

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report: April 2023 to March 2024



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Independent Scrutineer – Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read this year's Annual Report. The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership has a statutory duty to be transparent in how it coordinates, delivers and funds services for children and families locally. In order that others can hold the safeguarding partners to account there are two mechanisms for reporting on service delivery and leadership, one of these is the publication of this document, the Annual Report. I hope that the report helps you understand the work and efforts made by the Partners to safeguard children across West Sussex.

I would also ask that when you read this document you consider the incredible work that our people do to protect children. We all read headlines that deal with tragic cases, but we rarely consider the fantastic professionalism of people who dedicate their lives to safeguarding children, making their lives better and providing them with opportunity for the future. West Sussex is blessed with some of the most dedicated professionals and volunteers who go over and above to make sure our children are safe. On behalf of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, I would like to offer them our sincere thanks for all they do.



“One of my roles is to ensure that this report is accurate and gives an honest assessment of children’s safeguarding in West Sussex. Having read it I am content that this is the case.”



I would like to thank the Business Team, particularly the Business Manager who has worked incredibly hard to draw this document together. Their consistent support and professionalism throughout the year is essential to the smooth running of our day-to-day business.

During this reporting period West Sussex employed an Independent Scrutineer who also performed the role of Independent Chair for the Partnership, a role that has been removed from the structure in the latest iteration of Working Together (2023). This provided critical analysis and challenge for various aspects of the Partnership during the reporting period.

This section of the Annual Report deals with how scrutiny has been delivered to the Safeguarding Children Partnership in this reporting period. Scrutiny affords those who lead the Partnership an opportunity to seek assurance that they are doing all they can to safeguard children. Working Together 2023 sets out the necessity to have independent scrutiny and the different ways this can be achieved. The same document also sets out the functions of independent scrutiny and states ‘Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that the arrangements are working effectively for children, families and practitioners.’

Independent Scrutineer – Foreword

Independent scrutiny can be delivered in several ways, but ultimately difficult decisions must be made in terms of resources which can limit the extent of this work. West Sussex chose to utilise the Independent Chair and Scrutineer as a critical friend to the Partnership during the reporting period, chairing all Partnership meetings, providing challenge at these meetings. Reviewing and advising on a Rapid Reviews and submissions to the National Panel. Advising on Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, leading the Pan-Sussex section 11 audit process and acting as an essential conduit between Partners. In addition, the Independent Scrutineer met with all three Strategic leads regularly and was afforded the opportunity to meet the Chief Executive of the Local Authority. These meetings provided the opportunity for robust scrutiny at a senior level.

West Sussex continue to improve the way they use data, another essential tool in scrutinising performance in key areas of safeguarding. Police have made significant improvements in supplying data, and this will undoubtedly strengthen existing data sets. Additional scrutiny was provided through audits and a specific piece of work to address action plans that result from reviews.



Looking forward, Working Together 2023 provides an opportunity to further optimise independent scrutiny. The removal of the chairing role will afford the Partnership to task individual pieces of scrutiny to be completed more frequently. These pieces of work should be focussed on priority areas. It will also increase opportunities to engage with children, families and practitioners gaining insight into their lived experiences.

As the Independent Scrutineer I am happy to be able to say in this report that the Partnership continues to do all it can to safeguard children and improve outcomes for them and their families. I believe that they will focus on developing a culture where scrutiny is seen as vital for continual improvement.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Robson'.

Chris Robson
Independent Scrutineer

Lead Partners - introduction

As the three statutory lead partners of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP) our annual report reflects upon our achievements and the challenges we faced together in 2023-24. This report describes how we operate as a safeguarding partnership, both collectively and as individual partner agencies and organisations.



The WSSCP's annual report focuses on providing assurance which demonstrates our arrangements are effective in helping to keep children safe and promoting their wellbeing.

A highlight of the year was the progress made embedding the Family Safeguarding Model. This social work practice model is strengths and relationships based and has successfully brought professionals working with a family together as a 'one team' approach to keep children safely within their families by identifying and meeting need. Domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health and probation practitioners are co-located with Children's Social Care. We are encouraged by Bedford University's evaluation (2023-24) which noted the strong commitment from partners, which has seen a 10% reduction in the number of children who are 'open' to Children's Services over the past year (to January 2024).

More broadly, strengthening co-operation across our Partnerships features throughout our work and is described in this report, including joined-up working to supporting children with complex mental health needs and tackling child exploitation and Pan Sussex work around safer sleeping messages.

We look forward to implementing revisions to our partnership arrangements and the opportunities this brings for us to strengthen our arrangements in accordance with the changes introduced by key statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. We are seeking ways to improve our partnership working, enhancing co-operation with our Education settings partners. A Sussex wide strategic direction set by our Lead Safeguarding Partners enhances the existing Pan Sussex footprint approach. This enables us to optimise consistency and the highest of standards across systems and practice where we can, whilst enabling the WSSCP to retain autonomy over safeguarding and preventative work which reflects our locality's needs.

We intend to fully utilise this transition period to trial streamlined working and innovative approaches to how we focus and deploy our resources to keep children in West Sussex safe.



Naomi Ellis
Deputy Chief Nursing Officer
and Director of Patient
Experience & Involvement,
NHS Sussex



Richard McDonagh
Chief Superintendent,
Head of Public
Protection,
Sussex Police



Lucy Butler
Director of Children,
Young People and
Learning, West Sussex
County Council

Executive Summary

The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP) continued to strengthen its approach to safeguarding children with clarity about common goals through delivery of a three-year (2023-26) business plan and strategic priorities. This reporting year saw significant improvements to West Sussex's multi-agency working.

Examples of key **achievements** include:

- embedding the co-location of Domestic Abuse (DA), Substance Misuse, Mental Health and Probation practitioners with Social Workers to take a whole family approach to Safeguarding children.

- Further developing an across partnership approach to exploitation including a multi-agency workshop with Kent (July 2023) to learn from their strategies to combat child exploitation. A follow up development morning is planned (for April 2024) framed around eight Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm, setting a benchmark to measure future progress against the WSSCP's development plan.

- Pan Sussex training and communications resources to promote safe sleeping for babies and preventative messages around abusive head trauma.

Increased demand for mental health services over 2023-24 reflecting a national picture has resulted in:

(i) Close oversight of inpatient services where children with exceptionally high levels of distress and complex mental health disorders are managed.

(ii) embedding a single point of contact for children needing access to support for their mental health and wellbeing.

Whilst West Sussex (WS) remains a safe place for children and their families to live, partner agencies and organisations are focussed on understanding and mitigating the impacts of serious youth violence and exploitation of children. Serious Violence increased across Sussex during this reporting period according to ([ONS data](#)).

Challenges were faced by the WSSCP across all areas - strategy; subgroup development activity; and front-line service delivery. The ever-increasing demand on services and agencies have coincided with very challenging budgetary pressures.

For example:

- Key delivery barriers included resource pressures on partner agencies e.g. South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) described a 16% increase in safeguarding referrals across the region year on year whilst SECAmb's safeguarding team continue to triage referrals before forwarding to the relevant local authority, this has been an issue for some time which continues to build.

- WSSCP Case Review Group worked on 10 local reviews and contributed to review activity requested by five Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCP). The CRG cleared this work, however its legacy created pressure across WSSCP sub-groups to deliver on the agreed actions arising from 46 new recommendations in 2023-24 alone.

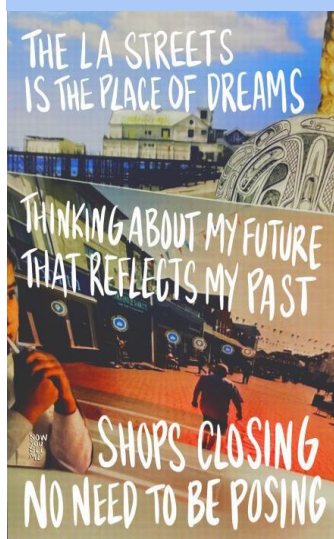
Focus on development of data to inform risk and progress in improving outcomes for children continued. An across partnership data sharing agreement to help overcome barriers to information sharing is at an advanced stage and will be ready to use during 2024-25.



Strengthening our partnership arrangements

2023-24 saw improvements and delivery of a vast amount of work across subgroups however when reflecting back upon key challenges faced in 2022-23 progress in some of these areas remained stubbornly challenging. The 2022-23 report highlighted:

1. Continuing **instability of lead partner roles** – key to visible leadership, and continuity of strategy development.
2. **Evidencing the impact** of partner agencies and organisations work and also the WSSCP's core outputs on improving outcomes for children and families and embedding learning into practice.
3. **Capacity to deliver** consistently over the year across agreed workstreams has been challenging, due to resourcing challenges when seeking to deliver the WSSCPs ambitious work plans.
4. **Strengthening Partnership Group engagement**, to optimise support and interventions for children, through collaboration, to enable early identification and mitigation of key risks and issues.
5. Ensuring a safe response to **mental health challenges** facing children in West Sussex.



Youth arts charity Artswork commissioned a youth led creative project, 'Now You See Me' with West Sussex Alternative Provision Centre and funding from Arts Council England and Arun District Council to develop new skills, self-belief and explore participants' experience of their lives in Littlehampton.



Updates on:

Key challenges 1 and 3 (identified in 2022-23 annual report). The relative stability of senior leadership in the latter half of the 2023-24 reporting year helped to stabilise the WSSCP after a period of relative turbulence. However, the impact of budget restraint and in many areas cuts, will likely result in reduced partnership capacity at all levels (from strategic leadership through to front line delivery capacity). This is at the forefront of the WSSCP's planned MASA revisions in 2024-25. Ongoing concerns about the ability of partner agencies and organisations to support the WSSCP's business delivery via its subgroups' activity remains a continuing issue given pressures to meet greater need with reduced resources.

Key challenge 2 - some progress was made around evidencing impact of the work we do to improve the lives of West Sussex children and their families by improving the services we provide. This report describes in more detail work to evidence impact:

- Learning event for front line practitioners and managers.
- Neglect champions' feedback.
- Developing data to help us understand where improvements have been made and where additional work is needed.

Moving forward we will utilise our updated MASA arrangements to support our ambitions.

Strengthening our partnership arrangements

Key Challenges 4 and 5 – updates

4. A Task and Finish Group (T&FG) was commissioned to address a case review recommendation about **barriers to embedding learning** from reviews. It will focus on looking at a number of practice areas including assessment of risk and safety planning; information sharing; resolution of professional differences and professional curiosity. The T&FG will also seek to understand why these perennial issues remain a challenge for partners. This work will conclude in 2024-25.

5. Of the 2022-23 challenges described, notable progress has been around a local multiagency response to **supporting children's mental health needs**, including publication WSCC Public Health's all age suicide prevention framework. However, a continuing unprecedented and continuing rise in demand post the Covid-19 pandemic with a shortage of resources means that despite best efforts this remains a key concern for the Partnership going into 2024-25. A planned evaluation of the Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAHMET) aims to shine a light on areas for further development whilst highlighting best and improved practice. This work is part of planned development agreed at the end of this reporting year to be delivered using money the WSSCP was able to repurpose because of funding provided by the Department of Education to support implementation of the revisions required under revised statutory guidance WT 2023.



WSSCP Lay member



With heavy hearts we said goodbye to our longstanding lay member, John Thompson who retired in January 2024 after more than 13 years of sharing wisdom and sage advice.

The WSSCP thanks John for his outstanding dedication and support. Here is what he said about the WSSCP:

“The most rewarding time was as Chair of the CRG. It was certainly a fast-learning curve, and I had incredible support from the Board Managers and the rest of the group at a time when we had a lot of Rapid Reviews. Amidst the sadness, some invaluable lessons were learned and there were many instances of quite remarkable dedication of staff especially on the front line trying to help young people. Overall, a remarkable and humbling experience.

The more frustrating aspect of being the Lay Member was watching really outstanding work leading to good recommendations and then taking a while to be delivered into practice on the ground. Also, much good work was done around professional curiosity, but we still see examples of that not being landed. I am pleased that the Learning and Development Group is focusing on identifying barriers to progress and ensuring the circle is properly closed.

Finally, can I thank you and the many excellent colleagues I have worked with over the years. Particularly the Board Managers who have guided me along the way, answered my questions and whom in return I have been able to be a sounding board.”

John's passion to support improvement were very much valued and are hugely missed.

Forward Look: revisions to the WSSCP's Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)

This reporting year anticipated the appreciable changes in approach which the Partnership would need to make to meet the requirements of statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT 2023), published in December 2023.

This is the first significant change to the WSSCP's arrangements since their inception in 2019. The Department for Education (DfE) facilitated a workshop of Pan Sussex Strategic Leads in November 2023 to support analysis of our current position and how to use WT 2023's revisions to strengthen and develop our Partnership arrangements.



Consultation via our Partnership Engagement meetings and WSSCP sub-groups continued in the final quarter of the reporting year with an envisioned publication of our revised arrangements in September 2024; for implementation by the end of the calendar year (2024). We intend to use partner agencies and organisations input and reflections to strengthen our arrangements by targeted and focussed activities.

Development activity includes considering how to better engage our 'education' partners across Sussex – recognising the challenges and opportunities this brings – the large volume and type of provider – e.g. from early years through to post 16 education and including e.g. independent and Academy school stakeholders.

The WSSCP's 2024-25 annual report format will change to reflect WT 2023 reporting requirements. These changes will take time to effect.

DfE funding allowed us to formulate a plan which supports development activity to assist implementation of our revised MASA arrangements. This activity is described in the document and includes:

- Specialist and bespoke multi-agency training delivered by [SaferNow](#) a training and consultancy service for safeguarding children against serious violence and exploitation.
- Planned scrutiny (2024-25) of how the Partnership is tackling the pernicious and rising impacts of child exploitation.
- Work to evaluate the impact of activity to support child with mental health needs.
- Development to maximise engagement with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector.
- Developing scrutiny arrangements, including recruitment of new lay members and utilising peer support and most importantly the voice of children and families in a meaningful way.

We will look to embed innovative ways to utilise the provisions of WT 2023, including the lead practitioner role, to support children and families with the right support at the right time. Utilising available resources effectively will help to ensure that partner agencies and organisations are able to demonstrate they meet WT 2023's [child protection standards](#) with assurance that partners have an unrelenting focus on both protecting and achieving the best outcomes for children.



About West Sussex Children

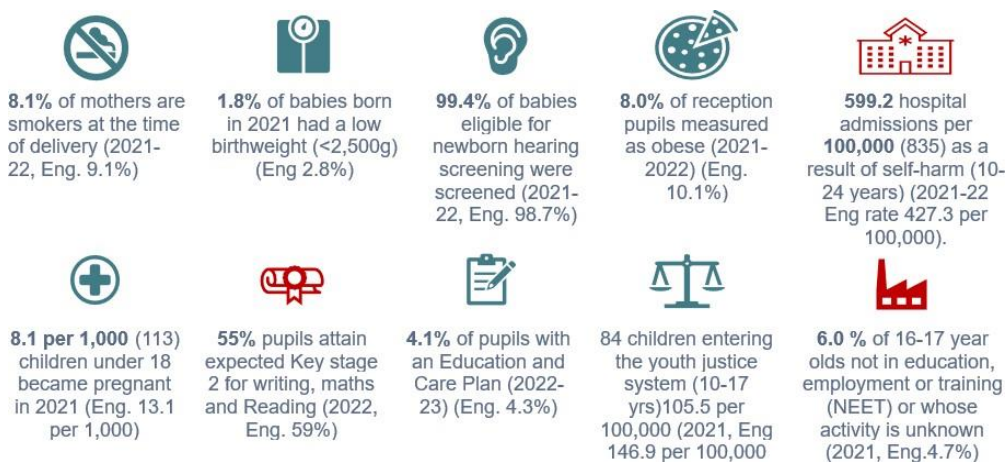
In 2019, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, West Sussex (WS) was ranked as the **129th least deprived** upper tier local authority (out of 151) in England; this puts it in the least deprived 20% of the country overall. However, there are **17** neighbourhoods in WS which are amongst the **20% most deprived** in England.

The **2021 census** provides the most recent data on a range of locality level demographics. The **population** of WS 882,700 (1.56% of the total population of England), with growth of **7.8%** in the number of children aged 0-15 years. In 2021, **15.8%** of WS population identified as a minority ethnicity (i.e., any ethnicity other than the majority White British group). This is an increase on the **11.1%** of the population identifying as a minority ethnicity in the 2011 Census. Across WS, **overcrowding** in households was more common in **Ethnic Minority** populations, at 10-19% of residents (compared to 3.9% in the White British population). There were 9,200 children 0-15 years who are **disabled** and a further 2,125 aged 16-17 years under the definition of the **Equality Act**. 1,250 children aged 0-15 and a further 600 16–17-year-olds **provided unpaid care**.

Education

There were 116, 007 children of statutory school age living in WS in April 2023. 351 schools operating in WS in 2021-22. 50,775 pupils attended state funded secondary schools during 2022/23 (up from 49,715 in 2021-22). Children missing education (CME) increased to 160 in March 2023 from the previous year (114 CME). 1.25% of WS children are known to be electively home educated (2022 data). Of 306 schools in WS, the median school in WS has 12% of its pupils entitled to free school meals, the 5th lowest figure in England (approximately 1 in 8 pupils). Looking at the number of pupils per teacher, the median ratio for West Sussex for the number of pupils per teacher is 20.10 school children per full-time equivalent teacher; the 8th highest ratio in England.

Outcomes/indicators for West Sussex children



Child Protection Plans

There were 674 West Sussex children on a child protection plan as of March 2024, categories of abuse:

Neglect	390	(58%)
Emotional Abuse	227	(34%)
Sexual Abuse	29	(4%)
Physical Abuse	13	(2%)
Multiple Categories	15	(2%)

Safeguarding children during 2023: support and interventions

Data below compares monthly data in March 2024 with the previous year



Listening to West Sussex Children and their families

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 emphasises how “the voice of children and families combined with the knowledge of experienced practitioners and insights from data, provides a greater understanding of the areas of strength and/or improvement within arrangements and practice”. Partners told us about the innovative work they have undertaken to ensure that they listen to and act on the voice of children and families.

WSSC Early Help Service (EHS)

Children’s and parents/carers voice was used to inform the neglect strategy. The WSSCP Neglect strategy and toolkit takes into account feedback from children and families.

Voice Champions support EHS in taking steps to further improving how they listen to ‘family voice’ through, co-production and feedback. Children and families will be involved in the recruitment of EHS staff.

WSSC Public Health – undertook LGBTQ engagement work to help inform system wide activity which supports LGBTQ children and young people and has fed into Public Health’s all age mental health needs assessment which is due to be published in the late summer of 2024.

WSSC – Children’s Social Care carried out a “Your Life After Care”

[Brightspots survey](#) with West Sussex (WS) care leavers. Over 300 (50%) of care leavers responded.

30% of care leavers self-reported that they had a disability/long term health condition. Young people reported that they had e.g. mental health difficulties, autism, ADHD, diabetes and asthma. 40% of those who wrote about their health condition/disability listed more than one. An action plan is addressing the matters raised by the consultation.

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB)

Safeguarding referrals for children constitute 22% of the total number of referrals; more than double the 10% of children served by 10% of SECAMB. This is indicative of staff confidence in raising safeguarding concerns when they identify a child in need of support.

Case Study

SECAMB staff attended an elderly lady who had had a fall and urgently needed to go to hospital. Whilst at the property, SECAMB clinicians noted a room with the door removed and two stairgates, one on top of the other, in its place. Inside the room was a young child, alone and with no carpet or furniture. The child was dirty, in a heavily soiled nappy and sought comfort from SECAMB staff.

Recognising the child also needed urgent help the clinicians took their patient to hospital first, before placing urgent calls to the Police and Children’s Social Care. The clinicians showed appropriate professional curiosity. SECAMB received a further call when Police on scene requested the child be seen and taken to ED for a full assessment. The same SECAMB clinicians attended, which had great value to them as they were part of making the child safe.

The attending crew recognised and advocated for a vulnerable neglected child and urgently escalated concerns appropriately to the police and local authority.



Listening to West Sussex Children and their families

Arun District Council funded an arts project with the Littlehampton Alternative Provision College (APC), 'Now You See Me' to encourage self-belief and share positive art imagery about life in Littlehampton.



Artwork created by students at West Sussex APC, commissioned by Artwork with support from Exploring Senses, Priority-154, AudioActive and Lindsay Smith.

A series of powerful, thought-provoking posters were displayed inside Littlehampton Train Station combining students' own words and imagery. Outside the station a bold colourful mural, designed to brighten perceptions of the town, was very well received by the local community. This project also produced a series of mindfulness colouring cards for professionals to use when working with young people: 'happy', 'respect', 'connect' and 'kindness'. The cards have been shared with the local Early Help team, and area youth services; plans are in place to distribute across the wider partnership. The students involved in the project fed back that they are proud of their work, and that the project had increased their confidence.



Artwork created by students at West Sussex APC, commissioned by Artwork with support from Exploring Senses, Priority-154, AudioActive and Lindsay Smith.

The WSSCP ensures that the voice of children and their families are actively sought wherever practicable through audit activity and learning from case reviews. The Partnership is very grateful to those families who have selflessly given their time to speak about their experience of services and interventions to help agencies and organisations learn from their experiences.

Understanding the impact of how we work with children and families is key to ensuring ongoing development of services. One example concerning a child whose sibling had very sadly died said she was often asked to retell her life story about things that had happened to her and her sister, and felt it was important for services and practitioners to share her sisters' story and communicate with each other. Improvements were made to how partners share information across local authority areas.

Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) - Funding received from NHS England (NHSE) was used to develop a co-produced film for all staff in SPFT working with looked after children and care leavers. This film will enable opportunities for care experienced children and adults to lead on the development of a film, which will raise awareness and increase knowledge of staff working in services they engage with. When complete, the film will be shared with all the partnerships in Sussex.



Listening to West Sussex Children and their families

University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Case Study

Child M is a preschool child who was diagnosed with a serious neuromuscular disorder which would require long term health support. During one of many hospital attendances, it became evident parents were finding the situation increasingly difficult to manage. With some gentle support from hospital staff, parents started to talk and opened up about how difficult they were finding it to meet their child's needs and described feeling overwhelmed. Parents also described their own physical health condition which made it difficult to meet their child's needs. One parent also had a chronic health condition which made it challenging for them to practically provide some of the health interventions Child M required. Hospital staff also recognised the needs of the whole family; siblings in the home were also considered as they potentially may be young carers. Following an escalation, a child and family assessment was agreed alongside an additional community health package of support.

Sussex Police

An Internal staff survey completed 2022-23 identified 95% of respondents had heard of the importance of ensuring they listened to understood and acted on the voice of the child and that they understood what this meant for them and their role, with 74% stating that they routinely sought to speak with children at an incident.

An audit was conducted in January 2024 exploring evidence that all officers were seeking and recording children's voices in their work. Focus groups planned for June 2024 with front line practitioners will explore the gap between understanding the need to capture children's voices and compliance and if there are any other unrecognised blockers to achieving this.



Sussex Police

Sussex Police has sought to simplify our approach and guidance in relation to ensuring all staff are aware of understand and respond to children's voices. Sussex Police are now using **VOICES** letters (mnemonic) This mnemonic has also been copied into their recently reviewed Child Protection policy.

V – Views and values of the child at risk.

O – Outcome what does the child want to happen?

I – Involve and inform (child). Investigate the impact of the incident, our actions and inform them of the next steps.

C – Capacity and choice. Is the child able to make and understand the implications of their decision?

E – Evidence – from NICHE/professionals/family/carers – record everything and don't look at investigations in isolation.

S – Safeguarding – identify the level of vulnerability, risk and harm and record your immediate safeguarding concerns and the actions you took.

Improvement and Assurance

The Improvement and Assurance Group (IAG) supports the WSSCP to fulfil its statutory quality assurance and scrutiny functions. It aims to continuously improve systems and safeguarding practice, ensuring improvements are embedded across the Partnership.

Performance Scorecard (Data)

IAG members identify data indicators which require additional information to understand potential risks or issues and potential service areas which require improvement. The IAG continued to embed a formal mechanism introduced in 2022/2023 to seek information and or/assurance about what the data is telling us. This includes provision of a formal report for discussion at an IAG meeting.



How the IAG uses data - examples:

Contacts – there was an increase in the number of contacts into the Integrated Front Door. A deep dive of 7 years of data confirmed an overall year-on-year increase (the Covid-19 pandemic period was an exception, which saw a dip in referrals). Only 46.5% of contacts resulted in Early Help or a Referral for further support/enquiries. The IAG concluded that work was needed around partner agencies understanding and applying thresholds of need. This was raised to the MASH Strategic Board who are taking this activity forward.

Initial Health Assessments (IHA's) - the IAG noted persistent poor compliance in the timeliness of IHA's for children entering the care system which had been IRO 40% since April 2021 against a WS target of 85% of IHAs completed within 20 days (statutory timeframe).

Childrens Services and NHS leads presented a detailed report to IAG on the work being undertaken to improve this position. Local/national data suggested that WS was in the bottom half of most areas but was not an outlier. 30-day IHA timeliness was noted to be much better at 75% (based on a recent audit of 100 cases). Government data (SSDA903) indicated:

- approx. 80% of children had a health assessment each year and 90% of Review Health Assessments were in time (04/2023).
- uptake of dental checks and particularly immunisations are excellent.
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children are an example of excellence with nearly all being seen within 20 days and prompt subsequent health interventions. Greatest risks:
 - young children not having a child protection medical prior to entering care.
 - secondary school children who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) potentially placed in supported lodgings and vulnerable to exploitation.



Improvement and Assurance (continued)



How the IAG uses data - examples:

Re-Referrals: the re-referral rate had been increasing over 4 months and was above the statistical neighbours' average. The MASH Strategic Board and Sussex Police (who were the highest re-referrer) agreed to undertake a dip sample audit of the 31 re-referrals (relating to 17 families) submitted in December 2023. Two of the referrals related to sexual offences and the remainder related to domestic abuse; a theme of these involving young children was noted.

The audit demonstrated that:

- all re-referrals were appropriate, with a strategy discussion being held in respect of 7 of the 17 families.
- most families were subsequently closed by Children's Social Care.
- incidents of domestic abuse dealt with in isolation rather than considering previous incidents child and family's history and background.

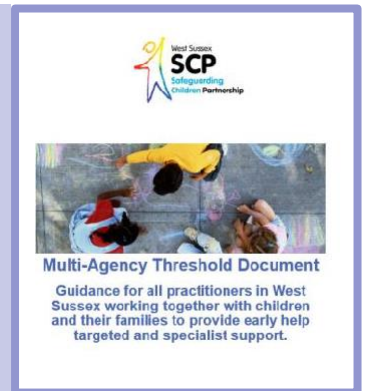


Follow up work is being overseen by the MASH Strategic Board to understand why the children were closed to Children's Social Care initially and subsequently.

Thresholds and Continuum of Need (CON) refresh

During 2023-24 the IAG led a review of the Partnership's CON Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance and 'thresholds on a page' documents.

A wide range of partners supported this task, informed by local and national evidence bases as well as local changes in practice.



The 'thresholds on a page' document was enhanced by:

- using easy-to-understand language
- a new layout format to better support practitioners in making professional judgements
- reflecting the current adversities impacting children with a greater focus on education attendance, exclusions, mental health, and exploitation.

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership - Thresholds/Continuum of need matrix				
Category	LEVEL 1: Universal support for all	LEVEL 2: Targeted support for children with additional needs	LEVEL 3: Specialist support for children with complex needs	
Child's health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child is healthy and well Child is happy and content Child is achieving well in school Child is making good progress in all areas Child is safe and secure Child is supported by family and friends Child is supported by community Child is supported by professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child has additional needs Child has additional needs that are being addressed Child has additional needs that are being addressed by professionals Child has additional needs that are being addressed by professionals and family Child has additional needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community Child has additional needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community and professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child has complex needs Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals and family Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community and professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals and family Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community and professionals Child has complex needs that are being addressed by professionals, family and community and professionals and professionals

Improvement and Assurance (continued)

Multi-agency audit activity:

IAG during the reporting year has been embedding a system implemented during 2022-23 to ensure actions arising from audit are completed and evidence of impact is obtained. This system is working well, with improvements in the quality of information being provided via formal feedback reporting. There was a greater focus on evidencing impact:

- 19 audit actions were completed and evidence of impact provided (where appropriate).
- a further 5 actions were concluded with additional actions agreed to provide evidence of impact.
- at the year end, 73% of actions from audits undertaken in the previous reporting year were completed, of which 21.5% (6 actions) had evidence of impact actions pending.
- the remaining 26.5% (7 actions) were expected to be completed in Q1.

Evidence of impact during 2023/2024 from IAG audits:

Elective Home Education (EHE) audit: Development and implementation of new multi-agency audit methodology and administrative processes:

Following completion of the action, a survey completed by IAG members demonstrated that the majority of respondents felt the administration/ organisation of multi-agency audit activity, the new template significantly improved the quality of audit work and felt assured that the IAG effectively delivers its audit functions.



EHE audit: Sussex Police ensuring strategy discussions

are held whenever it is suspected that a children may be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

- Review of data over 2-month period after improvements implemented demonstrated that no strategy meetings were 'lost'.

EHE audit: Effective management oversight within Early Help.

Completion of this action led to management oversight being in place consistently and in a timely way. A thematic audit demonstrated improvement in management oversight with more cases graded good than in the previous audit.



EHE audit: South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) to train staff about 'child on parent' abuse:

Following completion of this action, a training evaluation survey completed by 215 participants of SECAMB's level 3 safeguarding training demonstrated a significant improvement in participants knowledge and confidence. When delegates were asked how confident they felt about raising concerns around domestic abuse, data showed their confidence increased very significantly following delivery of this training.

Improvement and Assurance (continued)

Neglect Strategy

During 2023-24 the IAG led on refreshing the WSSCP's Neglect Strategy. This included a wide range of activity to ensure the refreshed strategy content reflected:

- learning from local reviews and audits, local changes in practice,
- the views of practitioners working with children experiencing neglect and their families.
- understanding of practitioners' knowledge and needs; a benchmarking questionnaire was completed by 237 professionals (see below).
- discussions at Neglect Champions meetings
- development of an updated Pan Sussex Neglect Matrix, enhanced by the introduction of a neglect forum, co-chaired by WSSCP's Early Help Service and Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT).

About - Practitioner's voice

Neglect Champions designed a questionnaire focussed on the effectiveness of the neglect strategy 2020-2023. It was completed by 237 practitioners across the Partnership. Key findings and areas for development:

- Better use of tools in supervision
- Improved use of the toolkits by all partner agencies/organisations
- Support in assessing 'parental capability' and barriers to change
- Support when there is 'no engagement' from families.
- access to varied creative tools and resources to capture the day in the life of the children and e.g. tools which are accessible to children.

This resulted in the following actions:

- neglect induction pack shared with all champions to deliver to new starters
- effective chronology recording training reviewed and updated
- updates to the Partnerships neglect training.

Neglect Champions badges – worn with pride, designed by West Sussex Children



About – Neglect Champions

The WSSCP have successfully embedded a multi-agency Neglect Champions meeting twice a year to connect Champions from across a wide range of agencies and organisations and provide an opportunity to come together to receive updates, share good practice and discuss challenges and ideas to overcome them. Internal agency meetings during the year provide support to their single agency neglect champions in a similar way.

Impact: The forum has been used to support e.g. the development of the Neglect matrix, as well as dissemination of learning from reviews and audits. The champions play a vital role in applying the neglect strategy to practice within their organisation. The group focussed on educational neglect and also fed back to the Case Review Group around recurring systems and practice issues to inform work to address learning identified around persistent findings from local reviews and audit activity. 2024-25.

About - Neglect Forum

Introduced in July 2023 the neglect forum meets every two months to provide a space for practitioners and their managers to bring 'perplexing' plans where neglect of a child/children is a key feature for discussion and reflection.

Impact - the number of children being discussed at this group and the core group membership has gradually increased and early feedback is that practitioners and their managers are finding it a helpful resource.

Learning from Serious Safeguarding Incidents

The WSSCP seeks to learn from serious safeguarding incidents in accordance with statutory guidance under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. The Case Review Group (CRG) convenes Rapid Reviews and makes recommendations to safeguarding lead partner about:

- whether a local or national child safeguarding practice review should be carried out
- whether a child safeguarding practice review should not be completed
- whether other action should be taken by the WSSCP.
- monitoring and scrutinising action plans from recommendations in Reviews to ensure learning is embedded in practice.

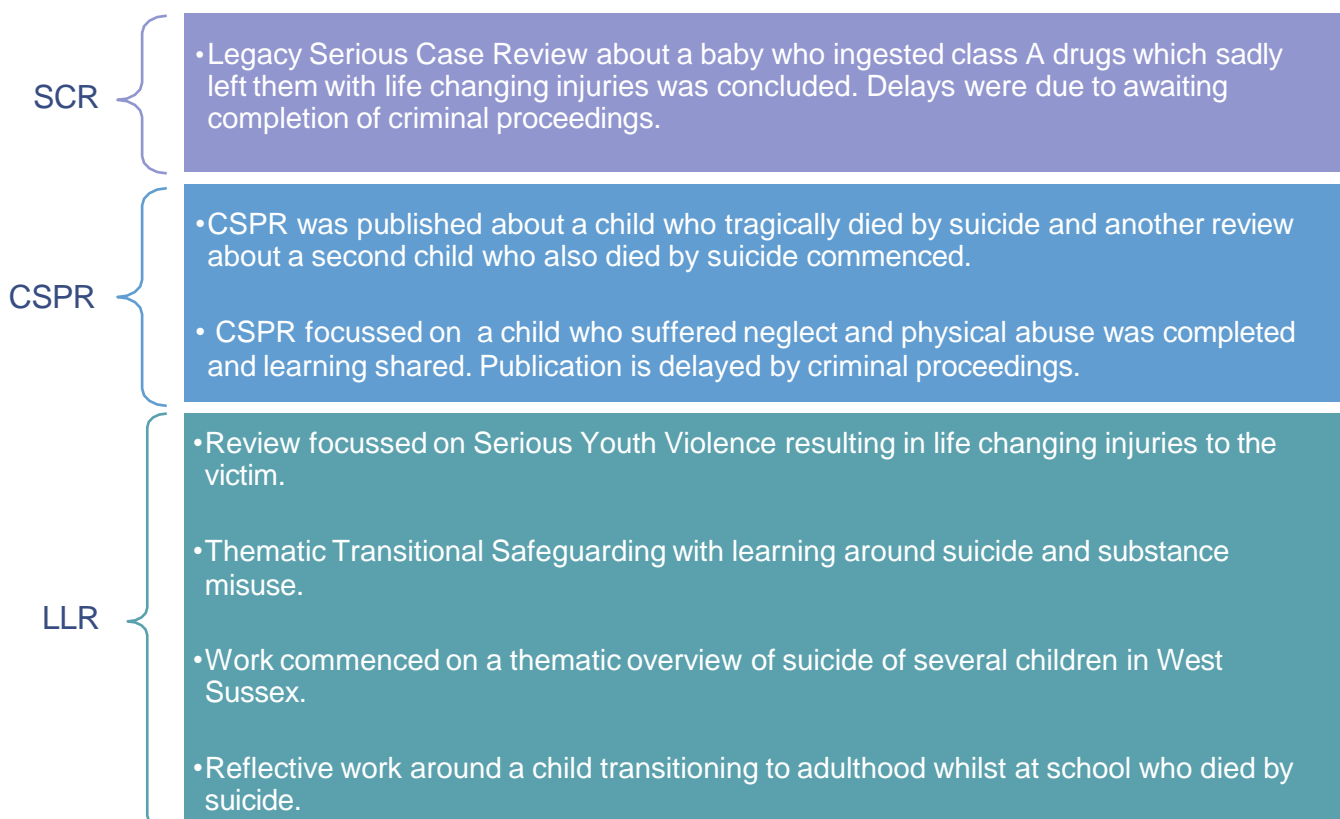
Overview of Rapid Reviews: 2023-24

A baby died unexpectedly - there was a family background of known substance/alcohol misuse and neglect.

A teenager was fatally stabbed – he was criminally exploited and had become involved in county lines.

Two rapid reviews (RRs) were undertaken in 2023-24 compared to five in each of the previous two reporting years. The WSSCP has seen an increase in the number of requests to support other SCP's rapid reviews and wider review activity. The Rapid Reviews did not result in Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) however learning was extracted, recommendations devised through analysis of the information and action plans developed for the Partnership.

Learning from serious incidents The chart below provides high level detail about Serious Case Review (SCR); West Sussex Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) and local learning and review (LLR) activity during this reporting year. The CRG commissioned expert independent reviewers to lead the work described below; a total of 8 reviews during the reporting year.



Learning from Serious Safeguarding Incidents (contd.)

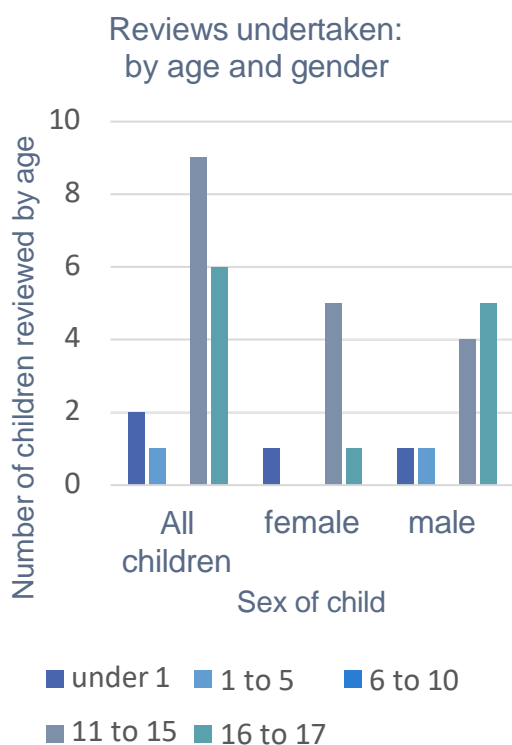
Key themes identified and explored via review activity – there were **10 reviews, including RRs** (regarding 18 children, this does not include all of their siblings and half siblings). It is of note that whilst key themes were around safe sleeping, mental health and well-being and extra familial harm, neglect and domestic abuse featured strongly across the 10 pieces of review activity undertaken.



Of the 18 children reviewed, 2 were described as mixed heritage/multiple ethnic groups (detailed breakdown not given to retain anonymity); the remaining children were white British, indicating a 3% under representation of minority ethnic groups in learning commissioned by the CRG. (NB this is a small sample so % comparison should be treated with caution). The largest age groups were aged 11-15 and 16-17 years, reflecting extensive review activity undertaken around extra familial harm and suicide. This included reflection on the importance of identity to teenagers and noted that several children who had suicidal thoughts were also gender questioning.

Learning from serious safeguarding incidents – examples of arising activity

- Learning briefings shared with professionals, providing briefings that are short to support busy practitioners to access and digest key learning.
- A video briefing developed and shared across the WSSCP, by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) disseminated learning from CSPR ‘Hazel and Lilly’.
- WSCC Early Help Service delivered multi-agency training to improve the quality of chronologies To improve how practitioners and managers understand the lived experiences of children and respond effectively.
- WSCC Education and Skills are working on supporting children who are excluded from school, looking at impacts on, and the vulnerability of, children who are excluded from school at an early age. A joined up multi-agency approach, including e.g. Community Safety Partners is in train to support this cohort of children.
- Further Development of support services for children with mental health needs. (further detail at page 31).

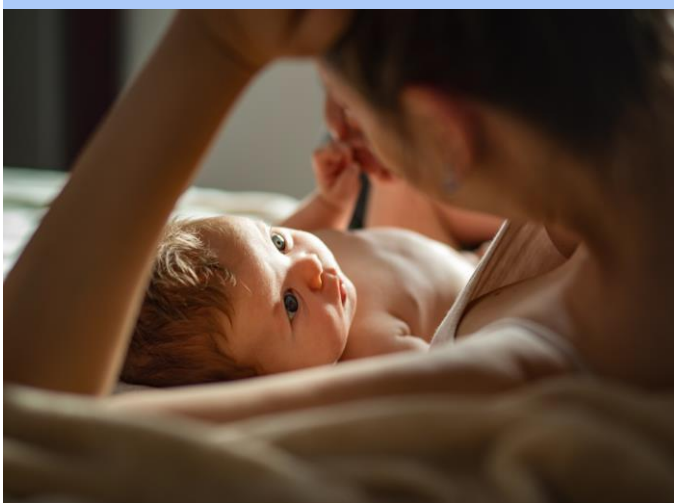


Learning from Serious Safeguarding Incidents (contd.)

Impact of Learning Event

Understanding and testing whether learning identified by reviews of serious safeguarding incidents has been embedded for systems and practice continues to be a key area for CRG. A multi-agency 'Impact on Practice' event with an Infant Injury theme, was facilitated by an independent reviewer.

Frontline practitioners and managers fed back they found this helpful: improving their understanding of the issues arising from the review and how this can influence their practice. It also provided opportunities to view DadPad and the ParentPad products to support new parents and to network.



Lead partners were **assured** that:

- midwifery and health visitors had embedded safer sleeping and ICON messages with expectant/new parents.
- children's social care had made significant enhancements to engagement with fathers at the Integrated Front Door, e.g. including fathers in initial enquires whenever possible.

Key **issues of concern** identified correlated with four areas described by Kantar Public's analysis of barriers to effective multi-agency working: (i) Information sharing; (ii) Effective cross-agency communication; (iii) Partnership information not disseminated to front line practitioners and (iv) Input of wider partner agencies and organisations.

Also, a need for all key partners to be involved in pre-birth assessment and safety planning and for all partners working with families to be delivering ante and postal natal ICON and safe sleeping messages.

Focus on CRG delivery challenges

During 2023 - 2024 consistent CRG membership provided much needed stability, which supported partnership working. The CRG endeavoured to ensure that the voice of the child and family were considered in a meaningful way; and as part of reviews senior managers and independent reviewers met with children and their parents and care givers where appropriate.

The key challenge remained the completion of a vast programme of review activity commissioned locally in conjunction with other SCP work and national learning. This in turn impacted on a high volume of related actions to improve systems and practice.

The CRG set up quarterly action plan progress meetings, to enable swifter delivery of actions. In March 2023, there were 113 recommendations with outstanding actions. During this reporting year a further 46 new local recommendations were agreed - 23 multi-agency and 23 single agency recommendations/actions, bringing the total to 159. As of April 2024, 96 actions were concluded, reflecting the CRG's focus on this area.

Independent scrutiny (IS) of CRG actions arising from review recommendations recognised this challenge and advised that a lead should take ownership of this activity to ensure timely conclusion of actions and note its impacts on the wider partnership to deliver and embed systems and practice learning. The IS report also advised of the need to improve links between recent review findings and previous actions to understand barriers to embedding learning.

Learning and Development

WSSCP Training Programme - the WSSCP delivers a programme of multi-agency safeguarding training, that is accessible to all those working with children and young people in West Sussex, to support practitioners in increasing their knowledge, understanding and confidence around a wide range of safeguarding topics, This includes professionals working with adults, to ensure they have an awareness of safeguarding the children and young people within the home and/or family environment.

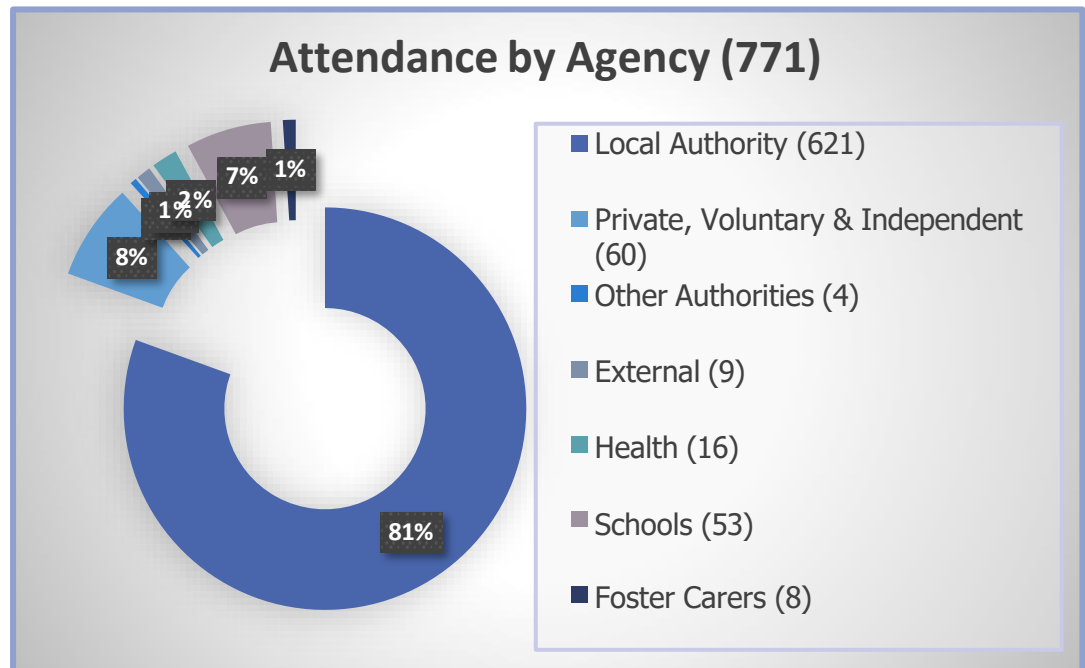
This programme is led by the WSSCP Learning and Development Officer and is overseen by the WSSCP's Learning and Development and Improvement and Assurance subgroups.

Attendees Per Training course topic/Event	Number of Courses Delivered	Pan Sussex Offer?	Total attendees
A Basic Awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - The Effects of Alcohol on the Unborn Baby	1		11
A Basic Awareness of Trauma Informed Practice	5		112
Addressing Barriers to Safeguarding Children Effectively & Appropriately (Adultification)	5	Yes	82
Improving Outcomes for Children Looked After	4	Yes	12
Neglect	8		89
Professional Curiosity	8		48
Recognising and Responding to Child Exploitation Using a Contextual Safeguarding Approach	5		71
Safeguarding Hot Topic - Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) & Abusive Head Trauma (AHT)	1		6
Safer Sleeping for Babies and Coping with a Crying Baby - What You Need to Know	4	Yes	49
Suicide Awareness: Working with Young People - (Under 16yrs old)	1	Yes	3
Supporting LGBTQ+ Children & Young People (in a Safeguarding Context)	2	With B&H SCP	17
The Role of the LADO in Keeping Children Safe	1		6
Trauma Informed Approaches in a Multi Professional Context	3		33
Working Together to Recognise and Respond to Child Exploitation	5		44
Working Together to Safeguard Children	8		114
Working Together To Safeguard Children Refresher	5		66
WSSCP Safeguarding Hot Topic: Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)	1	With B&H SCP	2
WSSCP Safeguarding Hot Topic: Fabricated/Induced Illness	1		6

Learning and Development (continued)

WSSCP training - attendance by agency

This chart illustrates a continuing trend of high local authority attendance (81% in 2022-23). Overall numbers of professionals trained reduced significantly year on year from 1,109 (2022-23), a 44% decrease. This is thought to be due to the closure of the hosting platform (Learning Gateway) and move to a new one (Training Pool).



Evaluation of Training

The feedback quotes below are focussed on training objective outcomes. Practitioners describe how this will positively impact their practice. When asked to scale their confidence levels after completing a WSSCP training event 78% scaled an increase of two or more points (49% reported 3 or more points).

Professional Curiosity – “An excellent course that could perhaps have been an hour longer.”

Child Sexual Abuse – “My eyes have been opened and I will be a better doctor for it”.

Basic Awareness of Trauma Informed Practice – “I will put this into learning by being sensitive to the young people I will be working with about not been exploited or bullied into negative malpractices.”

Addressing Barriers to Safeguarding Children Effectively (Adultification) – “I will be more mindful of biases; more aware about online exploitation (even go on extended training); speak out more when I feel there is a safeguarding issue.”

Evaluations are a key part of the WSSCP training programme; changes have been made to completion of evaluation responses. Learners completing course evaluations use a QR code to access the evaluation form on their mobile devices. It is hoped that this will increase the number of evaluations received. Early indications are already positive.

Exploitation focus - strong links were made with the Extra Familial Risk and Harm Group (EFRAHG) to align development plans; this highlighted learning and development needs within the Partnership, resulting in a revised child exploitation e-learning offer. Further awareness raising was led by EFRAHG, supported by L&D working in collaboration with WSCC Community Safety Partnership and Public Health.



Learning and Development (continued)

Learning and Development Group Summary of achievements

Activity this year saw:

- completion of a training needs analysis completed in Q3. This identified gaps and themes and supports WSSCP business priorities. Developing a learning culture across WSSCP, building professional relationships, and learning together has been our focus.

- the Learning and Development (L&D) Group were pleased to be part of a Pan Sussex conference on Neglect in November 2023 (further details are at page 26).

- the creation of a co-produced action plan from a development morning. The group looked at CSPRs, reflective learning and national reviews; practitioner events; and audits to develop our workplan. DA, including coercive and controlling behaviours, child exploitation and extra-familial harm were identified as themes requiring practitioner development via training and or raising awareness.

Part of the L&D's work was to support the development of neglect strategy with tools, risk assessments, across Sussex recognising these needs for children exist beyond boundaries. This includes incorporating learning from the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships elective home educated children audit into training.

Going forward our work is reviewed in light of Stable Homes, Built on Love and Working Together 2023 to ensure continuous improvement cycle.

Engagement and resources

The L&D recognised that constraints across partner agencies and organisations impacted on ensuring that T&F groups and sub-group development activity were meaningful and well attended. The 'Myth of Invisible Men' Task and Finish Group found consistent attendance and contribution to the work by agencies was variable. More broadly, there is an ongoing concern around how to prioritise and align WSSCP subgroup' activity to support timely participation and delivery of work by all agencies and organisations.

Challenges encountered

Reach of WSSCP training offer

Challenge: professionals described finding it difficult to attend training events, particularly emergency services staff and those who have an 'out of hours' work pattern.

Mitigation: online resources including e-learning and podcasts were developed and shared in response, to meet Continuous Professional Development requirements. These materials were shared across professional networks and promoted by the WSSCP via newsletters and learning and development subgroup members.

WSSCP sub-groups – connectivity

Challenge: the L&D group draws actions and work from all other sub-groups. It is often seen as the connector between issues identified in practice, and actions taken to ensure practice improvements are made.

Mitigation: The WSSCP strengthened connection between subgroup chairs allowing for discussion, planning and challenge where necessary. The L&D work plan cross references other subgroup plans, taking CRG and learning from audits, EFRAHG, and CSLG. By liaising with the WSSCP Community Safety Partnership and specialist DA services in West Sussex we were able to identify and collaborate with them to offer mutual benefits to deliver DA training relevant for children.



Learning and Development (continued)



This reporting year saw the introduction of several courses, in response to identified learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), the new WSSCP Business Plan and join up with the Domestic Abuse Service offer.

New courses included:

- trauma informed practice, co-delivered by a person with lived experience;
- Working with Children and Young People in the Gypsy and Traveller Communities.
- Domestic Abuse service supports the WSSCP by delivering this multi-agency training need under a Community Safety and WSSCP umbrella.

Key messages were shared in a range of alternative ways to accommodate practitioners who may not work standard office hours or work different shift patterns. For example:

- Professionals choose whether they attend training virtually or face to face
- Learning Briefings
- PowerPoint presentations and voiceover
- Podcasts.
- Themed Learning from local reviews



Training Pool - following a campaign in November 2023 to recruit trainers for the WSSCP training pool, there are now nineteen trainers, from WSSCP partner agencies and organisations. All WSSCP trainers complete an introduction process, which included an introductory meeting, completion of a Train the Trainer briefing and a shadowing opportunity where needed. Trainers are paired with other trainers to co-deliver courses where possible, to provide support for trainers and sharing different practice experiences during delivery so that attendees benefit from a rich learning experience.

Evaluations are monitored and support is offered regularly to trainers to ensure high quality training delivery. Trainers also provide input into the training programme content to ensure it remains current and consistent for all those attending and delivering.

Forward look: 2024-25

Work is underway to **streamline key learning** to practitioners, so they are not 'overwhelmed' by communications from different sources about similar learning. Plans for a campaign to **support practitioners in making good quality referrals** to the Integrated Front Door (IFD).

Measuring impact of the WSSCP training offer. Changes have already started to increase the evaluation responses during 2024-25. Learners will complete course evaluations before they leave the training using a QR code to access the evaluation on their mobile devices. It is hoped that this will increase the number of evaluations received to inform training course design and content.

Training charges are being reintroduced from 1st April 2024 for those booking onto training and do not attend in order to maximise uptake of training places and deliver best value for money and multi-agency interaction.

Improving systems and practice

Child Safeguarding Liaison Group (CSLG) is a WSSCP multi-agency forum, meeting bi-monthly to consider the effectiveness of child safeguarding practice. The group look at ways to improve multi-agency work to support children and their families by collectively identifying and sharing learning and improving systems and frontline practice and communication.

The CSLG forum enables partner agencies and organisations to learn from good practice and supports the maintenance of positive working relationships and high-quality inter agency communication about areas of systems and practice requiring improvement and/or development.

CSLG discussed:

- bruising protocol: inconsistency of practice identified in both the types of referrals made into the MASH and responses to those referrals. CSLG provided the means for a positive supportive multiagency conversation to consider best practice and an opportunity to review existing policy.
- adultification: how agencies responded to a parent who is under the age of 18 and the particular challenge to focus on the needs of the infant and the parent who is also a child.
- communication between agencies and the understanding of processes in each agency so assumptions are not made about required further actions.
- practitioner confidence on when to make referrals to the IFD or to Police.

CSLG challenges during 2023-24

- Low number of referrals were made to CSLG. This resulted in no meeting being held between November 2023 and March 2024 despite the meetings being reduced to bi-monthly in recognition of this.
- Referrals into CSLG – the group agreed not to accept referrals where the incident had happened more than 12 months ago or where it had been referred to CRG until the outcome of the CRG was clear – to avoid replication of work.
- Impact of work to improve outcomes for children and families undertaken by the CSLG is not evidenced and timeliness of follow up activity remains a concern.

Private fostering is an arrangement made between a parent and the private foster carer, who then assumes responsibility for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote their welfare; they must notify the local authority of any such arrangement.

The number of children privately fostered remained stable during 2023-24 from a high of 29 children in July and August 2023 to a low of 20 children in February 2024. Given local demographics (e.g. Gatwick Airport, language schools), private fostering arrangements are likely under recorded.

Private Fostering arrangements - data snapshot: February 2024

Ethnicity

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: 10%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: 5%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group: 10%
White British: 75%

Gender

Male: 43%
Female: 57%

Age

0 - 4 years: 5%
5 -12 years: 38%
13 -17 years: 57%

56% of assessments completed in 45 days (target time)

Analysis of assessments completed showed that Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS), medical and references for private foster carers were often causal factors in delaying assessments as well as staffing resilience within the private fostering team. During this reporting year WSCC invested in strengthening the private fostering team and also devising a communications strategy shared across the partnership to raise awareness of private fostering requirements and guidance with the public and also across partner agencies and organisations and guidance.

Extra-Familial Risk and Harm

The Extra Familial Risk and Harm Subgroup meets monthly. Its key objectives are to:

- Raise awareness of extra familial risk & harm affecting children with professionals, children and parents/carers, including group-based harm.
- Enhance systems, create tools/guidance, and upskill practitioners to support the development of contextual safeguarding practice.
- Utilise multi-agency legislation and statutory powers to create safety in the places and spaces children spend their time using the Public Health approach.
- Empower those affected by extra familial harm to exit and withdraw safely which will include to maximise operational solutions with local, regional and national partners to disrupt county lines and reduce associated exploitation and youth violence.
- Bring perpetrators to justice using all available legislation including modern day slavery and trafficking laws.
- Work with other strategic partnerships to ensure timely and supported transition to adult services as required.

The Groups work is closely aligned to the all-age Violence and Exploitation Group co-chaired by Public Health and West Sussex Children’s social care. This ensures effective across partnership working and commissioning of support services.



Artwork created by students at West Sussex APC, commissioned by Artsworld with support from Exploring Senses, Priority-154, AudioActive and Lindsay Smith.

Key achievements

MACE redesign to support early help

In July 2023, the process for identifying and supporting Child Exploitation changed – the way children at risk of being exploited to support an early/help preventative approach. It is now the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel. Previously children would be assessed as either showing “Indicators of Child Exploitation” or being recognised as “Currently Exploited”. Under the new MACE Process children are rated as “Emerging” “Medium Risk” or “High Risk”, and children and young people are discussed in MACE. A Contextual Safeguarding Plan is created for each child, sharing actions each agency has committed to do to increase the child’s safety. These plans are incorporated with any other planning that the child has in place to ensure joined up working and to prevent duplication.



Peer support from Kent partners resulted in a SWOT (Strengths; Weaknesses, Opportunities and threats) analysis to inform the Group’s development plan. This will inform a multi-agency practice event planned for April 2024, to review our progress against the Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm (link above), developed by Research in Practice.

Extra-Familial Risk and Harm (continued)

Crest Advisory Project

Funded through the Sussex Violence Reduction (SVR) Partnership, [Crest Advisory](#), an independent organisation committed “to improving justice, policing and public safety.”

A Pan Sussex strategic needs assessment gave an overall ‘mature’, with a need to focus on community engagement and with those most affected by serious violence (SV). West Sussex (WS) commissioned an in-depth piece of insight work to inform improvements.

The **project’s aim** is to have a better understanding of the drivers of SV in WS in the county and the links to exploitation. It is focused on children aged 11-18 years. There are 3 main stages of data gathering and analysis:

1. Vulnerability Profile – reviewing existing insight work e.g. hotspot areas comparing police hotspots to other hotspots: using police data, and other relevant data, to understand SV hotspots from a perspective of risk factors and vulnerability. This aligns with a school survey in terms of providing more points of comparison for the hotspot analysis.



Artwork created by students at West Sussex APC, commissioned by Artwork with support from Exploring Senses, Priority-154, Audioactive and Lindsay Smith.

2. County-wide youth safety survey – with all secondary schools, APCs, specialist placements, electively home educated and also supported accommodation provision to reach as many children aged 11-18 to undertake a youth safety survey on experiences of violence, sexual violence/misogyny, bullying, substance use and community issues – including where they feel safe/unsafe (using mapping software). The 5,200 survey responses, including 400 from 16+ supported accommodation, provided a very good baseline of what children are saying about their experiences, what is happening in WS and where.

3. Engagement with ‘at risk’ children – Plans are in place for 10-15 children to engage in interviews with Crest Advisory researchers. These children who have experienced SV as a perpetrator or victim or both, and with links to exploitation. The aim of this qualitative research is to:

- plot ‘journey-maps’ from the voice and engagement with children who have lived experience
- highlighting interventions and what worked/what didn’t and what was missing.
- Gain a better understanding about what is happening in our communities.

Looking forward – activity in 2024-25

The final stage in the summer is for Crest Advisory to ‘pull-together’ steps 1-3 into a single product which supports a strategic commissioning review which Crest will co-deliver with the partnership. Further discussions are to take place about how this will be facilitated and how we will get the most from this final step.

Extra-Familial Risk and Harm (continued)

Key Challenges

The subgroup formed in March 2023, and in its first year the original chairs who created the sub-group moved to new roles. The **new chairs** (Sussex Police and Children's Social Care partners) are reviewing the current year-old delivery plan to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to broader SCP strategy.

Regular attendance from all key partners was a notable challenge for WSCC Education; and Mental and Sexual Health Services are not represented. This was escalated for resolution to ensure all partners contribute to our extra-familial harm response.

Use of **appropriate language** when working with children is a development area for staff across the partnership; MACE participants continue to challenge and educate colleagues. Focussed multi-agency training and awareness raising has been commissioned to take place during 2024-25.

There are areas of progress in relation to the **data** which evidence an improving response to children. Data highlights include - Quarter 4 (2023-24), saw a reduction in younger children going missing. 14 and 15-year-old children were more likely to **go missing**. There were no reports of 10-year-old children as missing, a further decrease from previous quarters.

69.5% of **Return Home Interviews** (RHIs) were completed an increase from the previous quarters. Timeliness of RHIs being completed within 72 hours is at 66.2%, an increase from the previous quarter average; the target is set at 72 hours real time as opposed to working hours, which presents challenges if the child goes missing at the beginning of a weekend.

When excluding weekends and bank holidays, the percentage for RHIs being completed within 72 hours increases to 78.4%, (but remains significantly below 100% target set in statutory guidance).

All children who go missing are offered RHIs. 60% were offered within 24 hours, or when you exclude evenings and weekends it is 84.1%. All children who are reported missing for more than 24 hours will have a strategy discussion. Senior Leaders are informed of the missing episode and what safety plan is put in place.

There has been an increase in the number of children rated as **high risk** in Q4, due to a wider service recognition of indicators and the need to capture Children's risk in MACE. Following learning from recent review activity, when children move out of WS, they are no longer reviewed by MACE, but they are referred to the relevant Local Authority equivalent of MACE to ensure that their risks continue to be understood and mitigated.

Data snapshot: Children aged 16 years are most likely to be assessed as at **High Risk** of Child Exploitation. The age of the **youngest child** in this group is 12. The youngest child rated as **Emerging risk** is also 12 years old and the youngest child rated as **Medium risk** is aged 11.



Working across Boards and Partnerships

The **Pan Sussex Strategic Leads** met twice during the year to progress agreed Pan Sussex priority work. The Group's membership consists of lead safeguarding partner representatives across Sussex, i.e. West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Key areas of focus included:

- Updating the Sussex SCP's partnership arrangements in accordance with guidance detailed in statutory guidance, WT 2023.
- Commissioning the independent scrutineer to provide assurance and highlight key risks and issues in reports to Strategic Leads
- Discussion of Pan Sussex training commissioning, including a biennial conference about the impacts of child neglect.

Challenges - discussions focussed on funding of Sussex partnerships continued, primarily due to variables in funding and spend over the 3 individual LA areas. The Independent Scrutineer highlighted these challenges within his scrutiny and assurance report to the LA and NHS Sussex Chief Executives and the Chief Constable for Sussex Police.



HOPE boxes - University Hospitals Sussex in partnership with Local Authorities, is working to improve the care of mother and baby within care proceedings and separation at birth, centred around [Born into Care guidance](#). A birthing arrangement form is being piloted alongside the Pan Sussex Safeguarding birth and discharge plan.

University Hospitals Sussex, agreed funding for **HOPE** ('Hold On Pain Eases') boxes for all mothers who are within legal proceedings where there is a plan of separation at birth from their baby.

Expected impacts

This approach enables families to have control and choice whenever possible, providing optimal support for families. Timely safeguarding, birth and discharge plans are provided to both families and the safeguarding team. The HOPE box innovation supports the birthing family's connection to their babies and to mitigate the trauma experienced by parents and babies.

Clinical staff are aware of potential risks and timely birth planning has reduced unnecessary delay in hospital admissions for social issues. Families feel wishes and requests at such a traumatic time are acknowledged. The connection between families and babies can continue with ongoing exchange of items.

Feedback from families - the uptake of HOPE boxes has proved popular with receiving families. Ongoing awareness training continues to widen multi-agency engagement.

An infographic titled "Every Sleep Must be a Safer Sleep". It features logos for East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, SCP (Sussex Children Partnership), and BHSCP (Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership). The infographic provides key information for safer sleeping, including: Sleeping Environment (separate cot or Moses' basket), Temperature (16-20°C), Out of Routine (medication, alcohol, substances), and Position (on the back). It includes a hashtag #EverySleepMustBeASaferSleep and a call to action: "STOP and THINK! Keep Your Baby Safer". It is published in October 2023.

Joint Pan Sussex Public Health, Child Death Review and SCP Safer Sleeping Communications campaign over the festive period (December 2023) Message from the Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Public Health following a number of tragic sudden unexpected deaths of infants (SUDI). Posters (above) are in health provider and family hub settings. Child Death Review nurses delivered bespoke training to practitioners.

Working across Boards and Partnerships

Pan Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures – this well-established subgroup co-ordinates the development and timely review of policies, procedures and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people on behalf of the 3 Pan-Sussex SCPs. Over 50 policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure they remain current and effective for practitioners across the multi-agency safeguarding partnership.

New policies were developed to enhance safeguarding practice in response to local child protection issues, including:

- Pan Sussex Protocol on the Transfer of Young People to Local Authority Accommodation from Police Custody
- Sussex Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Procedure
- Pregnancy of Children/Young People Under 18 Who Become Parents
- Sussex Joint Protocol to Reduce the Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers

Key challenges

Ensuring Completion of Agreed Actions:

The group's quarterly meeting schedule can cause delays in completing actions, impacting the timely publication of policies.

Assessing Impact and Engagement of Practitioners:

a quarterly briefing for all practitioners, summarises changes and new policies. While some practitioners respond to these briefings and limited analytics show visit statistics, assessing the actual impact on safeguarding practice remains challenging. In July 2023, a survey was conducted (58 practitioners participated). All respondents (100%) indicated that they find the policies, procedures, and guidance relevant and helpful in their practice. However, 11% of respondents felt that the policies, procedures, and guidance were not always written clearly and succinctly.



Pan Sussex s11 audit

This reporting year saw the two-year s11 cycle 2022-24 conclude. It was run in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance, which set out agencies and organisations responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

This cycle saw a shift in approach, from compliance to continuous improvement. The number of standards in self-assessment tool were reduced from 86 to 77 (11% approx.). Key findings were that 7 out of the 11 returns had 5 or less AMBER ratings of which 2 agencies returned an all-GREEN ratings and 1 agency did not have an action plan for improvement. This led to concerns that agencies were overly confident in their assessments. The 3 lowest rated standards across Pan Sussex agencies and organisations were:

1. Keeping children safe on line.
2. Engaging with fathers/other significant adults in the household.
3. Leadership – in embedding learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews.

This correlated with local WS findings across our sub-groups and the independent scrutineer made recommendations to address issue 3.

Working across Boards and Partnerships

Pan Sussex Learning and Development Conference for Practitioners

The Pan Sussex Conference also took place in November 2023. This was a virtual event led by Brighton & Hove SCP, focussing on **Neglect and Co-Existing Factors**. Places were shared equally across all three areas. 185 people attended the event.

Expert presentations were delivered by Dr Tracee Green, Head of the Centre for Child Protection and Dr Sheena Webb, Consultant Clinical Psychologist specialising in children, adolescents & families with complex needs. Subjects explored included a trauma informed perspective on assessing parents' capacity to parent and meet their children's needs, and how professionals assess capacity. Understanding parents' journeys to best understand the child's lived experiences; and how to best help families.

Evaluation - 44 (27%) of delegates submitted feedback – providing constructive feedback overall with over 20 practitioners describing how they would reflect upon and change their practice based on what they had learned at the conference.

WSCC - Public Health Suicide Prevention Framework and Action Plan 2023-2027

- was published January 2024
Key work areas achieved April 2023 – March 2024 included the following:
System leadership and governance;
Communications; Reduce the risk of suicide and improve the mental health of key high-risk groups; Tailored approaches to mental health in risk groups; Reduce access to means of suicide; Provide better support and information for those affected by a suicide; Use of system data to support planning; Training and sharing learning; and Reduce the risk of self-harm.

A shared Neglect Matrix was published, completing work started in the previous reporting year via a working group led by East Sussex partners.

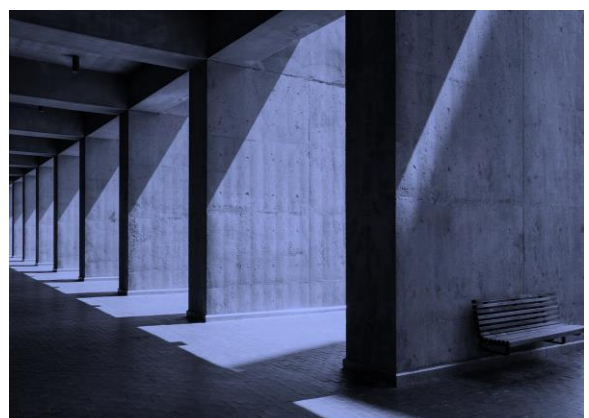


Adur and Worthing Councils - joint working between District and Boroughs and Brighton & Hove counterparts linked to a most serious violence incident led to improving awareness of across-boundary child safeguarding issues.

This included:

- Working with colleagues in Brighton & Hove to respond to community tensions after the incident.
- Focusing resources on locations where the professional network had concerns about children being criminally exploited.

Joint working continues to map out risk in the locations and peer groups identified. Multiple council service areas were briefed and made aware of concerns which has increased reporting and intelligence about extra familial risk and harm.



WSSCP - Business Plan priorities

The WSSCP has a business plan, with a three-year delivery cycle running from April 2023 to March 2026. The priorities are set out below, with an evidence base which was used to determine our priorities over the next three years, but with sufficient flex to take on emerging priority areas. A business delivery plan was agreed by lead partners via the WSSCP's Steering Group where progress was reported in conjunction with a risk and issues register.

Priority area	Evidence base
1. Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice (2023-26)	Local: Learning from local and national reviews and audit; recent examples: EHE audit (October 2022), rapid reviews (December 2022); Feedback from partner agencies; Local performance data. National: Ofsted: Solihull JTAI – benchmarking; National Panel: Child Protection in England recommendations ; Children's Commissioner reports e.g. The Big Ask/Answer and Family Review .
2. Child Sexual Abuse: Protecting and safeguarding our children (2023-25)	Local: Learning from rapid/learning reviews; local performance data National: Ofsted report: Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges Ofsted JTAI: Multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment ; IICSA: Final report ; CSA centre of expertise data
3. Tackling Child Exploitation (2023-25)	Local: reviews and learning activity; local performance data. Review of current strategic and operational multi-agency delivery structures. National: National Panel report: "It was hard to escape" . Protecting Children from Modern Slavery and Trafficking ; NRM data
4. Children as victims of Domestic Abuse (2023-24)	Local: Rapid Reviews (2022); Op Encompass compliance data and local performance data National: Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ; National Panel briefing: multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse
5. Children's emotional health and wellbeing (2024-26)	Local: learning from reviews rapid reviews (2021) and single agency reviews; local performance data. Pan Sussex Public research and review findings. National: Suicide in Children and Young People National Child Mortality Database Programme Thematic Report Molly Russell inquest Covid-19: children and young people

The following pages highlight examples of contributions to, and progress made by partner agencies and organisations regarding four of the above strategic priorities. Business plan priority 2 saw delays to developing a partnership Child Sexual Abuse strategy, due to resource pressures. This is expected to be completed by Q3 of 2024-25.

It should be noted that whilst priority 5, 'Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing' commences in year two of the three business plan cycle, very significant progress and activity has been made during 2023-24. This includes case review activity and a commitment from lead partners to undertake an evaluation of progress made by the multi-agency mental health education triage (MAMHET) as part of a WSSCP development programme under our revised arrangements under WT 23. MAMHET brings together professionals to help identify and respond to presentations of children in school which might progress to the point of a mental health crisis and potential suicide. Enhancements have also been made to the [Youth Emotional Support](#) and [Single Point of Access](#) services in light of learning from reviews.

A survey of Designated Safeguarding leads (DSLs) in November 2023 indicated that overall, the MAMHET is highly valued, seeking to find a multi-agency response to support children experiencing mental health difficulties at the earliest opportunity. WSSCP led West Sussex Suicide Prevention Framework and Action Plan 2023-2027 was approved and published January 2024 outlining the work programme for suicide prevention (see page 27 for further detail). WSSCP Public Health have worked with partners on a comprehensive all-age Mental Health Needs Assessment, due to be published mid-2024. WSSCP Public Health published an unexpected deaths in schools toolkit to support schools and system wide responses. Training for the use of the toolkit has been delivered and feedback regarding use of the resource has been positive.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 1.

Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice

Activity: Sussex Police - new recruits have a short attachment to MASH.

- Communications Campaign in relation to revision of Working Together 2023 launched.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) delivered to Multiple Police Depts. and Teams and product added to learning library – Childrens Services, Powers and Practices.

Impact

New recruits understand the significance of accurate information capture and the purposes and effect of information sharing.

Greater awareness of partnership arrangements within divisional policing. Positive feedback received from officers on campaign and overall awareness of safeguarding network.

Hundreds of officers have received training designed and delivered in conjunction with partners to improve the collective awareness of partnership powers, processes and thresholds. Improved engagement between dedicated investigative teams and police MASH teams.

Activity: Adur & Worthing Councils (AWC)

Co location of staff: Safer Communities staff including ASB Caseworker, and the Contextual Safeguarding Co-ordinator are co located with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The WORTH Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) co-locates with the Housing Needs Team.

Impact

Co-location of staff enhances their ability to understand and share responsibility, including identification of key themes and trends at ground level; supporting partner agencies in responding, and timely referrals to safeguarding meetings. Joint working with the Housing Needs Team homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic abuse (DA). WORTH, including DASH (DA, Stalking, Harassment and Honour based violence) Risk Assessments delivered to the Housing Needs Team. Timely referrals to safeguarding meetings following professional discussions.

Activity: WSSC Early Help - delivery of partnership neglect training and the coordination and co-chairing of the partnership neglect champions network – promotes a common language and approach to recognising and responding to neglect across partners in West Sussex.

- Sharing single agency learning from themed assurance activity via learning briefings across the partnership including neglect and SEND.

- Using termly consultations through the dedicated school's team (DST) to share information and key messages with schools, colleges and alternative provision centres (APC's) and collating feedback from schools about the offer.

Impact

- Partnership neglect champions have access to bespoke support, training, and information. Evaluation of training and network; WSSCP website includes multi-agency tools and resources. Microsoft Teams neglect champions 'chat' site includes direct working tools and working together.

- DIP sample - report and learning briefing - informed the review of the neglect strategy, partnership chronology training and the use of direct working tools. Thematic audit - learning briefing highlighted good multiagency working.

- Early Help Consultations included key messages including Transitions, MAMHET, Contextual Safeguarding, MACE, Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF), neglect, Local offer. Evaluations indicate positive feedback from schools.



Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 1.

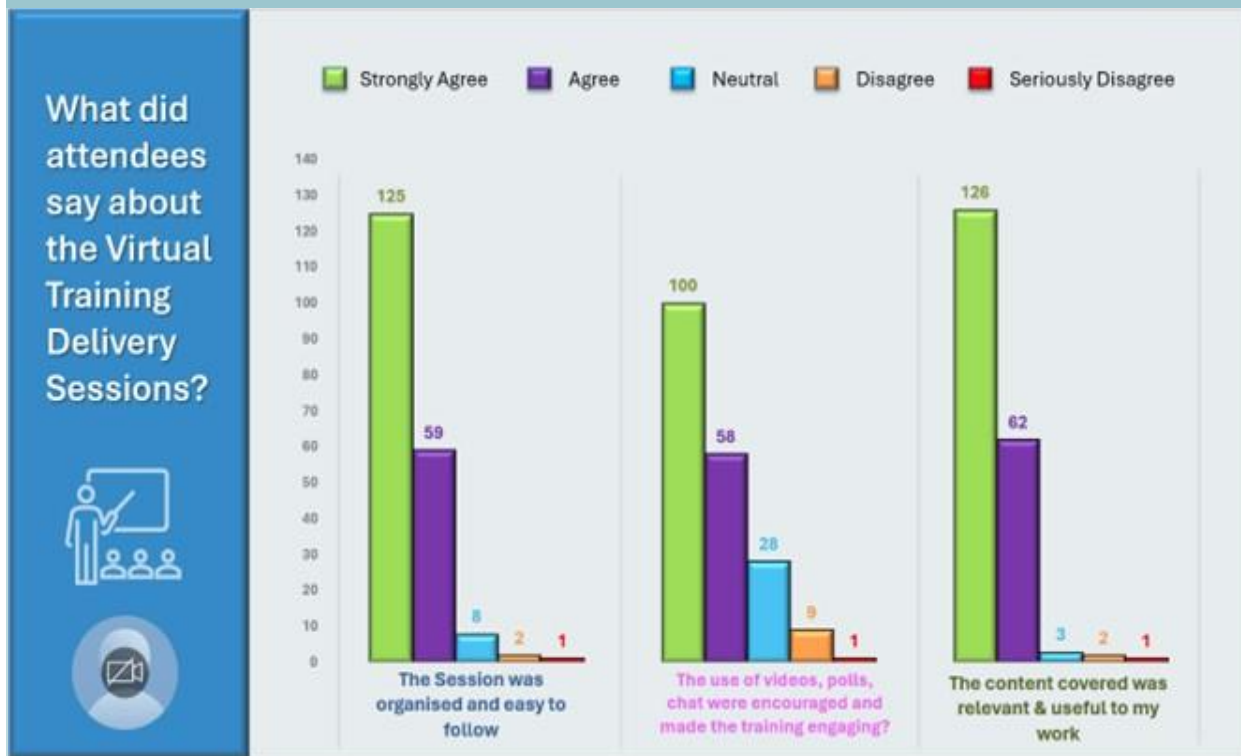
Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice

Activity: NHS Sussex

During November 2023, the team delivered safeguarding and children in care fortnight. Across the fortnight there were 13 virtual events held and an in-person conference. Training offered included sessions around transition in safeguarding, response, sexual safety, exploring extreme right-wing narratives, safer sleep, self-neglect, fraud, intimate partner violence, adversity and mental health, crimes of honour and learning from the lives and deaths of people with a learning disability/autistic people. The conference focused on the links between health inequalities and safeguarding and children in care.

Impact

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive in terms of how they were able to evidence how this training will alter and develop their patient-facing practice moving forwards, underlining how learning from statutory safeguarding reviews was being implemented into frontline care delivery.



Activity - Development of training portal across Sussex: NHSE colleagues developed a regional portal for all health partners/ providers to upload and share their existing training packages, with the aim of improving the shared information and quality of training provision across the region. The pilot was launched in February 2024 and is accessible for staff across the South-East region.

Impact

Early feedback regarding the pilot has been positive, with providers advising that it saves time and resource to access and use the available training and supports to assure themselves and benchmark against their existing training packages. The full launch of the portal is scheduled for early autumn 2024.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 1.

Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice

Activity: Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)

- Through the completion of IMR and RR work for combined SPR / DHR work SPFT developed an action around interagency working and complexities associated with admissions to acute hospitals.
- West Sussex Suicide Prevention Bitesize Session 1 Care Leavers. SPFT and local authority staff invited to deliver at the session. Speakers included care leavers, participation voices representatives (CLAB), Care Leaver Service Manager, SPFT suicide prevention lead and Named Nurse for looked after children and care leavers.

Impact

- To develop integrated approach to complex high-risk presentations in the Acute Trust.

Evidencing impact - ongoing.

- Within the session presenters shared lived experience of being looked after, related suicide statistics and increased risk and impact of care experience with SPFT adult services in SPFT and staff working in WS local authority. **Evidencing impact** - Positive evaluation and feedback. Good discussion in session about importance of language and language that cares.

Activity: Crawley Borough Council – Crawley Contextualised Safeguarding Group set up to ensure key partners work together collaboratively to safeguard children in Crawley.

Impact

- Multi agency response when individual young people are identified to ensure the whole picture is given and agencies are working together.
- Young people safeguarded from exploitation. Quarterly Contextualised Safeguarding Meetings.
- Vaping – work with trading standards at identified locations selling vapes to young people.
- Targeted outreach undertaken at identified hotspot areas.

Activity: Arun District Council (ADC)

- Child Safeguarding training March 2024 delivered by WSCC Integrated Front Door staff, the multi-agency training outlined safeguarding categories, how to report, good referral, continuum of need.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) caseworkers are co-located with Arun Police stations and good partnership working between ADC's Community Safety team and Sussex Police.

Impact

- There was good staff interaction during training briefing. **Evidencing impact** - positive feedback from participants afterwards.
- Improvements to closer joined up working maximises opportunities to identify risk relating to children.



Activity: West Sussex Probation Service

Staffing presence in the MASH and access to WSCC data base for two additional staff.

Impact

Increased responsiveness to probation requests for information which we are now able to service ourselves. This has meant less administrative burden on WSCC colleagues. Affirmation of relationships within MASH has been positive. Attendance at MASH Strategic Group, MASH IFD presentation was given at our Probation Safeguarding Conference. The relationships to achieve this were fostered through increased engagement with MASH.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 1. Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice

Activity: WSCC Public Health

Commissioned services place a duty on organisations to ensure that in discharging their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Impact

The WS under 25 drug and alcohol service and Primary Care Smoking Cessation Services (GPs and community pharmacies) provide support to tobacco smokers aged 12 years and over have safeguarding systems and procedures in place to recognise and respond to abuse, exploitation and neglect (including, but not limited to, child sexual and criminal exploitation, trafficking and modern slavery and female genital mutilation).



Getting ready to quit smoking?

You're 3 times more likely to quit smoking with the right support!



Activity: WSCC Education and Skills

facilitated Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) network, held every term, in four locations across the county. The content changes termly and is designed around the emerging needs of the schools and are used to share effective practice for example Integrated Front Door managers delivered updates around the new portal referral system and the Exploitation team also led sessions. A DSL bulletin was created and shared with all settings containing information, updates and links to partners events, training and surveys.

Impact

DSL network meetings were attended by 450 delegates over the reporting year, a 12 % increase on the previous reporting year.

10 bulletins were sent during 2023-24; on school visits, these were seen in staff rooms. They were warmly received, and we now receive numerous requests to add items to the bulletin for dissemination. Partners reported an increase in the participation of surveys advertised on the bulletin.

Activity: WSCC Children's Social Care

- New practice guidance was developed with Early Help staff working with children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) needs. Mandatory training was rolled out across the workforce to ensure greater understanding of how to meet the SEND needs of children. There was further development of the SEND Champions Forum which meets bi-monthly with the vision to have at least one champion for each service manager's area.

- The Children with Disabilities (CWD) service currently works with 867 children (March 2024). Targeted improvement work has resulted in an evident improvement in practice quality which has continued this quarter, with improvements in the recording of case summaries, chronologies, management oversight and supervision.

- The Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) aims to keep children safely within their families by identifying and meeting needs; it uses a motivational interviewing technique. It was launched during the previous reporting year following an extensive

Impact (FSM)

- Jan 2023 to Jan 2024: saw reductions in children open to Children's Services (10%), children under 12 subject to Child Protection Plans (7%), open care proceedings (34%). These reductions have continued.

- There has been significant demand for mental health, domestic abuse, and substance use services which are embedded in the FSM.

- Parents fed back that they experienced Family Safeguarding as a strengths-based, person-centred service, describing it as holistic, helpful, and focused on building respectful relationships to empower them in making changes for themselves and their children.



Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 1.

Strengthening effectiveness of our multi-agency practice

Activity - Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT) Guidance written “Multi-agency Working in Safeguarding Meetings; Guidance for Health Services Working with Children”. This was shared with staff working within Children’s Services, was included within training, discussed within supervision and is available on the Safeguarding Children PULSE intranet page.

- Changes to the referral pathway for the Integrated front door (IFD) were communicated to all trust staff. Guidance with screenshots of the new referral portal were written, emailed to staff and remain available on the Safeguarding Children PULSE page. Regular meetings held with a Social Work Lead from the MASH whilst the changes were happening allowed identified issues to be tackled in a timely manner.

Impact

A survey in Feb 24 was used to assess the impact of the guidance. Whilst verbal feedback received from staff appeared to show that learning had been embedded, the survey showed a more mixed picture. It gave assurance that staff had a good understanding of their role within multi-agency meetings and that they are not afraid to challenge.

- Referrals by staff to the IFD are made via the online portal, with urgent referrals being telephoned through and followed up with an online referral. **Evidencing impact:** Feedback from the IFD and a review of copies of referrals received by the safeguarding team - showed the standard of referrals had improved.



Activity - Queen Victoria Hospital (QVH)

- Electronic Discharge Notifications (EDN) are sent to GPs for all children who attend QVH as an inpatient, day case, trauma and Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) patient. These are sent to Social Workers and other Professionals where required. The EDN has a safeguarding section where details of concerns can be shared with other professionals. This enables multi-agency professionals to build a picture of children’s lives and address concerns as they arise.

- The addition of extra resource to the safeguarding team: recruited a safeguarding specialist nurse for children and a new Safeguarding Children Named Doctor is now in post via a Service Level Agreement.

Impact

An audit of the EDN safeguarding section found that most patients where there had been safeguarding concerns had been appropriately recorded and information shared with the GP. There is some targeted work to be undertaken with identified teams to ensure that concerns from any point along the pathway are captured and shared. A guidance document has been designed to raise staff awareness about when safeguarding section needs to be completed. **Evidencing impact** – new appointments to post, nurse specialist safeguarding nurse is currently undergoing an induction programme.



Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 2.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Protecting and safeguarding our children

Activity: SPFT continued promotion of the Pan-Sussex CSA pathway across CAMHS. The CSA pathway has been shared with CAMHS local leadership teams for further dissemination within CAMHS.

- The Pan Sussex CSA pathway is shared with sexual abuse is a discussion point. individual practitioners by the safeguarding team with safeguarding childrens consultations where suspected.

- CSA is included in level 3 safeguarding children training for Sussex CAMHS and SPFT adult services.

Impact

An increased awareness of the Pan Sussex CSA pathway within SPFT

Standalone non-recent allegation of abuse policy. The policy was supported by engagement from those with lived experience. CSARC open days have been promoted and shared with Sussex CAMHS via the Sussex CAMHS newsletter.

Activity: MSDC provide internal safeguarding training for frontline staff. Two sessions were carried out to 21 (mostly new) staff during 2023-24. Information about (including e.g. indicators of) CSA is available to all staff on the safeguarding pages on our intranet. WSSCP ebulletins and any other relevant information relating to child sexual abuse is promoted across the council.

Impact

Staff report that they feel more confident about identifying relevant issues and raising concerns. Evaluations are completed after each training session.

Activity: SCFT

- A Safeguarding Children Advice Line is available to staff Mon-Fri 09.00-16.30.

- Level 3 safeguarding training covers training about sexual abuse, its prevalence, supporting disclosure and FGM. This revised package is ready for delivery at the start of April 2024.



SCFT (continued): Evidencing impact Safeguarding children advice line call logs show practitioners are seeking advice and support regarding CSA, CSE and FGM. This will increase knowledge and confidence for future work.

- Staff within the Safeguarding Team have increased knowledge and confidence when approached by staff regarding a concern relating to sexual abuse by researching and writing the planned training. All Specialist nurses within the team deliver this training as part of their role.

Activity: WSCC Public Health (PH) -

commissioned services place a duty on organisations to ensure that in discharging their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) PH Nursing teams work proactively in a prevention, identification and support capacity within pathways including for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and children who experience Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) ensures all service users under 18 years have a safeguarding and risk assessment for CSE using the 'Spotting the Signs' template. ISHS's quarterly reports include learning from protocol. The ISHS introduced an under 18 'Did Not Attend Protocol'.

Evidencing impact: AN HCP user survey was carried out in early 2024; it collected data from parents and carer givers to inform future HCP service development.

Children who do not attend clinic appointments are contacted and a safeguarding assessment carried out. In 2021-22, the ISHS expanded online testing pathways to under 18s, following the development and embedding of robust safeguarding arrangements for this age group. **Evidencing impact:** Baseline audit demonstrated achievement of all local and national standards.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 2.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Protecting and safeguarding our children

Activity - Sussex Police appointed a designated Child Exploitation lead (Detective Chief Inspector, Public Protection) to advocate for focus, resource and practice improvement.

Online Child Abuse Team (OCAT) instigated a process whereby the information received from the National Crime Agency (NCA) is shared at the earliest possible stage.

Impact

An audit of online grooming investigations identified confusion around investigative designation and viable lines of enquiry resulting in focused work to improve outputs.

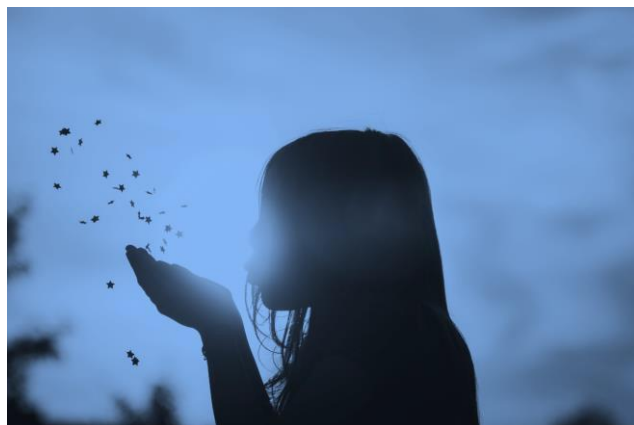
Better and more direct engagement between OCAT and CSC enabling wrap around care and support to be provided to families affected by police activity.

Activity - WSCC Early Help - a cohort of managers attended the Centre of Expertise CSA Centre 2-day training and disseminated learning to staff. Early Help leaders attended a CSC led event where resources were shared; consultation around recognising and responding appropriately to worries around sexual harm.

Impact

Support available for practitioners working with children, young people and families. Tools and resources shared with children, and families impacted by sexual harm.

- Improved understanding and knowledge of Early Help Leaders and access to shared resources in relation to children and families experiencing or impacted by sexual harm.



Activity - A&WC - it is a requirement for our **taxi drivers** to undertake training on **exploitation** as part of their license application.

Empowering the community to spot signs of harm: Regular mail outs in neighbourhoods, weekly round-up to key partners, resources for businesses and Air BnB owners.

Impact

This training raised taxi drivers' awareness about the role they play in ensuring children are safe locally. Evidencing impact - over 500 taxi drivers trained; key intelligence about risk is fed to council officers and shared with relevant partners.

This approach demonstrates awareness of community issues, improving community knowledge and providing information to the community on existing reporting mechanisms. Multiple council services and external partners are using these updates to target resources and safeguard children; e.g. social workers can raise hot spots with families and children. Reports are regularly made to police and the councils e.g. about suspicious activity at Air BnB properties.

Activity - QVH - non-recent abuse procedure in place. Guides staff to consider if there is a risk to children currently from an alleged perpetrator.

Impact

Safeguarding training covers disclosure of sexual abuse.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 3. Tackling Child Exploitation

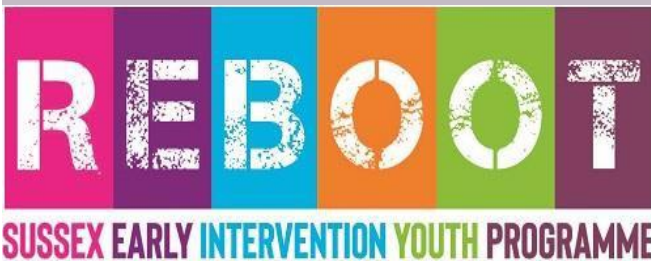
Activity: Sussex Police

- Exploitation manager and co-ordinators post made permanent.

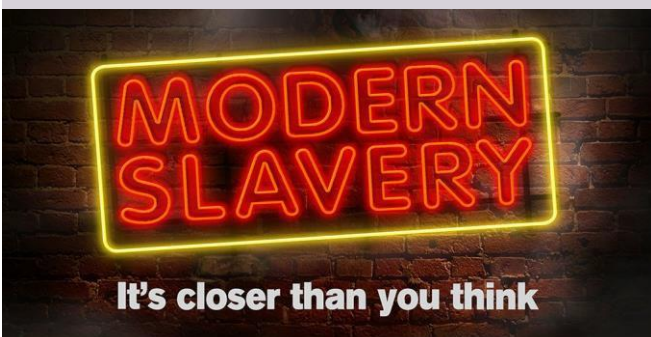
Impact

Significant expansion of Child Exploitation related training programmes delivered in 23-24 including the following:

- a. Child Exploitation Recognition and Response
- b. Child Exploitation
- c. [Hydrant Programme](#)
- d. Online Grooming



Activity: NHS Sussex - the Serious Violence Duty identifies how systems work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence (SV). NHS Sussex secured Home Office funding for a Pan-Sussex Project Manager post who commenced in post in December 2023. The main focuses for the project are to review and align information sharing agreements, support with improving and expanding the dataset within health to include demographics (i.e. age, gender and ethnicity), and incident location details, enabling comparison to other disparate datasets, and to support the development of specially targeted Violence Reduction interventions and policies, linking with A&Es, Urgent Treatment Centres, Minor Injury Units and Ambulance services to ensure training around importance of accurate data capture is embedded for front line staff.



Activity: Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) hold bi-monthly multi-agency PGCs with other professionals including Sussex Police, Schools, WSCC Children's Services, town councils and service providers where groups of children or spaces of concern are discussed. Resources and interventions are also promoted in these meetings (e.g. [Knife Intervention Project](#), ['Is this OK' \(ITOK\)](#), [Audio Active](#)).MSDC commissioned Audio Active to undertake work in three towns and four schools via VERP funding (Violence and Exploitation Reduction Partnership) to deliver targeted work with children of concern.

- Contextual safeguarding work during the Summer of 2023 included proactive work speaking to local people about safety issues in hot spot locations as well as physical checks of the areas in partnership with WSCC and Sussex Police.



Impact

PGCs enable partners to report concerns around extra familial harm and identify ways to tackle this in partnership with other agencies. **Evidencing impact** PGCs are ensuring a greater understanding across the council of the value of partnership working and ensuring that concerns are reported to the correct service/s. Training evaluations and the quality of information sharing at meetings supports this.

Engaging with the wider public on their views around safety in public spaces, in relation to children. **Evidencing impact** - sharing local information to support identification and offer of early-stage interventions; working in partnership with other agencies also helps to tackle anti-social behaviour which is linked to exploitation.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 3. Tackling Child Exploitation (continued)

Activity: SCFT - Relevant markers placed on SystmOne patient records to alert practitioners to a child at risk of exploitation and information sent to Multiagency Child Exploitation (MACE).

- Bespoke L3 safeguarding training jointly delivered to the HCP teams. by the Safeguarding Team and Sussex Police's Exploitation Team. Learning Outcomes included:

- Understand what child exploitation is.
- The impact on children and their outcomes.
- How to recognise and respond to signs of child exploitation.

Impact

Community health information at MACE meetings facilitates a wider understanding of the child e.g. Neurodiversity or speech and language challenges. Markers within the SystmOne patient records alert staff to the risk of exploitation including those working within the Urgent Treatment Centres and Minor Injuries Units. **Evidencing impact** - plans produced by MACE contain health information. Recent multi-agency audit showed relevant information, and high-level reminders present on SCFT records.

Evidencing impact - Feedback from training and increased awareness across staff groups, also demonstrated within staff supervision.

Activity: Probation - Learning Event on Child Exploitation was delivered in late 2023 by WSCC CSC's Exploitation and Missing Team.

Impact

Positive engagement from probation practitioners and managers across the county. It sparked a keen debate about exploitation, and it is hoped will widen assessment of criminal exploitation within county lines.



Activity: ADC - The Arun Peer Group Conference (PGC), established in 2020, is a multi-agency contextual safeguarding meeting to understand and assess risks occurring in the community as a place-based harm approach, beyond the family home.

Since Sept. 2023, the meeting was adapted to include primary school (PS) representatives, following concerns in the locality around serious violence and exploitation primary school age children of a primary school age. The meeting split into two meetings to enable PS attendance.

Impact

ADC Meeting attendance overall has grown in the last year with professionals feeding back that this is a valued forum where local concerns are shared regarding thematic concerns such as business locations and 'hot spot' areas and the children who may be gravitating to these areas.

Sadly, primary school leads' attendance was inconsistent. Due to this combined with locality-based youth disorder issues since the start of the 2024 the decision has been made to return to the original meeting format from April 2024.

Activity: QVH - 4 Questions around CSE are included within MIU paperwork. Training at all levels includes child exploitation.

Impact

Training has increased awareness among staff; nevertheless, CSE has not been identified on many occasions.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 3. Tackling Child Exploitation

Activity: A&WC - Commissioning and attending training from national bodies such as NWG and Out of the Shadows.

- the A&WC PGC is a monthly multi agency meeting to discuss community locations and cohorts of children where there are professional concerns e.g. exploitation, serious violence, anti-social behaviour. It aims to positively engage with secondary schools and via a separate PGC junior schools, to understand current concerns, trends and issue as well as understanding wider partnership needs and responding accordingly.

- Parents Awareness Evenings- in January 2024, in partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, we hosted two events for the parents and carers of high school aged children to discuss current trends and risks to children and young people.

Impact

Funding used to bring experts to Adur and Worthing including Out of the Shadows, which led to other agencies commissioning to enhance safeguarding practice. This provided expertise to approach complex safeguarding as evidenced in the work undertaken with offending and violence on the rail network.

Information was used at PGC meetings to identify work focus areas and to support partnership colleagues. Evidencing impact - regular PGC attendance and referrals into the meeting; intelligence shared; and targeted interventions delivered between councils, police and third sector organisations. Child exploitation notices completed, and safeguarding referrals made by schools following the meeting.

Evidencing Impact - 300 parents attended and there was feedback from all attendees, with requests for further events. Parents reported feeling more informed to identify risks and concerns for their children as well as understanding how to make referrals to referrals to available youth provision.



Activity: WSCC Early Help - Contextual Safeguarding (CS) champions recruited in every locality area and are an active member of the champion's network; this includes child exploitation.

Contextual Safeguarding and Exploitation champions held a 'stall' at a parenting marketplace for all Childrens Social Care and Early Help staff attended by over 200 practitioners, this included online safety.

Impact

A correlation between children discussed in MACE and school exclusions was identified, starting a wider conversation and a joined-up piece of work to explore further this further. DIP sample in progress regarding the Early Help response to CS and Exploitation. Horsham hub have a locality CS action plan. Early Help champions and team manager were involved in disruption activities in the summer of 2023 in relation to exploitation, targeting 'hot spots' and train stations.

Shared resource and consistent messaging across the services in relation to contextual safeguarding and exploitation. Photos and participants' feedback from the event.



Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 3. Tackling Child Exploitation

Activity: SPFT - child exploitation is included in level 3 safeguarding children training for Sussex CAMHS and SPFT adult services.

Children's Safeguarding Team undertook a Quality Improvement piece of work alongside colleagues in Sussex Liaison and Diversion Services.

Impact

Greater awareness in SPFT adult services workforce of recognising and responding to potential child exploitation/extra familial harm alongside adults and families they are working with. Includes recognising adults who are being exploited in this way, and if they are parents/carers of children that their children will be at significant risk of harm.

A paper is currently being written for WSSCP and SPFT Trust-wide Safeguarding Committee.

Activity: WSCC Education and Skills – Multi-Agency Child Exploitation weekly meetings are attended by MASH Education Advisers attend, ensuring schools are aware of children who are deemed at risk. The MASH education adviser support schools by sharing information and safety plans for individual children.

The Safeguarding in Education manager attends MACE panel weekly to input from an educational perspective and identify any trends or themes.

Impact

Schools are aware of children identified as at risk (if exploitation) and provide information for weekly triage meetings. This enables them to support development of multi-agency contextual safeguarding plans. Engagement with schools has increased and their attendance at panel is now regular, with valuable information shared.



Activity: WSCC Children's Social Care

Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) was subject to a Partnership Peer Review in October 2023 and February 2024 which included Social Work teams from across the service. The focus of this review was to consider the impact of MACE on practice for all agencies. Early Help Managers fed back that because of the new MACE process their workforce has an increased confidence in working with children showing indicators of exploitation, which has led to fewer escalations to Children's Social Care. Both sessions demonstrated a continued commitment across the partnership to continue to develop the MACE process. In the final quarter of this reporting year the National Working Group observed MACE Triage and provided positive feedback around the strong and inclusive chairing, active partnership input and the good format of the Contextual Safeguarding Plans. They are due to observe MACE Panel during 2024-25.

All children who are reported missing for more than 24 hours have a strategy discussion. Senior Leaders are informed of the missing episode and what safety plan is put in place.



Activity: University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSx) – there is a focus for 2024 on extrafamilial harm, unconscious bias and adultification to be delivered by face to face and online learning including case review

Impact

Impact to be assessed.

Business Plan priorities

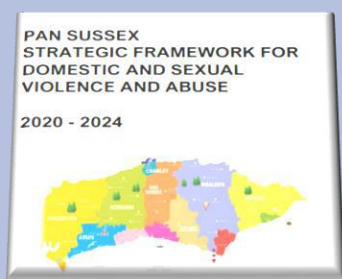
Strategic Priority 4.

Children as victims of Domestic Abuse (DA)

Activity: WSCC Public Health worked closely with West Sussex Domestic Abuse services to embed and align key Public Health messages to the children, young people, and families they are working with through a Collaborative Working Agreement with Early Help.

Impact

Awareness of the signs and various categories of Domestic Abuse and the impact of a child's exposure. Reference to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which recognises children as DA victims in their own right.



Activity: ADC - in April 2023, the Safeguarding Officer organised and funded Domestic Abuse awareness training for staff, focussing on the impacts on victim/survivors and their families.

- ADC during 2022-23 collaborated with a local partner agency, providing funding to enable a DA keyworker to work with victim/survivors (and their families) who had been placed in Council funded temporary accommodation.

Impact

Due to initial successful impact further funding to sustain this service in 2023-2024. Case studies provided evidence of the need for, and benefit of this service.



SCFT provide information for and attend MARAC meetings including MARAC Steering Group. During 2023-24 internal information gathering processes were reviewed, ensuring information shared was relevant and succinct and included the voice of the child.

DA and Patient Care / Supporting Adults and Children Policy was updated and ratified in February 2024, to reflect the changes within the law regarding domestic abuse. Within the updated policy children are identified as victims of DA and staff are signposted to seek support from their line manager/safeguarding team and to follow the pan Sussex procedures.

Impact

Children are now recognised within law as victims of domestic abuse. SCFT information assists in ensuring the child is considered with an equal weight to adults. **Evidencing impact:** meeting minutes.

During 2023-24 DA remained within the top three themes for staff calling the safeguarding children's advice line for support and guidance. **Evidencing impact -** advice line call logs and data shows that over the year domestic abuse has consistently been within the top three reasons SCFT practitioners have called the internal safeguarding children advice line, in addition to referrals to IFD and Worth Services.

Activity: UHSx - Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (HIDVA) in post on all Sussex sites.

- MARAC processes under development across sites to manage alerts on Sussex IT systems and to ensure information sharing for MARAC is supported across all sites.

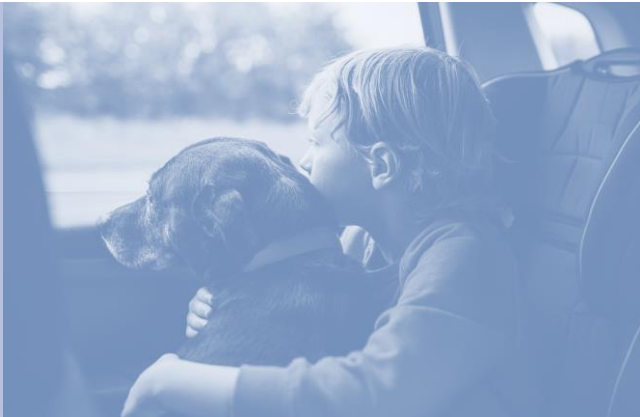
Impact

HIDVA evidence being collated; Feedback from staff has been positive, valuing HIDVA support.

Maternity attend MARAC meetings and have been involved in developing a SCARF process.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 4. Children as victims of Domestic Abuse (DA)



Activity - Sussex Police - OP Encompass - information about children involved in Domestic Abuse household incidents is shared with the child's school Sussex within 24 hours. Work to improve Op Encompass submission rates which dropped in WS over 2023-24 via 'SIGNS' system.

Impact

The force is moving to 'SIGNS', automating the sharing of an Op Encompass template with schools. This is a robust system regularly leading to nearly 100% compliance. Once live (2024-25) significant and rapid improvement is anticipated.



Activity: WSSC Education and Skills - support Sussex Police by finding a child's school when that information is not known. We are now seeking to widen this operation to nursery settings as we acknowledge the impact on the younger children.

Impact

Op Encompass is embedded in WS and has been reviewed by Sussex Police. All schools are now required to participate in Op Encompass, moving closer to the 100% target of WS schools year on year.

Activity: WSCC Early Help – the DA Service is a key offer under the Early Help Service area. DA practitioners are Family Safeguarding Model (FSM) partners, working with children and families who have or are experiencing DA. Having DA practitioners within the FSM alongside other adult focused practitioners enables direct work that supports victims to understand the impact of abuse on them and their children.

Additional training delivered to MARAC chairs to ensure children are considered as DA victims during MARAC discussions.

Impact

There is a greater practitioner understanding and victims feeling safer and more confident. Evidence: Bedfordshire University Evaluation report and feedback from Jan – March 2024, victims self-report:

80% of victims feel safer.

80% have an increased understanding of DA.

80% feel more confident to follow their safety plan.

This training has supported enhanced safety and risk management planning and actions to include children.

Activity: QVH - Named Nurse for Adults and Children have worked hard to ensure that where there are children living in a home where there is known or highly suspected DA that children are referred through to children's social care for assessment. The team designed specific questions around children and vulnerable adults, and particularly within predominantly adult arenas.

Impact

This approach resulted in children of adult patients being referred to Children's Social Care for assessment. **Evidencing impact:** WSSC Children's Social Care referrals made and Strategy meeting attendances.

Activity: NHS Sussex: Within 2023-24 NHS Sussex facilitated sharing of domestic abuse incidents to frontline health practitioners in collaboration with Sussex Police to help keep infants and children safer and support their parents and care givers.

Business Plan priorities

Strategic Priority 4.

Children as victims of Domestic Abuse (DA)

Activity: Probation - revised DA and Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) training in the past year. There is also a national project to increase classroom style DA and child safeguarding training to help increase engagement and identification of safeguarding concerns.

Following an internal review a new system was introduced for DA perpetrators who do not have an accredited programme on their sentence requirements. Probation now deliver 1:1 structured DA toolkits.

Impact

Online training is mandatory as part of annual pay progression and so there is a high uptake. **Evidencing impact** - Classroom sessions are new, and it will take time to establish impact on practice and outcomes for children and families.

Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) have now been appointed in all offices to support the delivery of toolkits to help achieve this objective.

Activity: AWC - Anti-Social Behaviour Reports (ASB) - we receive reports of ASB where it may emerge clear that the casual issue may be relating to DA and a child is present within the home. Staff Training delivered by Worth services to the Housing Needs Team.

Impact

This approach resulted in children of adult patients being referred to Children's Social Care for assessment. **Evidencing impact:** WSCC Children's Social Care referrals made and Strategy meeting attendances.

Activity – SPFT's DA mandatory training module was updated in 2023 alongside Safe-lives Sussex. SPFT's Children's Safeguarding Team were represented in the working group to ensure children's safeguarding issues were included. This was in line with updates to legislation in Domestic Abuse Act (2021).

Impact

All SPFT workforce undertake DA training to ensure awareness of impact of DA on children and safeguarding duties associated with this.

Activity: WSCC Community Safety Partnership are working with Paragon charity to provide specialist trauma informed support to children in West Sussex who have been subject to domestic abuse within the family home either directly, as a witness or within their own intimate relationships.



PARAGON
TOGETHER EMPOWERING CHANGE

The service started to deliver an age appropriate, person-centred intervention through 1-1 support and a range of group work to improve outcomes for children since March 2024. Whilst it is too early to measure its impact outcomes include but are not limited to assisting victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent revictimisation and increase understanding of the impact of domestic abuse and of healthy relationships, enhance coping and resilience.

Examples of the services on offer include play therapy, support for parents and family sessions as well as supporting children and families with complex needs. Support and housing matters is also offered to families.

Example of Paragon support available

“Side by Side” is a group programme for non-abusive parents and their children who have experienced domestic abuse. The course aims to increase understanding of the impact of domestic abuse and of healthy relationships, enhance coping and resilience, and improve the parent-child relationship (in part through effective communication).



WSSCP budget 2023-24

The table below sets out WSSCP income and expenditure from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Income	Amount	% of total gross budget
West Sussex County Council (Local Authority)	£202,000	63%
NHS Sussex (Integrated Care Board)	£71,861	23%
Sussex Police	£36,750	12%
District and Boroughs	£7,000	2%
Total Income 2023-24	£317,611	
Agreed year on year carry forward from 2023-24	£130,000	
DfE funding	£47,300	
Total budget	£494,911	
Outgoings		
Staffing/Independent Scrutiny	£210,500	
Local Reviews	£10,000	
L&D/Training	£20,000	
Backoffice costs	£4,000	
Reimbursement to Lead Partners	£100,000	
Total Expenditure	£344,500	
Agreed carry forward to 2024-25 budget	£150,411	

Summary

The above table shows that the local authority continued to contribute towards almost two thirds of the WSSCP's annual budget.

- The budget saw a reduction in spend on staff salaries costs, including independent scrutiny, (down by £33,000 compared to 2022-23). This was largely due to personnel changes.

- In 2022-23 the WSSCP spent over £100,000 on undertaking review activity about serious child safeguarding incidents. 2023-24 saw an expenditure reduction of more than 90%. An overall reduction in budget spend resulted in a reimbursement to lead partners (shown as net contributions) which totalled £100,000.

The WSSCP budget benefited from the allocation of £47,300 grant funding from the Department of Education to support MASA development. This additional funding has enabled the WSSCP to resource work which will deliver improvements to performance management and scrutiny, supporting the WSSCP's business plan priorities, including CSA, Exploitation and Suicide Prevention work. This ongoing work will be reported on in detail in 2024-25.



Annex A - WSSCP – vision and values and governance structures

The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership’s (WSSCP) local arrangements support the co-ordination of work across West Sussex to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of the work member organisations undertake both individually and together.

Responsibility for this join-up rests with the safeguarding partners who have a duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

Our Shared principles

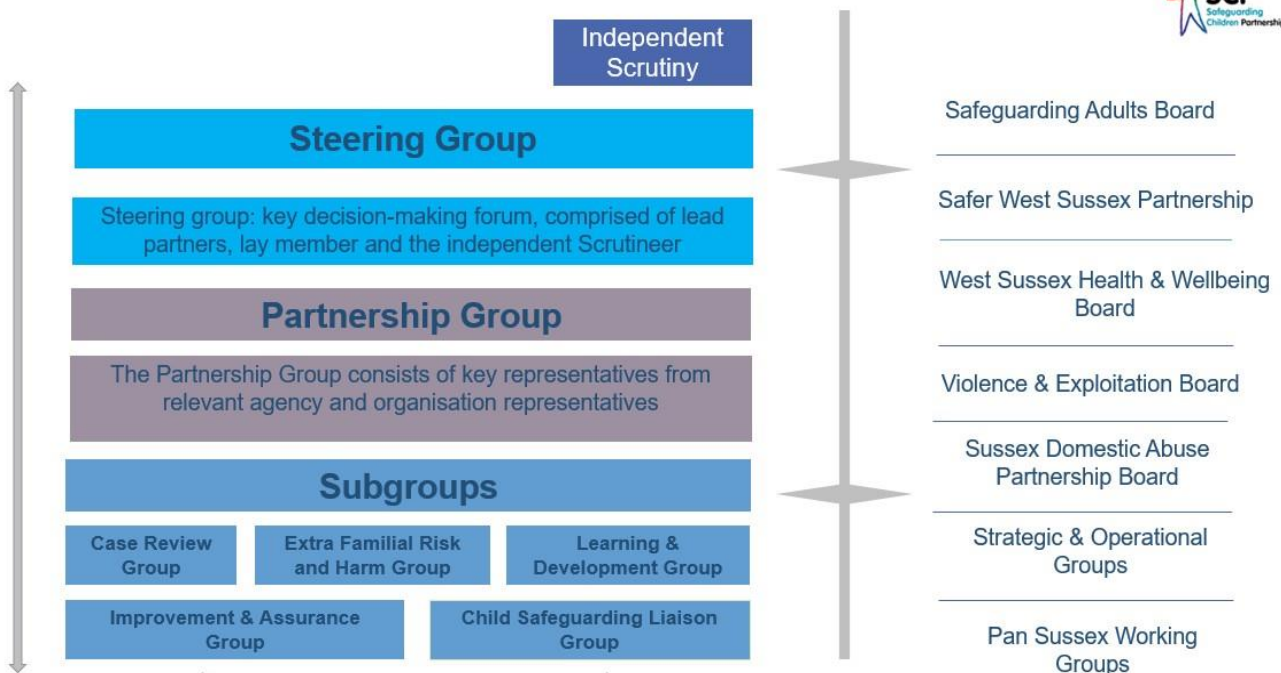
Promoting a culture of continuous learning - the partnership will create the environment for learning, recognising the way systems influence each other and the benefits of working together rather than in individual agencies.

High support high challenge - the partnership will promote a culture of high support and high challenge to develop working environments where growth and learning is accelerated.

Child Centred Practice - the partnership will ensure that children and young people have opportunities to participate and collaborate in the work of the Partnership and that the voice of children is embedded in multi-agency practice.

Working in this way we will ensure our core safeguarding practice is of high quality, responsive to the needs of our communities and improves outcomes for children and families in West Sussex.

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure



Annex B - WSSCP training offer

Title of training	Frequency	Delivery method	Pan Sussex?
Working Together to Safeguard Children	Monthly	Face to face / virtual	No
Working Together to Safeguard Children	Monthly	Face to face / virtual	No
Parental substance Misuse and the impact on Children and Families	Quarterly	Face to face / virtual	No
Suicide Prevention in Children (Under 16 years old)	2 per year	Virtual	Yes
Suicide Prevention in Children (Over 16 years old)	2 per year	Virtual	Yes
Coping with a Crying Baby and Safer Sleep for Babies – What Everyone Needs to Know	Monthly	Virtual	Yes
Safeguarding Children with Additional Needs	2 per year	Virtual	Yes
Working with Children and young People in the Traveller and Gypsy Communities	2 per year	Virtual	Yes
Supporting LGBTQ+ children and young people (in a safeguarding context)	2 per year	Virtual	Yes
Addressing Barriers to Safeguarding Children Effectively & Appropriately (Adultification)	Quarterly	Virtual	Yes
Basic Awareness of Trauma Informed Practice	Bi-monthly	Virtual	No
Trauma Informed Approaches in a Multi-Agency Context	Quarterly	Face to face	No
Neglect	Monthly	Face to face	No
Professional Curiosity	Monthly	Virtual	No
Working together to Recognise and Respond to Child Exploitation	Quarterly	Virtual	No
Recognising and Responding to Child Exploitation Using a Contextual Safeguarding Approach	Quarterly	Virtual	No
Safeguarding Hot Topics – Fabricated / Induced Illness	3 per year	Virtual	Yes
Safeguarding Hot Topics – Child Sexual Abuse	3 per year	Virtual	Yes
Safeguarding Hot Topics – Non-Accidental Injury / Abusive Head Trauma	3 per year	Virtual	Yes
Improving Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA)	3 per year	Virtual	Yes
The Role of the LADO in Keeping Children Safe	Quarterly	Virtual / Face to face	No

Domestic Abuse (DA) training is promoted as part of the WSSCP training offer. All DA training includes the impact on the child. This provides mutual benefits in that it promotes the DA training offer for the WORTH team as a multi-agency training opportunity and it meets a training gap that was in the WSSCP training programme.

Annex C - Acronyms

Acronym	What it means
CE/CSE	Criminal Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation
CME	Children Missing Education
CSLG	Child Safeguarding Liaison group
CRG	Case Review Group
DA/DV	Domestic Abuse/Domestic Violence
EFRAHG	Extra-Familial Risk and Harm Group
EHE	Elective Home Education
IAG	Improvement and Assurance Group
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICON	Babies cry, you can cope
IFD	Integrated Front Door for families
IHA	Initial Health Assessment
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspections
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
L&D	Learning and Development Group
MASA	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MIU	Minor Injuries Unit
(MAMHET)	Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage
PGC	Peer Group Conference
QI	Quality Improvement
RR	Rapid Review
SCARF	Single Combined Assessment of Risk Form
SCP	Safeguarding Children Partnership
TIP	Trauma Informed Practice
UTC	Urgent Treatment Centre
VotC	Voice of the Child
WNB	Was not bought (to an appointment)
WT 2023	Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

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