

Briefing for Scrutiny Members

13th September 2018



E S S E X
Safeguarding
Children
B O A R D

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ESCB Annual Report 2017-18 Summary

The Annual Report covers the main areas of work carried out for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 – the full report can be found on the [ESCB website](#).

Essex Overview – Local Context

The vast majority of the 309,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives, in 2017-18, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk.

The Board

- Developing policies and procedures and scrutinising and challenging local safeguarding practice.
- Working with partners as well as Southend and Thurrock Boards over the coming year to review current arrangements and plan for any changes following the new Working Together.

ESCB Strategic Priorities – what we did in 2017-18

Priorities agreed by Board based on key areas of work arising from local practice, case reviews, and national priorities.

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Online Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) campaign

- Online abuse is present in over 60% of CSE investigations across Essex
- Aimed to raise awareness of privacy settings, provide parents with tips, advice and what to do if concerned and provide children with advice on what to do if worried about something they have seen or been asked to do online.
- The campaign got press coverage and performed well on social media.

Operation Henderson CSE Campaign

- Multi-agency pilot project focusing on child exploitation across Essex railway networks. Targeting Epping Forest, Braintree and Basildon.
- Two weeks of activities and a new role for station staff of Child Exploitation and Trafficking Transport Network Advisors was created.
- Aimed to raise awareness and identification of child exploitation and trafficking with rail staff, rail retail outlets, businesses close to stations and the public.
- The outreach work and videos created for this campaign were particularly successful.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) schools and workforce survey

- Schools survey gained understanding of young people's awareness of CSE/online safety and resulted in promoting the use of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 CSE learning resources within schools.
- Whole workforce survey captured understanding of the workforce confidence in identification, response, service delivery and intervention. Learning and

Development Standards were developed and an advanced level training course on CSE commissioned via the NWG CSE Response Unit. Results also led to the Working with Children and Young People session at the CSE Champions Forums jointly delivered by the ECC Involvement Service and a group of young people.

SET Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Foster Carers, Children’s Homes / Sub- Committee expansion

- Creation, implementation and delivery of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and planning for missing
- Enables early planning for children who go missing from care, and those deemed at risk of exploitation

Working with the other Boards to identify cross-cutting issues

- Supported the Domestic Abuse Board with organising the Domestic Abuse Conference in November 2017, which 168 people attended from a range of agencies.
- Planning joint learning events with the Domestic Abuse Board and Safeguarding Adult Board in order to build on cross-cutting issues and further embed learning arising from reviews across all three Boards.

Building knowledge and capacity across local councils

- Local e-learning training to develop awareness of safeguarding
- Appointment of new Safeguarding Officers within Local Authorities

Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention

Serious Case Reviews or Partnership Learning Reviews

- Helped inform the re-commissioning of the young carers service.
- Learning disseminated via a learning bulletin.

Effective Support for Children and Families document

- Updated to reflect current practice.
- Launch events held across the county, supported by the Stay Safe groups.

Sudden Unexplained Deaths in Infants (SUDIs)

- Rise in number of SUDIs where co-sleeping or sleep surface a modifiable factor
- Re-launch of Safer Sleeping campaign.
- Number of notifications fell in the year 2017-18 and there have been no SUDI deaths in SET areas in the year 2018-19 to date.

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Thematic review findings and actions

Rise in the number of teenage suicides in Essex in 2017. Actions from review include:

- Learning to be shared widely including via a conference for strategic leads as well as to local areas via the Stay Safe.

- ESCB refreshed its schools toolkit on suicide prevention in order to support schools in their work to promote emotional wellbeing. This is further supported by a wellbeing website.
- The ESCB continues to work with partners in promoting the wellbeing of young people by promoting useful websites and organisations.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services

- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health page has been set up on ESCB website, which includes information on the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Information Portal for Schools and online counselling services.
- Social media posts around Kooth and Big White Wall always perform highly, showing a need for this information locally.
- The Health Executive has monitored the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for Children and Young People to ensure effective arrangements for the delivery of the service and support the agenda to reduce self-harm and prevent suicide.

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Involvement of Young People in CSE campaigns - participation of children and young people in the language and graphics used.

Voice of families – workshops in West Essex - Three family solution volunteers presented their stories and the positive experience they had of being supported by services that enabled them to make positive sustained changes in their lives

Safeguarding children with disabilities training - It had been identified that there was a lower than expected number of children with disabilities subject to a child protection plan.

Regional and national work

- ESCB Business Manager is the chair of the regional Business Managers group.
- ESCB Child Exploitation Project Manager is an Advisory Board Member for the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation.

Improvement work – supporting other LSCBs

- SET SCDOP received requests to share Child Death Review and Rapid Response processes with other LSCBs.
- Child Exploitation Project Manager has undertaken diagnostic work within LSCB and Children's Social Care (CSC) Settings in other Local Authorities.
- The Business Manager has also supported these LSCBs in areas such as learning and development and business planning and improvement.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

- Learning from Child Death Reviews has been shared across SET, aimed at preventing deaths in the future.

- Working with other local authorities when a child normally resident in another area dies in Essex (bouncy castle incident in 2016).

Developing new ways of working

Stay Safe groups are trialling forums where health and social care professionals come together to discuss safeguarding related issues and concerns around particular cases in order to find solutions where opinions differ.

Communication activities to raise awareness of safeguarding

- Visible presence at various events such as the Domestic Abuse Conference and Stay Safe events.
- Average of 15,700 total hits to the ESCB website each month, 250 new Twitter followers with 1700 reached by the end of 2017-18 and Facebook followers have doubled in the last year to more than 800.

Engagement with the voluntary sector

- 47% of the attendees at the multi-agency level 2 course are from the voluntary sector, showing good engagement.
- Practice Development Manager has attended the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) cluster meetings which are run quarterly.
- Practice Development Manager presented a workshop on policies, procedures and training at the ECVYS conference in Oct 2017
- ECVYS representative is also helping the Board with plans for the changes under the Children and Social Care Act.

Summary and Next Steps

There remains as always more to do and this is a challenge given reducing resources, restructures amongst partner agencies and the future changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the impact of this on Essex. We will however look to build on progress made this year as we move forward to develop our new arrangements in line with the new legislation – this will certainly include working even more closely with other Boards across Southend and Thurrock as well as more widely across the Eastern region.

Summary of Working Together 2018 Statutory Guidance

The Children and Social work Act received Royal Assent in May 2017 (<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork.html>).

It removes the statutory framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, replacing it with new requirements for specific partners to establish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements – ‘MASA’.

Supporting regulations and “Working Together 2018” statutory guidance were published in June 2018 : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Under the new legislation, three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

The geographical footprint for the new arrangements is based on local authority areas. Every local authority, clinical commissioning group and police force must be covered by a local safeguarding arrangement.

Timescales

Safeguarding partners have **up to 12 months from 29 June 2018**, to agree their local arrangements and which relevant agencies they consider appropriate should work with them to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area.

Safeguarding partners must **publish their arrangements by 29 June 2019**, but may do so at any time before the end of that period.

Following publication of their arrangements, safeguarding partners have **up to three months** from the date of publication to implement the arrangements. The implementation date should be made clear in the published arrangements. All new local arrangements must have been **implemented by 29 September 2019**.

Safeguarding partners

- The 3 safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies.
- All 3 safeguarding partners have **equal and joint responsibility** for local safeguarding arrangements.
- It will be for local areas to decide what their arrangements should look like, how they will work in practice; and what **geographical area** they will cover

(although a local authority area cannot be covered by two sets of overlapping arrangements).

Funding

- Safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are responsible for funding their arrangements. While a set funding formula is not being prescribed, **funding contributions should be equitable and proportionate**. The guidance states: -

‘The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements ‘

Independent Scrutiny

- Arrangements will be made available to the public through the publication of an **independently scrutinised plan**, which will set out in detail how safeguarding partners intend to work together. Safeguarding partners will also be responsible for publishing **reports at least once in every twelve-month period** which set out how effective their arrangements have been in practice
- Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of **independent scrutiny** is to be made locally, safeguarding partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement.
- The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.

Relevant agencies

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. For local arrangements to be effective, they should engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate. The safeguarding partners must set out in their published arrangements which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Schools, colleges and other educational providers

- All schools, colleges and other educational providers have duties in relation to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.
- The safeguarding partners should make arrangements to allow all schools (including multi academy trusts), colleges and other educational providers, in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in the new safeguarding arrangements.
- It is expected that local safeguarding partners will name schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies.

- Once designated as a relevant agency, schools and colleges, and other educational providers, in the same way as other relevant agencies, are under a statutory duty to co-operate with the published arrangements

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

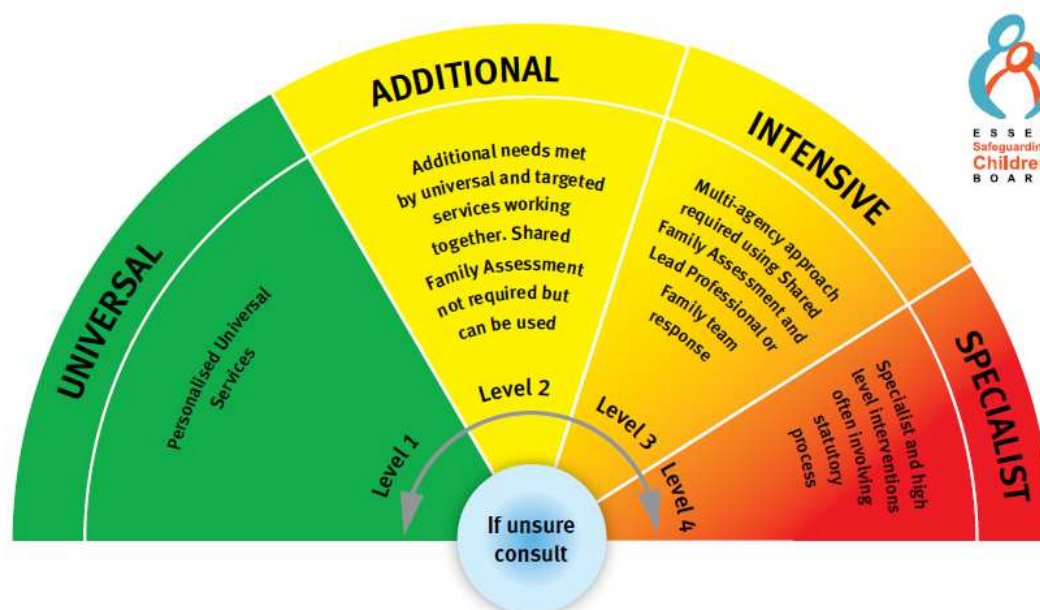
New national and local “Child Safeguarding Practice Review” procedures replace the existing Serious Case Reviews. The guidance sets out the process for new national and local reviews. The responsibility for how the system learns the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (the Panel) and at local level with the safeguarding partners.

Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex

The Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex is an Essex Safeguarding Children Board document that is agreed by all Board partners. All key agencies contribute to the content, it has been in its current format since 2013 following a review of assessment, referral and access to services that commenced in January 2012. It also incorporates the learning from the work of the Essex Family prototypes between 2011 and 2013.

The Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex guidance is for everyone who works with children and young people and their families in Essex. It is about the way we can all work together, share information, and put the child and their family at the centre, providing effective support to help them solve problems and find solutions at an early stage to prevent problems escalating. There may be times when the needs of the family are such that intensive or specialist statutory intervention is required.

The Effective Support Windscreen- The conceptual model and windscreen is a way of developing a shared understanding and explaining the Essex approach across all our services and partnerships, ensuring a consistent approach is applied by all practitioners and managers. The model illustrates how we will respond to the requirements of children and families across four levels of need (**Universal, Additional, Intensive and Specialist**).



All partners working with children, young people and their families will offer support as soon as we are aware of any additional needs. We will always seek to work together to provide support to children, young people and their families at the lowest level possible in accordance with their needs.

[More information on the Effective Support Windscreen \(Effective Support Portal\)Effective Support for children and Families in Essex Document](#)

Examples of 2 areas of work carried out since previous Scrutiny

Stay Safe Conferences

Following the review of governance arrangements in Essex, from April 2017 the Stay Safe groups became sub-committees of the ESCB; this established a formal link between the stay safe groups and ESCB, though they retained their links with the local Children's partnership.

ESCB decided that rather than holding one large central conference we would work with the stay safe groups to develop locally based conferences which were held in March 2018.

There was some variation in the content of the 7 conferences however all set out to achieve the following outcomes;

To provide an interactive event for those working with children and families locally to:

- Hear about key projects and new developments around safeguarding
- Support partnership and working together opportunities
- Inform stay safe priorities for 2018
- Go away with practical resources to support your work with children and families

The conferences were designed by a working group from the local Stay Safe group in each area, South Essex held just one conference but in all the other quadrants the working groups chose to hold 2 conferences at different locations to encourage people to see it as a local event and ensure access for a wide range of people. Key themes across all 7 conferences were;

- Gangs and Serious Youth Violence
- Team around the family and early help
- ECC Children & Families Hub online portal

All areas had input from Essex Youth Offending Service in relation to those young people who may be involved in gangs or at risk of becoming involved in gang related activity. Essex Youth Offending Service spoke about local support services for young people but also support for professionals supporting those young people.

Workshops were delivered by local practitioners and in West some parent volunteers delivered a workshop on their personal experience of being supported by Family Solutions and other organisations.

A total of 339 people attended the 7 events across the county, this is significantly more people than have previously attended the ESCB annual conference and these were well received.

Feedback from delegates;

- “Really enjoyed the youth offending service with regards to gangs. Really informative and useful information to take with me and share with my team” (*Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service*)
- “Family solutions workshop-enjoyed the simplicity of the exercises but how powerful they were and how well they got the message across” (*Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service*)
- “I found this event brought practitioners together and share ideas of how to approach working together. Good networking amongst attendees” (*Health*)
- “Found gang presentation useful/informative” (*Health & District/Borough Council*)
- “I do not work directly with families or children but I found this event useful and have come away with some great info and contacts” (*District/Borough Council*)
- “Professional networking throughout the event was excellent and worth attending for” (*Education*)
- “My knowledge has increased following today” (*Health*)
- “Having the parent’s perspective was brilliant, it is so much easier to understand, relate and empathise with first hand experiences” (*Education*)
- “Very informative and a good insight into how partner agencies can work together to achieve positive outcomes” (*Police*)
- “I found these workshops the best part of the day, coming together and sharing ideas etc.” (*Voluntary Organisation*)
- “Really informative and useful information to take with me and share with my team” (*Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service*)

Thematic review of teenage suicide in Essex

A thematic review of teenage suicides was carried out by a multi-agency review panel in January 2018. The review focused specifically on the nine young people in Essex who killed themselves between April and November 2017. Eight of these young people were aged between 13 and 17. One young person who was 18 was included in the review because, although they did not formally come under the Child Death Review process, they were still at school at the time of their death.

Following the review, subsequent report and learning event for strategic leads held in June 2018, a project is now underway within each of the Stay Safe Groups to work further on on the prevention of teenage suicide.

Each of the Stay Safe Groups will receive a presentation on the findings of the thematic review and the recommendations in their September meeting. Each Stay Safe Group will then design an event in the new year to share the learning from the review and to identify key local priorities that they would want to focus on.

ESCB will set the part of the programme for the Stay Safe conferences in the new year to ensure that there is a consistent message across the county, the rest of the programme will be determined locally.

Suicide prevention- ESCB and ESAB learning and development sub-committee are working with Public Health to support the development of an all age suicide prevention training programme.

ESCB are working with public health and other organisations to raise awareness of suicide including promoting World Suicide Prevention day on 10 September, this is an annual awareness day.