**East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review – Thematic Review: Partnership Response**

**September 2022**

This Thematic Safeguarding Practice Review was commissioned by East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP). The review was undertaken in response to two serious safeguarding incidents regarding two families. Domestic abuse and parental mental health issues featured in both families, with the adults having similar significant vulnerabilities, including a history of abuse and neglect in their own childhoods, previous relationships where domestic abuse featured and substance misuse.

The report and its recommendations were agreed and accepted by the ESSCP and as a Partnership we are committed to addressing the issues raised and acting on those recommendations.  Work has started on strengthening safeguarding practice in areas such as the transition of vulnerable young people from Children’s to Adults Services and support for professionals working with threatening and abusive behaviour from family members.

This Thematic Review deals with safeguarding issues that occur far too frequently across our county and the rest of the country. It is important that we take time to reflect and learn from how we, individually and as a partnership, dealt with the children and families concerned. 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.

We would also ask that you consider the children and families that are involved and afford them the privacy and dignity they deserve.

**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**