



Essex County Council

# People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

<b>10:15</b>	<b>Thursday, 12 September 2019</b>	<b>Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH</b>
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**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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**Email:** democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

## Pages

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### **Private Pre-Meeting for PAF Members Only**

Please note that there will be a private pre-meeting for committee members at 9.15am in Committee Room 6, County Hall.

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|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>   | <b>4 - 4</b>   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Minutes</b><br>To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2019.  | <b>5 - 10</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Questions from the Public</b><br>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.<br>On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Senior Democratic Services Officer. |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Update on Essex Safeguarding Children Board</b><br>To consider report PAF/20/19   | <b>11 - 75</b> |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Young Carers Service</b><br>To consider report PAF/21/19  | <b>76 - 96</b>  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Work Programme</b><br>To consider report PAF/22/19  | <b>97 - 100</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b><br>To note that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10 October 2019, which may be a private Committee session, public meeting, briefing, site visit etc. - to be confirmed nearer the time. |                 |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Urgent Business</b><br>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.                              |                 |

### **Exempt Items**

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

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

**That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>9</b> | <b>Urgent Exempt Business</b><br>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. |
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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

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## 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 J Chandler	Chairman
Councillor J Baker	Vice-Chairman
Councillor G Butland	
Councillor J Deakin	
Councillor B Egan	
Councillor C Guglielmi	
Councillor J Henry	Vice-Chairman
Councillor J Lumley	
Councillor P May	
Councillor M McEwen	
Councillor R Pratt	
Councillor P Reid	
Councillor C Souter	
Councillor C Weston	

#### Non-elected Members

Richard Carson  
Lee Cromwell  
Marian Uzzell



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**Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 10.00am in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 11 July 2019**

**Present:**

*County Councillors:*

J Chandler (Chairman)  
M Buckley (substitute)  
M Durham (substitute)  
B Egan  
J Moran (substitute)  
P May  
M McEwan  
R Pratt  
C Souter  
A Turrell (substitute)

Sharon Westfield de Cortez from Healthwatch Essex and Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer, were also present throughout.

**1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report on Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received and noted.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Baker, Butland, Deakin (for whom Councillor Turrell substituted), Guglielmi (for whom Councillor Durham substituted), Henry (for whom Councillor Buckley substituted), Lumley, Reid and Weston (for whom Councillor Moran substituted and Richard Carson, Educational Co-optee.

*Declarations of interest:*

Cllr Pratt - code interest - chair of board of governors.

Cllr May - code interest - school governor.

Both Councillors considered that this did not prejudice their consideration of the public interest and to speak on the matters on the agenda.

**2. Minutes**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Questions from the public**

There were no questions from the public.

**4. Special Educational Needs**

The Committee considered report PAF/17/19.

The County Council had completed a formal public consultation on principles, values and vision for future SEN service provision. Ralph Holloway, Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation, joined the meeting to introduce the update and outline the feedback received.

During the discussion the following was highlighted or acknowledged:

- Growth in SEN demand had been greater than general growth in school pupil nos. Lifelong outcomes for those with SEN are poor.
- The County Council was looking to improve outcomes for those with SEN and communications needed to be clear and framed to demonstrate that there would be continuing support and that parents can have a meaningful input.
- A desired outcome from the review was to encourage a concept of a school-led system to share resource and challenges rather than just one school having to struggle on its own with an issue.
- An overriding message was that respondents wanted the SEN population to be integrated into the community and not be separate.
- There had been some concerns raised during the consultation that there was to be the creation of a two-tier system and that SEN pupils were going to be moved out of main stream schools.
- The intention was that the new service worked more closely with schools and the school effectiveness team to further support the aspirations of SEN pupils.
- Health and wellbeing and emotional support had been prioritised by respondents with choice paramount.
- Mr Holloway had attended meetings of SEN co-ordinators to also get their views - a significant proportion of them felt threatened and under resourced.
- Engagement had started with groups of parents to entice young people with autism to get back into mainstream education.
- SEN has not really benefitted in past from developer contributions but have started now. Will be looking as part of ten-year planning/forecasting.
- The County Council were working more closely with planning authorities to include provision for autism friendly environments in future plans. Generally, the feedback from existing schools was that

the bigger challenge was meeting care needs not the lack of physical space.

- Four new specialist schools were planned in Essex. With the development of garden communities further work would be required to predict the location of the future SEN population.
- There was a desire to make the Essex Family Forum more representative of the population. The service also wanted to use more direct engagement with parents and schools. Some special schools had already facilitated meetings with parents.
- The service would continue to consult with clusters of schools as it was challenging to engage with all 500 plus schools in Essex on an individual basis.
- The new strategy would need to look at existing schools and making them fit for purpose as well as developing specialist schools.
- Members questioned whether small rural schools would be particularly limited on how many SEN pupils can be supported and that they did not see this specifically addressed in the strategy. It was highlighted that there was a minor works capital programme which would fund reasonable adjustments to include a child.

### Conclusion

The Chairman thanked Mr Holloway for the update, noted that further engagement work was planned during the Autumn Term on the new SEND structure and action plan and, accordingly, suggested that the Committee should be further updated at its November meeting.

## **5. Education update**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member – Education and Skills, and Clare Kershaw, Director – Education, joined the meeting to provide an education portfolio update framed around six advance questions that had been submitted.

### School readiness

- There were a number of actions that contributed to improving school readiness but there was no one answer or action.
- The relationship with the early years sector was critical. It was recognised that the sector was very diverse and included charities and voluntary bodies. Further work was probably required to ensure consistency and adequacy of provision. ECC work would start to better define expectations of the impact of interventions at certain ages with the sector - articulating skills, independence, language

and communication – and a further report on this would be provided to the Committee in due course. **Action: Clare Kershaw**

- The development of the Children and Families Wellbeing Service provided by Virgin Care was an important part of preparing children for school and there were contractual key performance indicators in the contract re: school readiness.

#### Primary/ secondary school transitions and processes

- A number of school partnerships had been established across Essex including multi academy trusts (cross phase -primary and secondary school level) to help further improve and support transitions.
- The first 'all-through' school had now opened. There was some evidence that if one can minimise the number of points of transition then outcomes were likely to be better.
- It was acknowledged that some secondary schools were not smoothly linking with and advancing an enhanced primary school curriculum. Further national funding had been secured to assist greater focus on the teaching of reading skills and encouraging reading to be enjoyable – this was being primarily aimed at primary schools although some secondary schools had also accessed it. Evaluation of the programme was being finalised. It was thought that pupils had been reading just enough to get 'scaffolded' through primary school education and focussing just on passing exams but fluency of reading comes with enjoyment of reading.

#### Missing education:

- Approximately 2,300 children were being home schooled in Essex and it was suspected there could be others not currently recorded. It was stressed that the quality of home education varied considerably. Stronger legislation was needed to empower local authorities to have more oversight and monitoring powers than those held at present. A cross party group had been established with additional co-opted educational representatives to review issues around missing children and home educated children. **Action: a further update would be provided to the Committee in due course.**

#### Gangs and knife crime

- Schools were being encouraged to take a stronger lead in confronting negative gang culture and identifying those most at risk. This was particularly important as there was some correlation between this and the level of exclusions.

- The police were working with some schools where vulnerable at-risk children had been identified.
- Anecdotal evidence was given that some schools may only be recording knife crime if it actually leads to an exclusion.
- Healthy Schools Programmes were operating in schools but members questioned how other programmes (which might be commissioned by individual schools) that might address obesity, anxiety, etc and reduce vulnerability actually linked together.  
**Action: Clare Kershaw agreed to review this further and how there could be greater promotion of resilience and report back to a future meeting.**

#### Preparation for Further Education and employment:

- It was felt that a lot done in schools could be introspective and that more could be done to better prepare pupils leaving school for further education or employment.

#### Demand for school places

- Sophisticated forecasting was undertaken to inform a 10-year plan which was updated annually to support school places planning although it could never be precise science. Accurate forecasting was made more challenging with population migration. Extra short-term provision could be added in schools to accommodate spikes in demand.
- There was ongoing work with dioceses to look at whether declines in school numbers in some smaller (predominantly rural) schools was a short-term phenomenon and would reverse or a longer-term issue needing further assessment of the sustainability of the school.
- Planning for school places whilst offering parental preference remained a tension in the system requiring a delicate balance at times.
- There was some anecdotal evidence of children being withdrawn from mainstream schooling to go to private preparatory schools at 10 and 13 in the Uttlesford – it was not clear if this was an issue in other areas.
- Sometimes there was not always enough local population expansion to justify new builds (especially for secondary schools) and there needed to be flexibility in school places planning to be able to add capacity to existing sites as well.
- Although SEN pupils comprised 4% (and rising) of the student population, there was not any automatic arrangement for funding a

proportionate amount of SEN specific provision through developer contributions.

Conclusion:

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Clare Kershaw for their attendance, noting that further updates had been agreed on:

- (i) the work of a cross party group looking at children missing education;
- (ii) further defining the expectations of interventions by the Early Years' Sector; and
- (iii) ensuring that the various wellbeing programmes operating in schools all linked-up and how personal resilience was being promoted in schools.

**6. Work Programme**

The Committee considered and noted report PAF/19/19.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be on Thursday 12 September 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.20pm.

**Chairman**

		AGENDA ITEM 4
		PAF/20/19
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 September 2019	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes  Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer  Contact details: 033301 34574 <a href="mailto:Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<p><b><u>Update on the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board</u></b></p> <p><u>Purpose/action required:</u></p> <p>Members may wish to consider:</p> <p>The assurance from and robustness of new governance arrangements resulting from the new statutory guidance.</p> <p>The assurance from the work undertaken by the Board in the past year and future priorities and objectives for children’s safeguarding in Essex.</p> <p>Issues arising and any further work to be scoped</p> <p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>The committee has agreed to review the work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board on an annual basis and last did this in September 2018 (extract copy of the minutes attached in <b>Appendix 1</b>).</p> <p>An overview of the recently published annual report for the Board is attached as <b>Appendix 2</b> with the full ESCB Annual Report 2018-19 attached as <b>Appendix 3</b>. 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 will determine the local governance structure in future for safeguarding children. Within the overview report in Appendix 2 is a summary of the new statutory guidance. The proposed new Essex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements arising from the new guidance is attached as <b>Appendix 4</b>. To support discussion on the new governance arrangements representatives from the NHS and the Police will also be in attendance.</p> <p>cont...</p>		

Background reading:

Healthwatch Essex have recommended reading their recent Sweet!2 and Sweet!3 reports which involved a detailed consultation of young people's experiences of health and social care in Essex (links below).

<https://healthwatchessex.org.uk/library/#gallery-9> and

<https://healthwatchessex.org.uk/library/#gallery-1>





**Extract Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 10.30am in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 13 September 2018**

**4. Essex Safeguarding Children Board - update**

Introduction

The Committee considered report (PAF/19/18) outlining the priorities and work of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). The update included a summary of new statutory guidance which removed the statutory framework for local safeguarding children boards and some examples of previous work undertaken by the Board. The Annual Report for the Board covering the main areas of work carried out for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 had also been included.

The following were in attendance to introduce the update and answer questions:

*Phil Picton, Independent Chairman, Essex Safeguarding Children Board.*

*Alison Cutler, Essex Safeguarding Children Board - Business and Performance Manager*

*Paul Secker, Director, Safeguarding and Assurance (from 11.30am)*

Overview

The ESCB had a non-operational role to encourage the co-ordination of safeguarding activity and evaluating the work of safeguarding agencies. There was also a role to facilitate the provision of multi-agency safeguarding training.

The current work plan for the Board was to continue to work to the themes identified and pursued in the previous year.

Partner engagement with the Board was generally good with a strong desire to learn lessons. In discussion about attendance at Board meetings it was confirmed that Virgin Care had a growing health responsibility under new contracts awarded to them and they were regular attendees. It was also highlighted that City, Borough and district commitment to the Board was good compared to Mr Picton's experience elsewhere. There were also ongoing discussions about how the ESCB (and its successor body) and Safer Essex Board could work more closely together. Stay Safe Groups seemed to have been very successful in disseminating messages and receiving feedback to shape local learning events better.

The level and amount of change within the NHS was viewed as a distraction with structural changes sometimes breaking up some of the previously established information and communication networks. The Board were generally satisfied that NHS leaders were endeavouring to keep the connections but it was a risk that had been identified.

Measuring success was particularly difficult in partnership working where it could be difficult to find a correlation between actions and outcomes.

Members accepted this but queried whether there was a repetition of certain types of cases which could point to the same systemic failings. However, whilst there was some repetition it was stressed that this was part of a wider national picture.

### New statutory guidance

New statutory guidance had removed the statutory framework for local safeguarding children boards. The guidance stipulated three statutory local partners (Upper Tier Council, Police and Health) who would determine the local governance structure in future for safeguarding children. It had already been decided locally to continue with the three separate safeguarding partnerships (Essex, Southend and Thurrock) but to encourage closer working between them.

It had been agreed amongst partners that funding for next year would be on the same basis to give some stability to the new arrangements. However, there had been a strong message that there would be no growth in funding.

The new statutory guidance advised that the Chairman of a successor body to the ESCB no longer had to be independent but the guidance did require an independent scrutiny function within the new governance arrangements and the precise local interpretation of how to implement that had yet to be finalised.

It was currently intended that all local schools would become designated agencies meaning that they would be obliged to co-operate and participate in the new local arrangements.

### Schools and home-schooling

Members sought re-assurance that the ESCB was ensuring that all agencies were working with schools to address the needs of children with mental health and emotional wellbeing challenges. Members stressed that it needed to be more than information being available on websites and should mean closer working with the NHS. It was acknowledged that the Independent Chairman and the Board had a role to encourage the NHS to work more closely with schools and further discussion at the Health and wellbeing Board had also been encouraged.

A preventative Safeguarding Toolkit had been developed for schools and could be accessed by all schools. There was also training co-ordinated through each schools' safeguarding lead. All members of staff (teaching and non-teaching) should receive training and nothing had been highlighted to the Board to indicate that this was not happening. It was stressed that once schools had become designated 'relevant agencies' under the new arrangements they would be obliged to have a discussion at least on the toolkit. Further work being undertaken on teenage suicide would also help to further improve the guidance.

Safeguarding was not an issue for the majority of those young people being home schooled. However, a small number of cases do lead to serious case reviews being undertaken. It was admitted that children being home-schooled could be a potential weakness in the system due to children being out of sight. In addition, it was suggested that some schools were encouraging challenging children be home schooled instead and that was a concern. Mr Picton agreed to further consider the safeguards in place for home-schooled children. **Action: Mr Picton**

### Conclusion

It was noted that the timing of the annual review of the work of the ESCB was now aligned with the publication of the ESCB Annual Report in late summer.

Mr Secker offered to provide detailed operational briefings on any issues raised by the Committee and this offer was noted and the Committee agreed to consider this further.

Thereafter the witnesses were thanked for their attendance and they left the meeting.

# **Briefing Pack for Scrutiny Members**

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2019**



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

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## **Appendices**

**ESCB Annual Report 2018 - 19**

**Essex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

## ESCB Annual Report 2018-19 Summary

The Annual Report covers the main areas of work carried out for the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

### **Essex Overview – Local Context**

#### How safe are children in Essex?

The vast majority of the 308,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives in 2018-19, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk. For example:

- 8872 children were referred to Children's Services during the year because someone had a concern about a risk of abuse or neglect. Police (25%) and health services (15%) were most notable in making these contacts. 88% of those cases (7,776) were felt to need a Child and Family Assessment by Children's Services.
- Children are at risk of exploitation and harm when they go missing from home. Across the year 1120 children open to Essex County Council Children and Families service were reported missing, with 15% of them identified as at risk of exploitation. 197 were recorded as missing from care.
- Work with young people by the Essex County Council involvement team highlighted some of the reasons for children and young people going missing as including:
  - wanting to get out of the house or away from home; young people describe many difficult relationships and wanting to get away from arguments,
  - being unhappy at or having difficulties in school
  - having low emotional health; these young people describe having suicidal thoughts and thoughts of self-harm.
  - feeling bored and wanting to be on their own.
- National estimates show 1 in every 5 children is exposed to domestic violence by the age of 18. Within Essex, police officers recorded over 26,000 domestic abuse offences in the year, many will have involved children as witnesses or in the household at the time of violence.

These risks are considered by the ESCB during the work carried out over the year and also in cooperation with other Boards as appropriate e.g. Domestic Abuse Board. Such risks are discussed regularly in the relevant sub committees and action is taken as required.

## **Role of the Board**

The role of the Safeguarding Children Board is to have an independent coordinating and challenge role around safeguarding practice across its partner agencies.

## **ESCB Strategic Priorities – what we did in 2018-19**

The priorities agreed by Board are based on themes arising from local practice, case reviews, and national priorities. Under each of these priorities the ESCB has carried out particular areas of work as listed below.

### **Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context**

- Updating the Southend Essex and Thurrock (SET) Child Protection Procedures
- Working with other Boards on issues affecting families that had arisen from reviews carried out by the ESCB, Essex Safeguarding Adult Board (ESAB) and Southend Essex & Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SET DAB).
- Child exploitation – ‘Parents, did you know?’ campaign to raise awareness of child exploitation amongst parents and carers
- Assessing the responsibilities of schools and other agencies to carry out their safeguarding duties via Section 11 and Section 175 audits. These audits showed that agencies and schools overall were meeting their safeguarding duties with a high level of compliance.
- Working with District, Borough and City Councils to support local safeguarding initiatives

### **Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention**

The ESCB continues to highlight the importance of early intervention and early help across agencies, including raising awareness of the Effective Support for Children & Families thresholds document.

Under this priority the focus in 2018 - 19 has been on supporting staff with their learning and development needs and the ongoing work of the Stay Safe Groups to support early intervention. This has continued to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of early intervention amongst those working with families

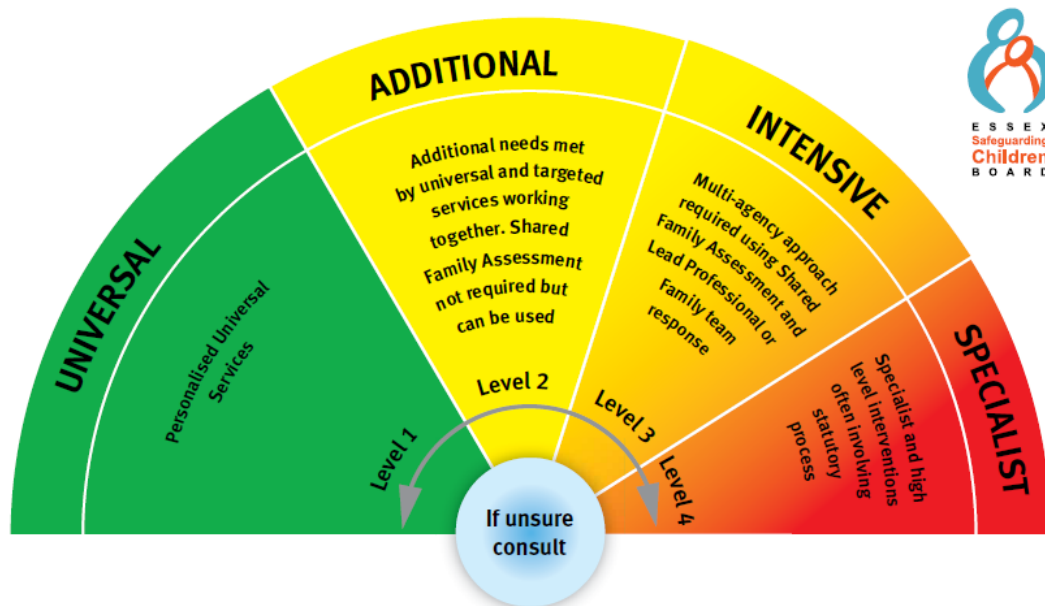
### **Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex**

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 and document can be found at the following link: <https://www.essexeffectivesupport.org.uk/> .

### **Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

This has been an important area of work for the Board in 2018 –19 building on the work that was done the previous year reviewing teenage suicides in Essex. The focus has been on broadening awareness of how to support positive mental health and well-being amongst those working with children, young people and their families. This was carried out primarily via the Stay Safe conferences across the quadrants in Essex which were well received.

## **Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership**

In addition to preparing for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, other key activities focussed on the Board's statutory duties around Serious Case Reviews and reviewing child deaths.

### **Serious Case Reviews**

This year the ESCB published new guidance around the Serious Case Review process to ensure that it meets the requirements of the new National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to review any serious incidents within 15 days. This was implemented in June 2018 and the ESCB has been able to achieve the new timeframes due to excellent cooperation from all partners. Details about these processes can be found on the ESCB website at the following link:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/serious-case-reviews/>

### **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

The CDOP continues its campaigns aimed at raising awareness with parents and carers of safeguarding issues.

Ongoing campaigns this year have focussed on safer sleeping, water safety and also a leaflet around worsening signs of a sick child which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/parentcarer/sick-child-when-to-seek-help/>

### **Future issues**

The main challenge for the ESCB moving forward will be ensuring that we fully implement the new safeguarding arrangements (MASA) from September 2019, 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

## Examples of ESCB work carried out in 2018 – 19 (since previous Scrutiny)

### **Stay Safe Conferences – emotional health and well being**

A fundamental part of the review into the tragic suicides of young people in Essex (completed in early 2018) has been sharing key findings and establishing how the learning can be implemented and embedded. This included raising awareness around risk factors, possible triggers for suicide and how to better talk with young people about mental health.

Stay Safe Groups worked with ESCB colleagues to develop and deliver quadrant-based conferences that provided time and space for colleagues across the partnership to hear, digest and discuss key issues that came out of the review. The conferences also provided an opportunity for national organisations such as Papyrus and Hectors House to share their experiences and strategies for supporting young people and families including those bereaved by a young family member taking their own life. All attendees found the experience thought provoking and with examples from cases which were at times difficult to hear, but also felt that the conferences provided the opportunity to start meaningful discussions on how to work collaboratively to address the issues raised.

An important part of this work was to involve young people in the conferences to hear their perspectives.

Colchester sixth form college asked a group of students if they would be interested in developing a workshop for the North East Essex conference, they had an overwhelming response from young people and 19 young people from the college who were involved in designing and delivering an excellent workshop on the impact of social media on young people.

Some feedback given to the young people on their evaluations included

*“The activity was very powerful. We hear a lot and read a lot about young people and social media, but I have never experienced the pressures/anxiety/helplessness that constant social media interference brings. Thank you.”*

The other conferences used three different case studies based on real life scenarios. These also worked well and gave people the opportunity to network and share information on the organisations and support that was available locally. Further training around will be provided in 2019 following on from feedback from these events.

### Impact of the conferences

One of the results of this work was an upsurge in young people accessing online counselling services. The post for Kooth, the online counselling service for young people, reached over 222,000 people on Facebook.

One of the main aims of the conferences was to support people to feel more confident to talk about suicide, and to try and dispel the myth that talking about it (if it is done in a supportive and sensitive way) does not encourage people to consider taking their own life. On average 8 out of 10 people who answered this question said they were confident to talk to a young person about suicide and 92% of those who answered this question said that felt more confident as a result of the conference.

Comments from attendees included:

***Much more confidence in phrases to avoid and that it's ok to talk about it***  
(Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service)

***Really glad we are all talking about this issue!***  
(Voluntary/Community organisation)

***I have come away with a different outlook which will be a great help***  
(ECC Youth Service)

***It has helped to lessen my worry of potentially doing harm by discussing suicide with a young person***  
(Private/Independent provider)

***I have recently had a young person who was suicidal and felt I was better equipped to have a conversation following the conference***  
(Voluntary organisation)

### Working with other Boards to identify cross-cutting issues – Learning from Reviews

ESCB, supported by the Essex Social Care Academy (ESCA), worked with Essex Safeguarding Adult Board and the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board to deliver 5 very successful 'Putting the learning from multi-agency reviews into practice' events with 294 delegates attending from a range of agencies across the children and adult workforce.

The events considered the learning from the various children and adult case reviews that are undertaken across Essex, including Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Serious Case Reviews, Multi Agency Case Audits and

Partnership Learning Reviews. With the overarching theme being around professional curiosity, the learning outcomes for the events were to:

- Influence practice especially in improving risk assessment
- Share where a positive difference has been made and what best practice looks like
- Have an opportunity to share and discuss ideas
- Offer practical tips
- Encourage a holistic 'Think Family' approach.

The feedback from the events was very positive. Those attending developed a greater awareness of the importance of having a 'Think Family;' approach in their work. They also were able to make contact with other agencies and understand what support was available locally for families. As a result, further events will be developed in 2019.

In addition, 20 delegates requested the training pack that was shared at the workshops to use further within their own organisations, including a request from one agency to adapt it to use nationally as part of their training programme for health personnel.

## 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.

## **Timescales**

Safeguarding partners had to agree and publish their local arrangements by 29 June 2019.

Following publication of their arrangements, safeguarding partners have up to three months from the date of publication to implement the arrangements. **All new local arrangements must be implemented by 29 September 2019.**

The published plan for the Essex MASA - which will continue to be known as the Essex Safeguarding Children Board - is attached in this briefing pack. It can also be found on the ESCB website at: <http://www.escb.co.uk/media/2038/essex-masa-plan-2019-20-updated-280619-v1b.pdf>

## **Safeguarding Partners**

The 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 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**

Safeguarding partners will 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, how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.

Essex is in the process of recruiting an independent facilitator to take on the role of independent scrutiny as well as continue to chair the ESCB Executive.

### **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 in Essex have 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

In Essex, the safeguarding partners have named schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies and they are all 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 from 29 September 2019. 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 and at local level with the safeguarding partners.





# Annual Report 2018-2019

**Author: Alison Cutler, ESCB Business Manager**  
**Independent Chair: Phil Picton**



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# Foreword from Phil Picton

2018-19 has been a year of success against a backdrop of organisational change for many partner agencies of our Board. The County Council were awarded an outstanding rating for the performance of its Childrens Services, something which is rarely achieved by local authorities. Essex Police have continued to consolidate their improvements in safeguarding in the face of increasing challenges from gang-related violence and 'County Lines' activity. The five Clinical Commissioning Groups and their commissioned NHS trusts have coped with increasingly complex demands while engaging in further NHS reorganisation. These NHS changes are particularly challenging for partners as two of the three new Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) include neighbouring counties.

As I write, further announcements are being made by Government about changes in other partners' structures, such as the proposed future model for the probation system. It is only with the goodwill of many professionals and managers that services have continued to improve in such changing times. The Government's new requirement for children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) replace current approaches and puts the future responsibility for ESCB equally upon three statutory partners – Essex County Council, Essex Police and the five Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups. However, other relevant agencies including schools and the voluntary sector will remain at the heart of making safeguarding work effectively on the ground. I am optimistic that partners will strive to remain flexible and seize new opportunities for improving frontline working whatever challenges arise and new structures have the potential to improve safeguarding. However, leaders need to remain vigilant to ensure that changes do not fragment networks or distract professionals from delivering effective safeguarding.

This is the last Annual Report for ESCB published by the Independent Chair as the key partners will become responsible for reporting their joint safeguarding work in future. With the changes arriving, it is an appropriate time for me to handover to a new Chair who will be recruited across the summer. I am sure that like me, they will find themselves strongly supported by Alison Cutler and her colleagues in the ESCB business team. Their efforts make a massive difference to the impact of partnership working and I am very grateful for the support they have given me over the past three years.

*Phil Picton*

Phil Picton  
ESCB Independent Chair

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# Foreword from Alison Cutler

This annual report sets out the key areas of work we have undertaken for 2018 – 19 and plans going forward. This year we have continued to focus on child exploitation as well as mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people. The revised arrangements we put in place last year to further streamline the Board have proved to be effective especially in terms of the Stay Safe Groups who continue to provide an important link between operational and strategic multi agency safeguarding practice.

We have also this year turned our attention to preparing for the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements to be in place from September 2019 under which the strategic lead responsibility for safeguarding lead responsibility will be shared between the 3 statutory partners of Local Authority, Police and Health (Clinical Commissioning Groups) as set out in Working Together 2018. We have learned what is working well and what could be further improved in order to ensure that we are effective as possible moving forward and have involved all our partners in shaping these plans, as well as colleagues from Southend and Thurrock Boards.

As always, I would like to thank the support of the partners over the year as well as my Business Support team who continue to work hard to ensure that the Board remains effective in promoting safeguarding and bringing about improvements where needed.

*Alison Cutler*

Alison Cutler  
Business Manager ESCB

# Introduction

This annual report for the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) reviews the work of the Board for the period of April 2018 – March 2019. It covers some of the key strands of work identified in the Business Plan (see Appendix C), and its plans moving forward.

The report includes contributions from partner agencies and has been approved by the Board's Executive Members.

## Essex Overview - Local Context

Essex is a very varied county, comprising both rural and urban areas, and a long coastline. The new towns of Basildon and Harlow contrast with rural villages and coastal towns. Essex has both areas of great affluence and great deprivation and has pockets of high social and economic need even within otherwise thriving localities.

The population of Essex currently stands at 1.46 million, with 308 thousand children and young people under the age of 18. 90.8% of Essex residents are from a White British background, while 9.2% have a Black or Minority ethnicity (lower than the overall England BME population of 19.5%). Just over half of all Essex residents are female (51.1%) while a slightly higher proportion of those aged under 18 are male (51.4%). (Essex Population and demographics (current population and gender from the 2017 ONS Mid-Year Estimate, ethnicity from the 2011 census).

The total number of schools in Essex is 552 according to Ofsted download as per 31/03/19 and the total number of Early Years provision in Essex is 2123, this is as per the latest sufficiency report and includes all funded and non-funded, childminders and breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday clubs.

In terms of the voluntary sector, Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) current figures show their membership reaches over 240,000 children and young people in Essex.

### **How safe are children in Essex?**

The vast majority of the 308,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives in 2018-19, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk. For example:

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- 8872 children were referred to Children's Services during the year because someone had a concern about a risk of abuse or neglect. Police (25%) and health services (15%) were most notable in making these contacts. 88% of those cases (7,776) were felt to need a Child and Family Assessment by Children's Services.
- 324 children had new exploitation risk records opened during 2018-19, with approximately 40% being recorded as high risk. 42% of cases open to Essex County Council Children and Families service with an exploitation risk record were flagged as peer on peer exploitation, highlighting the importance of continuing to raise awareness for young people in being able to identify and be resilient to unhealthy peer relationships.
- Children are at risk of exploitation and harm when they go missing from home. Across the year 1120 children open to Essex County Council Children and Families service were reported missing, with 15% of them identified as at risk of exploitation. 197 were recorded as missing from care.
- Work with young people by the Essex County Council involvement team highlighted some of the reasons for children and young people going missing as including:
  - wanting to get out of the house or away from home; young people describe many difficult relationships and wanting to get away from arguments,
  - being unhappy at or having difficulties in school.
  - having low emotional health; these young people describe having suicidal thoughts and thoughts of self-harm.
  - feeling bored and wanting to be on their own.

National estimates show 1 in every 5 children is exposed to domestic abuse by the age of 18 within Essex, police officers recorded over 26,000 domestic abuse offences in the year, many will have involved children as witnesses or in the household at the time of violence.

These risks are considered by the ESCB during the work carried out over the year and also in cooperation with other Boards as appropriate e.g. Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board.

## The Board

### Statutory Duties

The Board exists as a statutory body and has a range of roles including reviewing child deaths, undertaking Serious Case Reviews, developing policies and procedures and scrutinising and challenging local safeguarding practice.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) 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.



## ESCB Structure

The Board meets quarterly in the form of an Executive at which key agencies are represented. These include:

- **Health Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)**
- **Police**
- **Local Authority**
- **Schools**
- **National Probation Service**
- **Community Rehabilitation Company**
- **District, City and Borough Councils**
- **Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service**
- **North East London Foundation Trust**
- **Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner**

(The voluntary sector will also join the Executive in July 2019)

The Assembly is held once or twice a year and is attended by the Executive, other partner agencies, as well as representatives from other partnership boards and forums. This promotes effective communication and engagement with a holistic 'Think Family' approach to safeguarding. Topics covered at the January 2019 Assembly for discussion and debate included:

- **Consultation on the proposed Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) for Essex**
- **Emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people**
- **Child exploitation**

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 in part carried out by the Sub-Committees of the ESCB, which are:

- **Child Death Overview Panel (statutory)**
- **Serious Case Review (statutory)**
- **Learning and Development (joint with Adults Board)**
- **Communications (virtual - joint with Adults Board)**
- **Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance**
- **Policy and Procedures**
- **Child Exploitation and Trafficking**

The structure of the Board including its Sub-Committees (NB this structure will change from 30 September 2019) can be accessed in Appendix A of this report.

## **ESCB Stay Safe Groups**

Stay Safe Groups across each of the four quadrants in Essex are made up of a wide range of designated and named professionals or managers with safeguarding responsibilities including 0-19 services, schools, acute and primary health providers, local council representatives, voluntary sector and police.

The Stay Safe Groups focus on improving local Multi-Agency safeguarding practice, as well as highlighting any emerging risks or issues to the ESCB Executive Board.

The Board also has links with two other partner forums - the Health Executive Forum (HEF) and City, District, and Borough (CDB) Councils Group, where leaders meet to discuss safeguarding issues. Both groups are undertaking a review of their structure and effectiveness to prepare for the pending new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

## **Health Executive Forum (HEF)**

The HEF meets six times per year bringing together the numerous health (commissioner and provider) agency executive safeguarding leads (adult & children) from across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET). This facilitates, at a strategic level, the co-ordination of the safeguarding responsibilities of all health agencies and provides a forum to take forward initiatives to support the safeguarding agenda across SET.

## **City, District, and Borough (CDB) Councils Group**

The main purpose of the CDB group is to share information and best practice across City, District and Borough councils in Essex. The group meets four times a year with a flexible agenda that reflects current topics/trends/safeguarding concerns and members have the opportunity to share updates from their councils, as well as from a range of other groups and meetings including Essex Safeguarding Adult Board, ESCB, Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing sub-committee, Missing and Child Exploitation groups (MACE) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

## Governance review

The ESCB has been reviewing its governance arrangements this year in order to comply with new requirements as a result of the Children and Social Work Act, which received Royal Assent in May 2017 (<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/childrenandsocialwork.html>).

The Act removes the Local Safeguarding Children Board statutory framework, replacing it with new requirements for specific partners to establish Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) from 29 September 2019.

Plans are in progress to ensure a smooth transition following extensive discussions over the past year with statutory partners i.e. the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Police, as well as with wider Board members to agree our local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Plan which was published in June 2019. A revised and streamlined structure will focus on making a real difference to the lives of children, young people and their families in Essex.

It has also been agreed to continue to work closely with Southend and Thurrock Boards as well as other Boards across the Eastern region and nationally. The new arrangements will remain under the name of the Essex Safeguarding Children Board given that this is a trusted and well-known 'brand' across agencies in Essex.

The new Essex Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements can be found in Appendix B of this report.





# ESCB Strategic Priorities – what we did 2018/19

The ESCB Business Plan continued to focus on four key strategic priorities over 2018 – 19:

- **The Local Safeguarding Context - The ESCB and partner agencies prioritise improvement in areas and on issues of greatest risk and concern to safeguarding**
- **Early Help and Early Intervention**
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**
- **Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership**

The business plans for 2017-20 can be found in Appendix C of this report and the issues discussed at the Executive over the year can be found in Appendix D.

These priorities were agreed by the Board based on key areas of work arising from feedback regarding local practice, learning from case reviews, and national priorities. Subsequently a lot of hard work has been done over the year at all levels by partner agencies, the local Stay Safe Groups and the ESCB Sub-Committees and achieved within standstill budget. The details of the budget can be found in Appendix E.

**The following section outlines the progress that has been made across these strategic priorities over the year.**

**Strategic Priority 1 : The Local Safeguarding Context**

**Strategic Priority 2 : Early Help and Early Intervention**

**Strategic Priority 3 : Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

**Strategic Priority 4 : Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership**

# Strategic Priority 1:

## The Local Safeguarding Context

The ESCB worked on a number of areas under this priority in 2018 -19

**These included:**

- **Updating the Southend Essex and Thurrock (SET) Child Protection Procedures**
- **Working with other Boards on issues affecting families that had arisen from reviews carried out by the ESCB, Essex Safeguarding Adult Board (ESAB) and Southend Essex & Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SET DAB).**
- **Child exploitation**
- **Assessing the responsibilities of schools and other agencies to carry out their safeguarding duties via Section 11 and Section 175 audits**
- **Working with District, Borough and City Councils to support local safeguarding initiatives**

### SET Procedures

The ESCB works in collaboration with Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and update the SET Child Protection procedures to comply with legislative and statutory guidance, as well as key learning from local and national case reviews as required.

The SET Procedures Working Group has continued to work effectively to ensure the SET Child Protection Procedures are kept up to date, for example this year we have included a new chapter on child exploitation and trafficking. The Group is now working towards another update for the Autumn 2019 to ensure the procedures meet the requirements of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

### Working with other Boards to identify cross-cutting issues

ESCB, supported by the Essex Social Care Academy (ESCA), worked with Essex Safeguarding Adult Board and the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board to deliver 5 very successful 'Putting the learning from multi-agency reviews into practice' events with 294 delegates attending from a range of agencies across the children and adult workforce.

The events considered the learning from the various children and adult case reviews that are undertaken across Essex, including Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Serious Case Reviews, Multi Agency Case Audits and Partnership Learning Reviews. With the overarching theme being around professional curiosity, the learning outcomes for the events were to:

- **Influence practice especially in improving risk assessment**
- **Share where a positive difference has been made and what best practice looks like**
- **Have an opportunity to share and discuss ideas**
- **Offer practical tips**
- **Encourage a holistic 'Think Family' approach.**

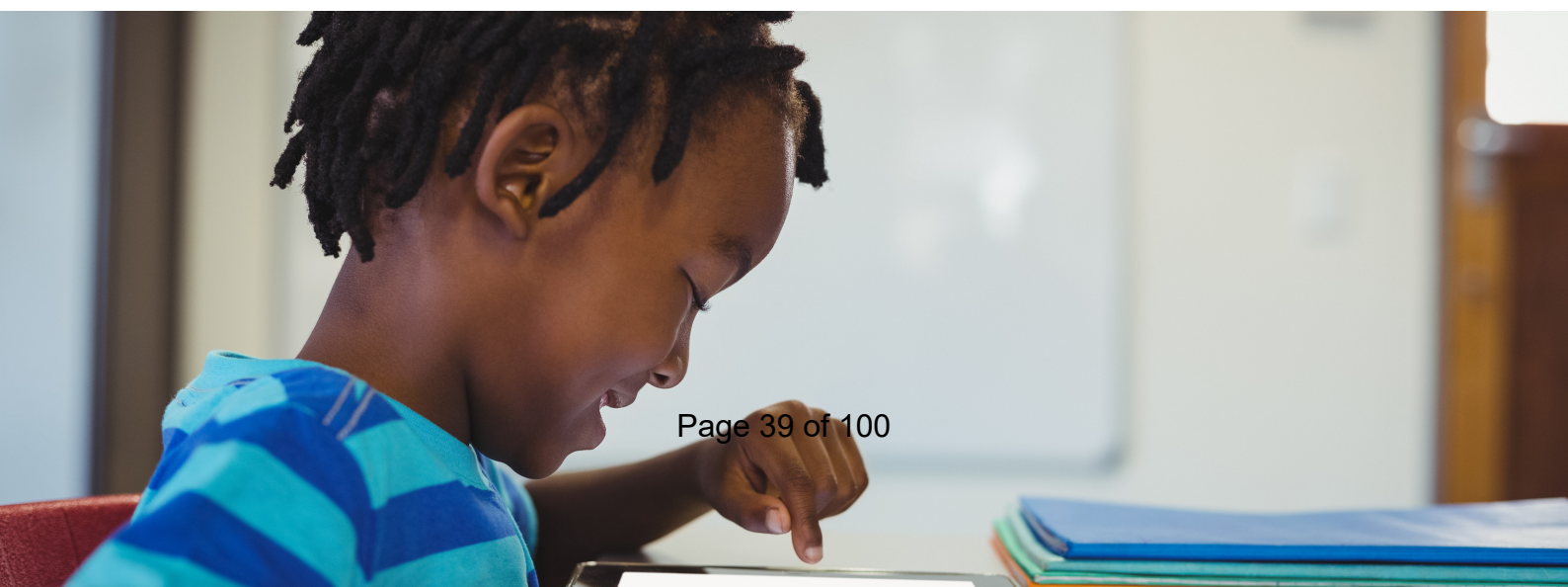
The feedback from the events was very positive. Those attending developed a greater awareness of the importance of having a 'Think Family' approach in their work. They also were able to make contact with other agencies and understand what support was available locally for families. As a result, further events will be developed in 2019.

In addition, 20 delegates requested the training pack that was shared at the workshops to use further within their own organisations, including a request from one agency to adapt it to use nationally as part of their training programme for health personnel.

## **Child Exploitation**

### **Missing and Child Exploitation Meetings Impact Report**

Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings provide a mechanism in Essex to review multi-agency plans implemented for exploited children or those identified as being at high risk of exploitation, as well as supporting the local understanding of patterns/trends and hotspots. The ESCB Child Exploitation Project Manager undertook a review of Missing and Child Exploitation meetings over a 16-month period, from April 2017 until July 2018, to identify the impact from the meetings and any future recommendations.



## Key Performance Indicators (KPI) framework

There are no nationally set key performance indicators in relation to child exploitation and the building of such remains a complex process. ESCB has worked with Southend, Thurrock and Surrey to develop an agreed outcome framework including associated performance indicators to better support our combined understanding of the journey we are taking to tackle exploitation. A template has been created which will begin to collate multi-agency data through 2019 – 2020.

### Parents, Did You Know? Campaign

This campaign follows on from the success of the last 3 years 'I Didn't Know' campaign, which raised awareness of child sexual exploitation across the wider Essex area during National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day.

Pupils across Essex state that parents are their best source of information and advice when it comes to child sexual exploitation so the 'Parents, Did You Know?' campaign aimed to support parents and carers by providing them with information not only on sexual exploitation, but also wider forms of child exploitation. The campaign therefore covered the themes of: sexual and criminal exploitation; children going missing; trafficking; gangs and youth violence; and, online sexual abuse. The campaign also acknowledged that traumatic circumstances experienced through exploitation can also be felt by the parent or carer and wider family not just the child themselves.



To support this campaign, a child exploitation 'hub page' was created on the ESCB website with a 'Parents, Did You Know?' main page to share all relevant campaign and event information and resources. A media pack of pre-prepared social media posts were shared with partners to circulate on their own social media platforms in support of the ESCB campaign with the following hashtags – #KnowAboutCE #CSEDay19. A range of partners supported the campaign including; Essex Police, Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, North East Essex CCG, Braintree District Council, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and Harlow Council and it was featured on Heart news.

**The campaign had a reach of just under 100,000 on the ESCB Facebook page alone with just under 700 people visiting the 'Parents, Did You Know?' web page during March 2019.**

The top Tweet reported by Essex Police with over 8,000 impressions was promoting their parent child exploitation hotline number, this post also reached over 7000 people through Essex County Council Twitter and Facebook posts. According to Essex Police the subjects most engaged with on Facebook were; Gangs (reaching over 21,500 people), Grooming (reaching over 21,000 people), and County Lines (reaching over 18,000 people).

**PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW?**

*If you are worried your child is being exploited, contact the Essex Police parent hotline on 01245 452058.*



The next phase of this workstream will be throughout 2019 – 2020 in which the ESCB will be working in partnership with The Children's Society and Barnardo's to deliver a number of parent and carer engagement events across Essex, which will include the launch of a new child exploitation parent peer support programme.

The ESCB Child Exploitation Project Manager continues to provide regular updates to the Executive and delivered an annual update on child exploitation in Essex to the ESCB Assembly in January 2019. These updates include key issues for partners to address and have included discussions in relation to transitions for vulnerable young people into adulthood; education status for children exploited and those most vulnerable to exploitation through alternative education provision, part-time schooling and home education; and, ensuring consistent attendance of partners within Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings.

### **Promoting Child Sexual Exploitation Champions Role**

A key element of the ESCB and Southend Essex and Thurrock approach to child sexual exploitation is to develop a network of Child Sexual Exploitation Champions across Essex. Details about the Champion's role can be found on the ESCB website:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/learning-development/child-sexual-exploitation-champions/>

Since April 2017 there has been an agreed Southend, Essex and Thurrock approach to the standards that people need to achieve to become a Child Sexual Exploitation Champion.

There are currently 366 Child Sexual Exploitation Champions in Essex across a range of organisations, 61% work in the education sector.

One of the requirements after achieving Champion status is that the Champions attend at least one annual forum per year. Following feedback from Champions on the content of the forums, ESCB changed the format this year to include a range of specialist topics, this meant that people could choose a forum with a specialist topic that interested them.

#### **Specialist topics that were covered included;**

- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) & Trafficking
- Child sexual exploitation and children with disabilities and special needs
- Gang associated criminal exploitation
- County lines
- Working with primary age children
- Online abuse
- Working with parents/carers
- Peer on peer abuse

A total of 285 people attended the 10 forums and found them to be useful and helpful in increasing their knowledge

Delegates took away some of the following actions from the forums:

- **Share with the wider team - in particular the language used in reports/direct with children and young people not being "blaming"**
- **Discuss with schools how the Personal, Social Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum supports ALL pupils with awareness of child sexual exploitation**

As part of the feedback, people suggested topics for future sessions, these will be summarised and considered in the planning of future forums.

### **Working with District Borough and City Councils (building knowledge and capacity across local councils)**

During 2018/2019 the group focussed its work on the following key topics:

#### **Out of area placements:**

The transfer of families from London Boroughs and other councils in to Essex has been of significant interest to the City District and Borough group not just in terms of safeguarding children and families being moved in to Essex but also in view of the additional strain this puts on local services such as councils, police, social care, education and health. It appears that Harlow has been most affected by out of area placements; particularly in relation to moves into accommodation that has been created as a result of office space being converted to residential dwellings under Permitted Development Rights. Good practice in this respect has been shared amongst the group and the group will remain sighted on this issue in the coming year.

#### **Teenage Suicide:**

The City District and Borough leads supported work to highlight the issue of teenage suicide by contributing to the delivery of the Stay Safe Suicide Prevention Conference in Harlow. The aim of this work is to further develop understanding, highlight issues around teenage suicide, build confidence in knowing where to direct young people for help and support and ultimately help to reduce teenage suicide in Essex to nil.

## **Child Exploitation:**

City District and Borough group members have continued to support multi-agency case meetings by identifying and referring young people at high risk of exploitation and by sharing local intelligence to support the work to help identify local hotspots and locations of interest. Child Sexual Exploitation Champions are in place and work with partner agencies to identify and tackle child exploitation issues – this includes the delivery of child sexual exploitation awareness training for taxi and mini cab drivers.

## **Training and development opportunities:**

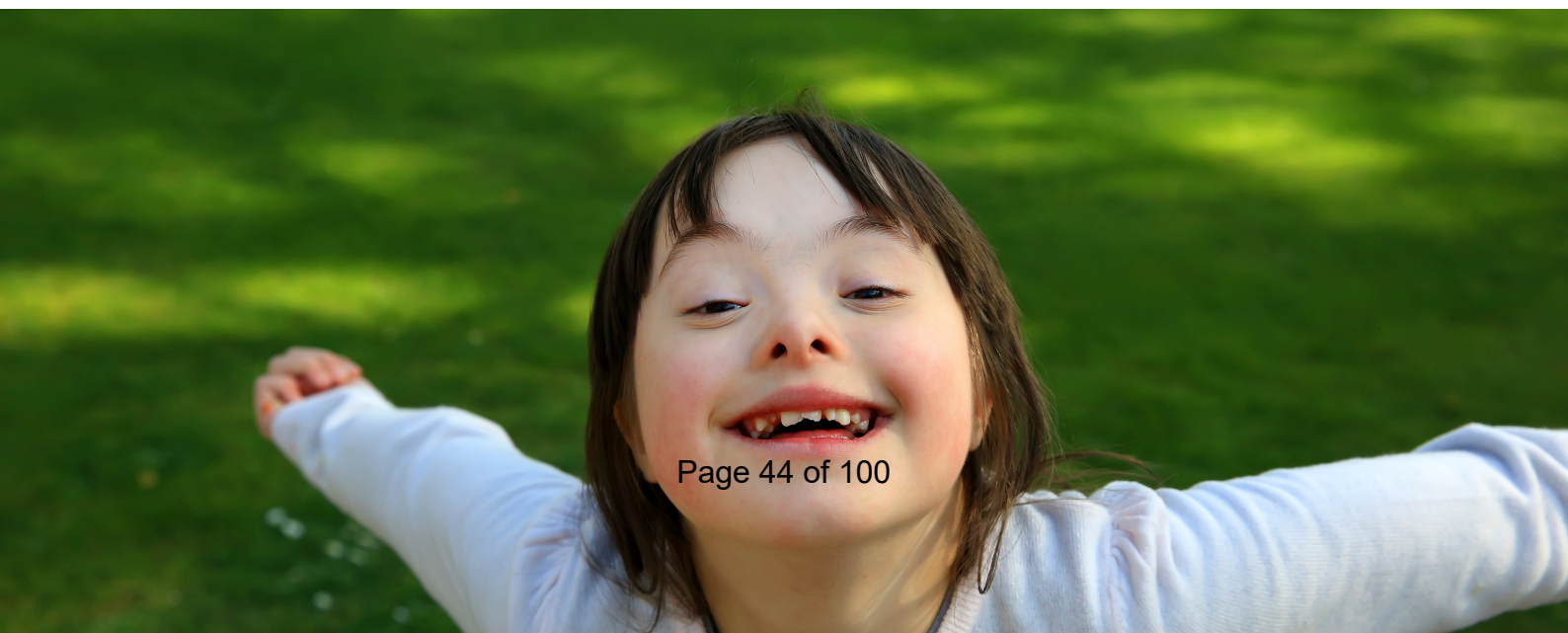
City District and Borough group members remain committed to sharing safeguarding training and development opportunities in order to ensure well-trained, professional and effective workforces across a range of agencies. Safeguarding leads support the ESCB training team by cascading information in relation to training opportunities and providing feedback on local trends, issues and concerns that may inform planning and development of the ESCB training programme.

The leads also worked with the ESCB Learning and Practice Development Manager to develop an enhanced training programme and this is now being implemented in some areas after being adapted to suit the training needs of individual Essex councils.

## **Sharing of Policies and Procedures:**

City District and Borough safeguarding leads continue to cascade learning from annual safeguarding audits and policies and procedures within their local networks.

Group members have supported the work of the ESCB to map the range of local meetings to understand communication pathways and links, ensure effective join up and avoid duplication of work. In order to keep abreast of policy, procedure, good practice, referral pathways and thresholds, the group has received presentations on the Essex County Council Children and Families Hub and the ESCB Effective Support (thresholds) document, as well as mental health.





## Assessing the responsibilities of schools and other agencies to carry out their safeguarding duties via Section 11 and Section 175 audits

### Section 11 and Schools 175 audit outcomes

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires governing bodies of schools and colleges to meet similar standards. In order to assess the extent to which local partner agencies and schools are fulfilling their safeguarding obligations, the ESCB sends out a 'Section 11' audit and a 'Section 175' audit tool every 2 years. These audits are self-assessments with agencies grading themselves against specific questions. The grading categories are Fully Met, Partially Met or Not Met. The audit also requires the agency to provide reasons and evidence for its grading.

The audit timeline for completion initially ran from 30 October 2017 to 31 May 2018, however, extensions were given to a few agencies who requested it.

There was a good compliance with 35 out of 38 partner agencies completing the S11 audit and an NHS England audit was also submitted.

570 out of 659 schools, colleges, alternative providers and independent schools completed the s175 safeguarding audit (86%). Primary, secondary schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) had the highest return rates.

### Headlines S175 Audit

In the school's audit, 93% of responses were graded as Fully Met, and had high compliance (over 90%) in many areas. The audit results suggest no significant areas of concern across the education sector.

The weakest areas were:

- having a named lead who meets the required standards for CSE champion status (69% Fully Met and 9% Not Met). However, the majority of these schools already had an action plan in place and we understand that in 2019 this has significantly improved.
- staff being equipped to understand risk and protective factors in relation to mental health, how to intervene early and strengthen resilience for all pupils, particularly those with emerging problems (74% Fully Met).

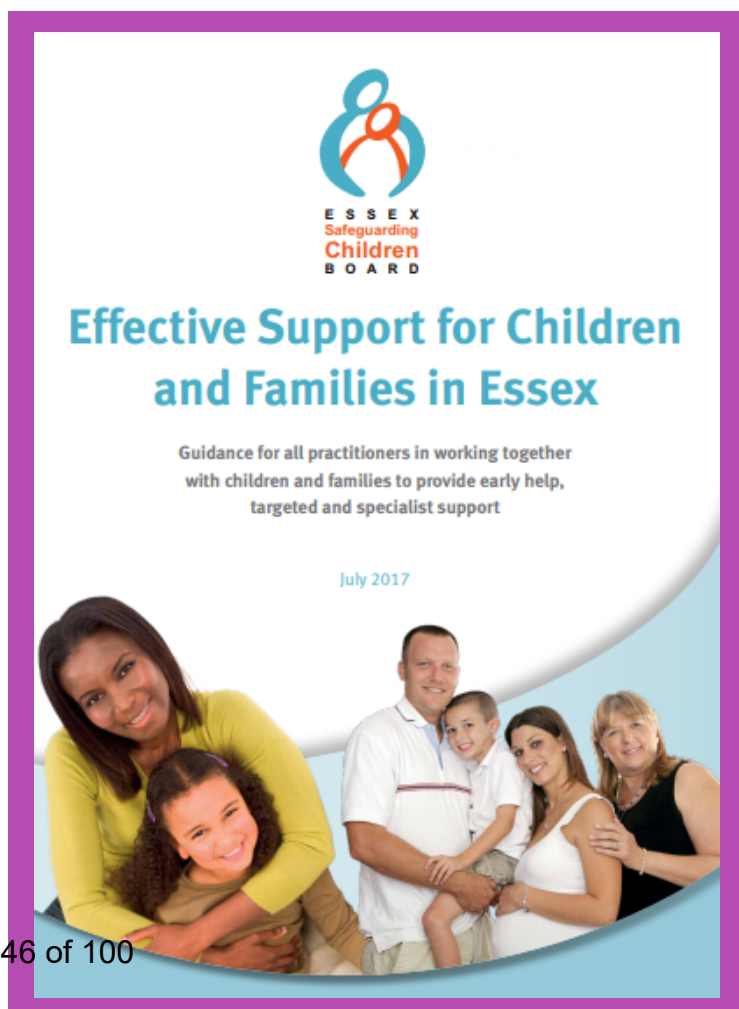
## Headlines S11 Audit

- Overall, 84% of responses were graded as Fully Met across all standards and the S11 audit results suggest no significant areas of concern.
- The highest level of compliance was for “Safe Recruitment, Vetting & Allegations Management” (93%). This is a significant improvement since the last S11 audit in 2015 where for example 41% of the submissions highlighted further improvements were required around whistle blowing procedures for staff to raise safeguarding concerns against colleagues or managers. This demonstrates that our partners have really used the learning from the previous S11 audit findings to strengthen practice.
- A weaker area for some agencies is around providing one-to-one supervision for all staff involved in safeguarding matters, although overall 79% scored this as Fully Met. This remains a challenge for some agencies who unlike children’s social care and health for example, do not have a statutory requirement to provide professional/clinical supervision to practitioners. Similarly, the term ‘one-to-one supervision’ is interpreted differently across agencies.

## Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention

The ESCB continues to highlight the importance of early intervention and early help across agencies, including raising awareness of the Effective Support for Children & Families document. This offers guidance for all those working with children and families to provide early help, targeted and specialist support.

Under this priority the focus in 2018 - 19 has been on supporting staff with their learning and development needs and the ongoing work of the Stay Safe Groups to support early intervention.



## ESCB Learning and Development Offer

ESCB Learning and Development Opportunities are mainly aimed at those working at level 1,2 or 3 of the Effective Support windscreen of need (for more details please access the following website: <https://www.essexeffectivesupport.org.uk/>), which focusses on early help and early intervention.

ESCB offered a total of 57 face to face learning and development opportunities in 2018-19 to 1738 people, this is a 5% increase in the number of courses offered and attendees from the previous year (for details of the courses please see Appendix F).

ESCB continues to find ways to evidence the impact of the Learning and Development opportunities offered. ESCB currently provides evaluation forms on the day of the activity and for most events, a post-course evaluation is sent electronically to delegates four weeks later.

The overall average response rate to the four-week post-course evaluations across ESCB courses is 72% which is slightly higher than last year. This is a very high response rate.

ESCB training continues to receive positive feedback with confidence against the learning outcomes increasing across all courses on the day and remains at a similar level at four weeks post-course, indicating that learning from the course was not forgotten and proved useful to delegates in their work.

As part of the evaluation process, ESCB asks delegates to state the actions that they took away from the course, whether they have implemented them and any barriers to them completing these actions. Generally, the actions are related to sharing the learning with colleagues, staff training and reviewing policies and procedures and delegates rarely identify any barriers to completing their actions.

## Stay Safe Groups

The work of the Stay Safe Groups remains critical in supporting the cascade of information to and from the ESCB to ensure that local practice issues are addressed but also raised at a strategic level where appropriate. Some key areas of work for 2018 – 19 included the following:



## Communication Network

The Stay Safe Groups bring together the Safeguarding Leads within a quadrant area thereby creating a communication network that spans across the partnership providing an ideal forum to disseminate and promote information and training opportunities. Examples over 2018/2019 include: sharing and promoting information on the new Essex Domestic Abuse Service, Reducing Parental Conflict programme and Parent Events around Child Exploitation.

## Promotion of Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO)

The Team Around the Family model underpins early intervention level 2 support and facilitates an integrated multi agency approach. Stay Safe Groups have supported and worked with Team Around the Family support officers to promote and encourage agencies to adopt the model. Recent evaluation of the team's work is showing significant success with quadrant based Team Around the Family support officers in high demand. It is expected that evidence of sustained impact will be measured through 2019/2020.

## Multi Agency Case Audits (MACA) – joint working with Stay Safe

It was felt that the Stay Safe Groups could provide a greater role in promoting how to fully utilise the Multi Agency Case Audit process in submitting case studies for audit, as well as disseminating the learning. The key actions agreed included:

- Inviting a Partnership Lead to a Multi Agency Case Audit to bring a wider system perspective to discussions, complementing established attendance from Essex Social Care Academy and ESCB.
- Provide a mechanism for disseminating learning, through members taking the learning from the case audits back to their organisations, circulating newsletters/bulletins, and assisting with thematic workshops within quadrant areas. Stay Safe Group members have a wide network e.g. Think Family Forums, Community Safety Partnerships, local Health Wellbeing Boards etc. and therefore are in a good position to share information.
- Through the established 'Key Messages' format used at Stay Safe meetings to set out actions for members linked to the ESCB business plan, progress can be monitored, and impact measured.

# Strategic Priority 3:

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing

This has been an important area of work for the Board in 2018 –19 building on the work that was done the previous year reviewing teenage suicides in Essex. The focus has been on broadening awareness of how to support positive mental health and well-being amongst those working with children, young people and their families. This was carried out primarily via the Stay Safe conferences across the quadrants in Essex.

### Stay Safe conferences – emotional health and well being

A fundamental part of the review into the tragic suicides of young people in Essex (completed in early 2018) has been sharing key findings and establishing how the learning can be implemented and embedded. This included raising awareness around risk factors, possible triggers for suicide and how to better talk with young people about mental health.

Stay Safe Groups worked with ESCB colleagues to develop and deliver quadrant-based conferences that provided time and space for colleagues across the partnership to hear, digest and discuss key issues that came out of the review.

The conferences also provided an opportunity for national organisations such as Papyrus and Hectors House to share their experiences and strategies for supporting young people and families including those bereaved by a young family member taking their own life. All attendees found the experience thought provoking and with examples from cases which were at times difficult to hear, but also felt that the conferences provided the opportunity to start meaningful discussions on how to work collaboratively to address the issues raised.

An important part of this work was to involve young people in the conferences to hear their perspectives. Colchester sixth form college asked a group of students if they would be interested in developing a workshop for the North East Essex conference, they had an overwhelming response from young people and 19 young people from the college who were involved in designing and delivering an excellent workshop on the impact of social media on young people. Some feedback given to the young people included:

*The activity was very powerful. We hear a lot and read a lot about young people and social media, but I have never experienced the pressures/anxiety/helplessness that constant social media interference brings.  
Thank you.*



The other conferences used three different case studies based on real life scenarios. These also worked well and gave people the opportunity to network and share information on the organisations and support that was available locally. Further training around will be provided in 2019 following on from feedback from these events.

### **Impact of the conferences**

One of the results of this work was an upsurge in young people accessing online counselling services. The post for Kooth, the online counselling service for young people, reached over 222,000 people on Facebook.

One of the main aims of the conferences was to support people to feel more confident to talk about suicide, and to try and dispel the myth that talking about it (if it is done in a supportive and sensitive way) does not encourage people to consider taking their own life. On average 8 out of 10 people who answered this question said they were confident to talk to a young person about suicide and 92% of those who answered this question said that felt more confident as a result of the conference.

#### **Comments from attendees included:**

**“Really glad we are all talking about this issue!**

(Voluntary/Community organisation)

”

***Much more confidence in phrases to avoid and that it's ok to talk about it.***

(Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service)

***I have come away with a different outlook which will be a great help***

(ECC Youth Service)

“

***I have recently had a young person who was suicidal and felt I was better equipped to have a conversation following the conference.***

(Voluntary organisation)

”

“

***It has helped to lessen my worry of potentially doing harm by discussing suicide with a young person.***

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(Private/Independent provider)

”

Moving forward it was identified that there also needs to be a clear and coordinated strategic view of the work around young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. A strategic group will be set up in 2019 and involve certain members of the ESCB Executive.

## Strategic Priority 4:

# Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

In addition to preparing for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (mentioned previously in this report), other key activities focussed on the Board's statutory duties around Serious Case Reviews and reviewing child deaths, as well as continuing to promote key messages around safeguarding and supporting other Boards.

### Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

This year the ESCB published new guidance around the SCR process to ensure that it meets the requirements of the new National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to review any serious incidents within 15 days. This was implemented in June 2018 and the ESCB has been able to achieve the new timeframes due to excellent cooperation from all partners. Details about these processes can be found on the ESCB website at the following link:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/serious-case-reviews/>

While no Serious Case Reviews were published in 2018, we continue to carry out reviews as required and learning is disseminated via briefings as well as multi agency learning events and newsletters.

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

The purpose of the Child Death Overview Panel is to review all child deaths across Southend Essex and Thurrock – this is a statutory requirement of the Board. In addition to this work, the panel also continues to raise awareness of child safety issues across Essex in order to try and prevent child deaths. An example of this in 2018 was the production of a leaflet, 'Worsening Signs of a Sick Child' which has been distributed to GP practices across Southend, Essex & Thurrock. The leaflet is intended to be used by GPs to hand to parents/carers following a consultation to assist in recognition of a deteriorating child and when to seek further help. The leaflet has been well received. An example of a safety campaign was the Safer Sleep campaign to try and reduce the occurrence of sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUDI), This took place Monday 11 March – Friday 15th March 2019. The Safer Sleep campaign saw a peak in engagement through ESCB social media channels during the week of activity. There was a reach of 4741 people through ESCB Facebook and Twitter posts which were guiding people to visit the Safer Sleep webpage.



### **Future plans for Child Death Overview Process**

The new arrangements for the Southend, Essex & Thurrock Child Death Review process will be in place by 1st October 2019 to meet the changes outlined in the Child Death Review Statutory Guidance published in October 2018. At this point the Child Death Overview Process function will move over 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.

Changes to the SET Local Child Death Review Panel structure have already been put in place to enable a more streamlined case management process, reducing the number of meetings from 20 to 12 per year whilst ensuring independent scrutiny of cases. This will ensure that child deaths are reviewed more effectively whilst maximising use of resources and enabling targeted preventative campaigns.

### **Communication activities to raise awareness of safeguarding**

Regular communications activities continue to raise awareness of safeguarding and the work of the Board, including having a presence at various events such as the SET Domestic Abuse Conference in November 2018 and the Stay Safe events in February and March 2019.

The ESCB website average number of hits varies but roughly has over 14,000 total hits each month, with 150 new Twitter followers, totalling 1,845 at the end of April 2019. The ESCB now has almost 1,200 Facebook followers, largely due to the success of recent public campaigns especially during March 2019 period when the 'Safer Sleep' and the 'Parents Did You Know' Child Exploitation campaigns followed on from each other. ESCB Bulletins have been published throughout the year covering general safeguarding news, training and Child Exploitation updates. 2033 people have now signed up to receive the bulletins.





## Regional and national work

The ESCB also assists in supporting other safeguarding boards for example the ESCB Business Manager is the chair of the Eastern Region Business Managers Group, enabling Local Safeguarding Children Boards 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 Child Exploitation Project Manager acted as an Advisory Board Member to the National Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation, representing the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS).

## Future issues

The main challenge for the ESCB moving forward will be ensuring that we fully implement the new safeguarding arrangements (MASA) from September 2019, 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

# Appendices

**Appendix A – ESCB structure**

**Appendix B – Essex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Plan**

**Appendix C – ESCB Business plans 2017/19 and 2019/20**

All the above can be found on the Essex Safeguarding Children Board website:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/about/>

## **Appendix D - ESCB Executive 2018 - 2019**

The ESCB Executive met on 4 occasions in the reporting year for 2018-2019. Meetings were held on the following dates:

28th June 2018

26th September 2018

12th December 2018

7th March 2019



## Key Statutory Partners

The three key partner agencies – Police, Health, ECC Children & Families – have maintained their attendance at these meetings at 100% over the year.

## Key issues discussed at the ESCB Executive

The themes of the Executive meetings have been as follows: (for further details about each of these topics please see key messages on the ESCB website:

<http://www.escb.co.uk/about/key-messages-from-board/>

### March 2019

- S11 & Schools Safeguarding (S175) audits
- Implementing Essex's new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

### December 2018

Child abuse and exploitation

### September 2018

- Planning for new governance arrangements
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Violence and Vulnerability Framework

### June 2018

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Working Together statutory guidance 2018
- Thematic Review of Teenage Suicides

## Appendix E - Finance

### How much did ESCB's work cost in 2018-19?

The Board's work is funded by partner contributions and a small training income. In 2018-19 contributions totalled £401,585 The work was achieved within that budget.

The contributing agencies were:

CAFCASS	550
City, District and Borough Councils (1,210 each)	14,520
Community Rehabilitation Company	5,082
Essex County Council	246,166
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 contributed £5,000 each towards the cost of the Child Death Review process which involves all three areas).

## Appendix F – ESCB training course attendance

Course	Attendance April 18- March 19	Number of courses March 18- April 19	Attendance April 17- March 18	Number of courses March 17- April 18
Child in Need	90	5	119	6
Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups: A Strengths Based Approach	67	4	78	5
Children with Disabilities, Child Protection Conference and Core Groups	7	1	44	2
CSE Champions Annual Forums	285	10	262	6
CSE Advanced Level Training	156	8	N/A	N/A
Designated Person or Lead for Safeguarding	158	6	187	7
Level 2 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Training	223	9	350	14
Putting the learning from multi-agency reviews into practice	294	5	N/A	N/A
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	40	3	N/A	N/A
Stay Safe Conferences	378	4	339	7
Working with Resistant Families and Disguised Compliance	40	2	89	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>55</b>

# **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2019-20**





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## 1. Introduction

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.



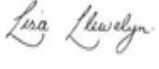

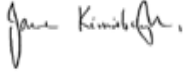
Some changes are being made to the way these agencies work together to keep children safe, because of new government guidance set out in Working Together 2018. The main changes are that:

1. There are now seven organisations in Essex 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

2. The Statutory Partners have identified relevant agencies which are legally required to cooperate with the new safeguarding arrangements (listed in the Appendix).
3. These new partnership arrangements will continue to be referred to as the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) keeping its name and identity as it is a well-known and trusted brand.
4. While the ESCB will retain parts of its structure that are known to work well, it will also make further changes which includes learning from best practice.
5. This Plan sets out the detail of how the new ESCB will operate from 29 September 2019. It will be supported by an ESCB Constitution document which will contain the governance details.

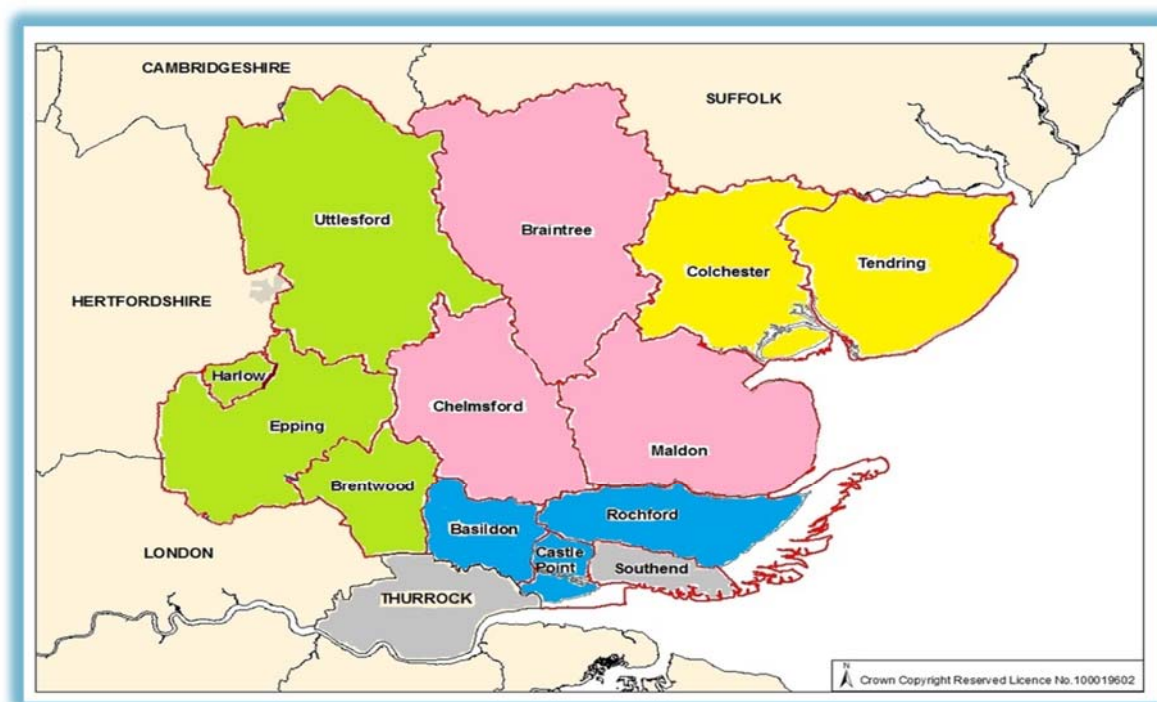
At the heart of the arrangements is a commitment from all agencies to work together to keep children safe and to continuously improve and learn how to best do this.

<b>Helen Lincoln</b> Executive Director Children Families & Education Essex County Council	<b>Andy Prophet</b> Assistant Chief Constable Essex Police	<b>Lisa Llewelyn</b> Director of Nursing & Clinical Quality and Deputy Chief Officer North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>Tricia D'Orsi</b> Chief Nurse Castle Point & Rochford and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups	<b>Jane Kinniburgh</b> Director of Nursing & Quality West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
				

## Background

Essex has a complex set of partnership arrangements to support a population of 1.468 million, of which 308 thousand are children and young people under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> It has one of the largest local authorities in the UK, plus twelve district and borough councils and 5 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across 3 sustainability and transformation partnerships, two of which overlap with other counties.

In addition, within the geographical county of Essex there are two unitary authorities (Southend and Thurrock).



<sup>1</sup> 2017 ONS Mid-Year Estimate



## 2. Developing new child safeguarding arrangements in Essex

The Wood Review 2015 and the subsequent government guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' required all local areas to review their safeguarding arrangements.

In conducting this review, the ESCB involved a wide range of partner agencies, not just the three Statutory Partners and used evidence-based learning from the multi-agency safeguarding (MASA) pilots, as well as partners' views of what works well locally.

The initial principles and considerations of the review:

- Aims to reduce duplication across partnerships
- Champions the interests and rights of children and young people
- Ensures accountable oversight and feedback on performance and outcomes
- Scrutinises and improves practice
- Ensures partnerships are proportionate, efficient, effective and adequately resourced

### **New child safeguarding arrangements for Essex**

The Statutory Partners have agreed that the new arrangements will be named the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) as it is a successful and well-known brand widely used in Essex to deliver learning to a very large number of professionals. In the remainder of this document, ESCB is used to refer to the new partnership.

The ESCB will operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and will cover the same geographical area of Essex, as defined by the local authority boundaries. The safeguarding partners and relevant agencies included in these arrangements will fulfil their statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children from Essex who live or are placed outside of our local authority area.

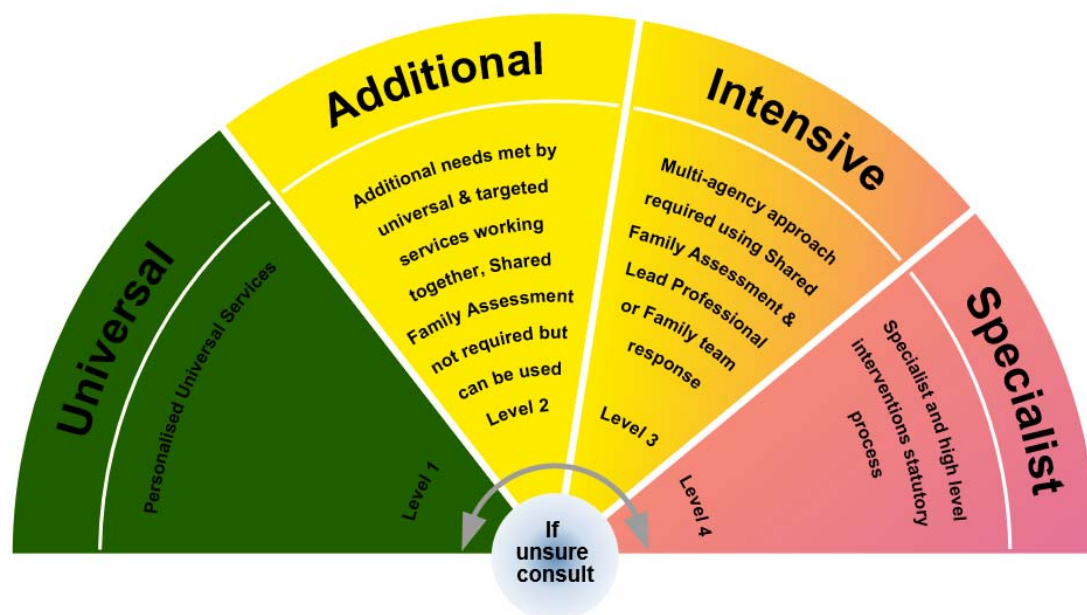
### **The seven local safeguarding partners jointly leading the Partnership Arrangements are:**

- Essex County Council: represented on the ESCB Executive Board by the Director of Children's Services
- Essex Police: represented on the ESCB Executive Board by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing
- Five Clinical Commissioning Groups: represented on the ESCB Executive Board by the three Directors of Nursing covering the local sustainability and transformation partnerships across Mid and South, North East and West Essex.

### Thresholds and levels of need

The Board will oversee the multi-agency safeguarding of children with a range of levels of need, as shown by our local threshold document Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex (link to document):

<http://www.escb.co.uk/media/1488/effectivesupportbooklet2017v5-final.pdf>



(The Essex Effective Support Windscreen)

This forms an integral part of Essex's approach to supporting children, ensuring the right support is provided by the right agency, based on the child's level of need. The approach also promotes earlier support for families to address issues before they escalate to crisis point and ensure that children are kept safe from harm.

### 3. Essex vision and values

#### **Vision**

The ESCB's vision is that multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements in Essex are of the highest quality, with the child at their heart; and that practice continuously improves and evolves across all agencies to reflect changing needs and circumstances

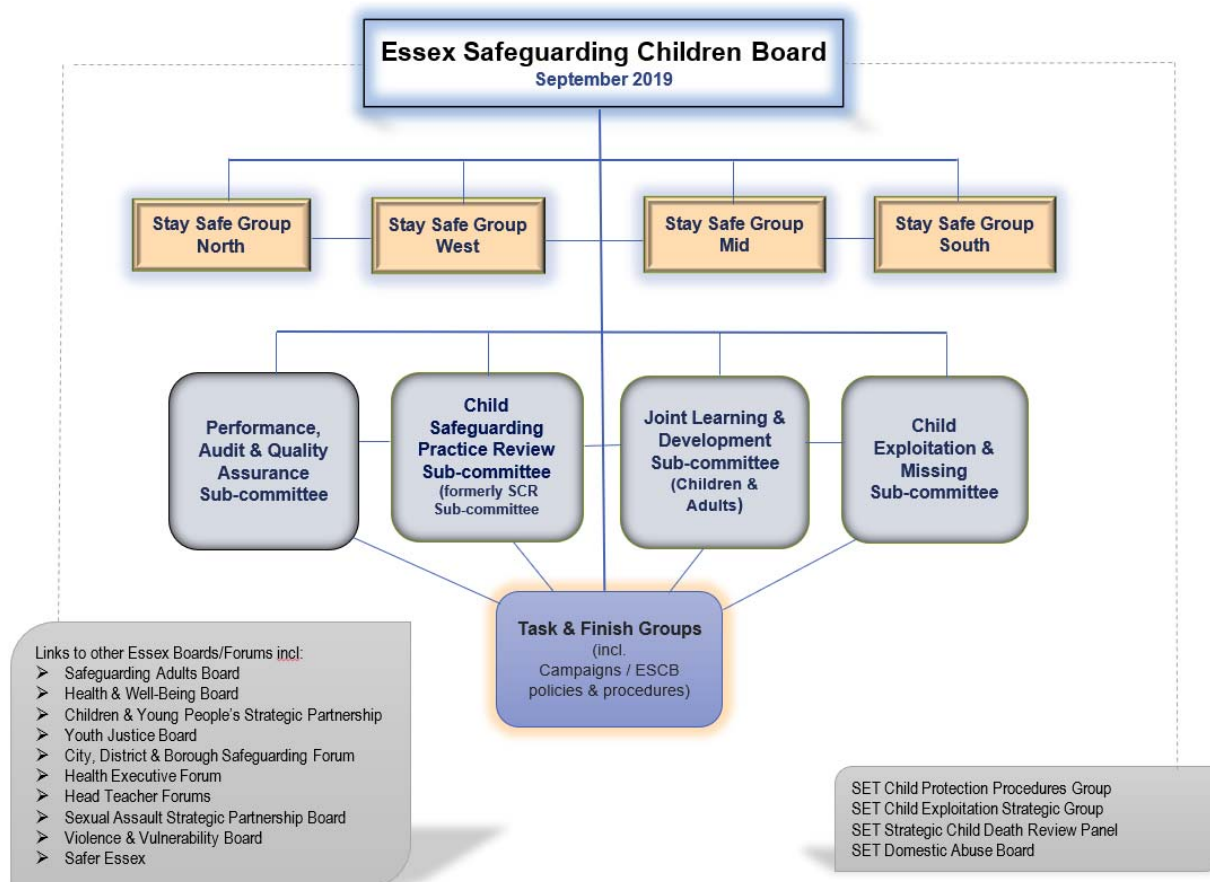
#### **Values**

Safeguarding partners in Essex are committed to delivering their vision according to a set of agreed values and principles, and these govern the work of the whole partnership:

- The child is at the heart of everything we do
- Sharing information between partners, and operating with trust and openness
- Continuous learning and the flexibility to evolve the partnership
- Ensuring everyone has a voice, including children and families
- Partners taking ownership and responsibility
- Strong communication and engagement within partners, with clear roles and responsibilities
- Excellent integration between adults and children's safeguarding
- Ensuring a balance of respect for individual organisations and appropriate challenge
- Ensuring alignment, connection and learning across the partners - a golden thread from the Strategic Board, through the sub-committees to the front line
- Ensuring involvement and focus on front line practitioners
- Keeping a preventative mind-set and adopting a 'Think Family' approach
- Joint priority setting across partner agencies

## 4. Structure of the ESCB

As a result of the review the number of sub-committees reporting to the ESCB has reduced, with the focus on groups that are strongly focussed on improving practice and ensuring an emphasis on learning, enabling a feedback loop across partner agencies and the front line.



### Executive Board

The Statutory Partners have agreed for the ESCB Executive Board to be chaired by an Independent Facilitator, a role which does not hold any statutory responsibilities.

The three Statutory Partners have agreed to each lead on specific priority work areas and have the option of rotating annually (refer to Appendix).

The Executive Board membership will include the Statutory Partners along with representatives from Education, Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS), District, City & Borough Councils, Office of Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company. It will meet 4 times a year with meetings themed around ESCB business plan priorities, national safeguarding priorities and areas identified through data and performance, to provide a learning model that is focussed on outcomes.

- **Stay Safe Groups** x 4 across Mid, South, West and North quadrants (chaired by various representatives from across the partnership).  
Coordinates and leads the local safeguarding agenda focusing on improving local outcomes and highlighting emerging issues and risks so that they can be appropriately addressed at operational level. They also act as learning hubs to ensure effective sharing of learning and practice and a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children. They provide quarterly updates to the ESCB Executive via a combined report.
- **Performance, Audit, and Quality Assurance sub-committee** (chaired by National Probation Service representative. Vice chair from CCG).  
Monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of what is done by the ESCB partners (including findings from multi-agency case audits) to inform the Board of relevant trends any risk to performance, who can then in turn agree appropriate strategies and actions on ways to improve.
- **Child Safeguarding Practice Review sub-committee** (chaired by Essex County Council, Children's Social Care representative).  
Oversees and monitors the review of serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to Essex with a focus on identifying learning to help organisations to change, and become environments in which both the systems and practice can be safely challenged and improved
- **Child Exploitation & Missing sub-committee** (chaired by Community Rehabilitation Company representative).  
Delivers the SET Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy in Essex by, coordinating partnership work, sharing learning and evaluating the impact of the work carried out by the partnership and individual agencies.
- **Joint Learning and Development sub-committee (Children & Adults)** (chaired by Essex County Council, Head of Workforce Development).  
Identifies multi-agency safeguarding learning needs that require addressing to ensure partner agencies develop their workforces to a high-quality standard and are keeping children / adults safe.

**Task and Finish Groups** e.g. Communications/campaigns (Children & Adults), ESCB policies and procedures.

The Statutory Partners will come together 4 weeks in advance of each ESCB Executive Board meeting to assure themselves that the work of the partnership is heading in the right direction and agree the draft agenda of the next Executive Board meeting.

## **ESCB Assembly Meetings**

In order to ensure coordination with other partnership arrangements in Essex, there will be an Assembly twice a year with representatives from other Partnership Boards/Forums with a safeguarding remit for vulnerable children and adults that operate across the county:

This includes:

- Essex Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- SET Strategic Domestic Abuse Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Essex Adults Safeguarding Board
- Youth Justice Board
- City, District & Borough Safeguarding Group
- Health Executive Forum
- Head Teacher Forums

These links will promote effective communication and engagement and ensure not only that "safeguarding is everybody's business" but also synergy of work

## **5. Relevant agencies involved**

The strength of local partnership working is dependent on safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

In addition to the three main statutory safeguarding partners, a number of other relevant agencies will also be required to work with the ESCB, reflecting the strong partnership relationships already built up in Essex over many years. Specific relevant agencies will have a representative member of the ESCB Executive Board. In addition, some of these members may sit on ESCB sub-committees, the Assembly or be part of Stay Safe Groups.

**Schools** – with 552 settings, Essex schools are vital safeguarding partners. Schools will be engaged as part of the ESCB Executive and sub-committees to ensure joint working to safeguard children within a multi-agency shared approach. The ESCB will aim to build on established relationships with schools and education providers to ensure they remain a key partner agency when the landscape of school organisation

is changing. There will also be a focus on exploring how schools can contribute to ensuring the voices of children and young people contribute to safeguarding developments and priorities. Schools will have Headteacher representatives from, Primary, Special Education and Secondary education. In addition, the Essex CC Director for Education will sit on the ESB Executive Board. Other members (including those from colleges) may sit on ESCB sub-committees, the ESCB Assembly or be part of Stay Safe Groups

**Early Years Settings** – with approximately 2123 settings in Essex including private and voluntary sector providers, childminders and after school clubs, this is a large but important sector. Settings will be engaged through the Stay Safe Groups to ensure effective sharing of learning and practice and a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children.

**Probation** – both the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company will continue to be key partners within the new arrangements, being designated as relevant agencies and contributing to the ESCB Executive Board, sub-committees and Assembly.

**District councils** – Essex as a two-tier authority, has 12 city, district and borough councils who are crucial for delivery of services to families with the county and have specific responsibilities for Community Safety. Each is designated as a Relevant Agency of ESCB. The Chelmsford City Council Chief Executive will sit on the ESCB Executive Board as their representative. Other members may sit on ESCB sub-committees, the Assembly or be part of Stay Safe Groups.

**CAFCASS** – will remain a partner within the new arrangements and will be invited to attend the Assembly and provide an annual update to the ESCB Executive Board.

#### **NHS Trusts and Providers**

Key partners within the new arrangements will contribute to the ESCB Executive Board, sub-committees and Assembly.

**Other providers of commissioned services to Essex County Council Children, Families & Education and Clinical Commissioning Groups** - representatives from these services will be invited to contribute via Stay Safe Groups or the Assembly where relevant.

**Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex** – will remain as a key partner as the lead agency for coordinating community safety across Essex and a senior OPFC representative will contribute to the Board through the ESCB Executive Board and Assembly.

**Voluntary and Faith Groups sector** – will continue to be involved with the partnership arrangements and a senior representative will be invited to the ESCB Executive Board and there will be voluntary sector representation on the local Stay Safe Groups.

### **Joint work across Southend, Essex and Thurrock:**

Whilst Southend, Essex and Thurrock (referred to as SET) will each maintain its own independent multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, they already have strong collaborative working arrangements and have agreed to develop this further through a “Working Across SET” strategy, supporting those areas of safeguarding that can be tackled most effectively and have the greatest impact on practice and services for children across the SET area.

They have also agreed areas of cooperation for business planning when developing their individual plans and prioritise which are the key areas of a focus for the planning period.

#### Existing SET Groups (identified as good practice):

- Strategic Child Death Overview Panel
- SET Child Protection Procedures Working Group
- SET Child Exploitation Strategic Group
- SET Domestic Abuse Board

## **6. Local safeguarding practice reviews and embedding learning**

The responsibility for how the system learns lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the safeguarding partners via the ESCB Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub-committee.

The three safeguarding partners have made arrangements to:

- identify serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area
- ratify the decision making of the ESCB Child Safeguarding Practice Review Sub-committee
- commission and oversee the review of those cases, where they consider it appropriate for a review to be undertaken

There is an ongoing commitment to continuous learning and improvement leading to enhanced practice, improved outcomes and experiences. Safeguarding partners will continue to take account of the findings from all local and national reviews with a view to considering how identified improvements should be implemented locally. This includes the way in which organisations and agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.



We will look at using different methods including appreciative enquiry to undertake and learn from these reviews of practice. Findings from the local reviews undertaken in Essex will be shared with relevant parties locally through the Stay Safe Groups and there will be regular monitoring to ascertain progress on the implementation of recommended improvements.

The Stay Safe Groups are frontline learning hubs which aim to improve local safeguarding practice and are linked via two-way feedback loop between front line practitioners and the ESCB Executive Board, ensuring learning on priority local issues is shared and acted on at all levels in a timely way.

## 7. Multi- agency training

Essex partners will continue to commission multi-agency training and learning activities based on a robust annual needs analysis and agreed via the Safeguarding Boards' (joint adults and children) Learning and Development Sub-committee.

This needs analysis will be informed by the Board priorities and take into account practice issues arising from local safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency case audits, inspections, local and national priorities, section 11 audits, feedback from training activities and emerging issues.

The method of delivery of multi-agency training will be based on what is most appropriate and effective and will include e-learning, face to face training, conferences, case studies and action learning activities via the local Stay Safe Groups. The ESCB will continue to be creative and innovative in developing learning interventions, working with partner agencies and other Boards to promote a holistic 'Think Family' approach.

This will be evaluated in a variety of ways as set out in the ESCB monitoring and evaluation toolkit <http://www.escb.co.uk/learning-development/monitoring-and-evaluation-toolkit/> and will include feedback from practitioners, practice audits, supervision and examples of practice changes as set out in individual action plans, as well as learning and development audits.

Impact of learning will be monitored under the wider performance framework of the ESCB and the findings reported back to the ESCB Executive annually.

## 8. Independent scrutiny arrangements

It is the responsibility of the Statutory Partners to put in place an independent scrutiny process to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases (Working Together 2018).

A multi systems approach will be taken to the independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the new arrangements. This will comprise of a number of functions which will include scrutiny through, multi-agency cases audits, a stocktake of what we know already and what agencies' independent Inspections have already told us. Peer reviews (for example across the ESCB Stay Safe Groups as well as external MASA peer reviews with comparable counterparts in the Eastern region) and ensuring the voice of children, young people and families is heard.

These functions will:

- Consider how effectively the new arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners;
- Ensure the Statutory Partners are providing strong leadership
- Provide reports to the Statutory Partners on relevant areas of safeguarding;
- Review the ESCB Annual Report before publication;
- Promote an effective strategic safeguarding challenge and reflection to drive continuous improvement

## 9. Voice of children and families

The voice of the child is at the heart of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Involving children and families is essential to safeguarding in Essex both in contributing to delivering the ESCB's vision and in helping to scrutinise and review the partnership arrangements themselves.

The ESCB will make use of the many existing arrangements in place across Essex to regularly involve children and families in its work and hear their voices. These include:

- Multi-agency case audits
- Schools councils, youth groups, support groups
- Service user panels

This will be supported from information directly from Data sources such as:

- The Children & Young People's Involvement Team (Essex County Council)
- Performance teams across the partnership
- Commissioning

## 10. Dispute resolution and escalation process

Transparency, openness and a willingness to understand and respect individual and agency views are a core aspect of multi-agency / inter-agency working. However, there may be occasions where individuals / agencies working with children and families disagree on how best to keep children safe and promote their welfare, and therefore all partner agencies have a responsibility to resolve any professional disagreement between them promptly and amicably in accordance with the SET Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures.

In the unlikely event that a disagreement cannot be resolved at local level by senior managers within the respective agencies, it can be escalated to the three ESCB Statutory Partners.

The ESCB Constitution and SET Procedures will be revised accordingly to take account of these changes from 29 September 2019.

## 11. Implementation

The new ESCB multi-agency partnership arrangements will commence 29 September 2019.

## 12. Funding and business support

The work of the ESCB (under these new arrangements) will be supported by a business unit hosted by Essex County Council and will involve the existing staff assigned to the local safeguarding children board in its previous form.

New Child Death Review arrangements are scheduled to take place from September 2019, and whilst the statutory partners have agreed to retain the existing SET Child Death Review process, it will not sit under the ESCB new safeguarding arrangements. Going forward the child death review partners will be the local

authority and clinical commissioning groups for the local area as set out in the Children Act 2004 (the Act), as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The safeguarding partners are committed to equitable and proportionate funding of this business support and the work of the ESCB as a whole. Contributions from relevant agencies to support the local arrangements have therefore been agreed for 2019/20. These include the cost of local safeguarding practice reviews (aka serious case reviews) and partnership learning reviews.

**Funding for 2019/20 is as follows:**

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

These arrangements will be reviewed annually.

## Appendix

### Designated Relevant Agencies

The Safeguarding Partners have selected those agencies in Essex which are to be relevant agencies and members involved in the new safeguarding arrangements as shown below. These have been determined as those partners which have regular contact with children or have responsibility for services to them in the local area. (Local Safeguarding Partners Relevant Agencies Regulations 2018):

- All Primary Education Establishments including maintained nursery schools
- All Secondary Education Establishments
- All Special Schools
- All Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision Providers
- All Further Education Colleges
- Early Years Settings
- Voluntary Sector
- Adults Social Care
- Children's Social Care
- Local Authority Housing
- District, City & Borough Councils
- Youth Offending Service
- Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service
- NHS England
- NHS Basildon & Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Castle Point & Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
- Basildon & Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTUH)
- Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust (MEHT)
- Southend Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust (SHUFT)
- East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT)
- North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT)
- Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH)
- Anglian Community Enterprise Community Interest Company (ACE)
- Emotional well-being and mental health service (EWMHS)
- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT)
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST)
- Provide
- National Probation Service

- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Essex Police
- Essex Fire and Rescue Services

**Statutory Partners lead areas (with the option of rotating annually):**

1. Clinical Commissioning Group lead to cover the ESCB Executive Vice Chair role.
2. Assistant Chief Constable for Essex Police will ratify the decision making of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review sub-committee.
3. Dispute resolution and escalation process will be overseen by the Clinical Commissioning Group leads to determine a way forward.
4. The Executive Director of Children's Services will oversee the development of the independent scrutiny arrangements.



This information is issued by:  
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First published 21 June 2019 (v.1a)  
Updated 28.06.19 (v.1b)



		<b>AGENDA ITEM 5</b>
		<b>PAF/21/19</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 September 2019</b>	
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Name: Graham Hughes</b>  <b>Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer</b>  <b>Contact details:</b> 033301 34574 <a href="mailto:Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a>	

**Purpose:**

- (i) To consider the update requested from the Young Carers Service on the first full year of operation of the new in-house service being provided for young carers (**Attachment 1**);
- (ii) To consider feedback from some members who have visited recent Young Carers events to seek views on how the service is operating;
- (iii) To consider feedback from Healthwatch Essex who have also attended some recent Young Carers events to seek views on how the service is operating;
- (iv) To consider any further information required and any next steps for further Scrutiny.

**Background:**

In September 2017 the Cabinet approved a Young Carers Service Redesign. The redesign created a new Young Carers Service to be delivered in-house by Essex County Council from 1 April 2018. The Cabinet Decision paper stated that the new in-house service “would deliver a more individual approach through better identification, assessment, tracking and intervention by dedicated key workers targeted at the appropriate level of need, together with improved support by Schools, additional community based support to ease the caring burden, and more significant respite opportunities for Young Carers”.

The decision was called-in but subsequently withdrawn subject to review by this scrutiny committee once the contract was up and running.

The PAF Chairman has had recent discussions with both the Cabinet Member and lead officer to help develop the format of the attached report and has requested that service user feedback be demonstrated. As part of this, the service provided details about upcoming young carers forums/events which were circulated to PAF members so that PAF members had the opportunity of attending them if they wished to obtain direct feedback from young carers. Those members who attended any of these events may wish to give their feedback to the Committee. In addition, Healthwatch Essex have attended other recent forums/events and may be able to report back on the lived experience of young carers attending those events.

**Young Carers Service Re-design  
Progress report to People and Families Scrutiny Committee  
September 2019**

**Background**

The Children and Families Act 2014 defines a young carer as “*a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).*”

In September 2017 the Cabinet made the decision to agree the re-design proposals for a new ‘in-house’ young carers service to be delivered from April 2018.

Prior to this, provision supported by ECC was made via the voluntary service sector to provide ‘respite groups’ in each district, which was awarded to seven providers across Essex, Action for Family Carers (Colchester, Maldon, Epping, Harlow, Uttlesford), Carers Choices (Basildon, Castle Point), Chelmsford YMCA (Chelmsford), Brentwood Crossroads (Brentwood), Tendring Crossroads (Tendring), Supporting Children & Families Together (Rochford).

Secondly, a limited support service provided in secondary schools, and young adult carer support was delivered by Action for Family Carers.

Young carers statutory assessments were conducted by Targeted Youth Advisers from the Youth Service.

Additional funding had been made available for extra one-off respite opportunities, such as day trips and weekend residential delivered by the providers listed above during the Easter and Summer school holidays.

The need for a different model of delivery was based on concerns about the inconsistency of delivery by different partners in different Districts, and the lack of evidence of impact and outcomes from existing provision that demonstrated young carers will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive and to enjoy positive childhoods.

The existing provision had no any meaningful service for under 8's. Most importantly, it did not reflect the priorities for support as identified by young carers themselves through the work of the Children's Commissioner and our own engagement groups, namely improved identification, awareness and support by schools/further education/higher education/employers, a need to ease their caring burden and a new service that should be personalised and appropriate support offered relating to individual level of need and relevant to the age of the young carer.

In the year 2016/17, the previous providers commissioned to provide support in each district, listed 870 young carers known to them, but on average less than 55% of those young carers actually attended ‘respite’ groups in that year, and less than 34% received 1:1 support. About 478 young carers attended a young carers group at least once for social respite activities, and of those about 295 received 1:1 support.

## **New Service delivery**

The new service which comprises 8 Senior Key Workers, 13 Key Workers and 2 School Development Co-ordinators, was officially launched in September 2018 following a recruitment process regrettably delayed by ECC organisational re-design processes. However, young carers support was maintained by the Targeted Youth adviser team through the interim period.

The new team offers a young carer Key Worker approach based within each quadrant in Essex, delivered via ECC Youth Service.

The service delivers the support as endorsed by the People & Families Scrutiny Committee in March 2017 as follows:

- Provide a three tier scheme linked to level of need and led by quadrant based senior key worker (higher need L3/4) and key workers (lower need L1/2).
- To offer independent statutory assessment and bespoke support relating to the needs, aspirations, attainment and health of the young carer. Ensuring multi-agency engagement and signposting to other services where possible.
- Training workshops for young carers – e.g. manual handling, health and safety in the home, fire safety, dealing with bereavement, resilience, dealing with medication; online safety.
- Targeted periodic young carers and young adult carers peer workshops where they are not already engaging with universal services or other young carer provision – facilitated by the key worker team and planned in partnership with young carers.
- Provide targeted significant respite opportunities allowing Young Carers to meet, connect and have time for meaningful activity away from their caring roles where not already engaging with universal services or other young carers provision.
- Support access to universal youth provision and engagement in sports, arts or cultural opportunities of their choice and in support of their aspirations.
- Long term tracking and intervention at key transition points via ECC Mosaic & Capita One systems.
- Establish and facilitate service users young carers forum to quality assure existing provision and co-produce future direction of young carers activities and provision.
- The creation of a new website for young carers in Essex. Must include links to all provision and support opportunities i.e. VCS providers, Kooth, and other opportunities.
- Two school support workers to work with all Essex schools & FE/HE to help raise awareness and support them to develop practice, protocols and systems that support young carers, achieve Healthy School Award benchmarks, national Young Carers in Schools Award standards and enable them to better meet Ofsted requirements to evidence outcomes for young carers.

- The provision and implementation of the 'Street Nannies' scheme for Young Carers across the County – to become self-sustaining after 3 years – involves extended family/friends/neighbours/volunteers offering time to assist with tasks normally undertaken by the young carer in order to ease the burden of their caring roles.

## **Evidence of outcomes and impact to September 2019**

The new service has received 1275 referrals to date. 13% relate to young carers who identify as BAME as opposed to only 6% reported in 2016/2017 by providers, and 148 were under 8 years old at the time of referral of which 7 are under 5, the youngest being 2 years old.

Only 16% of referrals have been previously known to social care, as opposed to 75% of referrals for assessment in 2016/2017.

In 87 instances we have been unable to contact the family to progress the referral, and on 88 occasions support was refused by the family.

Referrals have been received from 148 schools (103 primary, 37 secondary, 1 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, 5 SEN, 1 Independent, 1 alternative provision); 21 voluntary sector providers (including 6 young carers groups); NHS services; Social Care teams (including Family Solutions); Education Access team; Employability & Skills team; Youth Service; Specialist Teacher Team; a Borough Council and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

We have also received 88 self/family referrals and 92 anonymous referrals which seem to be mainly from schools which forgot to identify themselves as the referrer.

The team have carried out 879 statutory assessments.

Besides the main focus of their work being casework with 965 young carers and their families, which has included 72 young adult carers (16-24 yrs), the team have also delivered:

- 40 training workshops on topics such as Internet safety/cyberbullying; Young Driver lessons; First Aid; Kooth online counselling; Jamie's Food for Thought 10 week course (with Rotary), Epilepsy awareness, school transition support, Art Therapy 6 week programme, Work Readiness – CV & Interview Skills, Manual Handling, Mindfulness workshop, Cookery, Creation Station emotional resilience workshop, Mental Health First Aid
- 36 significant respite events, including Kidzania Trip; Science Museum; Hadleigh Park Glamping; Carrotty Wood Residential; Sky TV Academy; PGL Residential, Jimmy's Farm Day; Mercury Theatre tour and panto; Harlow Playhouse tour and panto; Virtigo climbing wall, Colchester Zoo, Danbury Outdoors residential, Mersea outdoors, St Marks College residential, Lambourne End activity day, Essex Wildlife Trust and Microsoft HQ residential
- 55 peer support workshops
- 37 service user forums
- 35 drop-in or support sessions

The summer school holidays is a period when many young carers find themselves increasingly lonely and isolated, so it is important to have a range of opportunities available to address these issues and ensure support is available. This year our Young Carers team organised an amazing 57 different sessions including residentials, drop-ins and workshops in addition to ongoing 1:1 support work and assessments throughout the summer holiday period.

The service also organised a successful 'Supporting Young Carers in Essex' conference to mark national young carers awareness day, which was attended by 138 participants from a range of sectors including social care, schools and voluntary organisations. The day included young carers themselves, key note speakers including Cabinet Member for Education and Director of Education and was opened by Government Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP.

The team have also recently launched an innovative new communication App working with Essex based Piota, which provides information, news, online contact, links to voluntary providers and enables alerts to be sent for upcoming events and appointments. Additionally, information across ECC websites has been updated and an online referral form makes access to the team as easy as possible.

Key workers have held or attended 39 Team Around the Family (TAF) multi-agency meetings, and 13 Children in Need and Child Protection meetings.

Most importantly, the team have been able to evidence the following outcomes for young carers and their families as a result of their interventions:

- ✓ Improved attainment, attendance and engagement with School, FE/HE, training or work

Outcome Evidenced	Number of cases
Career guidance/support	12
Reduced school exclusions	6
Early lunch pass provided at school	1
Improved attainment in school	86
Improved attendance at school	87
Increased awareness of caring role in education setting	647
Increased engagement in school lessons	78
Increased knowledge of work readiness	29
School allocated time out card	62
Secured school exam rooming arrangements	2
Successful school placement appeals (new school place awarded)	3
Supported aspirations for further or higher education	37
Supported in finding work experience	3
Supported to apply and attend college	12
Timetable changes at school to accommodate young carer needs	6

Transition support to new school	12
Young adult carer accessing training and or employment	2
Young carers advocating young carer status by delivering assemblies/posters around school etc.	15

✓ Increased Knowledge and Skills for young carer

Improved knowledge of what do in an emergency	161
Increased understanding and knowledge of cared for condition	194
Skills from training/workshops being implemented at home/school etc	37
Supporting young carers and their families to travel more confidently (e.g. with travel training or applying for government funded vehicles.)	31

✓ Personal development of young carer

Access to mental health support for young carer or “cared for”	25
Improved anger management (less angry)	32
Empowering the young person	214
Improved social skills resulting in friendships	291
Increased self-esteem	294
Reducing isolation	249
Reduction in anxiety and individual worries	247
Reduction in self harming behaviours	31
Reduction of risky behaviour e.g. gang activity or absconding	21

✓ Family and cared-for support

Adult social care installed stair lift	3
Adult social care referral made	2
Occupational therapy referral made for home adaptations	17
Support put in place for cared for	90
Support with Housing issues	2

✓ Accessing wider support

Supported access to universal youth provision	142
Referrals to other support agencies	279
Referrals to statutory services	36
Supported to attend youth service including NCS, Youth club, DofE	12

Please find attached in the appendix, 8 case studies that evidence the outcomes of the intervention by a key worker or Senior Key Worker.



## User Feedback

Some examples of feedback from service users about the work of the team are provided below. So far we have not received any complaints nor negative feedback.

*"I' has looked forward to J's frequent visits to talk to her at primary school. She really likes him and benefits hugely from being able to open up her feelings to him. Thank you." - LS, I's grandmother*

*"Essex young carers have been helping myself and my daughter for nearly a year without your service and help I don't think my daughter E would have coped you have been amazing support and have helped give her confidence B is such a support. Your service has given us such amazing help thank you" – E's Mum*

*"Wanted you to know what a fantastic job you are all doing. K had a rough 2018 what with L's diagnosis on top of his sister's chronic illness. But you were there, put no pressure on him, he gets to mix with other kids with similar family lives. You are helping K build up his confidence again after having the wind knocked out of his sails. Keep up the good work, it is truly appreciated"- K's Mum*

*"As a young carer myself, I can cope with the physical side of the job but with the emotional side, the young carers service provides so much support and help when I'm feeling down or not myself and it also gives me the ability to meet other carers from different backgrounds but as a whole understand how I'm feeling. I am so grateful for the support the young carers service has given me over the past year and a bit and how fantastic and welcoming the whole service is. I have had experiences with services in the past relating to what I do and I can say that this has been the most supportive and friendly and helpful group I have ever come across and I don't want to leave." – JO young carer*

*"As a parent I appreciate everything that this service offers to my daughter, allowing her to sound off when she needs to knowing she hides things from us as she feels we already have enough to deal with. The days that T visits she always comes back looking somewhat chilled. The days out with the other young carers is so beneficial to my daughter, as to I'm sure is beneficial to the other children. Being able to let their hair down and just be kids with no responsibilities. My daughter comes alive every time she's been out or away with young carers service. I can rest assured that she is safe but having fun. I would highly recommend this service and wish there were more key workers so they could see more children. I wish there were more funding to allow these children to have more help and breaks as they work extremely hard trying to cope with home and school work. The key worker is an angel in disguise she has managed to build a trust with my daughter after she was let down before by a different key worker with a different young carer service" – JO's Mum*

*"The Young Carers Team now come in to see pupils very regularly and also frequently call in to book meeting rooms for their sessions. The Team are all so professional and friendly, a real pleasure to work with. Most importantly, they are always promptly on time which is reassuring and reliable for the Pupils, and the rapport they have with them is always warm, supportive and heartfelt. As you know*

*we see a lot of other support agencies and organisations, but the Young Carers Team stand out on their own” – Secondary school*

*“I hope this finds you well, I just wanted to say a MASSIVE MASSIVE Thank you for all of your hard work and support that you have given me, the team and our identified Young Carer’s and families here at W’s over the last few months.*

*The service you provide is exceptional, real decent people wanting to make a difference. I’m sorry I overload you with work but I wouldn’t bother if you weren’t all so darn good!” – Secondary School*

*“I am overwhelmed with how brilliant the service is. The power of C and her appeal letter has made such a difference to our lives now the children can go to a school closer to our new home” - Mum*

*“...came to both the forum and Jimmy’s Farm trip had previously not been attending school full time because her lack of confidence encouraged behaviours that got her onto a reduced timetable. Since half term she is more confident, attending school more regularly, engaging in play therapy well, and been allowed on her first school trip!!!” – a parent*

*“I just wanted to say, J doesn’t talk or tells us much how he gets on with his sessions. We are lucky to get any information from him about how his day at school was, but what Dan and I have realised is that he talks about you and the bond he has with you so we thank you for that.” – J’s Mum & Dad*

*“..I had lost all faith in the doctors, hospitals and care System but now being in contact with your team my faith has now been restored there really is people out there that want to help and do the best they can so thank you again” – Mum*

*“..it has built her confidence and she wanted to stay in school more..” – Mum*

## **Schools Development Work**

A key objective of the strategy is to improve identification and support for young carers in schools across Essex in response to feedback from young carers during engagement work.

The Schools Development Co-ordinators have been working closely with The Children’s Society and Carers Trust, who administer the Young Carers in Schools Award, to enable us to share examples of good practice and enable Essex schools to develop effective means to identify, provide support and improve attainment and attendance by their pupils who are young carers.

The team also visited schools across England to learn from their experience of achieving the Award at all levels and collect examples of positive engagement. This has now been collated into a ‘good practice guide’ that is being shared with schools through engagement with our team.

Since January 2019 the Co-ordinators have supported 44 schools towards making submissions to receive the national Young Carers in School Award (YCiS). Prior to April 2018, only 8 schools in Essex had achieved the Award.

Basildon Academy and Greensward Academy have both been successful in achieving the Award at Silver level. They are now being supported towards succeeding at Gold.

Potter Street Academy, Milldene Primary, Greensward Academy, Great Bardfield Primary School, Saffron Walden County High School, Gosbecks Primary, Felmores Academy, Chipping Hill Primary School and Baddow Hall Primary School have all been successfully supported to achieve at Bronze level.

A further 7 schools are still awaiting confirmation of their Award (Hedingham School, The Cathedral School, Northlands Primary School, Honywood School, St Johns Green Primary School, Spring Meadow Primary School, St Helena School).

Additionally, 26 schools are working with the Co-ordinators on the Award and should be able to have them confirmed later in the year.

The Schools Development Co-ordinators have delivered a number of assemblies and training events in schools, and ran a countywide awareness raising and training event for school staff in May. Further termly training opportunities will be offered in the future.

In Essex, the majority of schools have achieved the Healthy Schools Award, which includes young carers support benchmarks. The Schools Development Co-ordinators have been working with the Healthy Schools Advisors and have attended their conference.

Examples of feedback received from schools include;

Would you recommend the service to other schools?

*"Yes, not only does it provide knowledge and understanding, the outcomes of the award have an exceptional impact. Increased awareness for parents, teachers and children, more identification of young carers, continual support for young carers (homework support, time to talk, drop ins) as well as being informed how to refer to Essex Youth Service to gain further information on the process to gain support from relevant key workers"*

*"Yes, very much so.*

*We are very proud to have completed the bronze award."*

*"...have both been amazing, they have been at the end of the phone when I've needed them for any queries I may have had. C has come to the school to check my evidence and to point out if I had any missing."*

*"Yes, I would definitely recommend the service to other schools as it is a good source of information."*

*“Definitely. Already had a meeting to discuss the steps of Silver Award. Hope to aim for Gold in the near future.”*

### **Street Nannies Scheme**

As a result of the Street Nannies pilot project being evaluated by the steering group and concluding it was largely unsuccessful in delivering the desired outcomes, and after further consideration of the potential of such an approach by the new Essex Young Carers Service team based on cases they were involved with at the time, it was decided to no longer pursue this scheme.

With the agreement of the Cabinet Member, it was decided that the intended post to support this initiative would be better deployed as an additional key worker in North East Essex where we had the smallest team, whilst experiencing high levels of referrals and some very challenging cases.

An additional Key Worker joined the NE team in August 2019.

### **Additional Grant Funding to Voluntary Sector providers**

Due to the delay in recruiting to the new service from April 2018, there was an underspend on the staffing budget. Therefore, in order to maximise the impact on our young carers it was decided to offer a ‘one off’ grant funding round to voluntary sector young carer providers to support additional significant respite activities (day trips/residentials), as this had been an area of development specifically requested by young carers themselves during engagement sessions.

Grants of up to £3500 were made available to 11 local voluntary sector young carers groups to offer additional activities, and a total of £26,700 was distributed.

### **Voluntary Sector Provision**

Despite the challenging financial circumstances faced by the voluntary sector providers, particularly as a result of the reduction in support from ECC, it has been pleasing to note their success in maintaining provision of local respite groups and support in schools in some districts.

Sadly, provision delivered in Brentwood by Crossroads Care has ceased, as did the provision in Braintree in 2017. Currently these areas do not have any offer of regular respite groups for young carers.

All young carers providers are given the opportunity to meet together and share information, news and opportunities at periodic engagement sessions facilitated by the Youth Service Commissioners.

### **Areas of concern for further exploration highlighted to Cabinet Member**

There is a need for greater clarity around ‘Consent’ – how can services engage with young carers where need for support is evident when parents refuse?

For some cases it would be useful to have access to personal budgets/grants as a lack of funds in the family for items such as scout uniform/laptop/driving lessons/engagement in activities restricts a young carer's opportunities. Similarly, access to transport or affordable public transport in some cases is restricting access to opportunities.

Work has started collaboratively with Carers First and adult social care commissioners exploring an improved offer of provision including pathways for transition to adult services and awareness raising with FE/HE/employers for young adult carers support (16-24yrs).

## **Awards**

It is worth noting that the Essex Young Carers Service has been successful in being shortlisted for 'You Make a Difference in Essex' - Team of the Year, to be announced on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the national Children & Young People's Award for Public Sector Team of the Year, to be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **Appendix - Case Studies**

### **Case 1 – Mid Area**

#### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

JK helps care for his Dad. A few years ago, JK identified that Dad had a drug addiction to prescription painkillers. JK tried to support Dad but after a few weeks told Mum about Dad's issues. This took a toll on the family and resulted in Mum and Dad separating and Dad moving out of the family home.

Mum had to reduce her hours at work and now only works at the weekend. Dad returns to the family home at the weekend to look after JK and his younger siblings. Dad has been supported to overcome his addiction but still suffers with mental ill health.

JK's caring role is both practical and emotional. When Dad is at the family home JK's caring responsibilities involve:

- Looking after his younger siblings
- Cleaning the house
- Making sure Dad is ok and keeping him company

Alongside his caring responsibilities connected to his Dad, being the oldest child JK is also a support for his Mum and is often her shoulder to cry on.

#### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

JK is very close to his Dad and the split has affected him, he can contact his Dad anytime and they still have a strong relationship.

JK is currently struggling with sleeping and will only get a few hours' sleep some nights.

JK is struggling with his anxiety which affects him both at school and home. JK explained that he can be social at school, but he does not like to leave the house when he is not at school, he will often wear headphones when he does go out as he does not like crowds. JK explained that he can become overwhelmed at school and some lessons such as Maths can be a trigger. This results in him spending time in his allocated safe space in school or contacting his Mum who will then collect him from school. This is affecting his attendance with both his lessons and at school in general.

JK does self-harm; he is quite open with Mum about this but does not like to upset her. JK is currently receiving support from EWMHS and CAVS.

**Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies**

- Arrange 121 sessions in school with JK to complete direct work on understanding his caring role and a safe space to discuss his worries.
- Look into establishing a healthier sleep routine.
- Referral to the Chelmsford YMCA for their Young Carers Club.
- Invite JK to any relevant workshops and significant respite trips.

**Actual outcomes and positive impact of support for the young carer and family**

- Regularly attending the YMCA Young Carers Club and has made a new group of friends there.
- On completing the 121 targeted work referred to AfFC for their school drop in support and arranged meeting for JK to meet their worker.
- JK has attended two workshops; Ready for Work and First Aid at Mersea Outdoors.
- JK has increased both his attendance and attainment at school. In the last month he has been in all his lessons and has not had to be collected early from school.
- JK has not self-harmed recently. He did acknowledge that he does sometimes have thoughts about self-harming but feels he is in a more positive state and has the strength to overcome the thoughts.
- Created a healthier night time routine which JK attempts to follow however due to mock exams recently he has been staying up late to revise.
- JK identified within his review outcome star that he had gained a greater understanding of his caring role and had increased self-esteem.
- JK identified that he is less anxious about attending new places and events. He has improved with socialising and will leave the house not wearing his headphones but feels there is still an opportunity for this to increase further.

**Case 2 – Mid Area**

**The young carers family situation and caring role:**

HB is 11 years old and lives with his mother and his older half-brother. HB cares for his mum, NG, who suffers with hypermobility and clinical depression. NG finds it

difficult to move around and can have periods of feeling very low and struggling to do things such as housework and cooking. NG reports that she is often in a great deal of pain.

As a result of NG's conditions, HB helps his Mum to stand from a sitting position, helps her up the stairs and around the house. HB enjoys cooking and often makes dinner for his family. HB also offers emotional support to his mum when she is feeling low.

### **The impact of caring on the young carer:**

HB is impacted by his mum's depression as she finds it difficult to leave the house and have people over. She also struggles to walk HB to clubs or school due to the pain she is in. NG has said that she struggles with housework and the house is often very messy which leads her into a bit of a 'rut'. School have reported that, on occasion, HB has missed school due to his mum needing him at home to help her. HB has been unable to attend school trips as a result of his caring role and Mum has found it difficult to be proactive with things such as securing him a secondary school placement. HB has also told his keyworker that he has hurt his back previously from helping his mum to get up and around.

### **Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies:**

HB's original action plan consisted of the following:

- HB's school to be made more aware of his caring role
- HB to have 1.1 sessions with a keyworker
- HB to be given respite opportunities.
- Letter to be written in support of NG being given a car from disability support team.

However, as HB's intervention started, these further actions became necessary:

- Referral to adult social care to be made for Mum.
- Support with transitioning to new school
- Support with learning how to lift his mum safely without hurting himself.

### **Actual Outcomes and positive impact of support for the Young Carer and family**

Since working with Essex Young Carers Service, HB's mum has been given a car by the disability support team, which HB's mum believes is largely due to the letter written by the service. NG has said that having a car has "changed [her] life", as she is now able to drive HB to attend more opportunities and being able to drive instead of walk has stopped the pain from being as severe.

HB has had 1.1 sessions with a keyworker and, in addition to being able to talk about his caring role, he did some work around communication and aspirations.

The service has liaised with the school regarding HB's caring role to give them a more detailed understanding of his responsibilities at home. This has resulted in HB



being invited to attend the school's lunchtime young carer club and has led to a good working relationship between the service and the school in which concerns and information are shared.

HB was able to attend a respite day to Danbury outdoors, in which he said that he had made friends with other young carers who "know how it feels". HB has also signed up to attend our Manual Handling workshop which will support him in helping his mum to get around the house without injuring himself. He has a place on a workshop we have arranged with the Children's Society which will address issues such as peer pressure, bullying and transitioning to secondary school.

The Essex Young Carers Service has arranged for a social worker from the adult social care team to and speak to NG about the support she can receive around cleaning etc.

### **Case 3 – South Area**

#### **The young carer's family situation and caring role**

JM is a 14 year old boy who is on a child protection plan due to his Dad's alcoholism and mental health such as psychosis. Dad also has tumours which result in him attending ongoing medical appointments/treatments along with seeing his mental health worker and open road for alcohol dependency/misuse. When Dad is intoxicated he becomes violent and uncoherent which led to J being put on the plan through social care. J's Mum also lives within the family home and attends all medical appointments to support Dad.

The referral came from J's social worker who felt that due to J's family environment he was at high risk of being involved in risky behaviours such as Gang affiliation and associated with unhealthy relationships.

J's home life also affected his education and the violence he witnessed at home was being displayed at school with J having fights and being suspended on many occasions, which then led to him having a below average attendance.

J had also suffered bereavements with the loss of his Grandad the previous year that he helped care for and most recently his beloved dog that he grew up with from a small child. These underlining emotional issues were never dealt with.

#### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

- The emotional impact this is having on J's mental health and wellbeing with violent outbursts being his only outlet.
- The impact this is having on J's education as he is unable to verbalise how he feels and displays this through anger
- Being involved in unhealthy relationships/risky behaviours as he is unable to identify healthy peer's support/relationships.

#### **Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies.**

- Meeting with social worker to discuss safety plan and case
- Meeting with School to discuss further support/counselling and inform of caring role issues and concerns.

- Direct work 1-1 Around identifying unhealthy/healthy relationships
- Direct work 1-1 Emotional support and understanding behaviours.
- Direct work 1-1 De-escalation techniques and anger management strategies.
- Direct work 1-1 Understanding Dad's mental health
- Referral to bereavement counselling

### **Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young carer and family.**

Completion of all direct work which J feels has helped him. There have been no further incidents of J having had any disputes at school due to him implementing the strategies/de-escalation techniques. (Please see attached feedback form).

Attendance has improved, J now associates with healthy peer support relationships, no further suspension's, J is on the counselling waiting list and there is now good communication with school. Safety plan is in place to ensure J's safety. Dad has been engaging with all support offered which has significantly reduced incidences and behaviours at home. Continual support is being offered.

## **Case 4 – South Area**

### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

PB is 11 years old and has a complex family situation, his whole family are previous victims of abuse.

PB is caring for his Mum who has physical and mental health problems, sister with an eating disorder and suicidal tendencies, brother with Schizophrenia and learning difficulties and second brother with Autism.

### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

When we completed the initial assessment, PB was undertaking high caring duties, often staying up all night to monitor his family to ensure their safety and ensure none of them tried to take their own life. PB's emotional wellbeing was low at this stage and apart from school he did not leave the family home. PB appeared to have his own difficulties vocalising his emotional difficulties.

### **Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies**

- Team Around Family meeting held at school to put further support in place. School had been relatively unaware of the caring role due to minimal communication with Mum.
- PB was apprehensive about joining respite activities due to his own anxieties, so we held small social skills groups doing team games to build his confidence around this.
- Referrals made for additional support for the wider family, including Occupational Therapy for Mum and ESTEP Psychosis support for brother.
- Drawing and Talking was completed in school with Senior Key Worker to work through emotional difficulties due to issues verbalising them.
- Supported to attend School Nurse drop in with Mum to seek diagnosis for own needs.

- Support with the transition to Secondary School, including arranging additional visits and supporting to attend these, referring for Travel Training, supporting the appeal for school transport and holding a School Transition Workshop with other young carers moving to the same school.

### **Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young carer and family**

- School are now aware of significant caring responsibilities and have put further support in place. This includes a communication book, regular check ins from pastoral staff, and the school also funded a term of piano lessons from pupil premium as this was a favourite hobby of PB's.
- TAF meetings are ongoing and now involve professionals supporting all members of the family.
- PB has built confidence in socialising and has since attended many respite opportunities, including the pantomime, Sky Academy London and a two night residential to Carroty Wood, where he built good friendships with other Young Carers.
- Professionals are now supporting the whole family
- PB has completed Drawing and Talking programme and benefited from these sessions, giving positive feedback to Mum.
- PB has now been diagnosed with High Functioning ASD to enable him to get correct support for his own needs.
- PB is feeling less anxious about the move to secondary school. He has already made friends, has had the opportunity to ask questions about his worries and has completed Travel Training successfully.
- Mum has thanked the service for the difference it has made and sent emails of praise.

## **Case 5 – North East Area**

### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

R is in KS2 and lives at home with his older brother who is a school refuser, older sister who attends a SEND school and his mum. R has another older sister who lives with Nan. Mum has complex health needs, including NEAD epilepsy, anxiety and depression, heart and nervous system conditions, and has had multiple strokes and a heart attack. R's sister that lives at home has epilepsy and complex learning disabilities. Both mum and sister receive regular allocated carer hours.

R helps with cooking and cleaning around the house and provides support when his mum or sister has a seizure by getting cushions, medication and additional help when needed. When mum is experiencing difficulties with her mental health R will use his own pocket money to buy mum chocolate biscuits or a donut from the local shop, then sit and watch films with her to help her feel better.

### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

R has found it difficult to engage at school with his learning, often thinking about home or finds aspects of school overwhelming. He has commented that he would

prefer to be at home where he can see his mum and sister and help when needed. He displays challenging and aggressive behaviour at school, which has led R to being excluded 1-2 times a week this academic year and was at risk of permanent exclusion. R has not been able to remain in his own class for a large portion of this academic year because of his behaviour towards his peers and adults in the class. R has difficulties with making friendships. Mum feels R is not able to access opportunities and activities outside of school like his peers do due to the circumstances at home.

### **Agreed action plan**

The following action plan was agreed with home and school:

Drawing and Talking sessions, Solution Focus 1:1s, Young Carer role 1:1s, invite to respite activities, first aid and cooking skills sessions (waiting list for next cooking course), school to offer R a place on Wildlife Wellbeing sessions (starts Sept 2019), careers talk with Police Officer because R wants to join the Police when older (arranged Sept 2019).

### **Actual Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young carer and family**

Head Teacher feedback - "R has now gone 4 weeks without being excluded and only once in the 2 weeks prior to that. This is a great improvement. He talks to trusted adults more about his feelings when he feels angry or about concerns at home or school, instead of acting on his feelings, and because of this he has been able to join his class again."

Young Person feedback – "I now have my 'best days' and I am making good choices. I like being back in my class, I have been allowed back in because I make good choices. When I do my learning, I get 5 minutes reward time and I get to choose a friend to spend my reward time with. I have more friends now that I like to play with."

Parent feedback – "It has given R time to be a child and not just a young carer. He is experiencing things others his own age get to do."

## **Case 6 – North East Area**

### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

YC lives at home with Mum (Arthritis, plantar fasciitis, anxiety, depression, cyst on spine, receiving treatment for stroke and angina) younger brother (11 – ASD), older sister (21) and her two children (niece – 2yrs and nephew – 5yrs ASD). Also has another older sister (25 – Asperger's and ADHD) who lives in own home with her daughter (4 yrs). Father has contact but does not live at home.

YC is caring for Mum and assists in caring for Brother, Sister and Nephew. YC provides helps with cooking, tidying the house, bathing nieces and nephews, food shopping, changing beds, washing and gardening. YC uses the app 'Money Matters' to help pay the household bills. They get Mum's medication and attend hospital appointments with her, in addition to calling for medical assistance for Mum when

required. YC helps Mum wash and dress on occasions where she is in too much pain (awaiting wet room to be installed upstairs to help this). Emotional support is also provided by the YC by picking up on Mum's emotional state and assisting around house to support. Mum's eyesight has been affected by her health conditions and is unable to drive. The YC catches two buses to attend college her part time job. The sisters who are able to drive help out with lifts when able.

YC suffers from anxiety, particularly in social situations, for this they have been seeing a counsellor with the organisation 'Healthy Minds'. YC is trying to balance a full educational timetable of 4 A level subjects, looking after her family, and a part time job. Recent exams and mocks have caused a huge increase in anxiety as rooming and timetabling provisions are not always adhered to. YC has ambitions of becoming a Child Psychotherapist or Teacher and would like to go to University but is unsure the family could afford and facilitate this. YC often worries when at College about mum attempting to attend medical appointments alone, due to potential injuries or difficulties on route.

### **Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young carer and family**

YC engaged in a 1:1 to complete an outcome star to identify key areas she would like to work on and achieve with the help of the service. She identified exploring her options for University in connection with her young carer role (cost, distance from home etc), the need to get some work/life balance, create some designated 'me time'. In line with these aims the first thing the kw did was meet with YC to see if there was anything that she would like to bring to the Head of College's attention in addition to the information from the assessment. YC highlighted three things: special exam arrangements previously agreed not being adhered to, letting tutors know about anxiety, and informing selected teachers (English x 3 teachers) of young carers role. Based on this the was shared was received positively by the College and YC was commended for the level of care she was providing whilst maintaining such good attendance and attainment (was previously unaware of the full extent of caring role). The Head of College suggested that the young carer be able to have a flexible study day (usually Friday expected in College) where YC is able to study from home if it would suit, allowing her to spend more quality time with Mum whilst Brother and Nieces and Nephews are at school, as well as being able to help attend medical appointments when necessary. Head of College informed all YC's teachers of her anxiety and her English Teachers about her young carer role. He also confirmed he would be chasing up the exams officer as he wasn't happy about how the previous exams had been handled. YC attended a visit to Cambridge University and took part in the informative activities about University, course selection, course requirements, University life and student finance. The day had a positive effect on the Young Carers view of whether University is achievable and the Young Carer has specifically asked to do a 1:1 session looking at Student Finance and bursaries etc. We ordered prospectuses for Universities up to 1.5 hours away (a distance agreed with the Young Carer) to look at course requirements in a future 1:1. YC's exams 'went well compared to past exams', and she commented that all exam procedures discussed with the head of college had been followed and made the whole process much less stressful.

YC's mother has also recently sustained injuries to her neck and back after a fall down the stairs and was requiring significantly increased amounts of care. This happened around the time that YC was completing exams. The key worker produced a letter to the Uncle's employer to illustrate the increasing need for care in the family home. The uncle now visits the family home each weekend to help with care, allowing the young carer time to study and attend her part time job.

YC has also recently requested to and completed a week's work experience with the key worker as she is interested in a profession helping young people and felt she had had a positive experience with the service and would like to see how the service is helping others, in order to broaden her perception of possible careers in the future.

## **Case 7 – West Area**

### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

K lives at home with her young brother and mum with dad in and out the home, mum struggles with her mental health and depression. K is a constant emotional support for mum and helps with her younger brother. The family live in a cramped flat in an anti-social building and mum has been known to have anti-social behaviour and get into fights with other residents. K is around when this happens and helps to calm mum down and distract her brother. K is aware when mum is having a bad day and becomes more loving and cheerful around mum to make her feel better.

### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

School voiced that K struggles in friendship groups and is distant with peers and teachers, her record within school is not good with bad attendance and appearance. Whilst working with the family, they moved to social care and put onto a child in need plan. Mums mental health had become worse and she was struggling to cope with the children and to care for them. K stopped talking in her sessions and was worried she was going to say something wrong or get mum into trouble. K was constantly worrying about mum and her younger brother.

### **Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies**

- 6-8 1:1 session
- Attend TAF/CIN meetings
- Refer K onto an extra emotional support service
- Find K an after-school club and support mum to do this.
- Provide K with respite opportunities

### **Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young Carer and family**

- Positive response at Children in Need meetings
- K attends a drama therapy club at school
- K attends after school club
- Attendance is higher at school
- K's appearance is better, and she has new glasses
- K has a better relationship with her young brother and dad

- Family have attended 3 family forums
- K has attended 1 peer workshop and 1 significant respite residential

## **Case 8 – West Area**

### **The young carers family situation and caring role**

M was referred into the service by Family Solutions as she is a young carer for her mother who suffers from mental health needs. Mum's emotional wellbeing impacts on M who also shows levels of anxiety and is school refusing. M displays controlling behaviour in the home and in school.

### **The impact of caring on the young carer**

Due to her caring responsibilities M suffers from her own emotional needs and as a result has a poor relationship with the school. M has bad attendance and Mum has paid fines over this. Relationship between family and school have broken down meaning M rarely attends and when she does is often not in lessons.

### **Agreed action plan and actions taken including signposting or support from other agencies**

Reengage M back into education. I arranged 6 1:1 sessions to discuss the issues M faces in school.

Build a better relationship with mum and school

Invite M to targeted respite/workshops to help her build her confidence in Groups and encourage her to feel more confident when at school and to also reduce her isolation.

### **Outcomes and positive impact of support for the young Carer and family**

After failing to meet with M in school, I arranged a meeting with M at home. When I arrived, M was guarded and defensive. Over the next 90 minutes she gradually relaxed and started to talk about why she didn't want to be in school; the circle of non-attendance she had gotten herself into. – behind in lessons, staff and students making a fuss if she went in, not knowing what work should have been done or where she was at.

I discussed these issues with school and arranged to meet M at the reception on the following Monday. I ensured I was there when she arrived and went into a meeting with the head of year, M and mum. We discussed M's caring role and how this can at times impact her attendance and looked at any work that can be caught up on over the summer. We also discussed how to address issues in school, (what M and school agree not mum). School agreed to give M a card that allows her to leave lessons when she is struggling and a new designated adult that she felt safe talking to.

All the points that were worrying M were addressed and M's school attendance has improved. Both mum and M feel listened to and relations with school are improving.



	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 6</b>
	<b>PAF/22/19</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 September 2019</b>
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Name: Graham Hughes</b> <b>Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer</b> <b>Contact details:</b> 033301 34574 <a href="mailto:Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk">Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk</a>

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

### Briefings

Further briefings and discussion days will continue to be scheduled on an ongoing basis as identified and required.

### Formal committee activity

Items programmed/being considered to come to Committee are listed in an updated Appendix A.

### Task and Finish Group activity

A Task and Finish Group has been established to scrutinise drug gangs, knife crime and county lines. The Group has held two preparatory meetings so far with formal scrutiny days planned at the end of September and during October.

### Chairman and Vice Chairmen meetings

The Chairman and Vice Chairmen meet monthly in between scheduled meetings of the Committee to discuss work planning and 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.

### **Action required by Members at this meeting:**

**To consider this report, discuss future work activity, and whether any changes are required to the work programme.**

Date/timing	Issue/Topic	Focus/other comments	Approach
<b>Items identified for formal scrutiny in full committee</b>			
12 September 2019	Young Carers Service	A new service has been delivered in-house by ECC from 1 April 2018 (fully operational since September 2018). The Cabinet decision was called-in but later withdrawn	(i) Post-implementation review of new service as agreed as part of the withdrawal of the call-in. (ii) Consider more general discussion on carers
12 September 2019	Safeguarding Children	To consider impact of new national guidance on governance arrangements for children's safeguarding. Consider report of the work of the Safeguarding Board.	Any detailed discussion on specific operational matters may need to be scoped and held separately.
12 September 2019	Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines – <i>follow-up</i>	Referral from Full Council to oversee development of multi-agency strategy	To receive update on the work of the Group.
10 October 2019	Respite care- <i>follow up</i>	To be updated on actions arising from discussion at June 2019 meeting with petitioners, Cabinet Member and Lead Officers.	Cabinet Member and Lead Officers to attend.
10 October 2019	Safeguarding Adults	Report of the work of the Safeguarding Board to align with the timing of their annual report	Could also look at Healthwatch Essex update on work being done to support the Safeguarding Boards and, also Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health in his role as member of ESAB and partner agency
14 November 2019	Special Educational Needs – <i>further follow-up</i>	Scrutinise service changes arising from public consultation	Update on further discussion and service review ahead of implementation in new year
14 November 2019	Domiciliary care	To review structures and responsibilities as part of introduction to the issue	TBC
12 December 2019	Education portfolio update – <i>follow up</i>	Follow-up on actions arising from July meeting: (i) the work of a cross party group looking at children missing education; (ii) further defining the expectations of interventions by the Early Years' Sector; and (iii) ensuring wellbeing programmes operating in schools all link-up and how personal resilience is being promoted in schools.	Cabinet Member and Director – Education, to attend.

Cont....

Date/timing	Issue/Topic	Focus/other comments	Approach
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**Items identified for formal scrutiny in full committee - to be scheduled**

Ongoing	Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines – <i>follow-up</i>	Referral from Full Council to oversee development of multi-agency strategy	To receive periodic reports from the Task and Finish Group now undertaking the detailed review.
Late 2019/early 2020	Provider relationships – <i>follow-up</i>	Refreshed Market Strategy.	Opportunity to review and comment on draft and revisit any issues from previous discussions.
April-May 2020	Educational Attainment	Annual Report.	Cabinet Member and Director- Education to attend.
Summer 2020	0-19 contract with Virgin Care – <i>further follow-up</i>	Continue review of contract performance, and the revised (more outcomes focussed) KPIs.	Cabinet Member, Virgin Care, and Barnardos to be invited.
TBC	Decision FP/102/03/18 – Essex Education Services – <i>follow up</i>	Review strategic objectives, financial payback period, maintaining strategic presence in Essex	Full committee session to be scheduled after call-in of Cabinet decision on contract placement.
	Portfolio updates (Children and Families, Education, Health and Adult Social Care)	To be updated on current issues and challenges.	To supplement other attendances by Cabinet Members for specific issues – to be arranged as and when the Committee think appropriate

**Task and Finish Group reviews**

Ongoing	Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines	Oversee the development of a multi-agency strategy (referral from Full Council)	Scoping document agreed by Full Committee. Detailed work TBC
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**Items identified for joint work with other committees – to be scheduled**

September 2019	Autism	Diagnosis and referral waiting times, social care/ other support and level of awareness/training.	Briefing on service structures and responsibilities before defining follow up work
TBC	Sensory services	Currently being scoped	TBC

**Further issues under consideration and/or for further evaluation**

TBC	Care Act/Social care	Consider further work after briefing on Care Act	
TBC	Domiciliary Care	Identified during work planning discussions.	'What does good care look like?' To be scoped.
TBC	Children in Care/school leavers	Transitions. The support in schools	To be scoped.
TBC	Hip fractures and falls Prevention – <i>follow-up</i>	Follow up on Task & Finish Group recommendations that are relevant to PAF	

