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 1 April 2021 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](mailto:ESSCP.Contact@eastsussex.gov.uk).

**Critical Service Issues and ‘Everyone’s Invited’ campaign**

Colleagues updated on service pressures and challenges but noted these are closely monitored and reviewed. The Board noted that there has been no significant challenges raised by the return of pupils to school (currently seeing vast majority of pupils back at school, but still well below pre covid levels of attendance – around 75% of pupils).

The Chair asked for partners position on current national debate regarding sexual harassment in schools, in particularly culture of sexual harassment in non-maintained schools. Are current systems adequate?

Annabel Hodge, representative from indepenednet sector,

How governs and scrutinity in independent sector.

Independent Schools Safegaurding Forum – expect will be a key topic at the next East Sussex meeting.

An area that ESCC has developed resources.

Current view to be confident in current processes and resources unless referrals or feedback indicates otherwise. Maintained schools are reflecting on how to respond, within school settings, to make sure appropriate, in particular in primary schools. There continues to be scrutiny of safeguarding processes via Ofsted and internal safeguarding assessments.

Harmful sexual incidences that are impacting on local community – SLES has had 8 referrals for an immediate response, to review management and communication of incidences. That is currently manageable in terms of resource, but if referrals escalate following national focus, then have concerns about capacity to support.

Police involvement when potential perpetrator is over age of 10 has often delayed support to pupils affected and wider community.

We’re in a good place to manage current situation but may have to develop approach

Managed through MACE silver group which has meant that interventions are targeted and proportionate.

Success of partnership to secure external funding which has enabled innovate use of resources and deployment of staff. Report also highlights findings of the evaluation of the first year of contextual safeguarding, the

Examples of significant impact for individuals and communities and safeguarding of children.

Positive results by schools in terms of behaviour, engagement and exclusion.

Excellent work in Uckfield in reducing engagement in anti-social behaviour (reduction of 92%) and criminality, resulting in a national policing award.

Work has really highlighted benefits of approaching risks in a contextual safeguarding way. Challenge will be to sustain the resources

Success of projects has identified

Jon Hull also flagged the Police initiative ‘Custody Hour’ which aims to inform key partners of a child being in custody.

**Multi-agency Public Protection (MAPPA)**

Critical to get good attendance at Level 2 and Level 3 meetings and having virtual meetings over the past year has helped secure good attendance at both levels of meetings.

Adding serious sexual offences against children to be managed by MAPPA. Part of a national initiative. MAPPA has no developed funding, so resourcing could be a review. Obvious overlaps with DHRs and LSCPRs.

Clarification -

The enhanced **suicide bereavement support service** across Sussex is now up and running. This is a service for anyone in Sussex who has been affected by suicide recently or in the past. [More information here](https://www.esscp.org.uk/sussex-wide-suicide-bereavement-support/)….