these vulnerable children.

Twelve cases were selected using Children's Services data to include a range of cases that had recent multi-agency involvement. The children had either a safeguarding

concern, a child protection plan in place (under S47 of the Children Act 1989), were a Child in Need (under S17 of the Children Act 1989) or were involved with Early Help at the time of the audit.

Overall, the audit found there was strong multi-agency working and information sharing, with good communication between agencies in the majority of cases. Recent changes to some agency recording systems had made it easier to flag when a child was CME or EHE, which informed safeguarding practice. However, the audit also highlighted the lack of professional curiosity by some agencies to question or enquire why a child may be missing education, and understanding of the additional vulnerabilities of a child missing education.

The audit highlighted the challenges faced by agencies, in particular of the CME and EHE teams to challenge lack of parental engagement, parents not allowing home visits, or the difficulties around parental engagement when cases were held under s17 (noted in four cases).

The **QA subgroup recommended** that the Partnership should raise the profile of the additional vulnerabilities of children missing education, linking it with the work previously undertaken regarding safeguarding children who are electively home educated. They also recommended that all agencies should raise awareness across their workforce of the additional vulnerabilities a child may have when missing education, and ensure that agency safeguarding recording systems are able to record if a child is missing from education.

When the report was presented at the ESSCP Steering Group it was also agreed that ‘educational neglect’ should be incorporated in to the revised Neglect Matrix and Toolkit.

The QA subgroup held a ‘deep dive’ audit of two cases of **Children aged 16-18 with a Child Protection Plan**. In 2022 the East Sussex Safeguarding Adult Board commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) to explore the circumstances that led to the death of an 18-year-old, who was referred to in the review as [‘Charlie’](#). One of the recommendations of the review was for the ESSCP to undertake a multi-agency audit of selected young people aged between 16 and 18 subject to child protection plans in the last two years to “assure themselves that effective safeguarding arrangements were in place”. At the time of selecting the audit cases, there were thirty-one 16-18 year olds with a CPP.

Both cases demonstrated that multi-agency interventions had improved outcomes for the children and the family. In both cases social work practice was excellent, and the voice of the child was captured. In Case One the child and family were receiving support from social services, School, Missing Education Team, GP and the Tavistock Unit. In Case Two, Early Help and Social Care, College and CAHMS had been involved. The agencies have also been assisting the mother with her own health needs. Overall, the audit highlighted the passion, dedication, skill, and tenacity of the professionals working with the families.

In both cases neglect was a feature as well as experiencing poverty. Poverty led to the young people taking on inappropriate employment or caring responsibilities to reduce

the financial pressure on their parents. The audit highlighted the need for agencies to understand the impact of poverty on neglect. Children's Services have created a poverty framework for practitioners to support in their assessments.

Since January 2024, operational instructions in ESCC children's social care have changed for safeguarding and case planning for 16-18 year old children where there are extra-familial risks, or risks from criminal exploitation. Child protection processes are often not best suited to reducing risk for these children and have agreed, that where appropriate, safeguarding needs may be best met through the [SAFER safeguarding pathway](#).

Two **recommendations** were made: 1) The need for agencies to see how they can support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of gender questioning children. It is important for agencies to collate resources regarding support to gender questioning and share across the partnership; and 2) The Partnership to share and promote the recently drafted 'Transition to Adulthood' protocol more widely, to ensure that professionals and agencies are working towards the key transition principles.

- The Partnership has a key role in **evaluating the effectiveness of support for looked after children and care leavers** - it does this via the annual scrutiny of the ESCC Annual Looked After Child & Care Leaver Report, the annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report, regular monitoring of key performance information in the ESSCPs quarterly dashboard, and via the Section 11 process. In addition, one of the ESSCP Lay Members met with the Operations Manager for Looked After Children to scrutinise data on the disproportionate representation of some ethnic groups in the cohort, following presentation of the annual report at Board.
- The Partnership has a key role in **evaluating the effectiveness of early help services** - it does this via the regular monitoring of key performance information in the ESSCPs quarterly dashboard.
- Towards the end of 2022/23 the ESSCP, along with Brighton & Hove SCP and West Sussex SCP, held its seventh bi-annual '**section 11**' audit. All organisations represented on the ESSCP were requested to complete a self-assessment and provide evidence of how they comply with s11, of the Children Act 2004, when carrying out their day-to-day business. The audit provides an indication of how well organisations are working to keep children safe. An overview of agency's performance in the section 11 audit, across the partnership, was presented at the October 2023 ESSCP Board meeting where an action plan for the top ten lowest performing indicators was also presented.
- In 2023/24 the ESSCP held a series of **Peer Challenge** events following the completion of the section 11 audit tools. These included a Pan Sussex peer challenge event in June, led by the Independent Scrutineer for the three partnerships, peer challenge events for the three separate children's services divisions in ESCC, and a further peer challenge event for the district and borough councils. An action plan has been developed for the top ten lowest rated standards which is overseen by the Learning & Development Subgroup.

- The annual **Schools Safeguarding Audit Report (s175)** was presented to the ESSCP Steering for scrutiny and challenge in July 2023. All schools (including maintained, independent, academies, free schools, and colleges) in East Sussex are requested to complete the safeguarding audit toolkit on an annual basis, assessing their practice in line with statutory guidance and local good practice. Engagement with the process is strong with 100% of state funded schools returning their audit. The audit provides all schools with a robust framework against which they can evaluate their practice and identify areas for development as necessary and the data gathered by the Education Safeguarding Team, through having the audits returned to them, informs the ongoing development of guidance, training and support to schools. It was agreed at ESSCP Steering in July 23 that the partnership would coordinate a short life task and finish group, to map multi-agency online safety interventions to support schools. This would highlight potential gaps to inform commissioners.
- Other examples of assurance work undertaken include:
 - ✓ **Health Visiting Service**
 - ✓ **ESCC ILLAC Ofsted Inspection**
 - ✓ **Lansdowne Secure Children’s Home** is within the Partnership’s local area. In February 2023 the unit was temporarily closed due to ongoing challenges regarding staff recruitment, resulting in only being able to utilise a small proportion of the places in the unit. During its period of closure, the unit has undergone an extensive review and redesign of the staffing structure and developed an enhanced recruitment strategy to allow a resilient and sustainable service in the future. The unit re-opened in February 2024. The ESSCP Manager met with the Manager of the home in April 2024 to review any incidents of restraint involving the one resident in the home during March 2024. The Manager at Lansdowne Secure Children’s Home has resumed annual reporting to the ESSCP, including a review of the use of restraint within the establishment, due April 2025 for inclusion in the 2024/25 partnership annual report. The home was inspected by Ofsted in December 2022 and received a ‘Good’ judgement.

9. Appendices

9.A Safeguarding Context

Impact of multi-agency working		
Family contacts (to SPOA and other excluding MASH)	↔	The total number of contacts remains consistent with last year (17,855 compared to 17,798 compared to 17,011).
Information gatherings by Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	↑	The number of multi-agency information gathering (MIG's) increased by 7.2% (22,699 compared with 21,181) continuing the year on year increase (between 2022-2023 MIGs increased by 8%)
Referrals to statutory social care	↑	The number of referrals to statutory social care increased by 8.2% from last year (4400 compared to 4018).
Privately Fostered children	↓	Following a peak of 64 in summer 2023, the number of Privately Fostered children fell to 33 at the end of 2023/24. Generally, the number of privately fostered children is lower than previous years.
Children supported by statutory services		
Children with a child protection plan	↔	The number of CP plans has continued to rise throughout 2023/24 to a peak of 766 at the end of February 2024. The number of children with plans fell slightly, to 688, at the end of March 2024. While this is a similar number to the number of plans at the end of March 2023 (691), this represents a 28% increase over a two year period (536 in March 2022)
Looked After Children	↑	The average number of Looked After Children increased by 4.2% in 2023/24 compared to the previous year (672 compared to 645 across the year in 2022/23). The number peaked in September 2023 at 686 but has been on a downward trend since Nov 2023.
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	↑	Although the total number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in East Sussex at the end of March 2024 was lower than at the same point in 2023 (69 compared to 73), the average number of UASC across the year increased by 18.0% in 2023/24, compared to the previous year, peaking at 82 in Nov 2023.
Young people at high risk of child exploitation	↑	The average number of children rated as RED within the SAFER process has remained fairly similar - there were an average number of 14 children rated 'red' in 2023/24 compared to 13 in 2022/23. Overall, the number of 'red' and 'amber' cases held at SAFER has increased by 30% (30 at the end of 2023/24 compared to 20 in March 2023).

Sexual offences against children	↑	The number of non-penetrative sexual offences in East Sussex recorded against children in East Sussex has increased by 10% (377 in 2023/24 compared to 343 in 2022/23) compared to an 8% reduction across Sussex. However, the number of penetrative sexual offences has decreased by 12% (200 in 2023/24 compared to 227 in 2022/23), mirroring the decrease also show across Sussex.
Children with family related vulnerabilities		
<i>Children living with domestic violence (MARAC)</i>	↓	In March 2024 there were 108 children living in households that were discussed at MARAC (MARAC is a local, victim-focused meeting where information is shared between different statutory and voluntary agencies, on the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse). This is significantly lower than the March 2023 figure of 206.
Vulnerable young carers	↑	There were 380 children's social care assessments completed in 2023/24 where a young carer was identified as a factor, this is an increase compared to 328 in the previous year (but similar to the 2021/22 number of 371 in the previous year)
Children educated at home	↑	The number of children school age children recorded as being electively home educated continues to rise to a high of 1755 children at the of March 2024. This is a 40% increase on the end of March 2023 figure of 1262. The rate of children EHE also continues to rise and peaked in March 2024 at 191 per 10,000 of the 4-18-year-old population.
Children with health related vulnerabilities		
Children with disabilities with a Child Protection Plan	↔	At the end of March 2024 there were 21 children with disabilities with a child protection plan; similar to the number at the end of March 2023 (22 children). This represents an average of 3% of all CP plans.
Children attending A&E due to self-harm	↑	786 children in 2023/34 attended A&E in East Sussex hospitals due to deliberate self-harm, and 14% increase from 692 in 2022/23 and 612 in 2021/22. There was a peak of 83 attendances in September 2023.
Contacts to SPOA CAMHS	↑	A total of 5963 contacts were made to the CAMHS 'front door' (SPOA) in 2023/24 compared to 5379 in 2022/23; this represents an 11% increase in contacts.
Children whose actions place them at risk		
Missing episodes	↑	There were a total of 2380 missing episodes in 2023/24, a 7% increase on the 2022/23 figure of 2083. The number of missing individuals decreased by 3% over the same period.

Number of permanent exclusions from school	↑	A total of 126 permanent exclusions from school across the 2023/24 financial year, compared to 96 in the previous year. This represents a 31% increase.
Young people entering the youth justice system	↑	85 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time in 2023/24 compared to 62 in 2021/22, however this is still below the number in 2021/22 (100). The rate of FTE per 100,000 0-17-year-olds is still well below the target rate (34 per 100,000 compared to a target of 74.9)
Young people held overnight in Police custody	↓	There were only 6 occasions of young people being held overnight in Police custody in 2023/24, lower than in previous years (11 in 2022/23 and 2021/22)

9.B: Board Membership - up to March 2024

NAME	TITLE, ORGANISATION
Chris Robson (Chair)	Independent East Sussex SCP Chair
Louise MacQuire-Plows	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Victoria Jones	Manager, East Sussex SCP
Harriet Martin	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Anne Moynihan	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Nick Pointer	Lay Member, East Sussex SCP
Maxine Nankervis	Partnership Support Officer, East Sussex SCP till March 2024

Gail Gowland	Head of Safeguarding (Adults and Children), East Sussex Healthcare Trust
Gareth Knowles	SECamb Trust Safeguarding Lead, Clinical Supervisor
Jackie Dyer / Lynne Torpey	NHS England and NHS Improvement - South
Jayne Bruce	Director of Nursing, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)
Jo Tomlinson	Assistant Head of Safeguarding Children/Designated Nurse, NHS Sussex
Judith Sakala	Named GP for Child Safeguarding, NHS Sussex
Martin Ryan	Named Nurse/Associate Director Safeguarding Children, SPFT
Michael Brown	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, NHS Sussex
Naomi Ellis	Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Director of Patient Experience & Involvement, NHS Sussex
Sergio Lopez-Gutierrez	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children for NHS Sussex
Tracey Ward (Deputy Chair)	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children, NHS Sussex
Vikki Carruth	Director of Nursing, ESHT

Richard McDonagh	Detective Chief Superintendent Head of Public Protection, Sussex Police Service
David Kemp	Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Debbie Knight	Head of East Sussex Probation Delivery Unit
Kate Adams	Service Manager, Sussex Children & Family Court Advisory Support Service CAFCASS

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

Alison Jeffery	Director of Children's Services. Till April 2024
Amanda Glover	Operations Manager, ESCC
Ben Brown	Consultant, Public Health, ESCC
Bob Bowdler, Cllr	Lead Member for Children and Families
Catherine Dooley	Strategic Lead, Safeguarding and Emotional Wellbeing, Education Division

Douglas Sinclair	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Children's Services
Fraser Cooper	Head of Safeguarding Adults
Justine Armstrong	Safer Communities Manager, ESCC
Kathy Marriott	Assistant Director (Early Help & Social Care), Children's Services
Lucy Spencer	Safeguarding Adults Board Development Manager
Rachel Doran	Legal & Coroner Services Manager, ESCC
Vicky Finnemore	Head of Specialist Services, Children's Services

Charlotte O'Callaghan	Senior Policy Officer, Wealden District Council (Maternity Leave)
Trevor Scott	Chief Executive, Wealdon District Council
Peter Hill	Policy Officer, Wealden District Council, Wealdon District Council
Seanne Sweaney	Strategy and Corporate Projects Officer, Lewes DC and Eastbourne BC
Richard Parker-Harding	Richard Parker-Harding - Head of Environmental Health, Rother District Council
Verna Connolly	Head of Personnel & Organisational Development, Hastings Borough Council

Kate Lawrence	Chief Executive Lotus Families East Sussex
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9.C ESSCP Budget

ESSCP - Actual Income and Expenditure 2023/24:

Income 2023/24		Area of Spend	Confirmed Expenditure
Sussex Police	£36,750	Independent Chair	£24,297
NHS Sussex	£53,987	Business Manager(s) & Administrator	£124,779
East Sussex County Council	£135,300	Administration	£2,163
Training Income	£5,863	Learning & Development Consultant	£62,626
ESSCP brought forward from 2022/23	£3,051	Training Programme and Conferences	£9,426
DfE Working Together 2023 Transitions Grant	£47,300	Projects (QA and Data support)	£17,514
		Pan Sussex Procedures	£7,092
		IT Software & Hardware	£1,342
		Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£4,866
		<i>cfwd (balancing fig)</i>	£28,146
Total	£282,251		£282,251

- The WT2023 transitions grant (£47,300) received from the DfE in January 2024 has been spent in full as per the Annex G return.
- The remaining funds contributed by LSPs for the continuing function of the partnership during 2023/24 was £28,146. This has been carried forward into the 2024/25 partnership budget as per DSP agreement.

9.D Links to other documents

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

[East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

[East Sussex Children and Young Peoples Plan](#)

[Children and Young People's Trust](#)

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

[East Sussex Safer Communities Partnerships' Business Plan 2023-26](#)

[East Sussex Safeguarding Adult Board Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#)

[East Sussex Youth Cabinet](#)

[West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

[Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership;](#)

9.E Acronyms

ABE	Achieving Best Evidence
ALWSPA	Abuse Linked to Accusations of Witchcraft and Spiritual Possession
AMH	Adult Mental Health
B&H	Brighton & Hove
CACE	Collaboration Against Child Exploitation
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CDRP	Child Death Review Panel
CME	Children Missing Education
CNB	Child Not Brought
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRG	Case Review Subgroup
CSARC	Children’s Sexual Assault Referral Centre
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYPT	Children and Young People Trust
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAT	Duty and Assessment Team
DfE	Department for Education
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DSP	Delegated Safeguarding Partner
DSVA	Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse
EET	Education, Employment, or Training
EHE	Electively Home Educated
ES	East Sussex
ESFRS	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
ESHT	East Sussex Health Trust
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
LAC	Looked After Children
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
LGBTQ	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender queer
LSCLG	Local Safeguarding Children Liaison Groups
LSP	Lead Safeguarding Partner
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Group
MASA	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
NAI	Non Accidental Injury
NPS	National Probation Service
PG	Partnership Group
PP	Perplexing Presentations
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SAFER	Situation, Assessment & Actions, Family, Expected Response, Referral & Recording
SAR	Safeguarding Adult Review
SCARF	Single Combined Agency Report Form
SCP	Safeguarding Children Partnership
SCR	Serious Case Reviews
SECamb	South East Coast Ambulance
SEROCU	Southeast Regional Organised Crime Unit
SLES	Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based

SPFT	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
SPOA	Single Point of Advice
SSCE	Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan
SUDI	Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy
SWIFT	Specialist Family Services
VCSE	Voluntary Charity Social Enterprise
VFM	Value for money
WS	West Sussex
YOT	Youth Offending Team