



Essex County Council

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 08 February 2018	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
--------------	---------------------------------------	---

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 36276

Email: gemma.bint@essex.gov.uk

Pages

Private Pre-Meeting, PAF Members Only

To be held at 9.30am in Committee Room 6, County Hall.

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 4 - 4 |
|----------|--|--------------|

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 2 | Minutes
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018. | 5 - 6 |
|----------|--|--------------|

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Questions from the Public | |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|

A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting.

On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 4 | Essex Safeguarding Children Board update
To consider report (PAF/03/18) and oral evidence from representatives from the Voluntary Sector. | 7 - 26 |
| 5 | Work Programme
To consider report (PAF/04/18) | 27 - 30 |
| 6 | Future Meeting Dates
To consider report (PAF/05/18) regarding future meeting dates. | 31 - 31 |
| 7 | Date of Next Activity Day
To note that the next Committee activity day is scheduled for Thursday 15 March 2018, which may be a private Committee session, public meeting, briefing, site visit, etc - to be confirmed nearer the time. | |
| 8 | Urgent Business
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |
| 9 | Urgent Exempt Business
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

The agenda is available on the Essex County Council website, <https://www.essex.gov.uk>. From the Home Page, click on 'Your Council', then on 'Meetings and Agendas'. Finally, select the relevant committee from the calendar of meetings.

Attendance at meetings

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. A map and directions to County Hall can be found at the following address on the Council's website:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Your-Council/Local-Government-Essex/Pages/Visit-County-Hall.aspx>

Access to the meeting and reasonable adjustments

County Hall is accessible via ramped access to the building for people with physical disabilities.

The Council Chamber and Committee Rooms are accessible by lift and are located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

With sufficient notice, documents can be made available in alternative formats, for further information about this or about the meeting in general please contact the named officer on the agenda pack or email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Audio recording of meetings

Please note that in the interests of improving access to the Council's meetings, a sound recording is made of the public parts of many of the Council's Committees. The Chairman will make an announcement at the start of the meeting if it is being recorded.

If you are unable to attend and wish to see if the recording is available you can visit this link <https://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/Essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings> any time after the meeting starts. Any audio available can be accessed via the 'On air now!' box in the centre of the page, or the links immediately below it.

Should you wish to record the meeting, please contact the officer shown on the agenda front page

Agenda item 1

Committee: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 4)

Councillor M Maddocks	Chairman
Councillor J Baker	
Councillor J Chandler	
Councillor B Egan	
Councillor A Erskine	
Councillor J Henry	
Councillor J Lumley	
Councillor P May	
Councillor M McEwen	
Councillor J Moran	
Councillor P Reid	
Councillor C Souter	
Councillor L Wagland	
Councillor A Wood	

Non-elected Members

Richard Carson
Lee Cromwell
Marian Uzzell

Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 11 January 2018

Present:

County Councillors:

M Maddocks (Chairman)

J Baker

S Canning

J Chandler

B Egan

A Erskine

J Henry

J Lumley

P May

M McEwen

P Reid

C Souter

A Wood

The following officers were present in support of the meeting:

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received and it was noted that

1. Cllr Andy Wood has replaced Cllr Wendy Schmitt as a Member of the Committee
2. Cllr John Moran had sent his apologies and was substituted by Cllr Stephen Canning. Apologies were also received from Cllr Lesley Wagland.
3. There were no declarations of interest

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public

4 Task and Finish Group – Hip fractures and falls prevention

The Committee considered report (PAF/01/18) on the Task and Finish Group – Hip fractures and falls prevention

It was **Agreed** that:

1. The work undertaken so far by the Joint Task and Finish Group established with the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee was to be noted.
2. Further progress reports are to be received from the Task & Finish Group in due course.

5 Work Programme

The Committee considered report (PAF/02/18) on the Work Programme.

It was **Agreed** that:

1. The report which reflects the current work programming undertaken was to be noted.
2. Consideration is to be given to incorporating Essex Cares into any future review of the care market.

6 Date of Next Activity Day

The Committee noted that its next activity day is scheduled for Thursday 08 February 2018, 9.30am and details for that day would be confirmed nearer the time.

7 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.49am.

Chairman

		AGENDA ITEM 4	
		PAF/03/18	
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee		
Date:	Thursday 8 February 2018		
Enquiries to:	Name: Alison Cutler Designation: Business Manager Essex Safeguarding Children Board Contact details: 0333 013 9168 alison.cutler@essex.gov.uk		

Update on the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board

Introduction

This paper and attached information sets out the presentation to be provided to the Essex People and Families Scrutiny Committee in February 2018.

Enclosed in the pack:

- Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) structure
- Annual Report – link on the ESCB website
- Executive summary of the Annual Report for 2016 -17
- Business Plan 2017 – 19

Presentation

The presentation will focus on current priorities and how these are being worked on and progressed, as opposed to reflection on the previous year. It will cover the following:

- Introduction to the Board- structure, responsibilities, linkages with the County Council and impact of the Children and Social Work Act

- Summary of key areas of work of the Board and its effectiveness
- Child Exploitation as an example of ongoing work

We would be interested in views and comments from Members on the Board's current work and priorities.

Summary of presentation and key points:

Statutory framework and structure of the ESCB

The Board exists as a statutory body and has a range of roles including developing policies and procedures and scrutinising and challenging local safeguarding practice.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives for a Local Safeguarding Children Board as:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and;
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for these purposes.

The Safeguarding Children Board does not deal with individual cases except when it is carrying out reviews such as Serious Case Reviews. The Board works with its member organisations and a range of public sector providers and commissioners to raise the standard of multi agency working – it does not intervene in operational matters or cases.

The role of the Safeguarding Children Board is to have an independent coordinating and challenge role around safeguarding practice across its partner agencies. This is carried out by the Sub-committees and working groups of the ESCB, which are:

- Child Death Overview Panel (statutory)
- Serious Case Review (statutory)
- Learning and Development (joint with Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB))
- Communications (joint with Essex Safeguarding Adults Board)
- Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance
- Policies, Procedures & Practice Development and a joint Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Policies and Procedures group
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing and a SET Strategic Exploitation Group
- Health Executive Forum involving directors of nursing from all NHS commissioners and providers in Essex.
- District, City and Borough Councils Group including safeguarding leads from

all 12 councils

Essex County Council (ECC) is represented on the ESCB Executive via senior officers as ECC is one of the partner agencies of the Board.

Revised governance following the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The ESCB undertook a governance review in 2016/17 following publication of the Wood Review and the subsequent Children and Social Work Act 2017 removing the statutory footing for LSCBs but nevertheless requiring multi agency safeguarding arrangements to be in place. These revised governance arrangements were put in place from April 2017 onwards with key changes being that of even more direct links to local practice via the Stay Safe Groups, a smaller Executive Board including our Health, Police and Social Care partners as recommended under the Wood Review and also continued involvement with our other partners via the Assembly. The structure chart is attached. The four Stay Safe Groups are quadrant based and allow agency leads in those areas to meet and discuss local operational safeguarding issues.

Annual report and effectiveness

Our Annual Report and Executive Summary covering work we carried out in 2016 – 17 is available at the following link on our website: <http://www.escb.co.uk/en-gb/home.aspx> The Executive summary also sets out some of our current priorities.

The Executive summary is attached to this briefing paper.

Business Plan

The work of the Board is set out in its Business Plan (see attached) and the effectiveness of this is reviewed in its Annual Report. The ESCB Business Plan 2017 – 19 continues to focus on understanding what impact has been made to the lives of children, young people and their families as a result of interventions/services by agencies. This plan includes the following areas of work:

- Assessing the impact of multi agency working to tackle Domestic Abuse where children are involved.
- Raising the profile of Neglect
- Focus on child sexual exploitation, gangs, youth offending
- Evaluating the impact and provision of early help arrangements including thresholds and families moving into Essex County Council area
- Monitoring and evaluating the provision of mental health support for children and young people including any lessons learned from a thematic review of

deaths of young people in Essex.

- Focussing on partnership working to ensure that risks are identified, lessons learned and good practice is embedded to make sure that children and young people are safeguarded.

The Board agenda is very wide and the following is a topical example of how the Board carries out its role in Essex.

Child Exploitation

This is an example of work by the ESCB to tackle the issues of exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) has become a national priority following a number of high profile cases which hit public and media attention over the last 8 years raising failings in multi-agency arrangements to tackle CSE and drove forward a focus to develop robust responses to this issue to ensure such failings could be addressed. CSE is not a new phenomenon but our understanding and knowledge about how exploitation occurs and the impact of such abuse on children, young people and families has become better understood. Sexual exploitation is child abuse, and predominantly involves the coercion, manipulation of a child to sexual activities in exchange for something the child needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Partnership arrangements to tackle child exploitation is complex as it requires the commitment of not only our statutory, charitable and voluntary agencies but also a whole community approach including county, city, district and borough councils, the private sector and the general public. CSE Champions were created over 4 years ago to build a network of professionals covering the breadth of partnership working to ensure that individual teams/agencies had someone available to support them in understanding their responsibilities around CSE and to spread learning and development internally within their organisations. In 2017 there were over 600 CSE Champions trained across Essex.

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board instigated and approved multi-agency missing and child exploitation meetings across Essex in early 2016 to ensure that all agencies are routinely reviewing risk and vulnerability in relation to children that are known or at risk of exploitation and trafficking. These meetings are delivered in 4 quadrants of Essex on a monthly basis and are well attended from across the partnership; they have supported a clearer picture of the threats to children and young people within the borders, and travelling across the borders of Essex. Part of what we now know, and of growing interest nationally, is the wider forms of exploitation that are prevalent, such as criminal exploitation of children (CCE), in

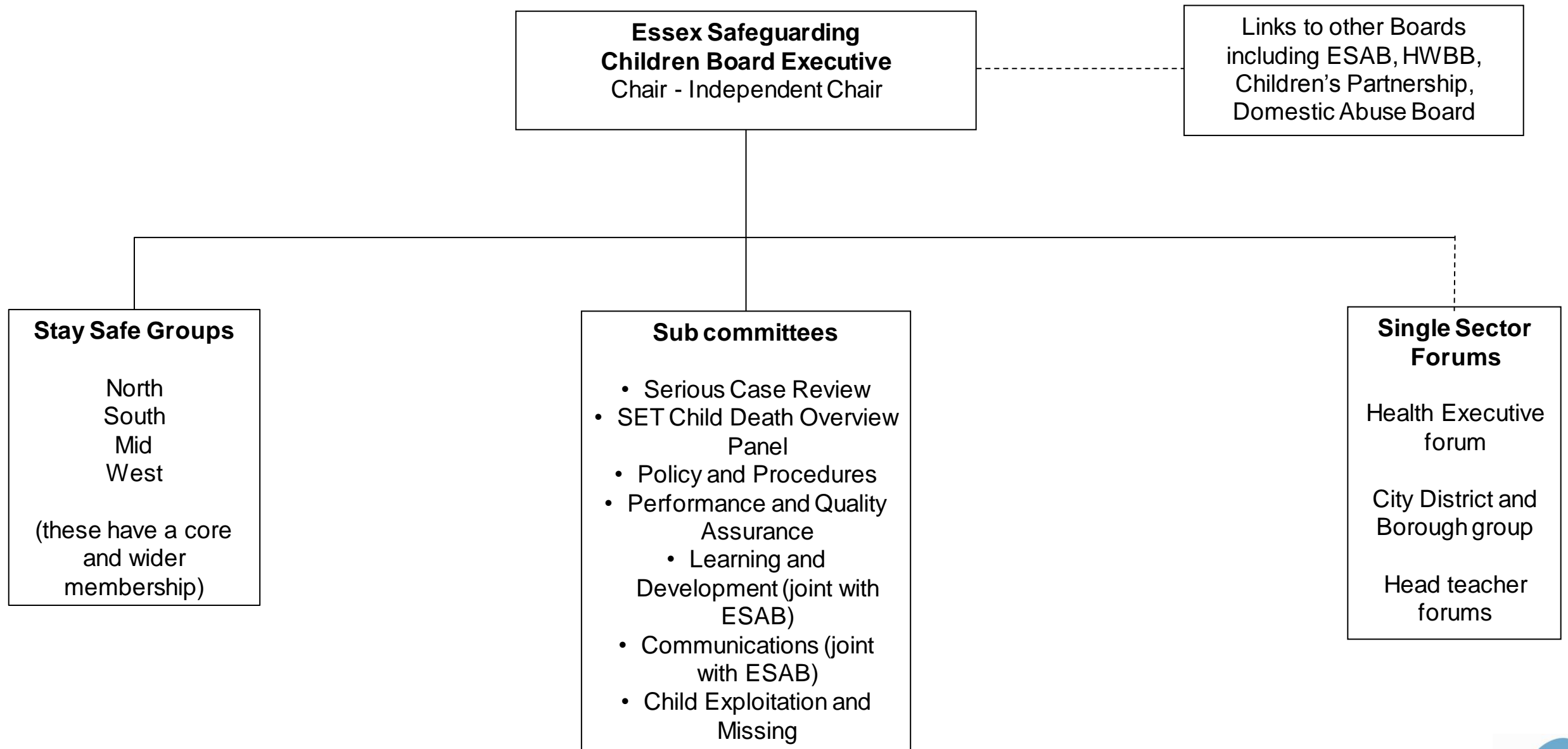
which children are coerced, manipulated or threatened into criminal activities. CCE often involves exploiting children to transport or supply drugs, including Class A drugs within or outside of the county and is often associated with gangs or county lines activities.

This clearer understanding has allowed for strategic action plans and operational responses to prioritise all forms of exploitation to children and to build public facing campaigns across Southend, Essex and Thurrock that outline how to spot the signs of abuse and where to report concerns. The [I Didn't Know CSE Campaign](#) was launched in 2016 and relaunched again in 2017. Inspired by a video project designed and created by the Essex Children in Care Council, it aims to raise awareness about CSE across the wider Essex area and support communities understanding of what CSE is, how to recognise it, and what to do to get help and support. To date this campaign has reached over 2 million people via social media, the supporting [campaign video](#) has been shown in cinemas to support engagement directly with children, young people and families. A wide range of resources have been created for this campaign, including posters, leaflets, videos, case studies, as well as materials for taxi licensing and licensed premises. Parents can access the ESCB campaign page which has been created to inform parents and carers of how to spot the signs and where to go for help if they are worried, this also includes a leaflet which they can print off. Whilst we have significantly grown in our partnership responsibilities to tackling child exploitation over the years, there is much more that can be done and is continuing to be done, including; working directly with educational establishments to hear the voices of young people in relation to exploitation; providing age appropriate resources for schools so they can deliver information to young people; and working with our transport networks including British Transport Police to ensure we are responding to children that are exploited or go missing and use our public transport networks, such as rail links through [Operation Henderson](#).

A commitment by all councils and organisations across Essex to continue with these developments is required and an understanding that whilst exploitation can happen to any child in any community, perpetrators often seek out the most vulnerable children.

Points for Scrutiny Committee Members – we would be interested in views and comments and suggestions from Members on the Boards priorities.

ESCB STRUCTURE CHART – September 2017



ESCB ASSEMBLY INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM ABOVE GROUPS AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES AND MEETS 2 – 3 TIMES A YEAR TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE SAFEGUARDING ISSUES



Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) 2016-17 THE HEADLINES

This summary is based on the ESCB Annual Report 2016-17 (the full report is available on the [ESCB website](#).)

Is Safeguarding a Significant Issue in Essex?

The vast majority of the 306,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives, in 2016-17, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk. For example:

- 9,850 children were referred to Children's Services during the year because someone had a concern about a risk of abuse or neglect. Police (30%), schools (17%) and their own family members (7%) were most notable in making these contacts. 74% of those cases (over 7,200) were felt to need a Child and Family assessment by Children's Services.
- Investigations of child sexual exploitation continue to be needed. At the end of the year, current

investigations involved 107 Essex children with 38 of these being at a high risk of sexual abuse happening.

- Children are at risk of exploitation and harm when they go missing from home. Across the year 361 children were reported missing – 42% of them were 'looked after children'.
- National estimates show 1 in every 5 children is exposed to domestic violence by the age of 18. Within Essex, police officers recorded over 10,000 domestic abuse crimes in the year, many involved children as witnesses or in the household at the time of violence.
- Family issues significantly add to the levels of stress and anxiety for children, affecting their mental wellbeing. 25% of Essex households have children under 5 in

a household where family members have self-diagnosed with depression or stress.

Are safeguarding issues getting better or worse?

Child Protection Plan numbers have remained consistent month on month across all quadrants, though the number of children on a Child Protection Plan was fractionally lower at the end of 2016-17 than 2015-16 figures by 5% (approx. 50 cases).

The Board was notified of 65 deaths of children from a wide range of circumstances during the year. Although below the 2015-16 figure, this is broadly similar to the numbers over the past four years. The most significant 'modifiable factor' in reviewed cases was the sleeping arrangements when young children die unexpectedly. These deaths showed a slight rise in number.

Nationally, levels of stress and emotional ill-health amongst children is worsening. In Essex, hospital admissions for under 24's who have self-harmed continue to increase, although they are still below national averages. Young women are more affected by this than young men.

Numbers of sexual exploitation cases have risen significantly in Essex over the past five years – but this reflects the much greater awareness and reporting of cases rather than changes in offending and abuse. The vast majority of child sexual exploitation cases involve one offender and one

victim, but cases of multiple offenders abusing a number of girls are happening.

Some exploitation is embroiled in drug trafficking and gang offending. Along with emotional ill health, the 'export' of gang related offending from cities into Essex is the biggest current threat to young people in Essex.

How has ESCB focussed its work in 2016-17?

In a few pages, it is not possible to set out the very wide range of activities the ESCB has led or contributed to, however the work has included:

Working with children and young people

The Board used the County Council's research to identify the three key areas that most worried young people and asked for their views and experiences to shape the work of the Board and its partners going forward. These three areas were:

- **Self-harm** – over 200 young people shared their perceptions and experiences of self-harm and this was the focus of the Board Development Day in October 2016 which was led by young people. The findings of this work further informed the revision of an ESCB suicide prevention toolkit being used in schools and youth organisations. This work contributes to the suicide prevention strategy being implemented across Essex,

Southend and Thurrock.
Children's Mental Health continues to be a ESCB priority for 2017-18.

- ***Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)*** – a significant amount of understanding has been gained by surveying over 2,000 Year 6 and Year 8 Essex pupils about their understanding of CSE risks. This is being used to design and deliver improved services by partners.
- ***Challenges of Leaving Care*** – young people leaving the care of the County Council put together a video about their experience and what needed to be improved. The challenges of housing, finance and support in making important decisions were particularly highlighted by the young people as they became independent. This, together with a survey of their experience, was used as the basis of two discussions at the ESCB Board. Individual partners are using the information to address the gaps in their particular services.

Child Deaths

Along with its neighbouring Boards, ESCB reviews the death of every child, whatever the circumstances. The overall number of deaths is low but in 2017-18 the reviews showed a slight rise in the number of Sudden Unexpected Deaths of Infants (SUDIs) where the child's sleeping

arrangements could have been a factor. As a result, the Board reinvigorated its campaign about 'Safe Sleeping', highlighting the risks of children sleeping with an adult. This included a 'Thunderclap' social media campaign in January 2017 with its messages reaching over 450,000 people.

Reviewing Serious Cases of Neglect and Abuse

The Board carries out in-depth case reviews if a child has died or been seriously injured through neglect or abuse. During the year, it considered five cases where children had been seriously injured. None of these required a formal, legally required process of 'a Serious Case Review' but the involvement of agencies in each case is being looked at in depth to ensure that any lessons are learned.

One Serious Case Review from a previous year was completed and published in 2016 regarding a non-accidental injury to a 14 week old baby. This review made a number of recommendations for improvements in practice, including:

- Promoting understanding of operational pathways between agencies
- Review of policy and procedures relating to parental mental health and the impact on parenting
- Inclusion of guidance around information sharing and recording in GP Contracts

These recommendations are now being implemented by all agencies.

The Board continued to work on a number of recommendations from previous years which had focussed on information sharing, pre-birth assessments, hospital discharge processes, complex parenting circumstances and risk management. The action plans for learning from these events were all completed in 2016 with new guidance and training being provided where needed.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Board's 'I Didn't Know' campaign raising awareness of CSE was revitalised. It particularly targets parents, carers and school staff on dealing with risks using a range of material such as this [parent/carers leaflet](#).

Following the good examples set by Brentwood and Harlow Council, most of the City, District and Borough councils provide mandatory training for licensed premises and taxi drivers raising awareness of CSE. Where this isn't happening, councils provide information leaflets and cue cards to licensed taxi drivers as part of their induction and training.

A full description of the Board's work can be found in the ESCB Annual Report 2016-17 on the [ESCB website](#).

How much did ESCB's work cost in 2016-17?

The Board's work is funded by partner contributions and a small training income. In 2016-17 contributions totalled £384,000. The work was achieved within that budget. The contributing agencies were:

Contributing Partner	£
CAFCASS	550
City, District and Borough Councils (1,210 each)	14,520
Community Rehabilitation Company	5,082
Essex County Council	213,166
Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	66,426
National Probation Service	2,415
NHS Basildon & Brentwood CCG	12,555
NHS Castle Point & Rochford CCG	7,705
NHS Mid Essex CCG	16,142
NHS North East Essex CCG	17,337
NHS West Essex CCG	12,687

(In addition, Thurrock and Southend Councils contribute £5,551 each towards the cost of the Child Death Review process which involves all three areas).

Partners also support the Board's work by providing accommodation and specialist staff for specific tasks. Over recent years, Safeguarding Boards' increasing demands have included Child Sexual Exploitation, gang involvement and bullying through social media. Contributing agencies have recognised these increasing demands, by maintaining a standstill budget for the Board, when many other public sector budgets have had to be cut.

What will ESCB be focussing on in 2017-18?

ESCB priorities are featured in its [Business Plan](#) which includes taking into account issues arising from operational practice, lessons from case reviews, national priorities and partners' view of risks to children. The Board is prioritising:

1. Focussing on areas and issues of greatest risk and concern to safeguarding of children

These include:

- Evaluating the impact of Domestic Abuse
- Raising the profile of Neglect
- Evaluating the approach to Preventing Radicalisation
- Evaluating partners approach to internet safety
- Evaluating partners approach to youth offending and gangs
- Leading Child Sexual Exploitation Initiatives

2. Assessing the effectiveness of early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified.

This includes:

- **0-19 services:** Evaluate the impact of the new 0-19 contract
- **Thresholds:** Assess the impact of threshold decisions on those children who are not stepped up to higher levels of intervention
- **Children moving into Essex:** Evaluate the safeguarding of children and instigate work with other Safeguarding Boards to

support agencies addressing these risks

3. Receiving assurance that children are kept safe through having access to appropriate services and support for their emotional health and well-being

This reflects the partners' awareness of the importance of effective mental health services in safeguarding children.

4. Strengthening partnership and leadership

This is a particular focus, as the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and related guidance is changing the safeguarding expectations on partners.



Essex Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2017 – 2019

Introduction

Our vision is that “*children and young people in Essex are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.*”

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) Business Plan sets out the strategic intent of the ESCB in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the ESCB to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements with priorities set for 2017/18 being updated following discussions with its partners.

Our Principles

- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.
- At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to understand the quality of a child’s experience of local services
- To learn from individual experiences and have a positive impact upon young lives
- To champion and protect the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and young people
- Our work is characterised by an attitude of constructive professional challenge
- To foster a culture of continuous review and learning with evidence based practice
- To foster a single child-centred culture, focussed on the needs of children, young people and their families
- To capitalise on the unique opportunities presented of being the 2nd largest board in the country.

Our Priorities

The ESCB Business Plan 2017-2018 is intentionally brief and focused on strategic priorities that form the basis of the work of the Board over the year. These priorities support the statutory functions of the ESCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare. They are;

Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention

Priority 3: Emotional Health & Well-being

Priority 4: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership

Annually, the ESCB will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the specific work plans of the Board's sub groups and working groups.

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
<p>The ESCB and partner agencies prioritise improvement in areas and on issues of greatest risk and concern to safeguarding.</p> <p>Children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities in Essex are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.</p>	<p>To work with partners to tackle the identified safeguarding priorities of Essex evaluating their impact on children and young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the impact of Domestic Abuse by: Completing the 2016-17 DA multi-agency audit ensuring the implementation of any actions for improvement • Raising the profile of Neglect by: Improving the awareness of professionals on neglect, the issues surrounding it and practical approaches for dealing with it. • Evaluating the approach to Preventing Radicalisation by: Discussing the current risk and response to radicalisation in Essex, making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate • Evaluating partners approach to internet safety by: Discussing the response of agencies to internet safety, making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate • Evaluating partners approach to youth offending and gangs by: Evaluating the approach of agencies and partnerships to youth crime and the threat of gangs • Leading Child Sexual Exploitation Initiatives by: Continuing to lead and co-ordinate the development of approaches to CSE across Essex (working with SET colleagues) through the implementation of the CSE Strategy and its action plan. 	<p>Community Rehabilitation Company</p> <p>Essex County Council Family Operations</p> <p>Essex County Council Family Operations</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Office of the Police Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Essex Police</p>

Strategic Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.	<p>To evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements and impact by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-19 services: Evaluate the impact of the new 0-19 contract on partnership working following its implementation in April 2017 • Thresholds: Assess the impact of threshold decisions on those children who are not stepped up to higher levels of intervention • Children moving into Essex: Evaluate the safeguarding of children and young people and instigate appropriate work with other Safeguarding Boards to support agencies addressing those risks 	<p>Virgin Care</p> <p>Education</p> <p>City, District and Borough Council</p>

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional health and well-being		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
Children and young people are safe through having access to appropriate services and support for their emotional health and well-being,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with partners in evaluating the impact of services and resources on the safety of young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues: <p>Receiving assurance from the appropriate bodies that strategies, implementation and monitoring plans are in place, that risks are being addressed and making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate to address any issues of concern.</p> <p>This work will look at services being provided at all levels of need.</p>	Health

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
<p>The ESCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the safeguarding work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Making the Invisible Visible: ALL children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ESCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for the ESCB and its sub groups / working groups by: ESCB Executive regularly scrutinising progress on the Business Plan 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the ESCB and other key strategic forums by: Any changes in governance and structure decided at ESCB on 1st March 2017 being revisited after 1 year to ensure that they remain appropriate in light of the outcomes of the Wood review 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and develop key ESCB functions by: ESCB Executive routinely scrutinising the performance of the partnership on the following functions: performance management, audit, training and development, the coordination of how the voice of the child is listened to by agencies and the partnership 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities by: Continuing to develop and utilise the website and associated communications media to ensure safeguarding messages are promoted. This should include campaigns such as safer sleeping. 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consistently promote the importance of effective and swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information by: 	ESCB chair

children are safeguarded.	Ensuring that actions around information sharing in case reviews are effectively implemented across agencies and that the monitoring of information sharing is included in any audit activity.	
---------------------------	--	--

	AGENDA ITEM 5
	PAF/04/18
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 February 2018
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk

WORK PROGRAMME

Briefings

In January 2018 the Committee had a briefing on some of the quality improvement initiatives in the care market. Further briefings and discussion days will continue to be scheduled on an ongoing basis as identified and required

Task and Finish Group activity

In September, a joint briefing on hip fractures was held with members of the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee. Subsequently, it was resolved by both committees to establish a Joint Task and Finish Group to look at hip fractures and falls prevention. This Group has held two sessions to scope the focus of the work which was endorsed by this committee last month. The review starts in early February and will run for up to three months..

Chairman and Vice Chairmen meetings

The Chairman and Vice Chairmen meet at least monthly in between scheduled meetings of the full Committee to discuss work planning and to meet officers as part of preparation for future items. The Chairman and Vice Chairmen also meet the Cabinet Members for Education, Children & Families, and Health and Adult Social Care on a regular basis

Formal committee activity

Items already programmed to come to full committee are listed in Appendix A. Further preliminary scoping of some other items is underway.

Action required by Members at this meeting:

- (i) To note this report and Appendix A which reflects the current work programming undertaken and underway;**
- (ii) To discuss suggestions for briefings and other preparatory work as part of further developing the work programme;**
- (iii) To raise further issues for consideration; and**
- (iv) To further consider timings for initial scoping meetings and reviews.**

People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee: 2 January 2018
Work programme (still subject to further investigation, scoping and evaluation)

Date/timing	Issue/Topic	Focus/other comments	Approach
Items identified for formal scrutiny in full committee			
February 2018	Safeguarding - Children	To consider a report on the work of the Childrens' Safeguarding Board, their role and are they meeting their responsibilities? Will include a forward look of what are their priorities for next year under key themes.	(i) Private development session held in October 2017 to understand safeguarding structures and organisations; (ii) Chairman and VCs to meet Independent Chairman of Safeguarding Boards on semi –regular basis; (iii) Formal session to challenge performance and priorities.
March 2018	Safeguarding - Adults	To consider a report on the work of the Adults Safeguarding Board, their role and are they meeting their responsibilities? Will include a forward look of what are their priorities for next year under key themes.	(i) Private development session held in October 2017 to understand safeguarding structures and organisations; (ii) Chairman and VCs to meet Independent Chairman of Safeguarding Boards on semi –regular basis; (iii) Formal session to challenge performance and priorities.
April 2018	Educational Attainment	'Old' Committee made recommendations on recruitment, pooling of resources and collaboration, encouraging seamless transition between services, encouraging governor commitment, targeting of pupil premium and aspirational target setting.	(i) Previous committee established this as an annual update. Last update in March 2017; (ii) Preliminary private briefing explaining performance measures in March 2018; (iii) Formal annual update to challenge performance
April/May 2018 - TBC	0-19 Contract with Virgin Care	Review contract performance after a year of operation (KPIs, involvement of CVS etc).	(i) Further investigation with officers necessary. (ii) Initial private briefing on the rationale and aspirations behind the contract placement (joint with HOSC–PAF leads); (iii) Formal session to challenge progress.
tbc	Residential and Domiciliary Care	Recommendations made by the Committee were essentially around: - recruitment, retention, staff training. - Raising the profile of carers in the community	(i) Follow up on scrutiny report and recommendations made by 'old' PAF (ii) An implementation review with the Cabinet Member had been scheduled for April 2017 but was not held due to imminent County Council elections.
October 2018	Young Carers	A new Young Carers Service will be delivered in-house by ECC from 1 April 2018. The Cabinet decision was called-in on but later withdrawn after an informal meeting with the Cabinet Member.	(i) Follow up on scrutiny report and recommendations made by 'old' PAF; (ii) Post-implementation review of new service as agreed as part of the withdrawal of the call-in during September 2017.

Task and Finish Group review (with Health Overview, Policy and Scrutiny Committee)

October 2017	Hip fractures for over 65s – higher than national average in Essex	Some of the issues discussed have been the incidence and reporting of outside falls, connections with other agencies, information governance and data sharing, comparisons with other areas, GP awareness.	(i) Private briefing held with Public Health(September 2017); (ii) Scoping complete and proposed to focus on the safety, environment and culture of care home/nursing homes; (iv) Submission to HOSC and PAF for endorsement (Jan 18) (v) Task and Finish Group to start late January/Feb 2018
--------------	--	--	---

Briefing held and periodic briefing updates agreed

May 2018	School Places Planning	Update on refreshed 10 Year Plan and primary and secondary 'Offer day'. More information could also be available on garden settlements, local plans, and housing trajectories.	(i) Private briefing in September 2017; (ii) Further update requested at an appropriate point in future.
----------	------------------------	--	---

Issues still under consideration and/or for further evaluation

Ongoing	School Crossing Patrols	The service has a number of issues including wider stakeholder engagement, recruitment and retention	(i) Preliminary briefing in September 2017; (ii) A private briefing was held in December 2017 updating on a review being conducted by the Cabinet Member; (iii) Committee to discuss further with Cabinet Member and scope for any further work by the Committee.
TBC	The Care Market	Care Act duties and market shaping and sufficiency and looking at relationships with providers.	(i) Private development session held in November 2017; (ii) Further briefing on quality improvement initiatives planned for January 2018. (iii) Further review of relationship management, the personalisation agenda and the sustainability care provider workforce being scoped.
TBC	Learning Disabilities	A wide ranging cross-cutting issue – will need detailed focus if go beyond a preliminary briefing.	Private reparatory briefing from ECC officers on structures and issues in October 2017. Follow-up work TBC;
TBC	Disruptive children	Could look at the criteria for access to support services.	Further investigation with key officers necessary before being able to scope any review.
TBC	Gang culture	Identified by Cabinet Member as issue of concern.	Further investigation with key officers necessary before being able to scope any review.
TBC	Social Care	Any scrutiny review would need to 'drill-down' to a much smaller issue where there could be 'value-add'	Initial briefing on care market held in November 2017 (see above). Further investigation with key officers necessary.

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PAF/05/18
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	08 February 2018	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.Hughes@essex.gov.uk	

Future Meeting Dates

Action: The Committee is invited to consider and agree the following committee meetings and or activity days for the period June 2018 – May 2019.

Proposed Dates:

Thursday 14th June 2018
 Thursday 12th July 2018
 Thursday 13th September 2018
 Thursday 11th October 2018
 Thursday 8th November 2018
 Thursday 13th December 2018
 Thursday 10th January 2019
 Thursday 14th February 2019
 Thursday 14th March 2019
 Thursday 11th April 2019
 Thursday 9th May 2019

Members are requested to hold 9.30 – 15.30 in their diary for each of the above dates.