**Right Care, Right Person**

# What is Right Care, Right Person?

Right Care, Right Person is a new way for the police to respond to calls about health and social care, particularly those relating to mental health. Policing has traditionally responded to a broad range of incidents, but that doesn’t mean they are always the right agency to respond. In some cases, health or social care may be the ones best placed to offer help and support to people in crisis.

Right Care, Right Person is about ensuring that vulnerable people are given the right support by the right agency when they need it. The presence of a uniformed police officer can have a significant detrimental impact on vulnerable adults and children. Therefore, the deployment of officers needs to be necessary, proportionate and have a clear basis in law when a ‘concern for safety or ‘welfare check’ request is made.

Two partnership groups have been set up to oversee the implementation of Right Care, Right Person in Sussex. Children’s Social Care have been involved.

# What does this mean for Children’s Social Care?

* Family members that are experiencing a mental health crisis are more likely to get a Health or Adult Social Care response and intervention. Special care will be taken when assessing calls relating to children or where a person is suffering from poor mental health in the presence of a child. Police will always take steps to protect the best interests of a child if there is reasonable belief that the child is suffering or is at risk of suffering immediate and significant harm.
* Right Care, Right Person may mean that more calls are directed to social care including Children’s Social Care.
* Current ways of Children Social Care working with Health and Police to safeguard children will continue.
* [Philomena Protocol | Sussex Police](https://www.sussex.police.uk/notices/pp/philomena-protocol/#:~:text=The%20Philomena%20Protocol%20is%20a,find%20them%20quickly%20and%20safely.)– Children’s Social Care will be implementing the missing person scheme for children in a care setting. It can also be used more widely by families.

If you have any questions, please speak with your line manager. They can feedback any questions and concerns to Operations Managers and Heads of Service.

# When will it be implemented?

Right Care, Right Person will be implemented in 4 phases. Phase 1 – concern for welfare will start **2 April 2024**

# Phase 1 - Concern for welfare

## Continuing Police responsibility – children and families

Right Care, Right Person will complement Sussex Police statutory responsibilities set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cb4349a7ded0000c79e4e1/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf), namely:

* Identification of children who might be at risk from abuse and neglect.
* Investigation of alleged offences against children.
* Inter-agency working and information-sharing to protect children.
* The use of emergency powers to protect children.

Police will always respond and attend to situations relating to police CORE operational duties:

C - Crime suspected/reported

O - Other agency – risk to personnel

R - Real and immediate risk of significant harm to a child

E - Environmental indicators (think public safety, rescue or negotiator)

## Current Police criteria for attending a welfare check

In deciding whether to respond to a request for a welfare check on a child, the Police will follow the guidance outlined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cb4349a7ded0000c79e4e1/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf). They will always attend situations where there is a risk to the life of a child or a likelihood of serious immediate harm.

The Police will not accept responsibility for carrying out checks that do not involve risk to the life of a child or a likelihood of serious immediate harm.

Where risk to a life of a child or likelihood of serious immediate harm is not present, but Sussex Police are required for a specific purpose, they will attend in support of the requesting agency not in place of them. For example, use of warranted powers, and/or a breach of the peace is imminently anticipated.

## Current Emergency Protection Order and Police Protection

If it is necessary to remove a child from their home a local authority must apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO). Police powers conferred by Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 to remove a child in an emergency should be used only in exceptional circumstances. The [Emergency Protection Orders and Police Protection, Child Assessment and Recovery Orders](https://intranet.escc.gov.uk/media/Documents/CS%20-%20Children's%20Social%20Care/Emergency%20Protection%20Orders%20and%20Police%20Protection%20Child%20Assessment%20and%20Recovery%20Orders.docx) operational instructions has further information and guidance.

# Right care, Right Person useful information

[National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-partnership-agreement-right-care-right-person/national-partnership-agreement-right-care-right-person-rcrp#national-support-for-implementation-of-right-care-right-person) – government information on Right Care, Right Person approach

[ASCH Right Care, Right Person Background Information – ESCC Intranet](https://intranet.escc.gov.uk/departments/adult-social-care/working-in-asc/asc-staff-briefings/national-policy-briefings/right-care-right-person/background-information/)