

Report title: Children's Safeguarding Update	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 8 October 2020	For: To consider this report and identify and follow-up actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

The Committee has agreed to review the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board on an annual basis and last did this in September 2019. This is the latest update.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider:

- (i) The level of assurance it has from the new local governance arrangements for children's safeguarding resulting from the new statutory guidance.
- (ii) The level of assurance it has from the work undertaken by the Board in the past year and its future priorities and objectives for children's safeguarding in Essex.
- (iii) Issues arising from the focussed operational update from Paul Secker and any further work to be scoped

3. Background

The Committee has previously agreed to review the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) on an annual basis and last did this in September 2019. The minutes of that discussion can be accessed using this link - [PAF minutes - 12 September 2019](#)

An overview briefing paper is attached as **Appendix 1** with the full ESCB Annual Report 2018-19 attached as **Appendix 2**.

New statutory guidance has removed the statutory framework for local safeguarding children boards. The guidance stipulates three statutory local partners (Upper Tier Council, Police and Health) who should determine the

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local governance structure in future for safeguarding children. **Appendix 3** gives an overview of the Essex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. To support discussion on the new governance arrangements, representatives from the NHS and the Police will also be in attendance.

Appendix 4 is a briefing paper from Paul Secker, Director, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance (Children and Families) which comments on the critical issues for the Essex Children and Families Service in supporting children, young people and families throughout the period from March 2020 /the lockdown due to Covid 19. The second part of the briefing paper gives the background to the significant changes in respect of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements across Essex introduced in September 2019, and describes the Essex position in September 2020, one year on.

4. Update and Next Steps

The final report is attached as an Appendix. Next steps are as outlined under Section 2 - Action Required.

The following have been specifically invited to attend to support the discussion:

David Archibald	-	Independent Chair Facilitator.
Paul Secker	-	Director, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance (Children and Families).
Alison Cutler	–	Essex Safeguarding Children Board Business and Performance Manager.
Kevin Baldwin	-	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police.
Lisa Nobes	-	NHS representative

5 List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - ESCB Briefing Pack for Scrutiny (October 2020)

Appendix 2 - ESCB Annual Report 2019-2020

Appendix 3 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2020-21

Appendix 4 – Briefing paper from Paul Secker - Director, Safeguarding & Quality Assurance (Children and Families)