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East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Monthly Digest – April 2023

# This latest roundup of ESSCP news includes highlights from recent publications, information about forthcoming events and training, and other snippets of useful information from across the ESSCP and partner agencies. If you have anything that you would like included in next month's ESSCP digest please email [esscp.contact@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:esscp.contact@eastsussex.gov.uk).

ICON Resources – Infant crying is normal

Local and national learning tells us that babies and young children are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect. Following a [number of serious case reviews locally](https://www.esscp.org.uk/professionals/safeguarding-practice-reviews/), involving babies and young children, the ESSCP decided to focus on ‘safeguarding Under 5s’ as one of its key priorities.

As part of this focus, partners signed up to ICON – a preventative programme designed to support parents, carers and extended family members to understand and safely respond to infant crying. Practitioners are our greatest resource in sharing the ICON message with parents: everyone that works with families can communicate these messages. All resources can be found on our website here: [ICON Resources - Infant crying is normal - ESSCP](https://www.esscp.org.uk/professionals/icon-resources-infant-crying-is-normal/)

NHS Sussex has also developed a 7-minute briefing for safeguarding partners (attached). If you open it as PowerPoint and ‘start presentation’ you can access the embedded video too. Please share this briefing with your teams and use it as a prompt during supervision/team meetings for further discussions.

East Sussex Digital Hive

Digital Hive is part of East Sussex County Council’s Digital in Care programme which is all about improving the digital resilience of children in care. We want to equip everyone around the child with the skills, knowledge and confidence to help young people reap all the benefits of the online world whilst mitigating risks. This website is for all East Sussex carers, adopters and practitioners. You can access our training programme as well as resources, advice and support. You can create an account by visiting [www.thedigitalhive.info](http://www.thedigitalhive.info)

Additional Resource area for professionals on ESSCP website

We have created an ‘[additional resource](https://www.esscp.org.uk/professionals/additional-resources-restricted/)’ area for professionals on the ESSCP website which is password protected. This means that we can more easily share resources – such as presentations and reports – with professionals that we can’t put on the publicly accessible website. You only need to enter the password once, which is: ESSCPAR123

So far we have put the ESSCP Subgroup Chairs Reports, which are normally presented at Steering and shared with Board Members, and a recent presentation from Board on the ‘evidence’ to support our priority setting. All partner newsletters mentioned in this briefing can also be accessed there. If you would like anything added to the area please let us know.

ESSCP training and learning opportunities

There is still time to book for a number of ESSCP virtual and classroom training opportunities. Latest courses include Working with Children who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviours (classroom 17.05.23), and The Effective Communication of Safeguarding Concerns (classroom 18.05.23). New courses have also been added on Trauma-Informed approaches, Managing Allegations Against Staff, and Identifying and Challenging Harmful Traditional Practices. More information on the latest ESSCP courses can be found in the attached email or by viewing [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/learningportal](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA5MTUuNjM3MjQ2OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmVhc3RzdXNzZXguZ292LnVrL2xlYXJuaW5ncG9ydGFsIn0.P_lm__W9Lq8CGiR2xLPYGoALbszeKlO4nQztXfe0ZGA/s/2649916962/br/144039072095-l)

The below ESCC Adult Social Care training courses are open to Children’s Services and ESSCP partner organisations staff. Please cascade this information across your service/teams. You will find the [course booking form](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs/learning-portal/training-and-development-booking-form) at the foot of each course description

* [Modern Slavery Awareness Workshop](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs/learning-portal/adult-social-care-training/safeguarding#Modern%20Slavery%20Awareness%20Workshop)
* [Coercion and Control: A multi-agency workshop for staff working with Domestic Abuse](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs/learning-portal/adult-social-care-training/safeguarding#Coercion%20and%20Control:%20A%20multi-agency%20workshop%20for%20staff%20working%20with%20Domestic%20Abuse)

The Child Death Review Team run regular training for professionals in Sussex on the Child Death Review Process, and other topics. Next sessions include:

* Wednesday 24th May 2023 – 1:30pm-2:30pm – [book here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/overview-of-the-child-death-review-process-in-sussex-tickets-440932780817)

The second Pan Sussex Child Death Review Partnership Conference is due to be held on the 20th September from 9:00 am– 1pm on MS Teams. This will have a focus on neonatal deaths. Further details and booking links will be available soon.

The SPOA team run regular presentations for staff who wish to learn more about the role of SPOA. The presentations last one hour and run via MS Teams. The presentation covers information about the team, the Continuum of Need, how SPOA works, and what makes a good referral. If you would like to book yourself on the presentation please email: [SPOA.Presentation@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:SPOA.Presentation@eastsussex.gov.uk). The next available sessions are on:

* Wednesday 24th May at 10:00am
* Thursday 22nd June at 2:00pm
* Monday 17th July at 2.00pm
* Thursday 17th August at 11.00am

Local briefings and newsletters

* The East Sussex Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence/Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Team has produced their [April information round up](https://www.esscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/April-DSVA-VAWG-Round-Up.docx). This contains latest news from the sector, events, policy and legislative updates, funding opportunities, research and resources, local service information and job opportunities.
* The Sussex Child Death Overview Panel has circulated it’s latest quarterly [Newsletter (April 2023)](https://www.esscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/April-2023-Newsletter.pdf). In this edition there is a focus on learning from neonatal deaths.
* NHS Sussex produce a monthly ‘Safeguarding and Looked-After Children Newsletter’. All newsletter articles are accessible on the NHS Sussex intranet and all Sussex professionals can request access. If you have not already registered, the please use the following link: [Log in (ics.nhs.uk)](https://int.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/wp-login.php?redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fint.sussex.ics.nhs.uk%2F&reauth=1). April’s newsletter includes information on training opportunities within Sussex, transitional safeguarding, the Sussex ICB Domestic Abuse procedure and toolkit, learning from local reviews, and consultation events.

National Updates

* NSPCC Learning has published an updated Learning from case review briefing outlining risk factors and learning for improved practice around parental mental health and child welfare. The briefing, which looks at case reviews published between 2016 and 2022, highlights that professionals from adult and children’s services need to work together to safeguard children when there are signs that a parent’s mental ill-health is impacting their ability to look after their child: [Parents with a mental health problem: learning from case reviews | NSPCC Learning](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/learning-from-case-reviews/parents-with-a-mental-health-problem?utm_campaign=20230424_KIS_CASPAR_April24&utm_content=Parents%20with%20a%20mental%20health%20problem%3A%20learning%20from%20case%20reviews&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra)
* The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published the second of two reports from its national safeguarding practice review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex needs in residential settings in England. The report looks at systemic issues arising from the first report and sets out key practice points and recommendations to improve the lives of disabled children in residential care: [Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-with-disabilities-in-residential-settings)
* The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) and the University of Cambridge’s Centre for Research on Play in Education, Development & Learning (PEDAL), have launched a new resource to support local areas in a shared understanding of mental health in infancy and early childhood. This practical resource will support service leaders, commissioners and policy teams to develop a whole-system approach to support the emotional wellbeing of babies and young children now, as well as laying strong foundations for positive mental health throughout their lives: [Understanding and supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood – a toolkit to support local action in the UK. - UNICEF UK](https://www.unicef.org.uk/campaign-with-us/early-moments-matter/early-childhood-mental-health-toolkit/)
* The Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) has published a report looking at factors influencing the diagnosis of non accidental injuries in infants who visit emergency departments (ED) in England. Findings from an analysis of 10 serious incident reports include: there is no specific guidance for ED clinicians on the identification of suspected non-accidental injuries; delays in the availability of information about potential safeguarding concerns add to the pressures on ED staff when making decisions; and safeguarding teams are often located physically distant from EDs which can create a barrier to communication: <https://www.hsib.org.uk/investigations-and-reports/non-accidental-injuries-in-infants-attending-the-emergency-department/non-accidental-injuries-in-infants-attending-the-emergency-department/>
* The Home Office and UK Visas and Immigration have published guidance for professionals about the new National Age Assessment Board (NAAB) in the UK. The Board will oversee a new system for age assessing unaccompanied asylum seekers established by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022: [National Age Assessment Board: caseworker guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-age-assessment-board-caseworker-guidance)
* Research in Practice, the University of Bedfordshire and The Children's Society have created new practice principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The principles are designed to support effective partnerships and a more holistic response. Themes identified among the eight principles include: effective communication; critical thinking; collaboration; and high quality learning and development: [Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm (researchinpractice.org.uk)](https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/)
* The Children’s Commissioner for England has published an analysis of strip searches of children conducted by police under their stop and search powers across England and Wales. Findings include: 2,847 8- to 17-year-olds were strip searched under stop and search between 2018 and mid-2022; 95% of those searched were boys; 38% of children searched were black; and 52% of searches happened without an appropriate adult confirmed to be present. Recommendations include: strengthen national guidelines for strip searching; improve data to drive transparency and accountability; and improve practice and compliance in all police forces: [Strip search of children in England and Wales | Children's Commissioner for England (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/strip-search-of-children-in-england-and-wales/)