

ESSCP Learning: Child 6 Rapid Review

Background

- In September 2025 the ESSCP Case Review Group asked agencies to undertake a 'rapid review' of information they held about Child six.
- This was following a serious safeguarding incident involving Child 6, who died following a knife injury. Both the victim and alleged perpetrator were under 18 years old and previously known to statutory services.

Why it matters

- Safeguarding Partners agreed that conducting a LCSPR would not provide any significant additional learning. The rapid review had sufficiently drawn out the learning and appropriate actions had been identified to address gaps.
- The purpose of this briefing is to share this learning to support practice improvements and raise awareness of the themes identified by this case.

What to do

The ESSCP invite you to discuss some of the issues raised in this learning briefing in your team meetings or during group supervision.

1. We encourage your responses to be included in team minutes and forwarded to the safeguarding lead in your organisation.
2. When was the last time you used the [Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#)? Did you know you can [sign up](#) for alerts?
3. Review the [East Sussex Learning Portal](#) for the latest multi-agency safeguarding courses.

Child 6 learning

This case highlighted learning with regards to:

- Increased contextual safeguarding risks to vulnerable children during school holidays, education transition periods and during periods when missing education:** The transition period over the school summer holiday resulted in both victim and alleged perpetrator being vulnerable to potential contextual safeguarding risks. [Contextual Safeguarding of Children and Young People](#) outlines the potential risks children may encounter from both adults and peers in external settings and aims to identify and address harm and abuse in all environments where young people interact.
- The statutory agency response to education referrals regarding disclosures of young people being in possession of weapons:** When responding to the school's notification of the alleged perpetrator's disclosure of having weapons at home, school felt that the Police did not initially acknowledge the seriousness of the school's concerns, despite their extensive knowledge of the young person. [Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm](#) are designed to support effective partnership working across different local contexts; providing a common language and framework to better respond to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. **Appropriate referrals to MASH to facilitate informed multi agency assessment and decision making:** Following the disclosure and referral made by the school, the incident should have been referred to MASH, either by SPOA or Sussex Police for informed multi agency assessment and decision making.
- Multi-agency attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences is crucial to allow for a holistic discussion on risk, particularly in relation to contextual safeguarding risks.**

This case also highlighted some examples of best practice, such as the support and interventions put in place to try and reduce the contextual safeguarding concerns, including a SAFER Keyworker. Examples of co-ordinated approaches and joint working to direct the child away from further risk of exploitation. Additionally, the school's supportive response to the child's needs academically and pastorally, with safeguarding as a priority.

