

ESCB Briefing Pack for Scrutiny

October 2020



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

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ESCB Annual Report 2019-20 Summary

The Annual Report covers the main areas of work carried out for the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. The full report can be found on the [ESCB website](#) and also attached in Appendix one.

ESCB Strategic Priorities – what we did in 2019-20

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

Some of the areas of work covered under each priority included:

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

SET Child Protection Procedures

Two updates were made to the SET Child Protection Procedures, the first in May 2019 to ensure compliance with Working Together 2018 and then the second in October to reflect the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Parents, Did You Know? Child Exploitation Awareness Campaign

Events were held for parents and carers in the Summer and Autumn of 2019.

A mixture of talks and information stalls were located in Chelmsford, Basildon, Colchester, Clacton and Harlow to provide advice and guidance to the public.

91% of attendees to all talks said they were 'very useful' (highest category).
73% of attendees said they would take back information to talk directly to a child or young person

These campaigns will be repeated in 2020.

Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention

ESCB Learning and Development Offer

ESCB was one of four pilot areas who worked with the national Children's Society and public health on a nationally funded project to raise awareness on children who have an alcohol dependent parent. ESCB organised four awareness sessions for 195 delegates across Essex.

ESCB worked with Essex County Council Commissioning to support the roll out of the Department of Work and Pensions funded reducing parental conflict training programme.

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Suicide prevention workshops have been delivered across the adult and children workforce. Further courses were cancelled due to COVID-19 and they have been re-scheduled for next year.

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

COVID response

The statutory partners have been meeting across SET during the COVID crisis to share information and take action on emerging issues – this has ensured a joined up and coordinated approach.

A [dedicated webpage on the ESCB website](#) was also created to provide members of the public and those working with children and families of useful information.

Serious Case Reviews

This year there is a transition period from Serious Case Reviews to Child Safeguarding Practice reviews.

One Serious Case Review was published this year – Baby M and the learning from this case has been shared with agencies during the course of the review. ESCB is also working with the Stay Safe groups and the wider partnership to evaluate the effectiveness of Early help and the Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex document.

Southend Essex and Thurrock Child Death Overview Panel (SET CDOP)

The new arrangements for the Southend, Essex & Thurrock Child Death Review process were put in place on 1st October 2019.

At this point the Child Death Overview Process function moved from the ESCB across to Health (CCGs) and the Local Authorities (Public Health) across Southend Essex and Thurrock and will continue to share emerging safeguarding themes and any issues of concern to the Board.

Regional and national work

The ESCB Business Manager is the chair of the Eastern Region Business Managers Group, enabling Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships to strengthen multi-agency working to develop regional solutions to issues of concern, such as the emotional and mental health of young people.

The ESCB Business Manager is also an advisory member of The National Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP) – this association is the professional network for safeguarding partnerships.

Future issues

The main challenge for the ESCB moving forward will be embedding these arrangements and, and in doing so maintain a particular focus on ensuring that:

- the voice of the child is at the heart of everything we do
- there is effective independent scrutiny of our new safeguarding arrangements
- safeguarding partners are committed to equitable and proportionate funding of the work of the ESCB.

Moving to new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The [Children and Social Work Act](#) received Royal Assent in May 2017. It removed the statutory framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards, replacing it with new requirements for specific partners to establish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASAs). Supporting regulations and [Working Together 2018 statutory guidance](#) were published in June 2018 and Essex moved to its new arrangements on 29 September 2019.

There are many agencies in Essex supporting children and young people, and it is very important that they all work together as a partnership to ensure they are keeping children safe.

The way these agencies work together to keep children safe is set out in government guidance Working Together 2018.

In Essex there are seven organisations who are jointly responsible by law for the partnership arrangements for keeping children safe:

- Essex County Council
- Essex Police
- Five of the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups covering the county of Essex

These are known as the Statutory Partners and they have identified relevant agencies which are legally required to cooperate with local safeguarding arrangements

These partnership arrangements are referred to as the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Plan sets out the detail of how the ESCB operates.

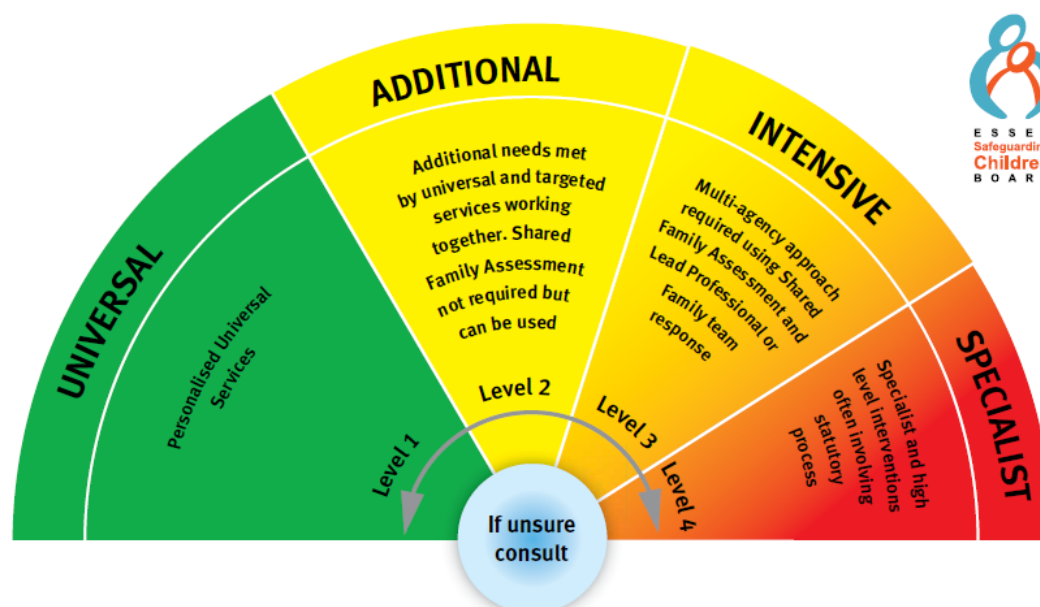
At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to work together to keep children safe and to continuously improve and learn how to best do this.

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 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**).

[Request Support via the Essex Effective Support Portal.](#)



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.