**East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Child AA Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review: Partnership Response**

**September 2022**

The East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESCCP) commissioned this Local Safeguarding Practicing Review after a 17-year-old, who had been excluded from school and had been criminally exploited, was stabbed. Fortunately, he survived the attack, but he did receive life threatening injuries and will require long term medical intervention and support.

The ESSCP agreed to use this case as an opportunity to examine current multi-agency practice and to identify ways of improving the effectiveness of diverting and protecting children at risk of criminal exploitation.

The review has established this young person received a significant amount of support and intervention over a number of years – from social workers, specialist substance abuse workers, the youth offending team, and others. In this specific case services were unable, despite their efforts, to engage the young person sufficiently to help and protect him.

The review has made various recommendations which are designed to improve the way we help protect children in these highly dangerous circumstances. The ESSCP has accepted these recommendations and is pleased that they are already being put into practice. For example:

* The proportion of MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) cases where disruption measures are recorded has improved from 1 in 5 cases, to over half of all cases (April 2020 to November 2021).
* A Sussex Police Intelligence Policy is now in place to ensure that intelligence on child criminal exploitation is shared efficiently and effectively between agencies.
* New guidance, to support and challenge schools on persistent absence, has been written and shared with local schools.
* A ‘re-thinking exclusions’ action plan has been devised, which includes a clear pathway for how alternative provision is accessed.

As the Independent Chair and Safeguarding Leads of the ESSCP we would ask that when you read this report you consider how we can all prevent similar cases occurring, what part you can play in preventing the issues outlined and what steps you will take to improve safeguarding.

**Chris Robson, Independent Chair and Scrutineer, ESSCP**

**Naomi Ellis, Director of Safeguarding & Clinical Standards, NHS Sussex**

**Alison Jeffery, Director of Children’s Services, East Sussex County Council**

**Jon Hull, Detective Superintendent – Public Protection, Sussex Police**