Welcome to the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) Board Briefing. The briefing is intended to provide you with the key headlines from each Board meeting so that you can quickly catch up with decisions and learning, and disseminate them to your staff. Minutes of the meeting will continue to be circulated to Board members.

This briefing includes news from the 12 November 2020 virtual Board meeting. If you have any comments on the briefing, or questions about the contents, please contact us on ESSCP.Contact@eastsussex.gov.uk.

**Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report**

Cynthia Folarin, the Independent Chair of the Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), introduced the first annual report of the Pan Sussex Panel. Since October 2019 all deaths of children in East Sussex are reviewed by a ‘pan Sussex’ panel to better share expertise and learning. The 2020 report highlighted that sudden unexpected death in infancy remains one of the leading causes of infant death in the community and, in the cases reviewed, modifiable factors were identified regarding the infants sleeping environment. The Board discussed how this learning informs the partnership’s work on safeguarding under 5s – with a focus on strengthening messaging around safer sleeping with parents and links to the [ICON programme](https://www.esscp.org.uk/professionals/icon-resources-infant-crying-is-normal/). Further information and headlines from the report can be found in the [ESSCP’s Annual Report](https://www.esscp.org.uk/about-us/lscb-annual-report-and-business/).

**Single Point of Advice and integrating CAMHS front door**

Alistair McGrory, Operations Manager – Early Years and SPoA, and Matt Stone – Head of Service CAMHS - updated the Partnership on the integration of children and young people mental health referrals in to SPoA, which launched in September 2019. The Partnership noted the positive impact the merger has had by streamlining screening functions; improving timely decision making; and reducing the need for professionals to make multiple referrals.

**NHS England – Equality and Trauma Informed Task & Finish Group**

Domenica Basini - Acting Head of Clinical Quality (Safeguarding) in NHS England - updated the Partnership on the work of a NHS task & finish group to identify how services might address health inequalities which were highlighted, and/or exacerbated, by Covid-19. This includes any disproportionate impact of Covid, either by direct infection, or as a result of the lockdown and reduction in support services for vulnerable groups. Alongside this, the group are also exploring how a ‘trauma informed’ approach to practice could be of benefit. The Partnership asked to be kept updated on this work and that the framework is shared with agencies once developed.

**Annual Child Protection Conference report 2019/20**

The Partnership welcomed Sue McGlynn – Safeguarding Operations Manager ESCC - to update the Partnership on the work of the CP Unit during 2019/20, noting the report was ‘pre-Covid’ and the significant challenges to CP work presented by the national lockdown. Sue reiterated the importance of agency reports being submitted in time for CP conferences, and how critical this now is while meetings are still held virtually. Sue highlighted the Unit’s priorities for the 2020/21 which included: reducing the number of CP plans where there is an equally effective alternative MA plan in place; improving service user feedback and engagement; and strengthening understanding and practice in delivering an equitable service to BAME families.

**Section 11 audit**

Agencies were thanked for their timely completion of the partnership’s bi-annual Section 11 self-assessment toolkit. The Partnership noted that a selection of agencies’ submissions were robustly challenged, at a Pan Sussex and East Sussex Peer Review events, by a panel of ESSCP Board Members and young people. Agencies attending the challenge events had noted the audit was a useful opportunity to reflect on safeguarding practice and identify areas for improvement. The challenge events also provided an opportunity to reflect on safeguarding practice across the partnership during COVID lockdown and beyond. A full report will be presented at the January board meeting.

**LADO annual report**

Douglas Sinclair introduced the new LADO, Sam Efde, and the partnership thanked Amanda Glover for her work in the role over the past six years. The Partnership noted the continued increase in contacts and referrals to the LADO service in 2019/20. The LADO highlighted concerns in a number of settings, such as residential settings, hospitals and unregulated placements for care leavers, around professional conduct, poor boundaries, and use of restraint. The Partnership noted the LADO service priorities for 2020/21 included the development of training and support around safer recruitment and monitoring and support to unregulated settings when concerns arise.

**ESSCP Annual Report**

Louise MacQuire-Plows introduced the ESSCP Annual Report, noting that the report covers the transitional period from the East Sussex LSCB to the ESSCP, so largely focused on activity and governance. Louise noted that the Board Managers are already planning the 2020/21 report which will include the impact of the Partnership’s priorities and the impact of the new arrangements on outcomes for children and families.

**Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report**

Delyth Shaw - SAB Manager - took the Partnership through the highlights of the SAB Annual Report. The Partnership noted the SAB is committed to working in partnership with the ESSCP in areas of joined up practice. This is evidenced in areas of work undertaken over this past year, including sharing the learning from the Child T Serious Case Review and SAB audit in relation to young people at risk of exploitation, as well as continuing to offer joint training initiatives across the partnerships.

**Breakout session: ESSCP Priorities**

The Partnership broke out in small groups to discuss the four ESSCP priorities:

* + **Education safeguarding**: including mental health and building resilience in schools; the impact of exclusions and part time timetables; appropriate education offer for the MACE cohort; information sharing, including the project looking at A&E data sharing with education; and improved safeguarding in post-16 education.
	+ **Child Exploitation:** including sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, reviewing data to manage and track, impact of COVID.
	+ **Embedding a learning culture:** including improving the transparency of the partnership; more effective sharing of learning and promotion of training; and development of links to multi-agency learning resources
	+ **Safeguarding under 5s:** including embedding the ICON programme to prevent abusive head trauma, reducing unintentional injuries, reducing sudden unexplained infant death, improve communication between early years professions.