



Annual Report 2017-18

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Foreword from Phil Picton

This report is a summary of Essex Safeguarding Children Board's progress through its multi-agency work in 2017-18. In an area the size of Essex, it is the efforts of many organisations and thousands of professionals and volunteers which keep children safe. The Board ensures that processes are coordinated and it challenges and supports organisations and leaders when necessary.

As you will read in the following pages, the Board's remit is very wide as the factors which put children at risk can arise within families, in communities and through the internet. As a result, each year the Board's leaders prioritise where to put their effort. This report sets out the priorities and achievements for 2017-18.

At the heart of safeguarding work is the role of Essex County Council, Essex Police and NHS organisations including hospitals, mental health services and local doctors. Generally, these partners carry out their safeguarding responsibilities very effectively with high levels of commitment from staff and a willingness to improve.

The County Council's Children's Services have continued to build on their past successes in safeguarding and the policing approach is now much more effective at protecting children as a result of the intensive improvement programme which Essex Police has followed over the past two years. Whilst NHS leaders are equally committed to safeguarding, structural and management change in the Health sector remains a threat. The level and nature of the current changes can disrupt multi-agency links and increase the chances of information about children not being effectively shared. NHS leaders are countering this risk where possible but safeguarding will only become more resilient when the current change programme is fully implemented and leaders are able to bring stability to the system.

In addition to the three core partners, operational safeguarding also relies upon others, such as schools, voluntary groups, probation services and local councils, to effectively share information. There are many examples of this network of professionals providing excellent protection to children and support for families. Particularly pleasing is the willingness of staff in all organisations to be open and keen to learn when children are harmed and the Board's learning and development approach is increasingly using learning from such cases to raise awareness generally.

Foreword from Phil Picton

Following the publication of the new legal framework for multi-agency safeguarding (Working Together 2018) the Board will need to develop its governance and approaches in the coming months. It has already decided to work more closely with safeguarding partners in Southend and Thurrock. This is welcomed, as it should strengthen safeguarding by making processes easier for professionals who work across all three authorities and enabling more effective support for children who receive services from more than one of the areas.

The Board relies heavily on the work of its Business Manager, Alison Cutler, and her team to make progress. Their efforts and competence are very much appreciated by all involved in this multi-agency work and I would like to thank them personally for all the support they offer me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Picton', with a horizontal line underneath.

Phil Picton
ESCB Independent Chair

Foreword from Alison Cutler

This year has been one of continued development of the Board and reviewing our effectiveness. The Board restructure along with the development of a strategic Executive, streamlined Sub-Committees and greater links across to other Boards has helped us to focus our efforts on tackling issues and areas of concern. The biggest change has been the local Stay Safe Groups across each quadrant of Essex moving under the governance of the ESCB. This has linked local and strategic priorities in a much more effective way, enabling front line staff to address multi-agency issues that have been highlighted as a concern, with the support of the Board.

This report focuses on the progress of the Board in addressing safeguarding issues in 2017-18 as measured against its strategic priorities. The report highlights some of the work over the past year as well as challenges going forward.

As always, I would like to thank partners for their support and in particular make mention of the ESCB Business Support Team who have worked so hard with dedication and professionalism to ensure that the Board runs smoothly.



Alison Cutler
Business Manager ESCB



Introduction

This annual report for the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) reviews the work of the Board for the period of April 2017 – March 2018. It does not cover every piece of work carried out by the Board, but instead discusses the impact of the work of the Board in key areas identified in the Business Plan (see [Appendix B](#)), the challenges it has faced over the year and its plans moving forward.

The report includes contributions from partner agencies and has been approved by Board Members.

Essex Overview - Local Context

Essex is a very varied county, comprising both rural and urban areas, and a long coastline. The new towns of Basildon and Harlow contrast with rural villages and coastal towns. Essex has both areas of great affluence and great deprivation, with pockets of high social and economic need, even within otherwise thriving localities.

Is safeguarding a significant issue in Essex?

The vast majority of the 309,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives in 2017-18, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk. For example:

- 9,145 children were referred to Children's Services during the year because someone had a concern about a risk of abuse or neglect. Police (27%), schools (17%) and their own family members (8%) were most notable in making these contacts. 87% of these cases (over 7,900) were felt to need a Child and Family Assessment by Children's Services. While the proportion of referrals progressing to assessment has remained relatively stable over the last two years, the volume of referrals is at its lowest level since pre-2012 and follows the downwards trend seen in Essex for the last three years. This is against the trend seen by our statistical neighbours and nationally, which saw numbers starting to rise again in 2016-17.

Essex Overview - Local Context

- Investigations of child exploitation involved 166 Essex children with 72 of these being considered as high risk. Since October 2017 the numbers of children identified as at risk has remained stable, following a 60% increase between April 17 and Sept 17. It is believed that this increase occurred due to a change in the way Children & Families record 'child exploitation risk' with the introduction of recording children at risk of criminal exploitation as well as sexual exploitation. This acknowledges a growing threat locally and nationally in respect of children exploited by gangs and County Lines.
- All children are vulnerable to exploitation and harm when they go missing from home, but some children are identified as at risk of exploitation and harm during their missing episode. Across the year 552 children were reported missing – 33% of them were 'looked after children', equating to 14% of all children in care during the year. This is a slight increase from the volume seen in 2016-17 (547 missing, 35% looked after: 13% of all children in care) and above the national average of 10% (2016-17). 132 children had a noted risk of exploitation during their missing episode (24%).



The vast majority of the 309,000 children in Essex led healthy, safe lives in 2017-18, but a small minority faced challenges in their life and family circumstances which puts their wellbeing and safety at considerable risk.



- National estimates show 1 in every 5 children is exposed to domestic abuse by the age of 18. Essex Police recorded over 13,000 domestic abuse crimes in the year, many involved children as witnesses or in the household at the time of abuse. As per the national picture, this is a further increase in the annual volume of domestic abuse crimes recorded, which has been increasing for the last four years due to the work being undertaken to increase the number of victims who disclose abuse to services. While volumes are increasing, the proportion of Domestic Abuse crimes as a percentage of all crimes is equal to the overall picture across England and Wales at 11% (2016-17).
- Family issues significantly add to the levels of stress and anxiety for children, affecting their mental wellbeing. 25% of Essex households have children under 5 in a household where family members have self-diagnosed with depression or stress.

The Board

Statutory Duties

The Board exists as a statutory body and has a range of roles including reviewing child deaths, undertaking serious case reviews, developing policies, procedures and scrutinising and challenging local safeguarding practice, taking into account the local challenges.

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and;
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for these purposes.

ESCB Structure

The role of the Safeguarding Children Board is to have an independent coordinating and challenge role around safeguarding practice across its partner agencies. This is in part carried out by the Sub-Committees of the ESCB, which are:

- **Child Death Overview Panel (statutory)**
- **Serious Case Review (statutory)**
- **Learning and Development (joint with Adults Board)**
- **Communications (virtual - joint with Adults Board)**
- **Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance**
- **Policies and Procedures**
- **Child Exploitation and Missing**

The Board also has links with two other partner forums, Health Executive Forum and City, District, and Borough (CDB) Councils Group, where leaders meet to discuss safeguarding issues.



The Board

a) Health Executive Forum

At a strategic level, the co-ordination of the safeguarding responsibilities for the large number of health organisations in Essex is achieved through the Health Executive Forum (HEF). This meets six times per year and brings together all the health agency executive safeguarding children and adult leads from across Essex, which since early 2016 has included representatives from NHS Southend and NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

The HEF provides a forum to take forward initiatives to support the safeguarding agenda in Essex and, led by the Accountable Officer, Castle Point & Rochford CCG, is the key health leadership forum for safeguarding in Essex. Selected HEF members also sit on the ESCB and the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB).

b) City, District and Borough (CDB) Councils Group

This group is formed of safeguarding leads from each of the local councils in Essex and meets quarterly to discuss safeguarding issues for both Adults and Children and share good practice. Its areas of work are closely aligned to that of the strategic priorities of the Adult and Children's Boards.

ESCB Stay Safe Groups

Locally, Stay Safe Groups across each quadrant moved under governance of the ESCB this year in order to strengthen the links between strategic and local safeguarding. This has allowed a two-way flow of information from the groups to the Board, allowing those working locally to tackle areas of concern with the full support of the ESCB.

Stay Safe Groups are made up of a wide range of designated and named professionals or managers with safeguarding responsibilities including 0-19 services, schools, acute and primary health providers, local council representatives, voluntary sector, etc. The Board is not prescriptive about who leads or attends the group other than expecting that managers from the key statutory agencies (police, social care and health managers) actively participate and encourage involvement.

The Stay Safe Groups focus on improving local outcomes as well as highlighting potential 'bigger' issues/risks to the ESCB Executive Board.

The Board

Governance Review

The ESCB undertook a governance review following publication of the [Children and Social Work Act](#) which received Royal Assent in May 2017.

The Act removes the LSCB statutory framework, replacing it with new requirements for specific partners to establish multi-agency safeguarding arrangements from 2019. Supporting regulations and “Working Together 2018” statutory guidance are anticipated in June 2018.

The ESCB agreed that the Board should be reviewed to ensure that it continues to provide effective multi-agency arrangements and to be prepared for when the new statutory guidance is published. The focus of this review was to ensure that there is an effective linkage between local and strategic work and have a structure in place that enables progress to be made in tackling key areas of concern.

The revised structure of the Board including its Sub-Committees can be accessed in [Appendix A](#) and attendance of Board Members can be found in [Appendix C](#).

The governance review was designed to:

1) Replace the existing Board structure with a ‘bottom up’ approach based on:

- a. Quadrant Based Stay Safe Groups becoming part of the ESCB and driving the ESCB agenda**
- b. Involving a broader range of safeguarding partners meeting in an ESCB Assembly**
- c. An ESCB Strategic Executive accountable to the Assembly and partner forums/ groups**
- d. ESCB Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups accountable to the Executive**

2) Ensure the function of the Board enables greater accountability of executive members focussing on understanding and tackling risks and utilising opportunities to promote and develop safeguarding practice.

Progress of this review will be monitored during the year and any changes made as required, especially once the new Working Together is published in 2018.

The Board

Future Statutory Arrangements

The new Working Together guidance arising from the Children and Social Work Act will be published during 2018. It is proposed all new arrangements will be in place by September 2019. The ESCB will be working with partners as well as Southend and Thurrock Boards over the coming year to review current arrangements and plan for any changes.

ESCB Strategic Priorities – what we did in 2017-18

The ESCB Business Plan focussed on four key strategic priorities for 2017–18:

- **The Local Safeguarding Context - The ESCB and partner agencies prioritise improvement in areas and on issues of greatest risk and concern to safeguarding**
- **Early Help and Early Intervention**
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**
- **Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership**

These priorities were agreed by the Board based on key areas of work arising from feedback about local practice, learning from case reviews, and national priorities. Subsequently much work has been done during the year at all levels by the Board, partner agencies, the local Stay Safe groups and the ESCB Sub-Committees and achieved with a standstill budget. The details of the budget can be accessed at [Appendix D](#).

The following section outlines the progress that has been made across these strategic priorities over the year.

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

The ESCB worked on a number of areas under this priority over the year. In particular child sexual abuse and exploitation remained an area of concern. Other areas of focus included working with other Boards on issues affecting families, such as domestic abuse and building capacity across local councils to deal with safeguarding concerns.

Online Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) campaign

The 'I Didn't Know' Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) campaign was initially set up in 2016 to provide the community with knowledge and understanding of CSE and raise awareness across the wider Essex area. For the 2018 National CSE Awareness Day a campaign was developed alongside Essex Police, to focus on online child sexual abuse.

The threat of abuse is a serious one, online abuse is present in over 60% of investigations across Essex in respect of CSE. The campaign aimed to:

- raise awareness of privacy settings on apps,
- provide tips and advice regarding online safety,
- provide advice to parents on what to do if they have concerns,
- provide advice to children on what to do if they are worried about something they have seen or been asked to do online.

I DIDN'T KNOW

....that my daughter was sharing inappropriate images on Snapchat

Take steps to make your child's social media secure by visiting:
essex.police.uk/onlineCSE

ESSEX SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD
ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Resources created as part of the campaign included parent case studies, graphics and quotes, links for information and support, resources to use with children and young people (aged 8–13 years) and resources for parents. Essex Police and the ESCB also ran a social media campaign which reached over 500,000 people. The week of campaign activity saw a total of 7,099 visitors to the ESCB website, almost double the usual hits and the [campaign webpage](#) itself received 1913 hits - over 25% of the total traffic to the website. The campaign made some local and regional press coverage and the Snapchat stories by Essex Police were viewed by young people across Essex with screenshots taken of how to access support.



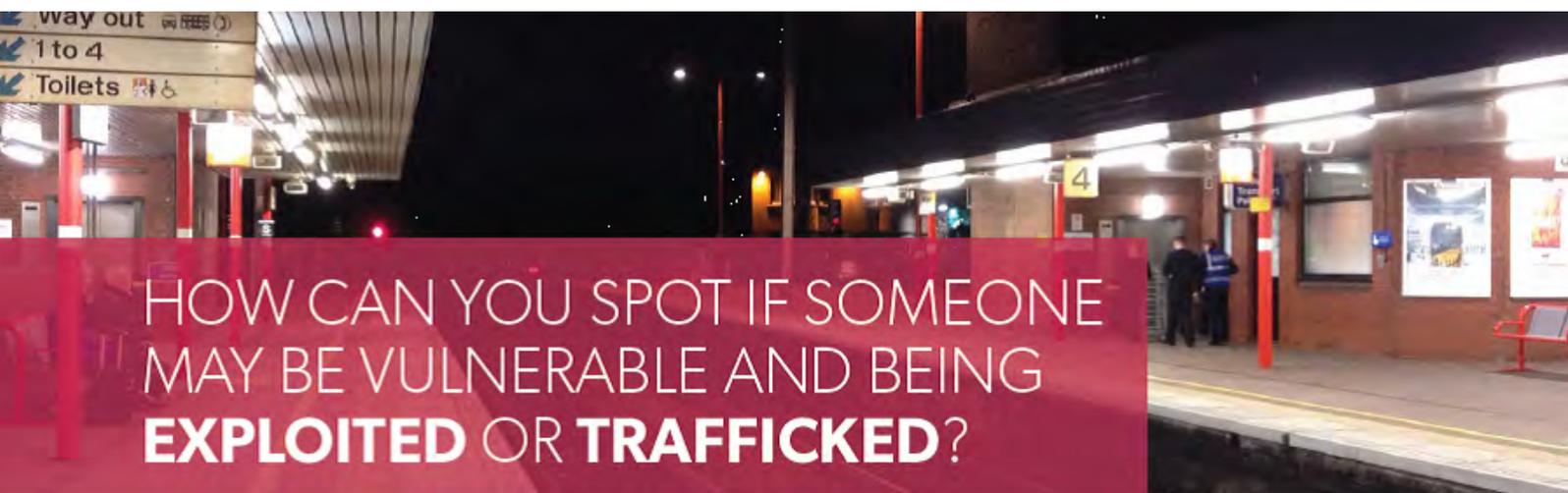
Essex Police and the ESCB also ran a social media campaign which reached over 500,000 people.



Operation Henderson CSE Campaign

The ESCB coordinated a multi-agency pilot project focusing on child exploitation across Essex railway networks, which local district and borough councils supported within their areas. There were two weeks of targeted activities from 29th January-11th February 2018. Prior to the two weeks, a new role for station staff of Child Exploitation and Trafficking Transport Network Advisors was created.

Operation Henderson covered Epping Forest, Braintree and Basildon incorporating all stations within these areas, with the aim to raise awareness and identification of child exploitation and trafficking with rail staff, rail retail outlets, businesses close to stations and the public.



Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

As part of the social media campaign, three videos were created each targeted to a different audience; commuters, children and young people, and railway staff. The campaign was covered in local media outlets including a radio interview on BBC Essex. There was an [Operation Henderson webpage](#) set up as part of the ESCB website which received 334 views during the two weeks. The ESCB website overall received 1137 viewings during the targeted two week campaign. Social media reach was more than 290,000 and almost 200 more people liked the ESCB Facebook page during the two week campaign period bringing our total followers to 735. The videos were watched more than 27,000 times with the community video being the most watched with more than 12,000 views during the campaign period. The young person video got almost 9000 views and the worker video almost 6000 views.

Raising Awareness to the public and young people

95,534 People reached Online	78,000 homes reached
Radio Listeners of BBC Essex Drive Time	27,000 video views
1,137 hits on the ESCB website	292,500 people reached through Social Media in Total
590 people engaged by Outreach Workers	
334 conversations/contacts with the public	



Feedback to outreach workers included:

“Good to see you here, even if just one person texts it could save someone” (Public)

“As a small local business they felt able to play an important part in addressing issues around exploitation” (Outreach worker speaking to local business)

“The videos were watched more than 27,000 times with the community video being the most watched with more than 12,000 views during the campaign period. The young person video got almost 9000 views and the worker video almost 6000 views.”

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) schools and workforce survey

The CSE schools survey in 2018 helped gain a real understanding of young people's awareness of CSE and online safety, 1,875 pupils (753 Year 6 and 1,122 Year 8 pupils) took part in the survey. Views have been aggregated, reported and shared across schools, through Missing and Child Exploitation meetings and the ESCB Child Exploitation and Missing Sub-Committee to inform future action plans. Quarterly ESCB CSE blogs and bulletins have provided a mechanism for distributing learning from these surveys, such as the need to promote the use of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 CSE learning resources within schools and are made available via the ESCB website.

A priority of the ESCB Child Exploitation and Missing Sub-Committee during 2017–18 was to capture the views of others and use this to inform practice, training and development opportunities and future strategic plans. A whole workforce survey was delivered in 2017 which was complemented by a number of Social Work Forums to capture an understanding of the workforce confidence in identification, response, service delivery and intervention.

Following on from this survey and a learning and development review of CSE training across Essex organisations, a set of Learning and Development Standards were created for organisations to adopt and an advanced level training course on CSE has been commissioned via the NWG CSE Response Unit for 2018-19. The survey has also influenced the direction and delivery of CSE Champion Forums topics, such as 'Working with Parents as secondary victims' and 'Working with Children and Young People at risk of CSE' to provide specialist insight on areas where greater confidence was required. The Working with Children and Young People session was jointly delivered by the ECC Involvement Service and a group of young people, which enabled clearer and more direct messages from the young people themselves – specifically about the use of language and the consequence of 'judgements'.



The survey has also influenced the direction and delivery of CSE Champion Forums topics, such as 'Working with Parents as secondary victims' and 'Working with Children and Young People at risk of CSE' to provide specialist insight on areas where greater confidence was required.



Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) schools and workforce survey

The CSE Champions role across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) was reviewed during 2016 with a refreshed look at how to ensure the quality of the role. The workforce survey outlined how valued the CSE Champion role was by the workforce so throughout 2017-18 a new set of standards have been implemented for CSE Champions to achieve prior to adopting this role, this includes the need for all Champions to have completed an online course around the SET CSE Toolbox and risk assessment. Champions are now up to date and are expected to attend at least one forum a year to ensure that they are up to date with relevant and specialist topics. There are over 300 CSE Champions across a range of statutory, private and voluntary organisations within Essex alone. This will help agencies to further support those children and young people at risk of exploitation.



There are over 300 CSE Champions across a range of statutory, private and voluntary organisations within Essex alone.



Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

SET Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Foster Carers, Children’s Homes / Sub-Committee expansion

The SET CSE Strategic Group has led on the creation, implementation and delivery of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and planning for missing to enable early planning for children who go missing from care, and those deemed at risk of exploitation. The MOU and planning for missing has been rolled out across SET during 2017 and is now under review to establish the impact of this work. The SET CSE Strategic Group met with key care home providers, including Semi-Independent Accommodations to discuss the implementation of the MOU and identify any early challenges with this.

The work of the ESCB Child Exploitation and Missing Sub-Committee saw a shift in early 2017 with a need to focus more broadly on threats of exploitation to children and young people. This is due to a developing understanding of criminal exploitation including the threat from gang association and County Lines. This shift has been influenced from a greater understanding of what is known about how children are exploited within Essex through understanding issues affecting frontline services, hearing the views of families and challenges for frontline practitioners, and through the role of the Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings in overseeing and tackling local threats. A bi-annual report is provided to the Sub-Committee and this has identified that throughout 2017-18 information sharing across partners and an understanding of criminal exploitation has improved, with greater focus on methods of exploitation (such as cuckooing, debt bondage, and coercion of drug supply).



Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

SET Child Protection procedures

The ESCB works in collaboration with Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Boards to produce and update the SET Child Protection procedures to comply with legislative and statutory guidance, as well as key learning from local and national case reviews as required.

This year the main updates were around Child Sexual Exploitation, and the publication of the SET Police Protection protocol and Presentation of Concealed, Denied or Late Booking in Pregnancy.

Working with the other Boards to identify cross-cutting issues

The ESCB supported the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Domestic Abuse Board with organising the Domestic Abuse Conference in November 2017, which 168 people attended from a wide range of agencies. Feedback was very positive 92% rated their overall experience of the conference as good, very good or excellent and 96% felt the aims of the conference were met. Such events enable those working with families to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and thus better support those experiencing domestic abuse in the family. The ESCB is planning joint learning events in the coming year with the SET Domestic Abuse Board as well as the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board, in order to build on cross cutting issues and further embed learning arising from case reviews across all three Boards. This will help to develop a greater awareness of the importance of taking a holistic view of the family when safeguarding children and young people.

Team Around the Family (TAF)

The local Stay Safe conferences which ran in 2017 all included a workshop that focussed on Team Around the Family, again highlighting the need for agencies to work with the family as a whole.



The ESCB is planning joint learning events in the coming year with the SET Domestic Abuse Board as well as the Essex Safeguarding Adult Board, in order to build on cross cutting issues and further embed learning arising from case reviews across all three Boards.



Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention

Building knowledge and capacity across local councils

Local e-learning training to develop awareness of safeguarding - The 12 City, District and Borough (CDB) members developed bespoke e-learning packages for their own authorities and worked with the ESCB Learning and Development Manager to produce an Enhanced Training programme, which they have also adapted to suit their respective areas. This enables staff locally to gain a fuller understanding of safeguarding and thus be better equipped to support children, young people and their families and know who and where to refer any safeguarding concerns.

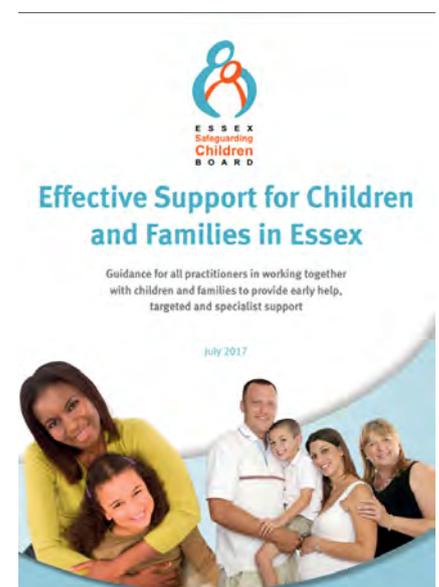
Appointment of new Safeguarding Officers within Local Authorities - Through the advocacy of the CDB group three Local Authorities in Essex recruited to new safeguarding roles within their organisations. This will enable local councils to be able to effectively respond locally to safeguarding concerns. The ESCB continues to highlight the importance of early intervention and early help across agencies, including raising awareness of the Effective Support for Children and Families document, and learning from serious case reviews (and other types of reviews).

The learning from these case reviews was shared through a series of multi-agency practice workshops across the County and a [learning briefing](#) was published.

Effective Support document and briefing sessions

The [Effective Support for Children and Families document](#) was updated to reflect current practice and re-launched in July 2017. Four launch events were held across the county, supported by the Stay Safe groups, and 158 front line staff across various agencies attended - the highest number of attendees were from Education (39%).

Evaluations were completed by 121 attendees and a large number had increased their confidence in understanding the importance of recording consent, why it is required and in relation to the use of early help plans. This will help support staff in understanding how to intervene in families at an early stage to improve outcomes for children and young people.



Strategic Priority 2: Early Help and Early Intervention

Impact of the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to reduce Sudden Unexplained Deaths of Infants (SUDIs)

Between 2014-16 there was a rise in the number of sudden unexplained deaths of infants where co-sleeping or sleep surface was noted as a modifiable factor in Essex and Thurrock.

Apr 2014 to Mar 2015 – 10 deaths

Apr 2015 to Mar 2016 – 9 deaths

Apr 2016 to Mar 2017 – 12 deaths

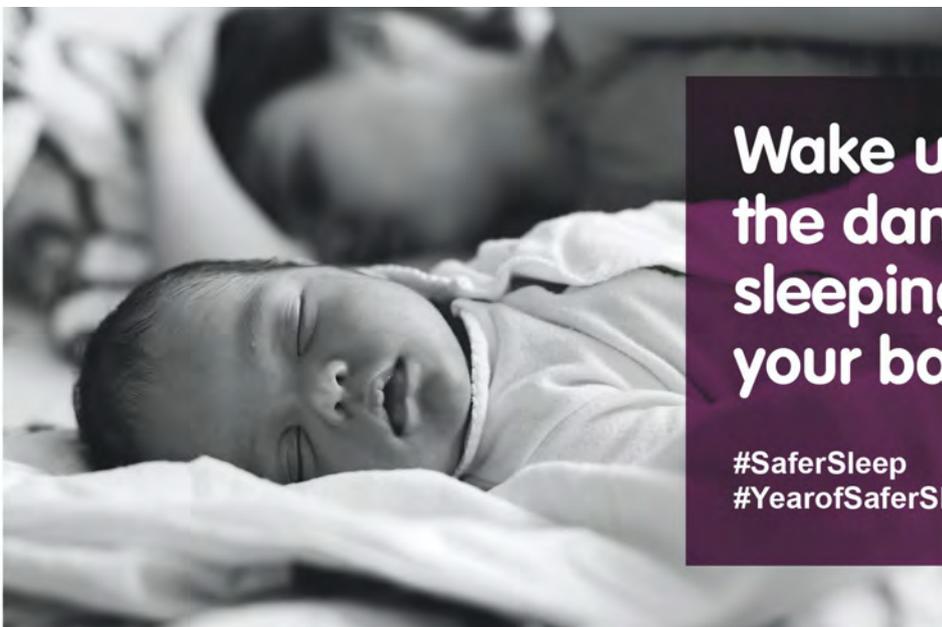


The impact of this high level campaign has been considerable. The number of notifications of SUDI deaths where co-sleeping or sleep surface was a factor fell in the year 2017-18 to four cases. There have been no SUDI deaths in SET areas in the year 2018-19 to date.



As a result, the Strategic Child Death Overview Panel (SCDOP) launched a Safer Sleeping campaign which ran for a fortnight between 12th-23rd June 2017. A series of campaign posters were designed to provide more emotive impact and also included specific targeting of fathers. The campaign focused on social media promotion to increase public reach. During the campaign period there were 770 webpage views, a substantial increase on what would normally be expected on that page.

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**Wake up to
the dangers of
sleeping with
your baby...**

#SaferSleep
#YearofSaferSleep

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Thematic review of teenage suicides

Following a rise in the number of teenage suicides in Essex in 2017, the Strategic Child Death Overview Panel requested a Thematic Review be undertaken. The review considered eight cases of young people aged 13 to 17 years and one case of a young person who was just over 18 years but still in full-time education. The learning from this review once completed, will be shared widely including via a conference for strategic leads as well as to local areas via the Stay Safe Groups – this will take place over the summer of 2018. This review will also inform further work aimed at supporting the wellbeing of young people. The ESCB as part of this work has refreshed its [schools toolkit on suicide prevention](#) in order to support schools in their work to promote emotional wellbeing. This is further supported by a [wellbeing website](#). The ESCB continues to work with partners in promoting the wellbeing of young people by promoting useful websites and organisations.



The ESCB as part of this work has refreshed its schools toolkit on suicide prevention in order to support schools in their work to promote emotional wellbeing. This is further supported by a wellbeing website.



Communication activities around Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

An [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health page](#) has been set up on the ESCB website, which includes information on the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Information Portal for Schools, online counselling services such as [Kooth](#), [Big White Wall](#) and various signposting resources.

Social media posts around Kooth and Big White Wall always perform highly, showing a need for this information locally. December in particular saw a large increase in activity around the posts about Kooth online counselling service and Big White Wall. The Facebook post in particular reached more than 22,000 people.

These statistics have shown potential for future campaign work, which will be developed in 2018-19 to coincide with National Suicide Prevention Day.

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing



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Monitoring the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services

The Health Executive Forum has monitored the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for Children and Young People to ensure effective arrangements for the delivery of the service and support the agenda to reduce self-harm and prevent suicide. Health leads have contributed to the Essex thematic review of suicides to have a better understanding in respect of vulnerability, stress factors, indicators of risk and whether anything could have been done differently which may have helped prevent such tragic outcomes. Work will continue during 2018-19 to reduce child deaths through suicide. Challenges remain about how best to support children and young people when there is increased pressure on mental health services nationally for young people.

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

It is important that the ESCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the safeguarding work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.

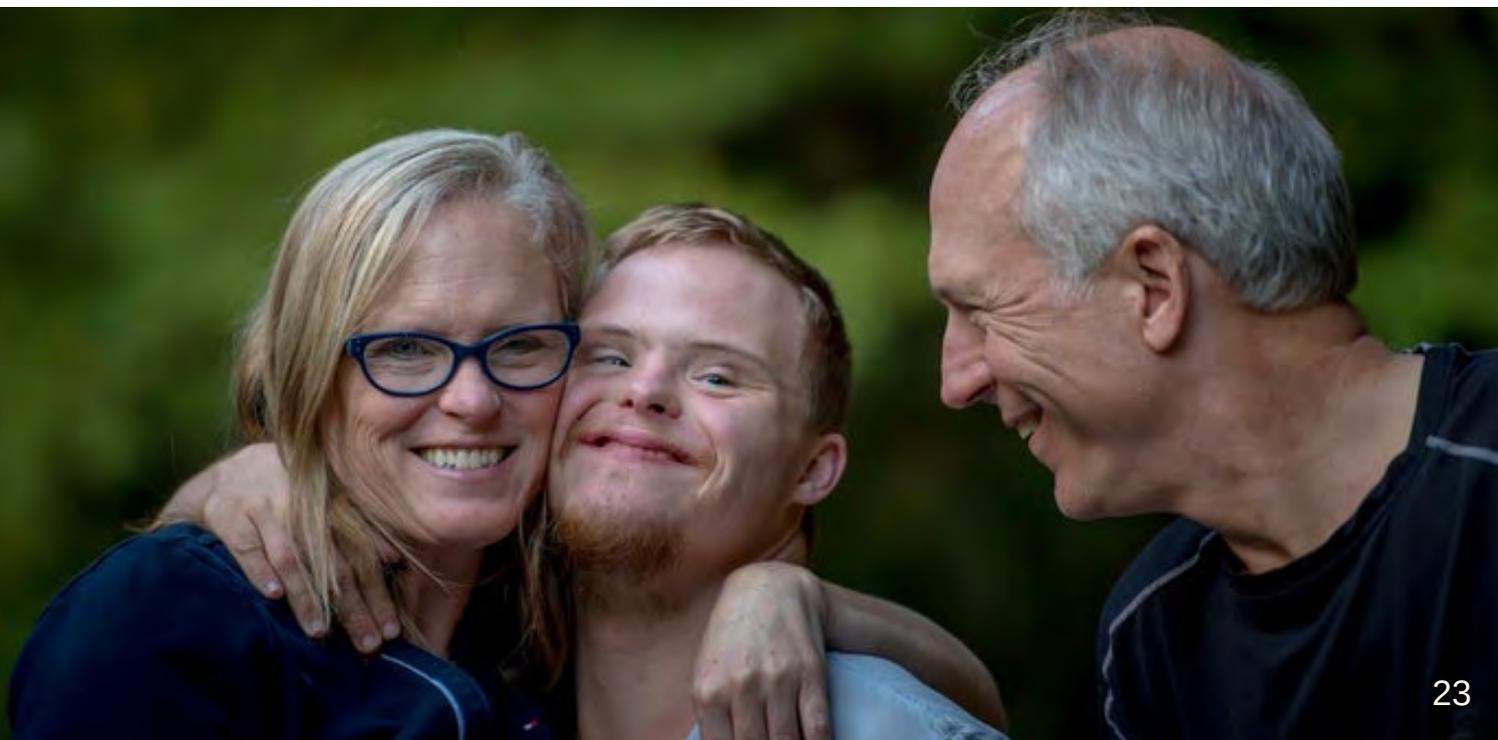
As such, we continue to involve young people and their families in developing resources, learning where we might need to focus efforts in improving services and ensuring we speak to families to obtain their views when we are reviewing cases. For example:

Involvement of Young People in CSE campaigns

The development of the I Didn't Know campaign was routed from the film created by the Children In Care Council in 2016, further developments of this campaign have been supported through the participation of children and young people in the language and graphics used.

Voice of families – workshops in West Essex

Three families who worked with the Family Solutions Team volunteered to present their stories to front line staff in West Essex about their positive experiences of being supported by services that had enabled them to make positive sustained changes in their lives. They delivered six workshops in total in West Essex which were well received by those attending.



Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Safeguarding children with disabilities training

The ESCB has been supporting the delivery of a strengths based approach to child protection conferences and core groups for children with disabilities as it had been identified that there was a lower than expected number of children with disabilities subject to a child protection plan. In addition, the ESCB have commissioned a local organisation to pilot two half day courses on safeguarding children with disabilities, this course focusses on the early identification of need and supporting families. These courses will be delivered in 2018-19.

Regional and national work

The ESCB also assists in supporting other areas for example the ESCB Business Manager is the chair of the Regional Business Managers Group, looking at areas where the LSCBs might work together to develop regional solutions to issues of concern, such as the mental health of young people. The ESCB Child Exploitation Project Manager is an Advisory Board Member for the national Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation, representing the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). This involves attending Advisory Board Meetings quarterly and advising and supporting as required, including linking with ADCS where relevant topics of interest are highlighted.



Three family solution volunteers presented their stories and the positive experience they had of being supported by services that enabled them to make positive sustained changes in their lives.



Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Improvement work – supporting other LSCBs

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Strategic Child Death Overview Panel has received requests to share its Child Death Review and Rapid Response processes with other LSCBs as examples of good practice.

The ESCB Child Exploitation Project Manager has undertaken diagnostic work within LSCB and Children's Social Care settings in other Local Authorities to review their work in relation to children missing and children at risk of CSE. This has included working with Somerset LSCB, Birmingham Children's Social Care and Gloucestershire, providing recommendations for addressing challenges and areas of risk, and highlighting areas of good practice. The Business Manager has also supported these LSCBs in areas such as learning and development and business planning and improvement.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) dissemination of learning

Learning from completed Child Death Reviews during 2017 has been shared across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) areas in relation to the following topics:-

- Recognition of sepsis
- Post-operative cardiac death
- Maternal congenital infection
- Issuing of Death Certificate without Post Mortem

The aim of this sharing of learning is to help prevent deaths in the future.

Co-operation with other Child Death Overview Panel areas

In the event of a child normally resident in another area dying in Essex, the Strategic Child Death Overview Panel works closely with the area where the child was resident (who would have responsibility to carry out the Child Death Review). For example, in the case of a child who died within Essex following an accident on a bouncy castle in 2016. Learning from the review will be shared with SET SCDOP.

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Developing new ways of working

The ESCB constantly strive to improve the way that partners work together, for example Stay Safe groups are trialling forums where Health and Social Care professionals come together to discuss practice issues and concerns where professional opinions differ around particular cases in order to find solutions.

Communication activities to raise awareness of safeguarding

Regular communications activities continue to raise awareness of safeguarding and the work of the Board, including having a presence at various events such as the SET Domestic Abuse Conference and Stay Safe events.

There has been an average of 15,700 total hits to the ESCB website each month, 250 new Twitter followers with 1700 reached by the end of 2017-18 and Facebook followers have doubled in the last year to more than 800, largely due to the success of recent CSE campaigns. ESCB Bulletins continue to run, with training and CSE taking a lead in recent months. Due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) a number of subscribers were lost so a challenge for 2018-19 will be to build our list of subscribers.

Engagement with the voluntary sector

There is a recognition that the ESCB needs to continue to build links with the voluntary sector.

However, 47% of attendees at the ESCB multi-agency level 2 safeguarding course are from the voluntary sector, showing good engagement. The ESCB Practice Development Manager attends the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services cluster meetings which are run quarterly and also presented a workshop at the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services conference in Oct 2017. The Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services representative is also helping the Board with plans for the changes under the Children and Social Care Act as we recognise the vital role the sector plays in supporting children, young people and their families.

Summary and Next Steps

This report has set out some of the many activities that the ESCB has been engaged in over the year and the impact of these. There remains as always more to do and this is a challenge given limited resources, organisational restructures amongst partner agencies and the future changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the impact of this on Essex. We will however, look to build on progress made this year as we move forward to develop our new arrangements in line with the new legislation – this will certainly include working even more closely with other Boards across Southend and Thurrock as well as more widely across the Eastern region. Some areas of work will continue to require a robust multi-partnership focus. This will include the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people, tackling all forms of child exploitation, the impact of gangs and neglect – these will remain priorities for the Board in 2018-19.



Glossary

ESCB - Essex Safeguarding Children Board

ESAB – Essex Safeguarding Adult Board

HEF – Health Executive Forum

CDB – City, District and Borough Group

CDOP / SCDOP – Child Death Overview Panel / Strategic Child Death Overview Panel

CDR – Child Death Review

SCR – Serious Case Review

PAQA – Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

MACE – Missing and Child Exploitation

LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board

CSE / CE – Child Sexual Exploitation / Child Exploitation

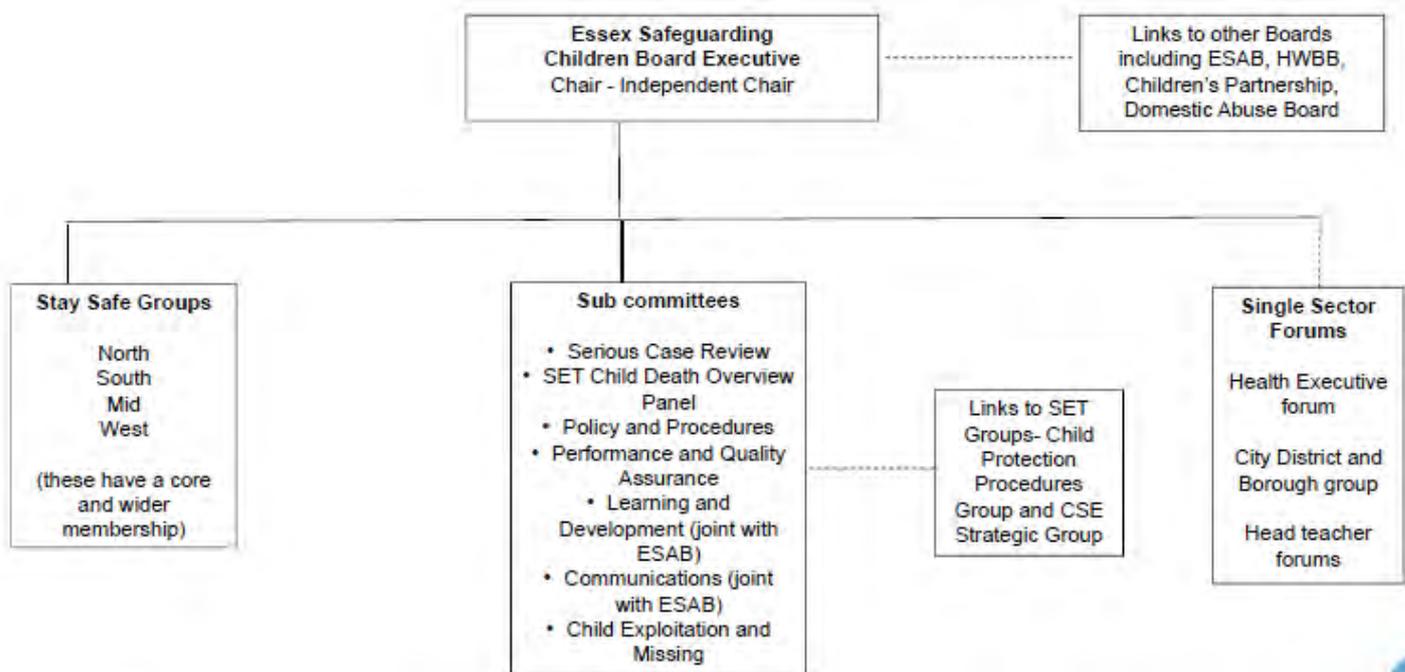
EWMHS – Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service

ECVYS - Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Appendices

Appendix A - [ESCB Structure](#)

ESCB STRUCTURE CHART – August 2018



ESCB ASSEMBLY INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM ABOVE GROUPS AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES AND MEETS 2 – 3 TIMES A YEAR TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE SAFEGUARDING ISSUES



Appendices

Appendix B - [ESCB Business Plan](#)

Appendix C - Board and Sub-Committee Attendance

ESCB Board Meeting and Executive

There was one final full Board meeting on 15th June 2017, which was held just after the first meeting of the ESCB Executive (10th May 2017). Of the 56 partners invited to the Board meeting, 33 (59%) attended. This is an increase of 9% when compared to the average Board attendance for the previous reporting year, 2016-17.

The ESCB Executive met on four occasions in the reporting year for 2017-18. The Independent Chair was in attendance for all four meetings.



Appendices

Executive Members (those in bold are statutory members)	Meetings Attended	Apologies Received	% Attendance
Community Rehabilitation Company	4/4	n/a	100%
City, Borough and District Council representative	3/4	1	75%
ECC - Children & Families	4/4	n/a	100%
ECC – Education	0/2	2	0%
Education – Primary	4/4	n/a	100%
Education – Secondary	3/4	1	75%
Education – Special	2/2	n/a	100%
Essex Police	4/4	n/a	100%
Health – CCGs	4/4	n/a	100%
Health – NELFT (EWMHS)	2/4	2	50%
Health – Virgin Care Ltd	4/4	n/a	100%
Legal Services (ECC)	4/4	n/a	100%
National Probation Service	4/4	n/a	100%
Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	1/4	3	25%

Statutory Partners' Attendance Comparison - When comparing 2016-17 to 2017-18 data, there is almost no change in attendance as all three agencies – Police, Health, Essex County Council Children & Families – have maintained their attendance at 100%.

Themes - The themes of the Executive meetings have been as follows:

10th May 2017 - Governance implementation

7th September 2017 - Neglect, audits and learning and development

6th December 2017 - Child exploitation and gangs

8th March 2018 - Strategic Priority 3: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Appendices

Sub-Committees - There are six active Sub-Committees of the ESCB: Child Exploitation and Missing; Learning and Development; Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance; Policy Procedures and Practice Development; Serious Case Review; and, Strategic Child Death Overview Panel (SCDOP).

	Frequency	No. of meetings 2017-2018	Membership	Average attendance 2017-2018
Child Exploitation and Missing	Bi-monthly (now quarterly in 2018)	6	23-25	16 (64-70%)
Learning and Development (joint with ESAB)	Quarterly	4	29-31	14 (45-48%)
Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance	Bi-monthly	4	16-17	11 (65-69%)
Policy, Procedures and Practice Development (virtual)*	Quarterly	0	11	n/a
Serious Case Review Sub-Committee	Quarterly, and extraordinary meetings when required	4	11	9 (82%)
Child Death Overview Panel	Quarterly	4	18-19	10 (53-56%)
Communications (virtual and joint with ESAB) **	Virtual -updates as required	0	14-15	n/a

*Policies & Procedures Sub-Committee is a virtual group and had zero meetings because priority has been given to updating the SET child protection procedures.

**Communications Sub-Committee is a virtual group and updates are sent to the group for information and comment as required throughout the year.

Appendices

Appendix D - Finance

How much did ESCB's work cost in 2017-18?

The Board's work is funded by partner contributions and a small training income. In 2017-18 contributions totalled £384,000. The work was achieved within that budget. The contributing agencies were:

Contributing Partner	£
CAFCASS	550
City, District and Borough Councils (1,210 each)	14,520
Community Rehabilitation Company	5,082
Essex County Council	213,166
Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	66,426
National Probation Service	2,415
NHS Basildon & Brentwood CCG	12,555
NHS Castle Point & Rochford CCG	7,705
NHS Mid Essex CCG	16,142
NHS North East Essex CCG	17,337
NHS West Essex CCG	12,687

(In addition, Thurrock and Southend Councils contribute £5,551 each towards the cost of the Child Death Review process which involves all three areas).

