

		<b>AGENDA ITEM 4</b>
		<b>PAF/03/18</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 8 February 2018</b>	
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### **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.

