

# Public Document Pack

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25 February 2020

## Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the committee will be held at **10.30 am** on **Wednesday, 4 March 2020** at **County Hall, Chichester**.

**Tony Kershaw**  
Director of Law and Assurance

**The meeting will be available to view live via the Internet at this address:**

<http://www.westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

### Agenda

- 10.30 am    1.    **Declarations of Interests**
- Members and officers must declare any pecuniary or personal interest in any business on the agenda. They should also make declarations at any stage such an interest becomes apparent during the meeting. Consideration should be given to leaving the meeting if the nature of the interest warrants it. If in doubt please contact Democratic Services before the meeting.
- 10.30 am    2.    **Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee** (Pages 5 - 12)
- The Committee is asked to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 (cream paper).
- 10.30 am    3.    **Urgent Matters**
- Items not on the agenda which the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances, including cases where the Committee needs to be informed of budgetary or performance issues affecting matters within its terms of reference, which have emerged since the publication of the agenda.
- 10.30 am    4.    **Responses to Recommendations** (Pages 13 - 14)
- The Committee is asked to note the responses to recommendations made at the 4 December 2019 meeting from

the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

10.35 am 5. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 15 - 32)

Extract from the Forward Plan dated 19 February 2020 – attached.

An extract from any Forward Plan published between the date of despatch of the agenda and the date of the meeting will be tabled at the meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to enquire into any of the forthcoming decisions within its portfolio.

10.45 am 6. **Children First Improvement Update** (Pages 33 - 42)

Report by Executive Director of Children, Young People and Learning.

The report updates the Committee on developments in the Children First programme since its last update in January.

11.45 am 7. **West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report** (Pages 43 - 92)

Report by the Independent Chair of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board.

The Committee is asked to consider the report, and to comment on whether any further scrutiny is required.

12.15 pm 8. **Business Planning Group Report** (Pages 93 - 98)

The report informs the Committee of the Business Planning Group meeting held on 21 February 2020, setting out the key issues discussed.

The Committee is asked to endorse the contents of this report, and particularly the Committee's Work Programme revised to reflect the Business Planning Group's discussions (attached at Appendix A).

12.25 pm 9. **Possible Items for Future Scrutiny**

Members to mention any items which they believe to be of relevance to the business of the Scrutiny Committee, and suitable for scrutiny, e.g. raised with them by constituents arising from central government initiatives etc.

If any member puts forward such an item, the Committee's role at this meeting is just to assess, briefly, whether to refer the matter to its Business Planning Group (BPG) to consider in

detail.

12.40 pm 10. **Requests for Call-In** (Pages 99 - 100)

The Committee is asked to note the reasons for the rejection of the decision call-in request made in January 2020 relating to the reorganisation of rural and small schools in West Sussex.

12.45 pm 11. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 7 April 2020 at 14.00 at County Hall, Chichester.

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the meeting must notify the Director of Law and Assurance by 26 March 2020.

### **To all members of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee**

#### **Webcasting**

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the County Council's website on the internet - at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training purposes by the Council.

Generally the public gallery is not filmed. However, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

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## **Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee**

9 January 2020 – At a meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee held at 10.00 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Barling (Chairman)

Ms Lord	Mrs Jones	Mrs Roberts
Mr Baldwin	Mr Lea	Mrs Ryan
Mrs Burgess	Ms Sudan	Mr Cristin
Ms Flynn	Mr Wickremaratchi	
Mr Hillier, arrived at 10.20am	Mr Lozzi, arrived at 10.10am	

Apologies were received from Mrs Bridges and Mrs Hall

Also in attendance: Mr Fitzjohn, Mr Jupp, Mr Marshall, Dr O'Kelly, Mrs Russell and Mrs Urquhart

### **52. Declarations of Interests**

52.1 In accordance with the code of conduct, Mr Lea declared a personal interest in item 5 (Forward Plan of Key Decisions), item 6 (School Funding) as a member of Mid Sussex District Council.

### **53. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee**

53.1 The following amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 were agreed: -

- Page 9, bullet point two to read "Members familiar to the site agreed the fabric of the buildings and facilities were poor and totally unfit for purpose."
- Section 49.5, a sixth recommendation to be added - "Requests that the Business Planning Group consider, for each meeting of this committee, bringing forth an update on Woodland's Meed to that committee meeting."

### **54. Responses to Recommendations**

54.1 The Committee considered responses to recommendations made at its last meeting from Mr Jupp, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills, who told the Committee: -

- Progress was being made on proposals for the Woodlands Meed College site with a discussion on this to be had by Cabinet at its meeting in public on 28 January
- Only option 1 would be considered as it states in the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Strategy that due to inclusive policies

Woodlands Meed College should only accommodate 100 students – copies of the Strategy would be made available to committee members

- The independent specialist survey had already been initiated with consultants appointed and inspections beginning shortly – the Cabinet Member would be in attendance for the first inspection
- The Cabinet Member was confident that money would be available to bridge any funding gap
- Discussions with relevant parties would take place to solve the issues with access to the site

54.2 Summary of responses to committee members comments and questions: -

- The report on proposals for Woodlands Meed College that was to be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 28 January would be made publicly available
- The positive work that was happening would be in line with the view of the Committee
- The issue of access would be resolved, but it was confirmed that no planning application had yet been submitted
- The inspection report was expected before the 28 January – the Cabinet Member would consider this so that a decision on the direction of travel could be decided at the Cabinet meeting on 28 January

54.3 Resolved – that the Committee notes the response by the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills.

## **55. Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

55.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

55.2 Resolved – that the Committee requests a special meeting be arranged with the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee to discuss the proposed decision on the Adoption of the West Sussex Children First Strategic Approach.

## **56. Report from the Small Schools Task and Finish Group**

56.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Small Schools Task & Finish Group (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by the Chairman, Ms Flynn, who told the Committee: -

- The Task & Finish Group had been concerned that data was challenged by the schools as being incorrect and the short timescale for Members to consider the information
- The Group had been helped by feedback from public meetings and additional information

56.2 The Committee felt the recommendations should be future facing and not a replacement for the scrutiny that did not take place on 4 September 2019

56.3 The Cabinet Member for Education & Skills told the Committee that he accepted the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group and that

there were no plans to carry out a similar exercise on any other schools in the immediate future.

56.4 Resolved – that the Committee endorses the report of the Small Schools Task & Finish Group.

## **57. Small Schools Proposals**

57.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director for Education & Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced firstly by Mr Jupp, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills who told the Committee that he recognised the important input by school governors and the informative public consultation meetings. He added that the Cabinet would consider the proposals on 14 January and make a collective decision on the proposals.

57.2 Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education & Skills told the Committee: -

- The smallest schools benefitted least from Government funding, which was low for all West Sussex schools
- Schools whose viability was at risk had been identified and offered four options, apart from Rumboldswyke, which could only be offered two options due to its OFSTED judgement of inadequate
- Consideration had been given to feedback from public meetings, the consultation, stakeholders, the diocese and the Task & Finish Group – it had then been analysed and checked by another authority
- If the proposals were supported by the Cabinet, further consultation would take place in February on the three schools that could face closure

57.2 Mrs Urquhart, Member for Angmering & Findon spoke about Clapham & Patching Church of England Primary School:

- Clapham & Patching School had struggled with pupil numbers for some years and although it had around 50 pupils, many came from outside the area - restrictions on development in the South Downs National Park made it hard to increase numbers locally
- A new school planned for Angmering would put more strain on places at Clapham & Patching
- The school, which was rated as 'Good' by OFSTED, accepted change was needed, but would like consultation on the possibility of becoming an academy considered as well as closure
- Any consultation on becoming an academy would need to be completed before the end of the academic year so that parents were not put off applying for places at the school or lower pupil numbers would increase the likelihood of the school closing

57.3 Summary of responses to Members questions and comments regarding proposals for Clapham & Patching Church of England Primary School: -

- Discussions were taking place with a multi-academy trust – due diligence was expected to be completed by the end of January with feasibility established by mid-March. If this showed academisation was

the best option for the school, this could be agreed before the decision to close the school had to be made, whereas any extra delay could lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy of closure

- Any request for academisation had to be agreed by the Regional Schools Commissioner – the Council could not make that decision
- Any decision made at Cabinet on 14 January would have to clear the call-in period before taking effect, by which time it was hoped due diligence would be completed
- Six weeks was the statutory length of time for consultations
- The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Strategy will enhance provision for children with special needs by providing more special support centres (SSCs), including at St Margaret's School in Angmering
- The Council would work with parents of children at Clapham & Patching School with SEND to find the right support centre for their children that provided progression to their local secondary school
- Plans for an SSC at St Margaret's School were described as advanced as work had been taking place on SSCs for nine months with St Margaret's School being identified as a school that would get funding for one
- The transition of children with SEND from one school to another could be managed to avoid negative impacts on the children and their education
- If children had to move to new schools it was intended to keep siblings together where possible

57.4 Dr O'Kelly, Member for Midhurst, spoke about Stedham Primary School: -

- Stedham Primary School was judged 'Good' by OFSTED, had a dynamic head teacher and had not lost any pupils since the consultation began, but nine families had decided not to enrol children for the next academic year
- The South Downs National Park wanted villages within its boundaries to thrive, but development restraints made it difficult to maintain school rolls
- Children from outside the area went to schools within the national park
- The consultation was unnecessarily damaging - Stedham Primary School should be allowed to develop a partner and form a federation

57.5 Summary of responses to Members questions and comments regarding proposals for Stedham Primary School: -

- The Committee felt that consulting on closure for Stedham and Clapham & Patching went against the School Effectiveness Strategy and that those schools were being treated differently to Compton & Up Marden and that the threat of closure was undermining confidence in the schools
- Compton & Up Marden was in an isolated position geographically meaning it would be more difficult for its pupils to get to other schools and closure would have more impact on the local community
- Possible federations for Stedham and Clapham & Patching were being investigated, but consultation on closure should continue alongside this



as there was no guarantee that at the end of the consultation period federation plans would be in place

57.5 Mr Fitzjohn, Member for Chichester South, spoke about Rumboldswyke Church of England Infant School: -

- An email had been sent from the Council's Director of Education to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on 14 June 2019 saying that the Council aimed to close Rumboldswyke School
- The RSC would not issue an academisation order till after consultation on closure – the consultation has shown parents are in favour of an all-through primary academy
- An academy was interested in this proposal, but parents have been told that, despite over 2,800 new homes to be built in Chichester there was insufficient demand
- The support given to the school by the Council had not been enough to stop its decline to inadequate
- The school should be allowed to pursue academisation

57.5 Summary of responses to Members questions and comments regarding proposals for Rumboldswyke Church of England Infant School:

- After Rumboldswyke had been judged as inadequate, the Director of Education & Skills had met with governors and parents of pupils of the school and told them that this meant the school either had to become an academy or close – he also reported that it would be difficult to find an academy to run the school because of its size
- No local academy trusts were willing to take on the school – the local High School might, but only if the school was an all-through primary school, however, there are surplus key stage 2 places in Chichester and if Rumboldswyke became an all-through primary school it would have class sizes of under 30
- Rumboldswyke had received more support from the Council than would be expected for a school of its size – OFSTED had reported in 2017 that the school's senior leaders and governors were over positive and in 2019 that the school had an over generous view of itself – the school had not been adhering the advice and support offered by the Council
- All housing development information from district and borough councils had been considered when planning school places
- There had been a fall of 50 pupils on roll in the Chichester area since October 2019 so no extra key stage 2 places were required
- School rolls were affected by parental preference

57.6 Resolved – that the Committee recommends: -

- i. That the consultation to consult on closure on Clapham and Patching be postponed until all options are available to consult on
- ii. To progress the federation proposals for Stedham, and Compton and Up Marden and not consult on closure
- iii. To pursue other options for Rumboldswyke before any consultation on closure

and

- iv. Supports the progression of consultation on the proposals as listed in the draft decision report for Warninglid

## **58. School Funding 2020/21**

58.1 The Committee received a report by the Director of Education and Skills (copy appended to the signed minutes).

58.2 Resolved – that the Committee: -

- i. Agrees the proposals in relation to the local funding formula for mainstream schools as set out in the report
- ii. Agrees to funding any transfer to the High Needs block, if approved by the Secretary of State for Education, by not increasing the basic entitlement unit value and the Minimum per Pupil Funding Level rates to the full National Funding Formula rates

## **59. Children First Improvement Update**

59.1 The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Children, Young People and Learning (copy appended to the signed minutes) which was introduced by Mrs Russell, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People who told the Committee: -

- The letter from OFSTED reporting on its monitoring visit to the Council was in line with the Council's self-assessment. It noted tentative improvements in social work with children and the expanded senior leadership team's progressing of plans for children in need whilst acknowledging areas of weakness remain
- The Cabinet Member thanked the staff of schools she had visited in the north of the county where she had learnt about relationships between the schools and social workers

59.2 Garath Symonds, Senior Improvement Lead, highlighted the following from the report: -

- The monitoring visit reported a clear vision and workforce stability with fewer social worker changes and caseloads more manageable
- Key areas of development included oversight and quality of social work specific to the designated officer function
- There were concerns over private fostering
- Service improvements included recruiting a permanent director for children, young people and learning, the number of leavers reducing and permanency planning

59.3 Jackie Wood, Assistant Director - Corporate Parenting, told the Committee: -

- Permanency was planning for children when they entered the care system regardless of their length of stay and supported them into early adulthood
- The Council was part of the regional adoption agency which had a large pool of adopters

- Permanency could be permanent fostering, adoption, living with family or friends or special guardianship
- The number of West Sussex children being placed with family was increasing with special guardianship parents getting the same services as adopters

59.4 Sarah Foster, Service Lead Fostering and Adoption, Jill Seeney, Advanced Practitioner (Fostering) and Melissa Paton, Adoption Practice manager, talked through a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes) and showed two videos available online at <https://youtu.be/CCobHATEEDY> and <https://youtu.be/8hHsy1b9kFo>.

59.5 The Committee heard from an adopter who said: -

- 10 years ago transitions were set for 2.5 weeks and were well planned and structured, but there was no opportunity to meet the child before adoption
- Phone calls were allowed with the child's foster family
- More recently when adopting a second child there had been a ten day transition and the adopter had met the foster family
- Now adopters can glimpse children before they go to the adoption panel and have play days with them so they get to know each other
- Contact is kept with the foster family for the children's sake

59.6 Summary of responses to Members questions and comments: -

- Adopted children were placed in 38 households in West Sussex
- There was a pool of 300 adopters across the four authorities in the regional adoption agency, but there were still more children in need of adoption than adopters
- The wishes of the children were taken into account when considering adoption placements
- 17 children were known to be in private fostering arrangements
- The home moves experienced by children in care could be for any reason
- If a child was unhappy in care, meetings were held and assessments carried out to see if the situation could be stabilised or the child allowed home
- Contract arrangements as part of permanence plans allowed for contact between birth parents and adopted children via letters, cards, photos
- Some preferences/views of birth parents were considered when looking for adopters
- Social workers and other experts worked with families who were providing children with special guardianship

59.7 Resolved – that the Committee notes the report.

## **60. Business Planning Group Report**

60.1 The Committee received a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

60.2 Resolved – that the Committee notes the report.

**61. Possible Items for Future Scrutiny**

61.1 The following subjects were put forward for consideration by the Committee's Business Planning group: -

- Home Education
- Services for children excluded from school
- Special guardianship children
- Recruitment and retention of school governors
- Retention of Children's Services staff
- The allocation and funding of special educational needs and disabilities provision in early years settings

**62. Date of Next Meeting**

62.1 The next meeting will be held on 4 March.

The meeting ended at 2.16 pm

Chairman

**Mr Nigel Jupp**  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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**Mr David Barling**  
**Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny**  
**Committee**

14 February 2020

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter containing the recommendations of the Committee made at the meeting on 4 December 2019 in relation to Woodlands Meed.

I addressed these recommendations verbally at the meeting on 4 January 2020 and my response can be viewed via the [webcast](#) of the meeting, but for completeness am confirming the points I made.

Following the review of existing specialist provision and the projected numbers for Woodlands Meed undertaken to inform the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-24, it has been ascertained that there is no requirement to expand provision on the College site for Key Stages 4 and above. Therefore it is not considered necessary to expand the College to create additional places.

I could not support the Committee's recommendation that there was no need for a further independent survey as I do believe it was important for a review to be undertaken to assess the condition and suitability of the existing College building and site. The report from this survey has recently been received and being reviewed.

I felt confident that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources was striving to ensure that adequate funds would be made available for suitable new investment at the site. This has since been confirmed by the allocation of £20m for Woodlands Meed set out in the Capital Programme recently agreed by County Council.

In relation to any potential problems of access for construction work; this would be for officers in the Capital Projects team to address in developing any scheme, but are likely to require discussions with the various parties involved in order to be resolved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Nigel Jupp  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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## Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The County Council must give at least 28 days' notice of all key decisions to be taken by members or officers. The Plan describes these proposals and the month in which the decisions are to be taken over a four-month period. Decisions are categorised according to the [West Sussex Plan](#) priorities of:

- **Best Start in Life** (those concerning children, young people and schools)
- **A Prosperous Place** (the local economy, infrastructure, highways and transport)
- **A Safe, Strong and Sustainable Place** (Fire & Rescue, Environmental and Community services)
- **Independence in Later Life** (services for older people or work with health partners)
- **A Council that Works for the Community** (finances, assets and internal Council services)

The most important decisions will be taken by the Cabinet sitting in public. The [schedule of monthly Cabinet meetings](#) is available on the website. The Forward Plan is updated regularly and key decisions can be taken on any day in the month if they are not taken at Cabinet meetings. The [Plan](#) is available on the County Council's website and from Democratic Services, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ, all Help Points and the main libraries in Bognor Regis, Crawley, Haywards Heath, Horsham and Worthing. [Published decisions](#) are also available via the website.

A key decision is one which:

- Involves expenditure or savings of £500,000 or more (except treasury management); and/or
- Will have a significant effect on communities in two or more electoral divisions in terms of how services are provided.

The following information is provided for each entry in the Forward Plan:

<b>Decision</b>	A summary of the proposal.
<b>Decision By</b>	Who will take the decision - if the Cabinet, it will be taken at a Cabinet meeting in public.
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Which of the five priorities in the West Sussex Plan the proposal affects.
<b>Date added</b>	The date the proposed decision was added to the Forward Plan.
<b>Month</b>	The decision will be taken on any working day in the month stated. If a Cabinet decision, it will be taken at the Cabinet meeting scheduled in that month.
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	How views and representations about the proposal will be considered or the proposal scrutinised, including dates of Scrutiny Committee meetings.
<b>Background Documents</b>	The documents containing more information about the proposal and how to obtain them (via links on the website version of the Forward Plan). Hard copies are available on request from the decision contact.
<b>Author</b>	The contact details of the decision report author
<b>Contact</b>	Who in Democratic Services you can contact about the entry

### Finance, assets, performance and risk management

Each month the Cabinet Member for Finance reviews the Council's budget position and may take adjustment decisions. A similar monthly review of Council property and assets is carried out and may lead to decisions about them. These are noted in the Forward Plan as 'rolling decisions'.

Each month the Cabinet will consider the Council's performance against its planned outcomes and in connection with a register of corporate risk. Areas of particular significance may be considered at the scheduled Cabinet meetings.

Significant proposals for the management of the Council's budget and spending plans will be dealt with at a scheduled Cabinet meeting and shown in the Plan as strategic budget options.

For questions contact Helena Cox on 033 022 22533, email [helena.cox@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:helena.cox@westsussex.gov.uk).

**Published: 19 February 2020**

## Forward Plan Summary

### Summary of all forthcoming executive decisions in West Sussex Plan priority order

Page No	Decision Maker	Subject Matter	Date
 <b>Best Start in Life</b>			
	Cabinet	Woodlands Mead College Site, Burgess Hill - Allocation of Funding for Project Delivery	Not before February 2020
	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in West Sussex and the Coordinated Scheme of Admissions	February 2020
	Director of Property and Assets	Award of Contract for the replacement of Modular Units at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools, Horsham - Phase 1	March 2020
	Director of Property and Assets	Award of Contract for the replacement All Weather Pitch at The Weald School, Billingshurst	March 2020
	Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning	Remodelling of Cissbury Lodge Children's Home, Worthing	March 2020
	Cabinet	Small Schools Proposals	April 2020
	Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning	Remodelling of May House and Seaside Children's Homes	April 2020
	Director of Property and Assets	Award of Contract for the replacement of Modular Units at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools, Horsham - Phase 2	April 2020
	Director of Education and Skills	Contract Extension for the Provision of Adult Education Services provided by Aspire Sussex Ltd	April 2020
	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Expansion of Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School, Horsham	April 2020
	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	Provision of new school hall at Thorney Island Primary School	April 2020
	Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning	Award of contract for remodelling works at Cissbury Lodge Children's Home, Worthing	May 2020
	Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning	Award of contract for remodelling works at May House and Seaside Children's Homes	June 2020
	Cabinet	Adoption of the West Sussex Children First Strategic Approach	July 2020
 <b>A Prosperous Place</b>			
	Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources	Crawley Growth Programme: Approval of amendments to project funding allocations	February 2020
	Director of Highways,	Adur and Worthing Agency Agreement for	February



	Transport and Planning	Parking Services	2020
	Director of Highways, Transport and Planning	Concessionary Travel Scheme - award of bus pass manufacture and administration contract	February 2020
	Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Highways and Transport Delivery Programmes 2020/21	February 2020
	Executive Director Place Services	Worthing Public Realm Works - Adur and Worthing Growth Programme	March 2020
	Executive Director Place Services	Converged Fibre Connectivity	March 2020
	Executive Director Place Services	Partial demolition: County Buildings Crawley	March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Licensing of Tables and Chairs on the Highway	March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure	Review of the Integrated Parking Strategy	May 2020
	Director of Highways, Transport and Planning	A29 Realignment Scheme - submission of planning application	May 2020



### A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place

	Executive Director Place Services	Worthing Community Hub Award of Contract	February 2020
	Chief Fire Officer	Award of contract for 33 wheelchair accessible minibuses	February 2020
	Cabinet Member for Environment	Electric Vehicle Charging Procurement	March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	Supported Living Services Procurement	March 2020
	Executive Director Adults and Health	Specialist Advocacy Service Award of Contract	March 2020
	Executive Director Adults and Health	Extension of Day Services Contracts (Adults with Learning Disabilities)	March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Environment	West Sussex Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 2020-2023	April 2020



### Independence in Later Life

	Executive Director Adults and Health	Extension of the Community Equipment Service Contract	February 2020
	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	Review of fees and charges for commissioned services	February 2020
	Cabinet	Adults' Services Improvement - Next Steps	March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	Commissioning of Extra Care Contracts	March 2020
	Executive Director Adults and Health	Discharge to Assess with Reablement Care Services	March 2020



### A Council that works for the Community

	Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance	Total Performance Monitor (Rolling Entry)	Between April 2019 and March
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Agenda Item 5

			2020
	Cabinet Member for Finance	Property Review (Rolling Entry)	Between April 2019 and March 2020
	Cabinet Member for Finance	Development Agreements: New Monk's Farm	February 2020
	Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Resources	Procurement of a Construction Framework	February 2020
	Executive Director Place Services	Award of Contract for Self Service Library Kiosks	February 2020
	Director of Finance and Support Services	Procurement of Print Management Service Contract	March 2020
	Director of Finance and Support Services	Award of Contract: Business Management Solution	April 2020

## Best Start in Life

### Cabinet

<b>Woodlands Meed College Site, Burgess Hill - Allocation of Funding for Project Delivery</b>	
<p>Woodlands Meed is a Special School and College for 2-19 year olds located in Burgess Hill. The existing accommodation at the College site has a number of condition issues meaning the College is unable to offer the full curriculum and unable to accommodate the full range of Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>In order to address this, in February 2019 the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took a decision (ES18 (18/19)) to approve the allocation of £0.5m from the Capital Programme to enable a costed design to be produced for rebuilding and expanding Woodlands Meed College on its current site. This has involved the appointment of a full design team through the County Council's Multi-Disciplinary Consultant to undertake the design work required to develop the feasibility design into a formal proposal enabling costs to be sought for all elements of the proposal.</p> <p>It has since been agreed that a further survey of the existing building's condition and suitability to meet the needs of the College's students should be undertaken. Following the outcome of this survey Cabinet will be asked to agree the allocation of funds from the Capital Programme to enable the new investment at Woodlands Meed to proceed.</p> <p>.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	Mrs Urquhart, Mr Elkins, Mrs Russell, Mr Jupp, Mr Marshall, Mr Lanzer, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Crow - Cabinet
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in LIfe
<b>Date added</b>	1 July 2019
<b>Month</b>	Not before February 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	<p>School Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee - 4 December 2019</p> <p>Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member, via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.</p>
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Cabinet Member Decision ES18(18/19)
<b>Author</b>	Leigh Hunnikin Tel: 033 022 23051
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders - 033 022 22553

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills****Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in West Sussex and the Coordinated Scheme of Admissions**

The County Council has a statutory duty to set the school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in West Sussex and to publish a national scheme of coordination for all schools. The scheme of coordination allows parents to complete one application form to the authority in which they reside, this is to ensure that each child receives one offer of a school place. It is proposed that the coordinated scheme for the normal admission round remains the same for 2021

With regard to admission arrangements the proposal is to make changes to the oversubscription criteria in two areas, to include a higher priority for children of staff who have been in post for more than two years in the school to which they are applying; and to include children who are subject of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) to be considered as the same as Children Looked After in order of priority.

There are also proposals for consultation to move the catchment area for the Kilnwood Vale Development in North Horsham from the catchment area of Waterfield Primary School and Ifield Community College to a new Kilnwood Vale catchment for primary aged children and Millais and Forest catchment area for secondary age children.

The Cabinet Member will be asked to endorse the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in West Sussex for the academic year commencing September 2021 and approve the coordinated scheme of admissions.

<b>Decision by</b>	Mr Jupp - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	2 December 2019
<b>Month</b>	February 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	<p>In accordance with admission regulations, consultation is taking place between December 2019 and end of January 2020 for a period in excess of the minimum 6 week requirement. The key stakeholders consulted include the Resources, School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (Resources and SOCA) sub-group of the Schools Forum, parents, school staff and governors, Diocesan Authorities and neighbouring local authorities. A consultation document is available on the West Sussex website and promoted through the local press.</p> <p>Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, via the Author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken</p>
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Ellie Evans Tel: 033022023582
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

**Director of Property and Assets****Award of Contract for the replacement of Modular Units at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools, Horsham - Phase 1**

In order to accommodate the demand for pupil places in the Southwater area of Horsham it is necessary to replace the modular teaching accommodation at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools. In January 2020 the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills approved the allocation of additional monies from Section 106 funds to enable this replacement work to take place (decision reference [ES07\(19/20\)](#)). As part of this decision he also delegated authority to the Director of Property and Assets to award the contract for carrying out these works.

The feasibility work and detailed design for the replacement of the four modular units have now been completed and planning permission granted. The work will be divided into two elements and tendered as two separate contracts:-

Phase 1 - The Supply and Installation of Modular Units

Phase 2 - Enabling Works

A competitive tendering exercise for Phase 1, will now commence. On completion the Director of Property and Assets will be asked to approve the award of the contract to the preferred provider to supply and install the Modular Units.

<b>Decision by</b>	Andrew Edwards - Director of Property and Assets
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	12 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	March 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	School Parents and Residents Parish and District Councils  Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Director of Property and Assets via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Cabinet Member Decision ES07(19/20)
<b>Author</b>	Carol Bruce Tel: 033 022 23055
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

**Director of Property and Assets****Award of Contract for the replacement All Weather Pitch at The Weald School, Billingshurst**

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient primary and secondary

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school places for all children who need a place. As part of the secondary school curriculum, Physical Education is a core subject and suitable provision is required to ensure a wide range of sport can be offered to ensure children are given the Best Start in Life.

The Weald School in Billingshurst accommodates 1700 pupils aged 11-18 and has a mix of indoor PE provision (sports hall, activity hall) and external provision (grass pitches, multi-use games area and All-Weather Pitch (AWP)).

The existing sand dressed AWP has reached the end of its life and requires replacement. The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will be asked to approve the allocation of capital funding from Section 106 contributions to undertake a project to replace the AWP and delegate authority to the Director of Property and Assets to award the contract for the works.

Following receipt of this authority from the Cabinet Member the Director of Property and Assets will be asked to approve the award of contract to the preferred contractor to undertake the replacement of the AWP.

<b>Decision by</b>	Andrew Edwards - Director of Property and Assets
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	10 January 2020
<b>Month</b>	March 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	School  Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Director of Property and Assets via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Philippa Hind Tel: 033 022 23041
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders - Tel: 033 022 22553

### Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning

#### Remodelling of Cissbury Lodge Children's Home, Worthing

The children's in-house residential service is made up of six homes, of which three, including Cissbury Lodge, are currently closed and awaiting refurbishment whilst feasibility studies and design work are undertaken.

A strategy for the residential service was approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in October 2019 (decision reference [CYP03\(19/20\)](#)). It seeks to ensure that outcomes for vulnerable children are maximised and that long-term care costs are minimised. It is essential that the assets that enable support to children are redeveloped in order to support the delivery of this strategy as a part of the wider 'children first' improvement plan being driven forward by the Council.

Cissbury Lodge's contribution to the delivery of this strategy will come through the remodelling of the home to ensure the most efficient use of the existing footprint of the homes whilst maximising the potential service offering of the site. £300,000 of capital funding has already been approved to develop a design which will deliver the following services;

- An enhanced short breaks service incorporating 4 beds for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), to help support parents in maintaining these children within their homes,
- A residential service incorporating 6 beds for children with learning disabilities, to make better use of Council resources in allowing children to be placed closer to home and preventing costly out of county placements, and
- An outreach function supporting children and families to create stable home environments and prevent admission into full-time placements

The Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning will be asked to approve the allocation of £2.852m from the capital programme required to fund the delivery of works at Cissbury Lodge, and the commencement of a procurement process to appoint a contractor to undertake the remodelling.

<b>Decision by</b>	AnnMarie Dodds - Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	12 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	March 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning, via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Cabinet Member Decision CYP03(19/20)
<b>Author</b>	Jackie Wood Tel: 033 022 26587
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

## Cabinet

### Small Schools Proposals

In September 2019 the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took a [decision](#) (decision reference ES02(19/20)) to approve the commencement of a consultation in relation to proposals for change at the following schools:-

- Clapham and Patching CE Primary School, Clapham, Worthing
- Compton and Up Marden CE School, Compton, Chichester
- Rumboldswyke CE Infants' School, Chichester

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- Stedham Primary School, Stedham, Midhurst
- Warninglid Primary School, Warninglid, Haywards Heath

The consultation ended on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Following assessment of the outcome of the consultation the Cabinet took a [decision](#) to consult on the following specific proposals (decision reference CAB10(19/20)):-

- a) Closure of Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School by September 2020 whilst continuing to discuss academisation proposals which the County Council will encourage and support.
- b) Closure of Rumboldswyke C of E Infant School effective September 2020.
- c) Relocation of Warninglid Primary School and the federation of the school by September 2021 (subject to developers progress).
- d) Closure of Stedham Primary School by September 2020, whilst continuing to encourage and assist the school in its discussion on federation, which if agreed by the end of the consultation period (16 March 2020), will result in the consultation ceasing.

The consultation commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 and closes on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. As significant progress with proposals to form a federation with another school had been demonstrated, on 7 February 2020 the proposed closure of Stedham Primary School was removed from the consultation process.

Following assessment of the outcome of the consultation the Cabinet will be asked to determine the next steps and whether the proposals should be implemented.

<b>Decision by</b>	Mr Crow, Mr Hunt, Mrs Jupp, Mr Lanzer, Mrs Russell, Mr Elkins, Mr Jupp, Mr Marshall, Mrs Urquhart - Cabinet
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	5 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Schools Governing Bodies Diocese of Chichester Education Parents and carers Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee  Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Small Schools Task and Finish Group Meeting Notes Cabinet Member Decision (ES02 (19/20)) Initial Consultation Details Cabinet Decision (Cab10 (19/20))
<b>Author</b>	Graham Olway Tel: 033 022 23029
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553



**Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning****Remodelling of May House and Seaside Children's Homes**

The children's in-house residential service is made up of six homes, of which three, including May House and Seaside, are currently closed and awaiting refurbishment whilst feasibility studies and design work are undertaken.

A strategy for the residential service was approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in October 2019 (decision reference [CYP03\(19/20\)](#)). It seeks to ensure that outcomes for vulnerable children are maximised and that long-term care costs are minimised. It is essential that the assets that enable support to children are redeveloped in order to support the delivery of this strategy as a part of the wider 'children first' improvement plan being driven forward by the Council.

To support the delivery of this strategy, the May House and Seaside sites will be remodelled to ensure the most efficient use of the existing space whilst maximising the potential service offering of each site. £225,000 of capital funding has already been approved to develop designs which will deliver the following services;

- For May House, to provide emergency placements of up to 28 days to facilitate appropriate assessments, particularly for those young people with complex needs who require support to divert them away from secure care, and
- For Seaside, to provide placements for children on the 'edge of care' who are at risk of entering the care system, to work with these children and young people to help them into a supported placement or prepare them for independent living

The Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning will be asked to approve the allocation of £2.503m from the capital programme required to fund the delivery of works at May House and Seaside, and the commencement of a procurement process to appoint a contractor to undertake the remodelling at both sites.

<b>Decision by</b>	AnnMarie Dodds - Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	19 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning, via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Children's Residential Strategy (CYP03(19/20))
<b>Author</b>	Jackie Wood Tel: 033 022 26587
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

**Director of Property and Assets**

**Award of Contract for the replacement of Modular Units at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools, Horsham - Phase 2**

In order to accommodate the demand for pupil places in the Southwater area of Horsham it is necessary to replace the modular teaching accommodation at Southwater Infant and Junior Schools. In January 2020 the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills approved the allocation of additional monies from Section 106 funds to enable this replacement work to take place (decision reference [ES07\(19/20\)](#)). As part of this decision he also delegated authority to the Director of Property and Assets to award the contract for carrying out these works.

The feasibility work and detailed design for the replacement of the four modular units have now been completed and planning permission granted. The work will be divided into two elements and tendered as two separate contracts:-

- Phase 1 - The Supply and Installation of Modular Units Package
- Phase 2 - Enabling Works

The tendering process for Phase 1 is due to start shortly; a competitive tendering exercise for Phase 2 will also now commence. On completion the Director of Property and Assets will be asked to approve the award of the contract to the preferred provider to deliver the Enabling Works.

<b>Decision by</b>	Andrew Edwards - Director of Property and Assets
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	12 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	School Parents and local residents Parish and District Councils  Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Director of Property and Assets via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	Cabinet Member Decision ES07(19/20)
<b>Author</b>	Carol Bruce Tel: 033 022 23055
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

**Director of Education and Skills**

**Contract Extension for the Provision of Adult Education Services provided by Aspire Sussex Ltd**

The provision of Adult Education Services is delivered through a contract with Aspire

Sussex Ltd. The contract was let on a 3 year term, commencing 1 August 2017, with the option for a 2 year extension. The services provided through the contract include the delivery of a wide range of community learning and adult skills courses, including courses for those with learning difficulties.

The initial contract term ends in August 2020; the Director of Education and Skills will be asked to approve the extension of the contract for a further two years to 31 August 2022. Taking up the extension will allow the County Council to explore future delivery models.

<b>Decision by</b>	Paul Wagstaff - Director of Education and Skills
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	5 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Director of Education and Skills via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Jessica Coleman Tel: 033 022 28560
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

#### **Expansion of Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School, Horsham**

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2019-2024 aims to provide high quality local education provision for children and young people with SEND and optimise value for money from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. As part of the development of the SEND Strategy, the County Council has identified an increased demand for extra provision in Special Schools across West Sussex to meet increasing needs. There is a requirement to both increase places at certain special schools and to ensure existing school accommodation meets the needs of the pupils on roll.

Following a review of current numbers on roll and the existing accommodation at Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School in Horsham the need for additional accommodation has been identified, to ensure suitable provision for the needs of the pupils currently on roll. The school caters for a wide-range of Special Educational Needs and Disability for pupils aged between 2 and 19, including children with severe learning difficulties, complex social and communication difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex needs.

A proposed project to deliver an increase in space would enable the school to offer suitable accommodation and support spaces for 105 pupils.

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<p>The feasibility work for the project to accommodate the pupils is now underway. Following detailed design and associated cost estimates the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will be asked to approve the allocation of the funds required to enable the project to proceed.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	Mr Jupp - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	19 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	<p>Schools            Parents and local residents            Parish and District Councils            Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p> <p>Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken</p>
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Leigh Hunnikin Tel: 033 022 23051
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

### Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

<b>Provision of new school hall at Thorney Island Primary School</b>	
<p>The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children who need a place. Over recent years there has been an increase in pupil numbers at Thorney Island Primary School and an enlarged school hall is now required to provide sufficient and suitable accommodation for the additional children.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will be asked to approve the allocation of capital funding from the Basic Need Capital Programme to enable the project to proceed.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	Mr Jupp - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	21 August 2019
<b>Month</b>	April 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	<p>School            Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources</p>

	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Leigh Hunnikin Tel: 033 022 23051
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders - Tel: 033 022 22553

### **Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning**

<b>Award of contract for remodelling works at Cissbury Lodge Children's Home, Worthing</b>	
<p>The children's in-house residential service is made up of six homes, of which three, including Cissbury Lodge, are currently closed and awaiting refurbishment whilst feasibility studies and design work are undertaken.</p> <p>A strategy for the residential service was approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in October 2019 (decision reference CYP03(19/20)). It seeks to ensure that outcomes for vulnerable children are maximised and that long-term care costs are minimised. It is essential that the assets that enable support to children are redeveloped in order to support the delivery of this strategy as a part of the wider 'children first' improvement plan being driven forward by the Council.</p> <p>Cissbury Lodge's contribution to the delivery of this strategy will come through the remodelling of the home to ensure the most efficient use of the existing footprint of the homes whilst maximising the potential service offering of the site.</p> <p>As part of a separate decision process approval will be sought from the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning for the commencement of a procurement to undertake these remodelling works. Once the procurement process has been completed the Executive Director will be asked to agree the award of contract to the preferred contractor for the delivery of works at Cissbury Lodge.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	AnnMarie Dodds - Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	19 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	May 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken
<b>Background</b>	None

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<b>Documents</b> (via website)	
<b>Author</b>	Jackie Wood Tel: 033 022 26587
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553

**Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning**

<b>Award of contract for remodelling works at May House and Seaside Children's Homes</b>	
<p>The children's in-house residential service is made up of six homes, of which three, including May House and Seaside, are currently closed and awaiting refurbishment whilst feasibility studies and design work are undertaken.</p> <p>A strategy for the residential service was approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in October 2019 (decision reference <a href="#">CYP03(19/20)</a>). It seeks to ensure that outcomes for vulnerable children are maximised and that long-term care costs are minimised. It is essential that the assets that enable support to children are redeveloped in order to support the delivery of this strategy as a part of the wider 'children first' improvement plan being driven forward by the Council.</p> <p>To support the delivery of this strategy, the May House and Seaside sites will be remodelled to ensure the most efficient use of the existing space whilst maximising the potential service offering of each site.</p> <p>As part of a separate decision process approval will be sought from the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning for the commencement of a procurement to undertake these remodelling works. Once the procurement process has been completed the Executive Director will be asked to agree the award of a contract to the preferred contractor for the delivery of works at May House and Seaside Children's Homes.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	AnnMarie Dodds - Acting Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	19 February 2020
<b>Month</b>	June 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Executive Director Children, Young People and Learning via the author or officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken.
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Jackie Wood Tel: 033 022 26587

<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553
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**Cabinet**

<b>Adoption of the West Sussex Children First Strategic Approach</b>	
<p>In collaboration with partners across West Sussex the County Council is developing a West Sussex Children First Strategic Approach. This will set out the direction and commitment for how partners in West Sussex will deliver a shared vision for children and young people placing children at the heart of all we do.</p> <p>It will be a single over-arching strategic approach based on the West Sussex Plan, the Health and well-Being Strategy and Children's Services Practice Improvement Plan for Social Care as well as other key strategies where outcomes for children, young people and their families will be improved. It will set out how West Sussex will be a great place for children and young people, where all, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, have the best possible start in life and are supported by the whole community to succeed.</p> <p>Cabinet will be asked to approve the adoption of the West Sussex Children First Strategic Approach.</p>	
<b>Decision by</b>	Mr Marshall, Mr Jupp, Mr Elkins, Mrs Russell, Mrs Urquhart, Mrs Jupp, Mr Hunt, Mr Lanzer, Mr Crow - Cabinet
<b>West Sussex Plan priority</b>	Best Start in Life
<b>Date added</b>	27 August 2019
<b>Month</b>	July 2020
<b>Consultation/ Representations</b>	<p>Internal (County Council) and external partners including Health and Well-being Board; Local Safeguarding Partnership; Community Safety; Schools (primary and secondary) Health; Police; Children and Young People; District and Borough Councils.</p> <p>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee – 4 March 2020</p> <p>Representations concerning this proposed decision can be made to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People via the officer contact, by the beginning of the month in which the decision is due to be taken</p>
<b>Background Documents</b> (via website)	None
<b>Author</b>	Ann Marie Dodds Tel: 033 022 29331
<b>Contact</b>	Wendy Saunders - Tel: 033 022 22553

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<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>4 March 2020</b>
<b>Children First Improvement – Service Update</b>
<b>Report by Executive Director of Children, Young People and Learning</b>

### **Summary**

This report updates the Committee on developments in the Children First Programme since its last meeting on 09 January 2020. It notes the new service leadership arrangements, provides the latest monitoring information on workforce development, and introduces the special topic for scrutiny at this meeting, that of Quality Assurance.

### **The focus for scrutiny**

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. note and discuss the Children's Services Development and Workforce narratives (Sections 1-3);
2. receive and comment on the current briefing on Quality Assurance (Section 4 & presentation to be delivered).

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

## **1. Update on Service Developments**

### **Leadership and Management in Children's Services**

- 1.1 At the end of January 2020, the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Learning, and Director of Children's Services, John Readman left West Sussex to take up a new post as Director of Children's Services at Cumbria County Council. At County Council on 14 February, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People paid tribute to Mr Readman for his leadership during the previous year, and for piloting the service towards greater stability.
- 1.2 The new Executive Director for Children, Young People and Learning is to be Lucy Butler, the current Director of Children's Services at Oxfordshire County Council, who commences her role on 14 April 2020. Oxfordshire has secured and subsequently retained a 'Good' Ofsted rating under her leadership.
- 1.3 The Interim Executive Director is AnnMarie Dodds, (previously Assistant Director, Early Help) who will provide assurance and continuity in the intervening period, thus ensuring that the momentum of the improvement

process is maintained. A further round of staff engagement at venues around the county has recently taken place under her leadership.

**2. Children’s Services Workforce Update**

This section considers trends between February 2019 and the latest Workforce information, dated 3 February 2020.

**Vacancy Gap**

2.1 The service currently comprises approximately 511 FTE (full-time equivalent) social worker posts. The vacancy gap describes posts where permanent staff are absent, as well as other posts without agency worker cover. The following trends arise, measured from a baseline at February 2019:

- February 2019 18.5%
- May 2019 14.9%
- June 2019 8.8%
- July 2019 6.9%
- August 2019 5.2%
- September 2019 1.8%
- October 2019 1.7%
- November 2019 2.3%
- December 2019 2.2%
- **February 2020 5.3%**

2.2 The current vacancy gap has worsened and is now predicted to remain at around 5%. The number of absent employees has increased since last month and is currently 29.4 FTE; 18.5 are due to career breaks or maternity leave. There are currently no staff suspended, but the 10.9 FTE on long-term sick-leave is an increase of 6.6FTE on the previous month. The underlying reasons for this increase are currently being examined, but it must be acknowledged that the environment for recruiting social workers remains a very challenging one across the country.

**Starters and Leavers**

2.3 The number of leavers over the next 3 months shows a spike in February 2020 of 5 FTE, which is higher than has been experienced in the past 6 months. The table below shows the current full-time equivalent numbers of expected starters and leavers between February and April 2020. Although expected starters exceed leavers in the short-term, there have been a significant number of enquiries from those in receipt of the recruitment and retention payment wanting to find out about how they can repay this. It is likely that these will translate into resignations over the next few weeks. The pipeline of new applications is also decreasing. It is important that this situation is closely monitored and responded to, as it appears to indicate volatility. A number of short, medium and longer-term strategies are being explored to mitigate against the risk of an increasing vacancy gap.

Month	Pipeline Starters	Pipeline Leavers
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February 2020	1.6	5.0
March 2020	3.6	2.8
April 2020	6.0	0.6
<b>Net gain for period</b>	<b>2.8</b>	

- 2.4 Discussions are held with staff giving notice, to understand their reasons for leaving. Of the 16 exit interviews held in the past 6 months, 7 expressed dissatisfaction with the job, 3 with location and travel, 2 for personal/family reasons and 1 related to salary. The service continues to listen carefully to staff about their experiences at work and what can be done to improve these, with exit data being carefully monitored.

### **Agency Workers**

- 2.5 The vacancy gap has been closed in part through the engagement of additional agency resource, this means that the agency proportion is likely to fluctuate between given months due to specific demand; the longer-term trend is intended to be downwards, but this depends on successful recruitment of permanent staff. The agency social worker contingent covering unfilled vacancies or undertaking additional work to help reduce caseloads, currently equates to just under 14% of the total qualified social worker establishment (511 FTE approx.). The recent detailed trend in terms of full-time agency workers is as follows:

▪ May 2019	62.0 FTE
▪ June 2019	72.0 FTE
▪ July 2019	75.0 FTE
▪ August 2019	76.5 FTE
▪ September 2019	73.7 FTE
▪ October 2019	78.7 FTE
▪ November 2019	78.7 FTE
▪ December 2019	80.7 FTE
▪ January 2020	76.2 FTE
▪ <b>February 2020</b>	<b>70.8 FTE</b>

- 2.6 The use of high-quality agency workers remains a key element of policy for the time being. Excluding agency workers from the Vacancy Gap calculation above would give a permanent vacancy gap of 13.4% (68.7 FTE). The long-term intention remains to progressively reduce use of agency staff through increasing the proportion of full-time staff.

### **Recruitment & Retention Offer**

- 2.7 The take-up rate on the revised recruitment and retention offer refers to eligible social workers, (including some social workers within Early Help and Safeguarding, as well as Children's Social Care) committing to stay with WSCC for the next 18 months. The data excludes the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYEs, for newly qualified social workers that became eligible for the provisions in September, many of whom have indicated a wish to be included. The current scheme was launched in June 2019, and the trend in rate of take-up is as follows:

▪ July 2019	85.0%
▪ August 2019	88.5%
▪ September 2019	90.9%
▪ October 2019	90.9%
▪ November 2019	91.0%
▪ December 2019	93.0%
▪ January	92.0%
▪ February 2020	92.0%

### **Caseloads**

- 2.8 The Committee has previously noted the centrality of achieving manageable caseloads across the service. Caseload targets were set in 2018 and were determined by comparing with other authorities rated as 'requiring improvement'. Targets will vary between different staff cohorts; experienced social workers have a target of up to 18 cases. Newly qualified social workers (ASYE) have a protected caseload which steadily increases in their first year of qualified practice. For these workers, caseloads commence at 10 and increase to 16/17 dependant on which part of the service they practice.
- 2.9 At present, there are only 2 service areas that have an average of over 18 children on their caseload: Assessment and Intervention South (19.1) and Family Support & Protection North (21.1). It is acknowledged that whilst other service areas have an *average* of less than 18, there are individual workers within those teams whose caseload is above the target level.
- 2.10 It remains a priority to ensure caseloads are manageable across the service, whilst also ensuring that children receive the most appropriate service, in the right place and at the right time. Additionally, work continues within the service to identify ways to streamline processes and develop smarter, more efficient ways of working, which will support staff without compromising the quality of practice and the service delivered.

### **Workforce Summary**

- 2.11 To summarise, sustaining the positive effects previously reported will be challenging, especially in the face of increasing uncertainty for the workforce in the context of a national scarcity of experienced social workers. Key to maintaining a low vacancy gap will be the retention of the existing workforce, although some volatility is to be expected and this remains an area of risk. At the Ofsted Monitoring Visit in December 2019, the inspectors recognised the positive trends in Workforce data, and commented that staff morale had improved compared with the situation they had found during the original inspection in February 2019. Management remains fully committed to listening and responding to the views of staff, giving effective managerial and case-working support, helping to address the causes of under-performance, and providing the right training, administrative and IT facilities. This journey of improvement needs to continue over the coming months for the benefits to become fully realised.

## **3. Other Key Service Initiatives**

### **Updating the Practice Improvement Plan**

- 3.1 The Committee will recall that the Children First Practice Improvement Plan was created following the Ofsted judgement in May 2019, representing the service response to the 12 key recommendations made by Ofsted at that time. The Plan remains the key mechanism for identifying and managing all the different objectives of the Children First Improvement agenda. Given the progress made during 2019/20, it is now necessary to revise the detail of the plan, reshaping its contents to accommodate elements that have now been accomplished, and gaining a fresh focus on improvement approaches that are now much better understood. This review will take into account the variety of feedback received from the Commissioner's report, from the first Ofsted Monitoring Visit, and the learning from the many investigatory and diagnostic activities undertaken during the past 12 months.

### **Ofsted Monitoring Visit**

- 3.2 The next Ofsted Monitoring Visit is scheduled for 11-13 May 2020. It is hoped that the Quality Assurance work described in Section 4 below will contribute to the identification of further service improvement by the inspectors at that time.

## **4. Issues for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee**

### **Detailed examination of key service areas**

- 4.1 The Committee has agreed to receive a regular sequence of specific updates covering social work areas that were subject to specific Ofsted recommendations. This process will allow members to gain in-depth knowledge of different aspects of the service; to provide challenge and questioning in relation to the programmes in hand; and to assure themselves that the Improvement Plan delivery is gathering momentum, with a clear trajectory for positive change. These updates will be supported by explanations from staff and stakeholders as relevant, and members are encouraged to test and challenge the material presented. The topic for this meeting is Quality Assurance.

### **Quality Assurance in Children's Services**

- 4.2 Quality is the foundation for all good practice in social care, and fundamental to every function of Children's Services, which together seek to deliver the best outcomes for children. Quality therefore plays a key role in the improvement journey of the Children First Programme. In its May 2019 report, Ofsted found many service areas in which quality was lacking, notably social work practice, planning, timely intervention, and hearing the voice of the child. The Practice Improvement Plan (para 3.1 above) comprehensively addresses these and similar issues. The topic being presented to this meeting of the Committee deals with the important issue of Quality Assurance across the service.
- 4.3 In its report, Ofsted also found weaknesses in "The effectiveness of quality assurance arrangements." Quality Assurance addresses challenges to the service of the following nature:

- How can the service build the quality of its practice, to achieve good outcomes for children, while generating a common understanding of what good practice is, based on sound evidence?
- How can the service ensure that the views, strengths and rights of children, families and their networks are sensitively and accurately recorded, and that this understanding is routinely incorporated into the planning and delivery of service interventions, to ensure the best outcomes?
- How can the service ensure that its practice complies with statutory and local policy and procedure?
- How can managers ensure that frontline staff are applying the correct practice and procedures, and support them through dialogue to improve their knowledge and skills?
- In sum, how can the service be collectively confident that it is doing the right things, to the correct standard, consistently across all its various teams?

### **Quality Assurance Framework**

- 4.4 In order to address these and similar topics, a new Quality Assurance Framework is being finalised. This will support the delivery of the Practice Improvement Plan and share with it the function of setting out 'what good looks like', which is the fundamental driver for service improvement. The meeting will receive a presentation on the Framework and its role in ensuring that practice within the service is based on a robust understanding of the required performance standards, with methods for verifying that they are being achieved.

### **The Audit Process**

- 4.5 Underpinning the quest for Quality is a system of detailed internal scrutiny of individual casework. At the Ofsted Monitoring Visit in December 2019, one of the positive findings was that inspectors could recognise that the service possesses an accurate view of its distance travelled on the improvement journey, and what further needs to be done; this has been achieved in part through a rigorous approach to Case Audit. The presentation will explain and illustrate the principles and methodology involved, including the ways in which individual conclusions and judgements are tested and challenged, in order to achieve a more objective view of service quality. Alongside, the role of the Performance Board and other internal governance in ensuring a top-to-bottom understanding of quality throughout the service will be explained.

### **Practice Week**

- 4.6 Practice Week is a recognised approach to ensuring that management remains in close touch with the realities and challenges of practical casework and the lived experiences of children and families. Involving service leaders in observing and reviewing detailed casework complements the audit activity and strengthens learning and decision-making functions throughout the service. The presentation will explain and illustrate the operation of this

event and how it benefits the service. A Practice Week is scheduled for the week commencing 30 March 2020.

**Summary**

4.7 Members will appreciate that Quality Assurance lies at the heart of the Improvement agenda in Children’s Services. It also correlates closely with this Committee’s scrutiny function. This item is intended to build a foundation for enhancing future scrutiny by the Committee. Accordingly, members are encouraged to examine and provide challenge to the material presented.

**5. Consultation**

5.1 Not applicable – this is a report for information.

**6. Risk Implications and Mitigations**

6.1 For an undertaking of this magnitude, it is natural that there will be a wide range of risks, both relating to the service improvement agenda and more widely. A summary of the risk areas identified in the current risk log, and the associated mitigating actions, is given in the table below:

Risk Area	Examples of Mitigating Actions
Knowing that the service is safer for children	Every aspect of the Improvement agenda is orientated towards this fundamental issue, from Workforce through Practice Improvement, to Performance Management, Governance, Scrutiny and use of Technology: it is a whole-system issue. Specific measures include having a new Quality Assurance process, with a new Head of QA in post to ensure effective management oversight
Understanding and applying quality practice	Practice Improvement project in progress to implement quality standards and assurance
Multi-agency capacity and capability	Partnership Engagement Project being delivered under Children First; Strategic Approach in preparation with partner involvement
Demonstrating to the Commissioner and DfE that the service can continue its improvement journey	Investment Plan in place; Practice Improvement Plan agreed by Ofsted; Improvement Board/Programme Board active; new leadership team fully functional; Workforce issues

	being resolved; Children First Strategic Approach in preparation; County Council responding transparently to Commissioner's report; support from Hampshire as Partner in Practice
Leadership capacity and capability	New leadership team in place and fully engaged
Organisational morale & retention of experienced social work staff, in the context of national market scarcity	Retention scheme successfully implemented with a range of benefits equal to that available elsewhere; new leadership in place, with proactive staff engagement; events, weekly messages delivered through dedicated communications officer; a programme of training, development and support in place; caseloads now being managed down to sustainable levels; Ofsted inspectors commented on improved morale during their December 2019 visit
Administrative support for social workers	Principle of freeing front-line staff agreed, and support plan in preparation
Data management supporting good practice	Using technology to improve service recognised as a priority; planning in hand to deliver project allied to quality improvement
Preparedness for cycle of Ofsted monitoring visits	Senior Improvement Lead planning and coordinating action streams; close liaison with Ofsted; December 2019 visit and outcomes satisfactory

## 7. Other Options Considered

7.1 Not applicable – this is a report for information.

## 8. Equality Duty

8.1 The service recognises the primary importance of child safeguarding, sound family relationships, good parenting and the nurture of children to fulfil their potential. The provision of the service is based on need, as determined through formal assessment protocols. This need is not explicitly related to formally protected characteristics, but any such characteristic is and will continue (as now) to be respected in compliance with equality principles, and taken into account in the way in which the service is delivered.



- 8.2 In terms of those with a protected characteristic, the service will ensure enablement and support across all relevant categories, and this will both continue and be enhanced through the Children First agenda.

## **9. Social Value**

- 9.1 The Children First agenda and measures for service recovery discussed in this report will directly support improved delivery of the West Sussex Plan priority to give every child the Best Start in Life. Enhancing the protection of young lives and support for family life will continue to build resilience and social capital and contribute towards stronger and more effective communities. The implementation of the service improvements will also respect sustainability principles in accordance with the County Council's strategic policies.

## **10. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 10.1 There are positive implications for Sections 17, 37 and 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in the prevention and reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour, and in reducing offending and re-offending by young people, all of which are affected by the progress activity discussed in this report.

## **11. Human Rights Implications**

- 11.1 The County Council has an overriding duty to safeguard the Human Rights of children in need, and this has been recognised in the Children First agenda. The Council is mindful of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights – The Right to Respect for Family and Private Life - and has taken relevant factors into consideration in preparing this report. The processing of personal and special category data is subject to the Council's Data Protection Act policies and procedures in relation to discharging the Council's and its partners' legal responsibilities.
- 11.2 The County Council is also mindful of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - which states that all children have the right to be consulted and to have their opinions heard on any decision that affects them. Hearing, understanding and acting upon the voice and experiences of the child is a key design principle of the Children First service improvements.

### **AnnMarie Dodds**

Executive Director of Children, Young People and Learning

**Contact:** Garath Symonds, Senior Improvement Lead – 03302 222511

**Appendix A:** Presentation on Quality Assurance – to follow.

**Background Papers:** None.

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<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
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<b>4 March 2020</b>
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<b>West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board Annual/Closure Report: April 2018 to June 2019</b>
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<b>Report by Independent Chair of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB)</b>
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<b>Summary</b>
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<p>The West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) Annual Report intentionally coincides with the cessation of the WSSCB as a statutory body and exceptionally spans a 15-month period from 1st April 2018 - 30th June 2019.</p>
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<p>The Annual Report describes the WSSCB's work to deliver against its priority business areas, improvement plans and examines how the partnership is safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in West Sussex.</p>
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<b>The focus for scrutiny</b>
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<p>The Committee is asked to consider the report, and to comment on whether any further scrutiny is required. This includes the successes and areas for improvement for the newly formed West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP) which replaced the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) in June 2019. The Committee could also consider the key messages for partner agencies and West Sussex County Council.</p>
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<p>The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.</p>
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## **1. Background and Context**

- 1.1 The WSSCB Annual and Closure Report (April 2018 to June 2019) describes the WSSCB's work to deliver three priority business areas and also examines multi-agency service provision to children from early help services through to child safeguarding and protection, including children who are looked after in West Sussex. It references key achievements and also highlights future challenges faced by the newly formed West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 During 2018-19 key multi-agency safeguarding initiatives and achievements included:

- Development of new statutory local safeguarding children partnership arrangements; these arrangements were presented to the Select Committee in June 2019. Three lead partners: Sussex Police, Health (CCGs) and the Local Authority are responsible for ensuring that arrangements meet local needs.
- The ground-breaking Young People at Risk pilot was further developed to support the most complex and vulnerable adolescents in West Sussex. Particular focus was placed on the reduction of children going missing, recognising that this heightens their vulnerability to criminal and sexual exploitation. A 25% reduction in missing episodes for this cohort was realised between August 2018 and June 2019.
- Operation Encompass was successfully rolled out across West Sussex following a pilot in the Crawley area by Sussex Police, assisted by the Safeguarding in Education Team. Sussex Police reported that Operation Encompass was rolled out to 338 schools across West Sussex (which represents 97% of applicable schools). The pilot delivered timely sharing of information between police and schools about children who were present when the police attended a domestic abuse incident; enabling schools to provide appropriate early support to children. Sussex Police's evaluation of its impact is awaited.
- The Safeguarding Team for the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) provided a positive annual report to the WSSCB about the impact on practice following the first year's provision of a full-time Named Nurse for the West Sussex Locality and an Associate Director of Safeguarding to represent the SPFT at a strategic level to drive support for the child and their family's mental health and wellbeing.
- The launch of the Collaborative Working Agreement (CWA) in June 2019 between West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, and Safer West Sussex Partnership. The CWA aims to work coherently to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of all residents of West Sussex and safeguard children, young people and adults, particularly those who are most vulnerable to abuse and neglect.
- The formation of the Neglect Work Group in Spring 2019, to address concerns raised by the partnership and Ofsted's report of February 2019<sup>1</sup>, to ensure that front-line practice improved.
- An improvement plan to address areas for Board development saw the development of a strategy for engaging with children, which was co-produced with children and young people and the production of a Board performance data set.

2.2. The WSSCB annual/closure report acknowledged unprecedented challenges in 2018-19:

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<sup>1</sup> Ofsted Inspection of WSCC's Children's Services on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019, published 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

- The impact of the Ofsted report and its immediate and future implications for the partnership, including consideration of how best to work collaboratively to support the Local Authority's Children First Practice Improvement Plan.
- The need to deliver a consistently committed and engaged partnership with a shared sense of vision and purpose.
- For the WSSCP to demonstrate impact of its multi-agency safeguarding work to deliver improved outcomes for our children, young people and their families and that the new partnership is able to show how it has been effective. Critical to achieving this will be hearing the voice of children and young people to inform all of the WSSCP's work - from strategic planning through to front-line practice improvement.

### **3. Resources**

3.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

### **4. Issues for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Annual Report; there is a statutory requirement to produce a report describing the WSSCP's activity. The Committee is asked to consider this report, and whether there are any areas for further scrutiny.
- 4.2 To support the three lead partners to move the new partnership forward and deploying the new WSSCP arrangements to address deficits and build on successful multi-agency work.
- 4.3 There has been a focus by the partnership on tackling neglect and this has intensified since the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services. Partners have demonstrated a strong commitment to progressing this work and have robust action plans in place to drive improvement. The voice of children, young people and practitioners have informed the launch of a new Neglect Strategy and toolkits to improve practice. These are being rolled out on a multi-agency basis and a Neglect Impact Framework has been drawn up to allow the Partnership to measure the impact of the changes.
- 4.4 The WSSCP ask the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee to consider the following key messages:
- The importance of promoting the work of the new Child Safeguarding Partnership arrangements and ensuring it delivers fully on its commitment to listen to the voice of children, young people and their families to improve outcomes and service provision across West Sussex.
  - The need to support and promote the Collaborative Working Agreement to further strengthen and develop a joined-up approach to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults Safeguarding Board, Districts and Boroughs and our Community Safety Partnerships.

- The ongoing need to improve our links with the community in relation to safeguarding children locally.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 This retrospective report was co-written by and in consultation with partner agencies. There is no further requirement for consultation as part of this retrospective scrutiny exercise.
- 5.2 The report has been reviewed by the Children Service's Senior Leadership Team who acknowledged the content of the report but felt that there is a need for a stronger emphasis on the impact and improvement that services provide for children. This will be addressed in forthcoming reports.

## **6. Risk Management Implications and Mitigations**

- 6.1 The original report was fully risk-assessed, and no further consideration is necessary as part of this retrospective scrutiny exercise.

## **7. Other Options Considered**

- 7.1 Not applicable. The WSSCP has a statutory requirement to produce an annual report.

## **8. Equality Duty**

- 8.1 The WSSCP annual/closure report content is compliant with partner agencies' responsibilities under the Equality Duty; no further consideration is necessary as part of this retrospective scrutiny.

## **9. Social Value**

- 9.1 The report describes and evidences the social value of partner's activity throughout the county.

## **10. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. Human Rights Implications**

- 11.1 None.

**Lesley Walker**

Independent Chair, West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.

**Contact:** Jon Brydon WSCC Head of Safeguarding, Family Operations  
Mob: 07715 603737

**Appendix A:** WSSCB annual/closure report 2018-19.

**Background Papers:** None.

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# West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board



April 2018 - June 2019



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## Forward by the Independent Chair

I am pleased to introduce the final annual report of the West Sussex Children's Safeguarding Board, that covers the period April 18- June 19, when we moved into our new safeguarding partnership arrangements. I have been the Independent Chair of the Board for little over a year and am delighted to be remaining as the Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the new West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership. I was specifically recruited to focus on improving and strengthening the partnership and I have had an extremely positive reaction and engagement from all the partners during my first year. I would like to thank all the partner agencies represented on the WSSCB for their commitment and contribution to the Board and the input we have had from our children and young people.

The Board collectively agreed an improvement plan to address the key issues that required immediate action in our partnership following my arrival. In particular, the data, audit and enhanced scrutiny needed to provide assurance. We have used the opportunity afforded by the new safeguarding partnership arrangements, to develop our bespoke delivery model that addresses the previous weaknesses. The lead partners were fully engaged and committed to collectively developing our new partnership arrangements and are determined to better demonstrate impact moving forward.

The Ofsted inspection of CSC that reported in May 2019, reinforced the need for particular areas of multi-agency focus to ensure children in the county are appropriately safeguarded and their outcomes improved. The Partnership responded by focussing on improving our response to neglect and we are using the voice of our children and young people and their parents, as well as our practitioners to improve practice across the partnership.



Our new strategy, actions to address neglect, including toolkits to assist agencies to improve assessment are due to be rolled out across our Partnership. The significant commitment shown by partner agencies to this work has been impressive and demonstrates the determination to improve practice across all agencies.

There is much work to do in West Sussex, but what is clear is that the partners are on board, committed and enthusiastic and that puts us in a strong place to face the challenges we have ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lesley Walker,  
Independent Chair

## About West Sussex

Under the Indices of Deprivation 2015 West Sussex ranked 131<sup>st</sup> out of 152 upper tier authorities (1 being the most deprived and 152 being the least deprived) making it one of the least deprived areas in the country.

Looking across Sussex, East Sussex (ranked 99<sup>th</sup>) and Brighton and Hove (ranked 73<sup>rd</sup>) are areas of greater deprivation; whilst neighbouring Hampshire (141<sup>st</sup>) and Surrey (150<sup>th</sup>) are deemed to be amongst the least deprived areas in the country. Within West Sussex Adur was overall the most deprived area and Mid Sussex the least deprived.

It is of note that when drilling down to “neighbourhood” level deprivation three wards in the Arun district fall within the 10% most deprived areas in England.

The West Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2018 states: “There are over 325 schools; 83 GP practices; 160 community pharmacies; hospitals with A&E departments at Chichester and Worthing and additional NHS hospital sites across the county; 36 libraries; numerous museums, galleries, theatres and historic properties”.

At West Sussex level the estimate of pupils on free school meals progressing to Higher Education (HE) is relatively low (14% in 2014-15, compared with 24% England and 15.3% statistical neighbours). Data from the Office for Students shows some areas in West Sussex (including Littlehampton) are ranked in the lowest national quintile for progression to HE.



According to The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates for 2017, West Sussex had a total population of 852,350 (846,890 in 2016 and 830,510 in 2014) of which 173,280 were aged 0-17 years inclusive. This is a 5.4% increase in the number of children (8,860 children) between the 2011 census and the mid-year estimate in 2017.

Overall, children aged 0-17 account for a fifth (20.3%) of the resident population of West Sussex in 2017. The child population (aged 0-19) of West Sussex is projected to grow in the coming years, increasing from around 189,700 in 2016 to 202,900 in 2026 – a percentage increase of 7.0%.

### [English indices of deprivation 2015](#)

In some local authority areas, such as West Sussex there are two layers or tiers: a County Council or Shire Council as the upper tier and a District, Borough or City Council as the lower tier.

## Executive Summary

This report, as it coincides with the cessation of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) as a statutory body, exceptionally spans a 15-month period from 1st April 2018 - 30th June 2019. The WSSCB closure will make way for new multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements, to be delivered by the West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP).

During this reporting period it became evident that despite a joint agency commitment to safeguarding and improving the lives of children and young people, concerns remained around multi-agency child protection work. Rising populations and associated demand to access both universal and more specialised public services, coupled with sustained pressure on financial resources formed the backdrop to an increasingly challenging operating environment in West Sussex.

The WSSCB had already recognised and described in the previous annual report that further work was required to improve and strengthen multi-agency working. The board introduced an improvement plan in business year 2018 to address areas of concern highlighted by a peer review towards the end of the previous business year. The Improvement Plan identified the need to swiftly develop new partnership arrangements to:

- Build on positive areas of the peer review such as improvements to multi-agency learning and development and practice improvement;
- Improve and strengthen the partnership's approach joint delivery to better understand how best to focus collective partners' time to improve child safeguarding and protection outcomes in West Sussex, whilst also demonstrating the impact of multi-agency work.

**“The WSSCB helped to drive the development of a collaborative working agreement (CWA) between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safer West Sussex Partnership to ensure effective multi-agency collaboration”**

It is acknowledged that this improvement journey must now continue to happen and gather pace under the new partnership arrangements.

In May 2019, the Office for Standards in Education Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) published an inspection report following its inspection of Children's Services in January 2019, which identified “widespread and serious weaknesses in the provision of services to support, protect and care for children in West Sussex”.

The local authority subsequently introduced a Children First Practice Improvement Plan to deliver improvements in relation to the issues identified in the inspection. Ofsted further noted that a WSSCB multi-agency Neglect Strategy, introduced in 2016 had not been effective in delivering a multi-agency recognition of and response to neglect of children.



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a report in June - July 2018, which recognised that "Sussex Police has prioritised keeping vulnerable children safe from harm" and noted that "non-specialist officers reported that they were still under significant pressures. As a result, HMICFRS found that some children at risk did not get the protection they needed."

The Inspectorate assessed progress against the force's action plan to drive improvements in eight key areas identified in the Inspectorate's report. HMICFRS feedback following the post inspection review in June 2019 noted significant improvement: 'The force has also worked hard to improve the culture and understanding of its workforce about their responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable children. There is now evidence of officers talking to children to understand their concerns and inform decisions. This helps them to properly assess need and manage risks.'

Whilst acknowledging a backdrop of concern about the performance of partner agencies, the WSSCB sought to deliver an ambitious programme of multi-agency focussed work. Having recognised that the experiences and voices of children and young people needed to be at the heart of the WSSCB's work, an engagement strategy, the Child and Families Engagement Strategy (CAFES) was co-produced with children and young people. This included consultation with a variety of groups of children and young people about how they would like to work, communicate with and provide feedback to the WSSCB. To assist the voice of the child work, there are plans moving forward for a mirror board led by children and young people.

A collaborative approach to Safeguarding Month in November 2018 saw the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership come together with the WSSCB to deliver a wide range of training opportunities which culminated in a Pan Sussex Safeguarding Conference which focussed on adolescents at risk. This conference brought together more than 120 staff across the three areas to learn about contextual safeguarding, neglect of adolescents and emotional health and wellbeing.



The WSSCB was instrumental in the development of a collaborative working agreement (CWA) between the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safer West Sussex Partnership to ensure effective multi-agency collaboration.

The CWA's purpose is to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of all residents of West Sussex and safeguard children, young people and adults, particularly those who are vulnerable to abuse and neglect. The CWA recognises the need to improve outcomes for the residents of West Sussex, minimise duplication, and maximise value for money. The CWA was signed off by all parties in June 2019.

## Progress against WSSCB business and improvement plans

### Improvement Plan

The WSSCB developed an improvement plan based upon:

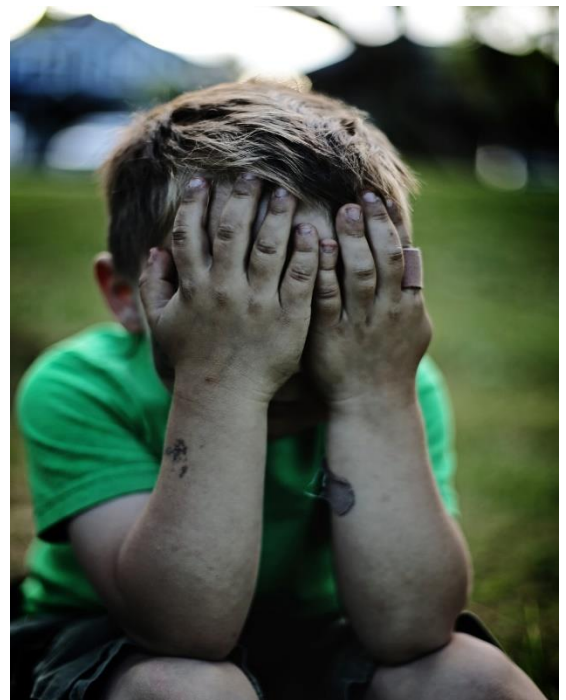
- (a) Legacy work arising from an Ofsted inspection of WSCC Children's Services which included feedback around the WSSCB's performance;
- (b) A peer review which identified considerations in December 2017 to help the WSSCB progress and develop.

The Improvement Plan had four key areas of focus:

1. That the WSSCB Improvement Framework and Business Plan harnessed to ensure clarity of accountability and delivery of change;
2. The board has access to the right level of performance management information;
3. WSSCB has a clear picture of child exploitation, honour based abuse and harmful practices and uses this knowledge to prevent/and disrupt criminal activities and drive forward improved outcomes for child victims;
4. Develop a strategy for engagement with children and young people to inform WSSCB priorities.

### Progress

1. Examples of progress made at 1, included the development of strategic relationships with alliances across the safeguarding system including Safeguarding Adults Board, WS Safer Partnership Board, Start of Life Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board. This was achieved in June 2018 with a formal launch event anticipated in October 2019. The WSSCB, via a development morning in May 2018 looked at how the future partnership arrangements might look and how an innovative approach could be used to deliver future partnership priorities. The three lead partners used this as a starting point to develop a vision and supporting delivery structure.



2. The WSSCB did not have a performance officer in post during the entirety of this period; nevertheless, a new performance dataset was developed by WSSCB partners. The data covers a range of performance measures to monitor effectiveness, progress and assisting in the development and scrutiny of priority work. The WSSCB Neglect Working Group commenced the development of a complementary dataset to track progress around the identification of and response to neglect. In addition, organisations completed Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) themed self-evaluations to help inform both individual agency's areas for improvement and that of the Board.

3. The WSSCB's Exploitation Group members participated in the WSCC Community Safety Partnership workshops to scope an overarching West Sussex wide approach to combatting exploitation in its numerous forms. Sussex Police funded multi-agency training delivered by the St Giles Trust which focussed on gangs and grooming. The training delivered by a former gang member was compelling with hard hitting messages to help professionals think about the risks and see criminal exploitation through the eyes of a child/young person. Harmful practices were a focus during safeguarding month; for example, Home Office Border Force ran training sessions to highlight awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM) and described the work it was undertaking to identify potential victims of both FGM and modern slavery.



4. WSCC's Early Help (previously known as Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH)) co-produced with young people from different engagement groups, an engagement strategy, CAFES (Children and Families Engagement Strategy). The strategy will be used to provide a joined-up approach to engagement with children and young people across West Sussex in a range of different settings. This details how agencies will ensure that the impact of the work with children and young people is captured and fed back to participants in any particular piece of work or themed activity to ensure that the work is making a tangible difference to service delivery to children and families across West Sussex.

In the autumn of 2018 young people from West Sussex participated in a Pan Sussex challenge day with agencies working across Sussex, to look at how agencies are keeping children safe under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Young people asked searching questions of organisations about their response to a range of safeguarding issues, including recruitment of staff and the importance of a workforce reflective of the West Sussex demographic.



## Business Plan

### Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

A staff survey presented to the Board in the summer of 2018 indicated that professionals lacked confidence in recognising the signs of child sexual abuse (CSA). Staff briefings and training from the Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse, and visits to Children’s Sexual Assault Referral Centres were arranged to address concerns. This led to a new training offer and a one-off collaboration with the Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse in April, delivering two focussed workshop/training events.

Partnership working to support children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse continued. The following figures illustrates the impact of multi-agency teamwork to support and protect children and demonstrate the efforts to work with children who regularly going missing and are known to be at greater risk of being exploited or abused. This specialist team is looking at best practice nationally to help inform this fast-changing operating environment.

#### The Improvements Delivered by the CHRA Casework Team

<p><b>Improved stability</b> 61% had no placement moves since April 2018 Of the current open cases (39) 87% had no placement moves in Q1 2019</p>	<p><b>Reduced missing episodes: since August 18</b> 25% reduction in missing episodes across whole cohort A reduction of 502 Hours of total length of missing episodes across cohort – Saving £12,550 for Police</p>
<p><b>Reduction in exploitation</b> 48% reduction in number of children assessed as High Risk of exploitation across open cohort (39) 81% of cohort now assessed as medium, low or no risk of exploitation</p>	<p><b>Crime and Offending</b> 44% reduction in crime and disorder across whole cohort</p>
<p><b>Professional Relationships</b> All children have developed a consistent relationship with a professional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Thank you for listening to me and helping me’</li> <li>• ‘I really trust .... He has really helped me out’</li> <li>• ‘I wanted to bring your attention to the highly positive observations I have made of Becca’s sensitive practice skills used in her work’</li> <li>• ‘Thank you for yesterday I really appreciated your help :) it means a lot to me when I feel so s*** to have someone there caring about me and making sure I’m okay’</li> </ul>	

Cohort (April 2018 – June 2019): ages 13-17, 26 boys & 36 girls  
Performance: April 2018 – June 2019

## Barnardo's Charity

# "B You" – feedback from young people about their experience of using the service

Barnardo's Charity provided ongoing "B You" services for children and young people suffering sexual and criminal exploitation during this reporting. "B You" is a preventative programme which also supports recovery from episodes of exploitation and trafficking.

Barnardo's practitioners provided support and advocacy for trafficking victims and undertook preventative work to help keep children and young people safe, such as dealing with relationships and issues affecting individual lives

Barnardo's stated: "Cases are only closed once we are convinced that the young person is safe and able to manage well in the future..... This work is with high-risk young people and so there were often very frequent safeguarding incidents. The partnership working has been crucial in sharing, managing and responding to that risk." Barnardo's also reported that, "there has been collaborative working on reducing safeguarding risk for young people and the opportunity to work within a culture which does not blame but shares responsibility and expertise has been enormously helpful. This could not have happened without the partnership working."

The "B You" service gains feedback from young people at every quarterly review and every closure; this feedback is used to improve the service. The team also hold a participation event every 6 months to gain insight from young people on service feedback.

"Cases are only closed once we are convinced that the young person is safe and able to manage well in the future."



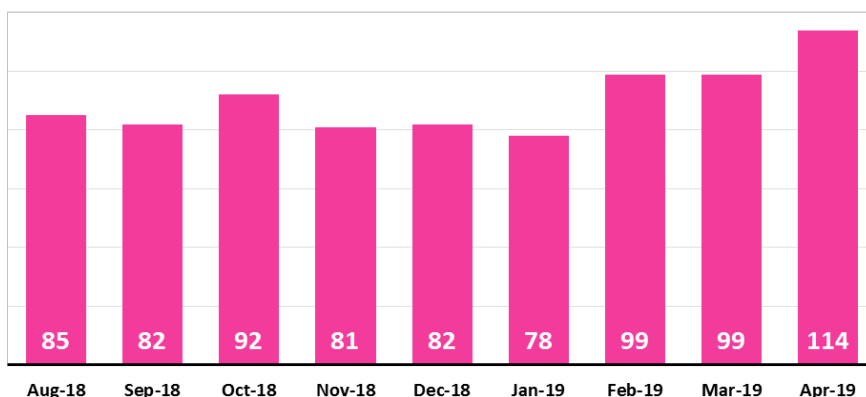
## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The partnership continues to invest in relation to children who go missing, those at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and other contextual safeguarding concerns. As at June 2019, 137 children had a CSE classification and were open to Children’s Social Care. To safeguard these vulnerable children and young people, weekly multi-agency meetings are held to review the level of risk, share information and implement a bespoke safety plan to protect each child. This builds successfully on the previous activity that had been established in previous years.

## Missing Children

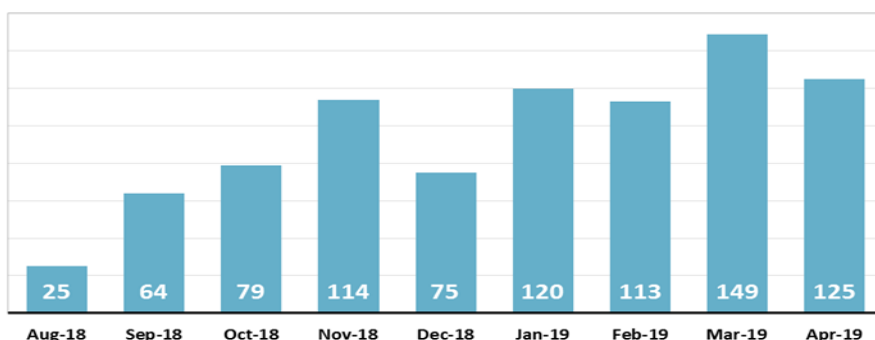
It is known that going missing increases children’s vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. This risk can increase further for those who are in care of the local authority. Throughout the year the dedicated multi-agency Missing and Child Exploitation Team have further developed from their pilot of 2017/18. This has led to a reduction in the amount of time a vulnerable young person is missing and the opportunity for exploitation or abuse. In addition, the partnership incorporated the ‘return home interviews’ process into the team, which saw an immediate improvement in the number and timeliness of interviews taking place.

The chart below shows the monthly trend for missing episodes of young people from care.



## Missing from Home

This chart shows the monthly trend for missing episodes from home.



**10%** or 9 of the 88 children who went missing from home during April went missing 3 or more times. The 9 children who went missing 3 or more times, accounted for 34 or **27%** of the 125

### Individual missing episodes recorded in the month

For each of these vulnerable young people an individual multi- agency safety plan is implemented in conjunction with any statutory process. This enables the partnership to not only find them as quickly as possible, but provides a specific plan to maximise their ongoing safety, assess any exploitative factors, provide emotional and physical support and where appropriate investigate any criminal activity that may have been disclosed. This service has seen an improvement in placement stability, reduced self-harming and improved mental health.

Under the governance of the Exploitation Sub Group, the Board has developed a specific 'Child Exploitation, Improving Practice Action Plan' to improve and respond to child exploitation and children who go missing with the aim to:

1. Identify risk and raise awareness enabling individuals and communities to build resilience;
2. Reduce risk of harm and provide pathways of support for those affected by exploitation;
3. Use the full range of powers and resources to deter, prosecute and manage those who exploit;
4. Monitor activity, provide robust challenge, learn, show effect of impact and continuously improve practice.

### Multi-agency audit work

The Board were proactive in completing a number of multi-agency audits to evaluate the 'front door' for child protection and Child Sexual Exploitation. In addition, we used the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) thematic framework relating to child sexual abuse and domestic abuse to ensure services were developed and practice improved.

It is acknowledged that embedding learning from themes arising from audits remains a challenge and this is something that the partnership will be driving forward . For example, audits around criminal exploitation and strategy meetings found that whilst there was improvement in areas such as child centred safety plans, in other areas, consistency around information sharing remained a concern.

"Working Together to Safeguard Children," (revised in 2018) identifies that it is the function of a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), to ensure that the key people and organisations, that have a duty under Section 11 (S11) of the Children Act 2004, are fulfilling their statutory obligations in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Pan Sussex S11 Self-Assessment Report (SER) is a tool that enables each agency to demonstrate their level of compliance with statutory guidance as well as providing an opportunity to share examples of good practice with other agencies.

This year there were good levels of engagement and compliance with the S11 process by agencies across West Sussex, showing further improvement against the 2016 figures, despite the inclusion of 19 brand new standards. The standards which agencies identified as needing improvement (graded amber) included: equipping staff with the confidence to work with families from different cultures and religions; private fostering; building safeguarding responsibilities into job descriptions and providing appropriate training and supervision for these roles; consideration of fathers and other males; and training staff to identify and respond to the broader range of safeguarding risks such as FGM. The quality of each agency action plan was assessed with feedback given to those agencies whose plans required further improvement. This will be reviewed in the autumn of 2019 when action plan progress is scrutinised by the SCP.



## Neglect

In West Sussex 53% of the total number of children subject to child protection plans, is due to concerns about neglect. This proportion has been a consistent trend since January 2018.

Whilst audit activity had been undertaken to track the progress of the 2016-17 Board Strategy, further multi-agency audit by Sussex Police and WSCC Children's Services, highlighted that the impact of work stemming from the strategy was not leading to improved practice. The Board was determined that further work was needed to ensure that professionals were able to recognise and respond to neglect and offer timely and appropriate levels of support. Additionally, Ofsted noted that accumulating concerns about the neglect children have experienced "are not always recognised or understood, resulting in a lack of assertive action and to some children experiencing profound and potentially long-term consequences".

A Neglect Working Group was therefore established in late spring 2019, and the Independent Chair agreed to chair this to provide leadership to drive forward this critical work. The aim of the work was to ensure that practice improved across all agencies and included hearing directly from children, young people and their families about what agencies needed to do better. The Neglect Working Group has focussed on updating our Neglect Strategy, which will include a clear toolkit for multi-agency professionals and a mandatory toolkit for social workers. Each agency has developed a robust action plan about how it will improve its recognition of and response to neglect and the impact of the work will be measured using a specially designed Impact Framework.

The full roll-out of the Strategy and toolkits is planned for early 2020. Classroom based partnership training on neglect was delivered throughout this period and a joint neglect conference is planned with Brighton and Hove Children's Partnership Board for the autumn.

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing

The Board collaborated with the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver work to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Public Health have led a comprehensive programme of work in schools. This included the recruitment of an officer to drive forward a preventative and support programme around self-harm. The initial focus of work was in Crawley and Worthing and designed to provide support to children and young people in schools in that area, with a roll-out across the area in the longer term.

In February 2019 a new Sussex Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) website was launched, coinciding with Children's and Young Peoples Mental Health Week, to improve access to advice and support for mental health and well-being. The site contains useful information for parents and those working with children and young people and is divided into three areas to make it easy to navigate: children and young people, parents and carers and professionals. Each area provides information and top tips about how to manage and where to get help and support for some of the key mental health difficulties and concerns that young people might experience as they grow up, including anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, eating difficulties and psychosis.

In addition, a self-harm audit was undertaken to examine the multi-agency recognition, response and organisational efficacy in relation to adolescent self-harm. This indicated that the continuity of relationship with a trusted professional is valued by the young person. When a referral is made, clarity regarding the right level of caring support for young people and referring professionals is essential. At times, this can be difficult for young people but support is available through the allocation of different services such as Youth Emotional Support (YES).

Awareness training sessions from CAMHS and Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust subject experts about the impact of mental ill health on a care givers' capability to provide consistent care/parenting were delivered to around 400 people as part of the Early Help hub events.

## What happens when a child in West Sussex dies or is seriously harmed?

### Child Death Overview Panel

#### What are we committed to?

All children in England that die aged under 18 years will have their death reviewed by a multi-agency team of professionals from Health, Emergency Services, Local Authority Children's Services, Education, Coronial Services and Public Health. This has been a statutory requirement since 2008. The West Sussex Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is committed to:

- Identifying what we can learn from each child death and what actions we can take to help prevent future deaths;
- Sharing our learning with professionals and colleagues both locally and nationally and learning lessons from the experiences of other CDOPs and professional bodies;
- Getting messages out to the wider public audience when risks and modifiable factors are identified and the general public need to be made aware.

#### Modifiable Factors

These are the factors that are identified during child death reviews, factors which may have contributed in some way to the death but which, with appropriate local or national actions, could be modified in a way that would help to prevent future child deaths. The West Sussex CDOP works hard to reduce modifiable factors and during the year the top two modifiable factors identified have been: smoking by parents in the home and the abuse of alcohol/substance misuse by a parent or carer. The panel has noted the rise in cases where the taking of Class A drugs by a parent or carer has been a modifiable factor and this will be monitored closely in the coming year.

**The West Sussex CDOP works hard to reduce modifiable factors - 2 modifiable factors identified have been; smoking by parents in the home and the abuse of alcohol/substance misuse by a parent or carer.**

#### What have we learnt in 2018-2019?

There have been 48 child deaths reported in 2018 – 2019 (the same number as in 2017/2018). These highlight that:

- The greatest number of child deaths occur within the first 4 weeks of life (52%).
- There were an equal number of deaths by gender (50% Male and 48% Female).
- 33% of the child deaths were classified as "unexpected."

There have been 33 deaths of West Sussex children reviewed by the West Sussex CDOP in 2018-2019 and we have learnt that:

- 27% of those deaths had modifiable factors identified (latest national figure for 2016-2017 was also 27%).
- The largest number of child deaths was in the category related to chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies (27%).
- There have been suicide related deaths reviewed in 2018-2019 as anticipated by the panel last year and the prevention of suicide in young people remains a key priority for our future work with partner agencies.



## West Sussex Child Death Overview Panel achievements

### What have we achieved in 2018-2019?

West Sussex has been proactive throughout the year, as members of the Pan Sussex CDOP Transition Group, planning and agreeing an approach to meet the new CDR and CDOP requirements. The first meeting was held in September 2018 and the group has met every 2 months. The proposal for the new model of working has included the purchase and launch of the eCDOP client management system that is now in use by over 50% of all CDOPs in the country and which will provide an ideal platform to support our new ways of working in the future. West Sussex is on track to present its proposals to NHS England by the June 2019 deadline and to launch the new Pan Sussex CDR procedures on the 1 October 2019.

West Sussex has forged a close working relationship with its LeDeR (Learning Disabilities Mortality Review) representative this year, involving her in the review of all deaths this year of children aged 4 plus who had identified learning disabilities. The Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme is a world-first. It is the first national programme of its kind aimed at making improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities. Reviews are being carried out with a view to improving the standard and quality of care for people with learning disabilities.

### What do we want to achieve in 2019-2020?

The forthcoming year will be a transformational one for CDOPs across the country. In West Sussex we will be focusing on implementing the new Pan Sussex Child Death Review arrangements, ensuring that legacy cases from the existing CDOP process are completed in a timely and efficient way whilst using the new procedures and systems to strengthen the consistency of our approach, to utilise emerging data and information more effectively, locally and nationally, and to identify and tackle those issues that are pertinent to our communities across Sussex.

The new Pan Sussex CDOP footprint will enable better quality data analysis and thematic learning across the 3 Sussex boundary areas.

## Serious Case Reviews and Local Learning reviews

It is of note that following the cessation of LSCBs, the new legislation requires that moving forward safeguarding Children Partnerships will capture learning via local child safeguarding practice reviews.

During this period the Board published one SCR and delivered learning events for practitioners and managers in relation to three SCRs. The objective of this work is focused on promoting a multi-agency culture which supports practice improvement and improves delivery of safeguarding services to children and young people who need protection. Five learning events for practitioners and managers to reflect on practice and look at an individual child's lived experience were conducted throughout the period of the review. In addition, as part of Safeguarding Month in November 2018, sessions to raise awareness of learning from SCRs were presented to 326 multi-agency staff. The sessions also focussed on group-based activity around concealed pregnancy and child sexual exploitation.

In January 2019, as part of the transition to a safeguarding children partnership the WSSCB's Independent Chair led a workshop to support the WSSCB in running a rapid review when a child died or was seriously injured. This work supported the WSSCB's development to capture and analyse key facts to inform how best to take forward multi-agency learning. The WSSCB undertook three 'rapid reviews' under [new legislation](#) during this period.

**Serious Case Reviews** were commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards to look at how agencies worked together where a child was abused or neglected, resulting in serious harm or death and there is cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard a child.

In response to a recommendation arising from a review regarding the prevention of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). The WSSCB agreed to fund the ICON programme for a two-year period. It is a preventative campaign to raise awareness of parents and care givers about AHT. Research indicates that the most effective prevention programmes are based on simple messages about how to cope with a crying baby. The programme will complement existing local initiatives such as Family Assist, a website-based communication and information tool for families, accessible across a range of digital devices. DadPad, an additional information tool specifically designed for father's will be funded in direct response to WSSCB SCR learning.





## Practice Improvement and Learning and Development

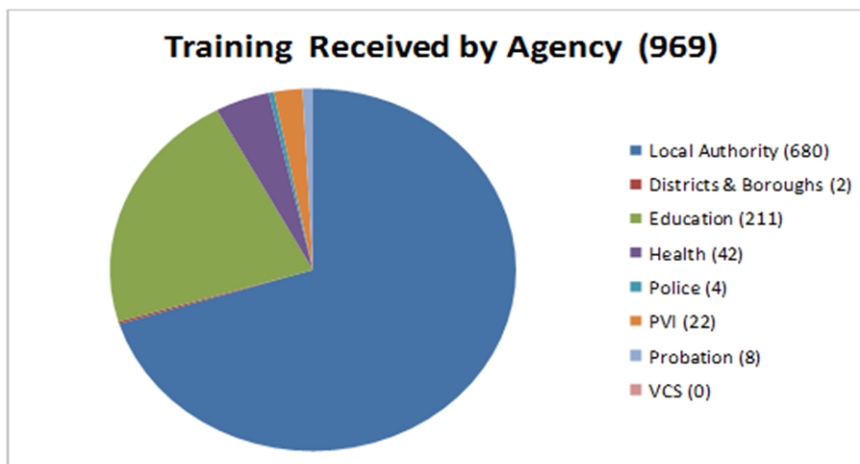
### WSSCB Training Programme:

The WSSCB offers a range of safeguarding and child protection training through a variety of methods, which are designed to meet diverse learning styles and ensure full engagement. These include face to face training, learning handouts, one-off conferences and workshops as well as on-line training, presentation slides and special email bulletins.

**Development of the Core Offer:** The delivery of training is dependent on the support of the partnership and this year there have been 12 trainers who have delivered in a variety of ways. Training during this year has been supported by Health (4), the Local Authority (4), Voluntary & Community Sector (1) and Police (1). The WSSCP Learning & Development Officer also delivers training on a monthly basis. In addition to these, external speakers have been utilised at conferences that have taken place throughout the year. Subject experts from a range of agencies providing their support is key for the WSSCB to continue to deliver its core training offer.

Training was delivered free of cost in terms of venues and trainers. Since April 2019 refreshments are no longer supplied at venues that have an on-site canteen or equivalent facilities nearby.

### Who was trained?



969 professionals were trained during this time frame, which is an increase of 49% from last year. This reflects the significant additional training contribution from IPEH trainers. Across the time scale reflected in this report 49 courses/learning events were available for delegates.

These numbers do not include special learning events such as specific sessions delivered as part of Safeguarding Month or Serious Case Review Learning Events or workshops.

## Practice Improvement:

A number of practice improvement approaches were deployed to raise awareness of various safeguarding learning and topics. These included;

- WSSCB Monthly Email Bulletins
- Safeguarding Month
- Serious Case Review Learning Handouts
- Special Bulletins
- A stronger involvement in the Early Years Safeguarding training
- The development of Briefing slides / Seven Minute Slides
- The development of Twitter as a form of promotion of WSSCB activities
- Child Sexual Abuse Multi-Agency Workshops
- Working in Partnership with Brighton & Hove regarding MAPPA training and Joint Agency Response for Unexpected Deaths.
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) audit in partnership with the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) and WSCC's Community Safety & Wellbeing.
- Coping with crying training session specifically for foster carers.



## Safeguarding Month

November 2018 saw a wide range of partners offering their time and expertise to deliver a range of learning events and awareness sessions on offer in relation to WSSCB business plan priorities and SCR learning.

Safeguarding month training sessions included:

- Basic Awareness of Safer Sleeping Messages (delivered by Health partnership)
- Local Authority Designated Offices Surgeries (delivered by WSCC)
- Modern Slavery training (delivered by WSCC staff)
- Stay Safe Community Information sessions (delivered by WSCC staff)
- Border Force Awareness Sessions (delivered by Border Force and attended by 46 practitioners)
- Local authority Safeguarding awareness Days (delivered by District and Boroughs partners)
- Crying Babies and Abusive Head Trauma Conference (delivered by Health)
- IPEH Hub Awareness Days (Supported by a wide range of professionals from Health and WSCC)
- Pan Sussex Conference (Led by East Sussex Safeguarding Children Board). Was attended by 37 West Sussex Professionals. Four key speakers covered a range of topics based around safeguarding adolescents which included contextual safeguarding, neglect, suicide prevention and transitions from child to adult services.

A total of 437 staff benefited directly from the above activities during Safeguarding month and it is envisaged that a safeguarding month will take place again in November 2019.

Five IPEH Hub events reaching 326 practitioners took place across the County and delivered safeguarding presentations and workshops on a wide range of topics including sexual abuse, CAMHS, elective home education, young carers, online safety, domestic abuse and messages from serious case reviews.



## Safeguarding West Sussex Children – looking to the future



Under new legislation, the three lead partners scoped and agreed how our new arrangements to safeguard children might best deliver the improvements needed to both safeguard and enable our children, young people, and their families to thrive. This endeavour took a considerable amount of the partnerships time to scope and develop, whilst continuing to deliver WSSCB business.

“Working Together to Safeguard Children,” 2018 statutory guidance offers a flexible approach to safeguarding children arrangements. In May 2018 the WSSCB held a development session, which was followed in the late autumn by intensive discussions about how new partnership arrangements could be used to bring a fresh and innovative approach to partnership working which puts children at the heart of practice.

Partners discussed a variety of approaches to delivering high quality child safeguarding across Sussex and agreed that feedback from children, young people and their families was a key facet in achieving this. Therefore, it would be important to have the voice of children and young people at the centre of our work. Arrangements for a shadow or mirror board are currently in development.

In addition, it is proposed to link front-line practitioners into the partnerships work through a Practitioners Forum. This will enable the partnership to get practitioners fully involved in implementing key initiatives and embedding learning as well as hearing what the partners need to do to improve safeguarding practice.

The WSSCB recognised that an ongoing evaluation of the arrangements, including its revised delivery structure will be essential to ensure that the new partnership successfully delivers its core business. The partnership arrangements offer scope to test different ways of working.

A streamlined delivery structure was published in June 2019, agreed by the three lead partners in consultation with the wider partnership. A focussed strategic delivery group and reduction in the size of the partnership board read to partners’ concerns about resource limitations whilst retaining the level of representation needed across a wide range of agencies to enable effective safeguarding and protection of children across Sussex.

A key challenge for the partnership has been the changes in senior staff across a number of the organisations. This reporting period saw 3 changes of senior leadership in both WSCC Children’s Services and Sussex Police, one of the future three lead partners, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, enjoyed equilibrium within its senior management structure.

The 2019 Ofsted inspection findings regarding WSCC Children’s Services presents a significant challenge for all agencies in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in West Sussex. A courageous and tenacious partnership is required, to ensure that agencies can hold one another to account in these circumstances.



## Safeguarding West Sussex Children – looking to the future

Work with wider partnerships, including the Children’s Services Improvement Board and the boards who signed up to the Collaborative Working Agreement will be key to ensuring that agencies are working together to get basic child protection right across a wide range of delivery arenas. The collaborative working arrangements have the potential to provide resource efficient and targeted working.

The safeguarding teams within the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have begun to work across a Sussex wide footprint as part of a wider Health partnership transformation. The safeguarding and looked after children functions remain integral to all functions of the CCGs. This alignment will continue in 2019-20, offering a consistent approach to safeguarding children across Sussex and opportunities to share Pan Sussex best practice and learning.

The WSSCP will support the work of the Community Safety Partnership to drive a preventive agenda which tackles knife crime. The partnership will also ensure it is sighted on the work of Public Health colleagues and the Safeguarding Adults Board who are leading respectively on the emotional health and well-being and planning for transition to adulthood of the most vulnerable children and young people in West Sussex.

A Pan Sussex Strategic Leaders’ Group initiated under the new arrangements is under development; it affords an opportunity to look at where agencies can work together to provide a resource effective and consistent approach to child safeguarding across Sussex.



## Safeguarding Children - partners report on their achievements and challenges

This section of the report reflects messages from our partner agencies and what they have told us about their multi-agency work to safeguard children including recent initiatives and how they have embedded learning into practice. Partners' views articulate where they consider progress was made and what they see as the Partnership's areas for further development and focus. Agencies also described how they have listened to children young people and their families and acted upon what they have learned in order to improve outcomes for children and families.

### **Barnardo's:** provided –

- CSE services to 50 children across West Sussex who have been identified as High Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Night watch Training, up to April 2019, delivering CSE awareness training to the night time economy (contextualised safeguarding).
- Real Love Rocks training, healthy relationship training for primary and secondary school children
- Healthy Child programme, Health funded service for young people with disabilities transitioning to adult services and developing independent living skills with regards to their health needs
- Short breaks for young people with disabilities (from June 2019)
- The Dice programme, a group-based support for Parents whose children may have suffered or are at risk of suffering Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **Change Grow Live, West Sussex Drug & Alcohol Wellbeing Network:**

We are excited that we have been commissioned (via West Sussex) to deliver a new service under the government's Innovation Fund – a continuation of our therapeutic service for children and young people affected by parental alcohol use and a Family Team of two workers to support pre-birth families where alcohol is an issue. These are very exciting developments – the pre-birth work is the only project funded that focuses on the unborn. We are working closely with WSCC, maternity services, IPEH and Childrens Services around developing this project.

West Sussex DAWN employ a Family Team to support our safeguarding work, enhance staff skills and manage complex cases. The team provide coaching and support to CGL staff across the county. They are now case holding, particularly pregnant service users.

CGL has a national strategy in development, regarding CSA. We have a lead on this in West Sussex services and this will inform our work going forward.

## West Sussex County Council Children's Services

**Ofsted Inspection:** in February 2019, an Ofsted inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) judged children's services in West Sussex to be inadequate. The report published in May 2019 made twelve recommendations.

In response to the inspection findings WSCC developed a Children First Practice Improvement Plan with defined actions against each of the 12 recommendations. A multi-agency Improvement Board was established with a remit to offer independent, rigorous scrutiny of progress of what needs to improve. The Board meets monthly and involves partner agencies as well as the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

**Commissioner's Review:** John Coughlan was appointed by the Secretary of State as the Commissioner for Children's Services in West Sussex. The Commissioner's report states that the council has not created the corporate conditions to support sustained improvement in Children's Services. It includes ten recommendations to support improvements to the council, one of which is to set up an independent children's trust.

Hampshire County Council has also been appointed as our partner in practice and seven workstreams have been agreed, based on the Commissioner's recommendations to support our improvement and transformation plan. The Children First Practice Improvement Plan is currently being refreshed to capture the actions agreed and milestones to measure progress. John Coughlan has taken over Chair of the reconstituted West Sussex Children's Improvement Board and will report progress on a quarterly basis to the Department for Education.

**Achievements and new initiatives:** The County Council has recognised and accepted the depth of problems facing its Children's Services and responded with vigour in a variety of ways over the past year, under the banner of 'Children First'. Substantial investment in improving and transforming Children's Services has been agreed, including an additional £17.7m over a 2 year period in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to support the improvements needed.

One of the most pressing issues was to stabilise the workforce. To date a retention offer has been taken up by around 92% of the eligible workforce, who have committed to stay with West Sussex County Council for at least 18 months. The workforce is relatively stable with an uncovered vacancy rate of 1.8%, ensuring greater continuity of social worker for children and families.

Another positive change is that caseloads have reduced to an average of 15.6 for a qualified social worker and 7.1 for a newly qualified social worker, although we recognise that there are continued demand pressures in the system affecting some teams more than others.

Improvements have been made to the Corporate Parenting Panel, now chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, together with a more robust scrutiny function of the Select Committee. A Children First Strategy, in collaboration with partners, has been launched, developing a new approach which holds children at the centre of all service planning and delivery.

Collaborative work with the District and Borough Councils is strengthening the response to families who have no recourse to public funds and "intentionally homeless" families, with the aim of improving our offer of support at an earlier stage.

During this period an autism pathway has been developed in Children's Social Care to support adolescents through to adulthood (focussing on autism and mental health).

## West Sussex County Council Children's Services

Early Help and Children's Social Care commenced joint work to develop a transition process or "step across" approach to ensure a smooth transition between the two services. A recent monitoring visit by Ofsted evidenced some improvements in the local authority's response to children in need of help and protection, particularly the quality of social workers' direct work with children. Purposeful and effective interventions by practitioners had resulted in improved outcomes for children. Safety planning for children was well established and there was increasing evidence of management oversight. However, leaders recognise that there is still more to do to strengthen the quality and consistency of social work practice.

### Early Help:

A new medium risk **Domestic Abuse service** was commissioned focusing on five key areas of work, including working directly with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse to promote safeguarding and support regarding the impact this has on them. 250 referrals have been made since 'going live' in November 2018. There has been positive feedback from clients who attended a focus group. This service has also delivered bespoke training to jobs centres, court staff and GPs to raise awareness of the indicators of domestic abuse and ensure clear pathways for support.

Early Help commissioned two reviews to look at the Process and Delivery Teams. There was a specific focus on how to improve keeping children safe and the outcome was that Early Help implemented practice changes, such as initiating daily management reporting to monitor a range of activity. This includes:

1. Care leavers in bed and breakfast accommodation;
2. Supervised contacts booked without a venue or supervisor;
3. Early Help enquiries created in the MASH that exceeded the 5-day practice standard;
4. The number of Early Help Plans waiting for more than 20 days for a Signs of Safety conversation; awaiting 50 days for a Delivery Plan Review; closed cases due to consent being withdrawn; closed cases due to being stepped up; and closed cases that have reopened within a year of closure.

This has enabled Early Help managers to respond promptly and address both individual needs and performance issues.

Moving forward Early Help expect to:

Deliver a parental conflict programme to ensure that Early Help staff are competent in parenting attachment;

Implement learning gained from the high-risk perpetrator programme pioneered by the Drive Partnership. The programme looks at perpetrator behaviours and questions: "why doesn't he stop?" instead of "why doesn't she leave?"



## The Pause Project

Launched in West Sussex in 2017. Pause is an intensive programme of support aimed at breaking the cycle of repeat pregnancies and removal of children from their families into care. It achieves this by allowing women the opportunity to reflect, tackle destructive patterns of behaviour and to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future.

“Pause” is part of the ‘Better Change’ programme within Early Help: ‘We will do everything we can to help a family stay together. If infants need to be removed from their parents, we approach this in a way that helps improve the health and development outcomes for the infant from pre-birth; and helps prepare parents for their recovery journey as much as possible.’

Pause is currently working with our second cohort of 16 women; the team now have capacity to support up to 25 women.



Outcome data from the 21 women who completed the first programme cycle evidences the difference Pause has made. Whilst financial savings are significant (financial forecasting suggests that Pause may realise savings of £1,300,000 during this period), its principle value is that it has reduced further trauma to birth families and children.

Pause resulted in 14 children not being born into care over the past 2 years. From our first cohort 9 out of the 21 have expressed an interest in receiving follow-on support. As a practice we are developing our Pause Next Steps, Getting Involved and Peer Support Programme and we have agreed to be a Next Steps, Getting Involved and Peer Support pilot as part of a Pause national initiative.

## The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

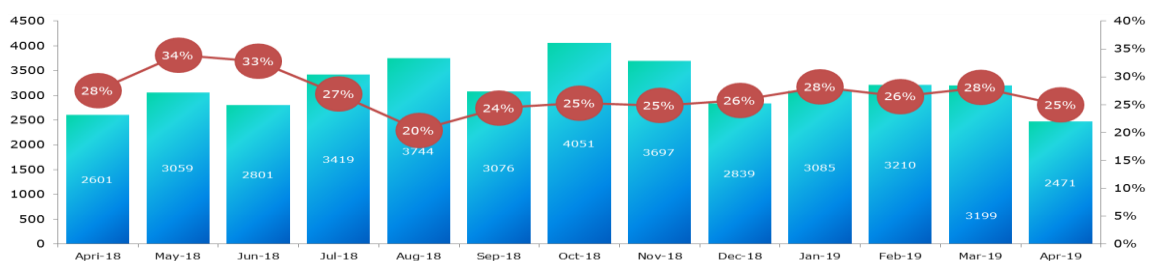
The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) functions as the ‘front door’ for all safeguarding enquiries in West Sussex. The key purpose of the MASH is to efficiently and effectively deliver the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families across the county, in particular to ensure:

- Children are better protected from harm and risk is minimised; Safeguarding concerns about vulnerable children are processed faster and in a more co-ordinated and consistent manner;
- An improved “journey” for the child with a greater emphasis on early intervention and better-informed services that are provided at the right time;
- A better understanding of potential vulnerability, enabling appropriate preventative action to be taken, dealing with cases before they escalate;
- Closer partnership working with clearer accountability, more effective use of resources, better planning and delivery and less duplication of effort;
- A reduction in the number of children inappropriately accessing costly services from Children’s Social Care, the Police, Health and others;
- A reduction in the number of inappropriate and repeat referrals.

An Ofsted inspection of the MASH in 2018 acknowledged that ‘there has been significant work across the partnership to develop the multi-agency safeguarding hub’. Due to embedding and permanent partnership presence within the MASH, it was agreed that the MASH sub-group was no longer required as part of the Board sub groups. It was agreed that the MASH Strategic Group would continue to meet under the umbrella of the partnership and provide an annual performance report to the future West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership for scrutiny and challenge.

Activity within the MASH has remained high with fluctuations throughout the period depending on the point in the school year.

### Contact volume and conversion to referral rate graph



The conversion rate from contact to referral has generally remained consistent, with approximately 28% of contacts converting to a social care referral. Police are the highest contact source, followed by Health and Education. Partners are regularly provided with and contribute to a data pack which informs business and practice planning. Agency partnerships are a significant strength in the MASH, with representation from the police, health, education, housing, probation, Early Help, Domestic Abuse Services, and the Child Disability Team.

Partners are integrated in the service in relation to training, practice improvement and team-building. Substantive funding was secured from the West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups resulting in the appointment of 2 full-time MASH specialist Health Practitioners for the West Sussex MASH, hosted by Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT), in the summer of 2018.

The SCFT, Safeguarding Children Team have closely supported the MASH, providing representation on MASH operational and health steering groups. SCFT developed a robust dataset, which will allow for greater evidence of their impact in post. SCFT lead professionals have worked closely with MASH management to ensure referrals are suitably reviewed before being tasked to the health team. Previous Ofsted reviews have noted that partner agencies need to increase the quality of their referrals to MASH to help ensure an improved uptake. The MASH health practitioners have been proactive in providing bespoke training to health partners related to this area of work. There is evidence of a positive impact for both SCFT and the wider health community. Examples of this include greater health involvement in strategy meetings and the production of ‘outcome letters’ that are provided to GPs and the Healthy Child Programme Teams following a strategy meeting in the MASH.

Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) reported that the “Ulysses” project will allow staff to raise a referral on the Ulysses data system to be automatically sent to the MASH in West Sussex and the SPFT Safeguarding Team. The aim of this work is to reduce duplication of effort, streamline the process and improve quality assurance. This work is due to commence in August 2019.

Education and Skills reported that two full-time Education Advisors were recruited to the MASH from January 2019; the advisers act as a single point of contact for the MASH to take forward education-based queries and actions, whilst providing appropriate challenge.

### Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children”, (2018) and “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, (2018) outlines statutory requirements for all agencies that have contact and provide services for children to have a procedure in place for managing and reporting allegations against staff.

LADO: allegations and consultations 01/04/2018 to 01/06/19			
Allegations		Consultations	
Number of allegations	140	Number of consultations	567
Of which (Top 3 cohorts):		By (top 3 cohorts seeking advice):	
Allegations recorded against employees within education (WSCC maintained, academy and independent schools).	38%	Education workers (WSCC maintained, academy and independent schools)	28%
Allegations recorded against residential workers (WSCC and independent)	16%	Residential workers (WSCC and independent)	18%
Allegations recorded against early year’s workers (WSCC and independent).	14%	Early Years workers (WSCC and independent)	13%

The LADO team continued to provide training and briefing sessions to employers and partner agencies included the Sussex Football Association, The Lawn Tennis Association, the entire West Sussex residential estate and four large external residential providers, (due to the high number of independent residential children’s homes in West Sussex).

Briefings have also been provided to school academy chains, the West Sussex early years network and Border Force at Gatwick. The LADO co-delivered Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training alongside Safeguarding in Education colleagues and also ran six ‘clinics’ across the county during the WSSCB’s safeguarding month, raising awareness of the LADOs statutory role and discussing thresholds and cases.

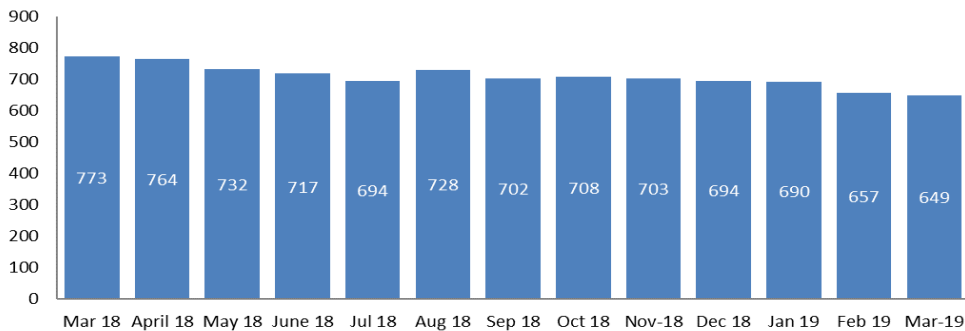
## Children in Need of Protection

As of June 2019, 752 children and young people were subject of a child protection plan. Particular attention is paid to children who have been on a child protection plan for over 15 months, have been subject to a child protection plan before, or about whom there are significant concerns. To scrutinise the work of Children’s Services with this cohort of vulnerable children specific dip sampling and formal auditing is completed.

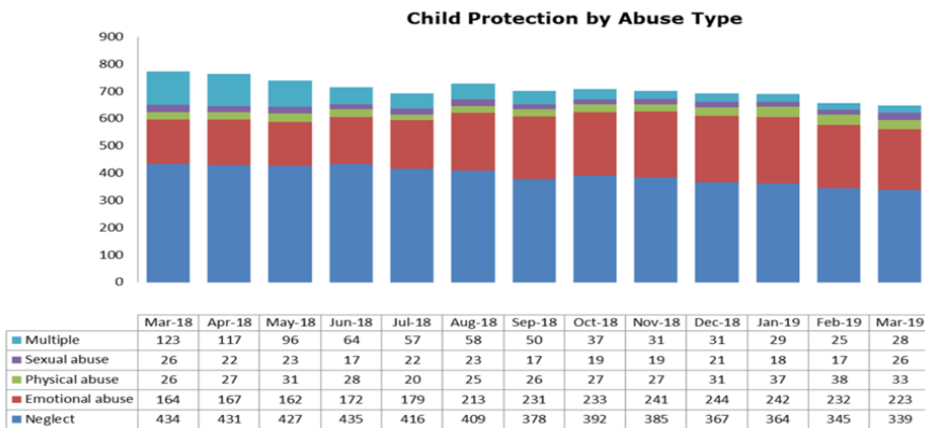
During this period Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) chaired 2,585 child protection conferences. In the last 12-month period (to March 2019), 99.25% of child protection plans were reviewed at a review child protection conference within required timescales (against a target of 99.0%). CPAs also delivered training to partner agencies regarding core groups, child protection conferences and general safeguarding.

Feedback forms are provided for family members after all conferences and the responses are collated and analysed. Specific feedback is shared with CPAs to cement good practice or identify areas for development. An independent review recommended areas for improvement which are being addressed.

### Number on a Child Protection Plan



### Child Protection by Category of Abuse



## Children who are Looked After

**EPIC awards:** The December 2018, Extraordinary People in Care (EPIC) Awards were held at Butlin's, Bognor Regis. The venue was transformed into a magical Harry Potter World attended by 600 guests. An impressive 282 young people were nominated for an EPIC award. The Children in Care Council and EPIC Reference Group organised the spectacular Harry Potter themed event, supported by a vast team of volunteers, including foster carers, social workers, independent reviewing officers and specialist nurses.



## Residential Accommodation for Children Looked After by WSCC – Initiatives:

Developed streamlined core processes and individual 'Missing Plans' were specifically created at one residential home. These were shared in conjunction with the Police and commended as an example of good practice. This initiative was rolled out across WSCC children's homes so that all children and young people have a 'Missing Plan. Representation from residential services at multi-agency meetings to safeguard children who go missing has also supported a holistic multi-agency approach to support effective risk assessment.

**Mind of My Own:** is a digital app for children to support their participation. It provides another means by which children can express their views and feelings and is a smart way for social workers to record them.



## District and Borough Councils

(Arun, Adur and Worthing, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham and Mid-Sussex):

**Adur and Worthing:** Held an internal peer review of their entire safeguarding approach, reviewing current policy and how referrals are monitored.

**Arun:** Since April 2019, the Community Safety Team established closer joint working with the Littlehampton Alternative Provision College (APC) to safeguard children who may be at risk of criminal exploitation. Evidence from central government indicates that there is a high correlation of children and young people in alternative provision being targeted and recruited into County Lines drug supply by organised crime groups.

In May 2019, Community Safety worked closely with Sussex Police's Arun Prevention Team to raise awareness in the town centres of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis about County Lines and Cuckooing, this formed part of a national 'County Lines' intensification week. This work included interaction with school pupils and members of the public. The theme of capturing the voice of young people has been incorporated into internal training (e.g. corporate induction) and for future training (for delivery in July 2019).

**Children's Voice in Arun:** An event with Arun Youth Council was run to ensure that the concerns of young people in Arun are heard and acknowledged. Arun are also exploring with Littlehampton APC the feasibility of setting up a panel of young people from the APC and other local schools, to find out what concerns them in their local community. This mirrors work undertaken with young people in East Sussex, as outlined by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Katie Bourne at a recent Home Office Serious Violence Strategy launch in Sussex.

**Chichester:** the "Five Ways to Wellbeing" programme developed for Year 5 and 6 children, continued; it targeted schools in the most deprived areas of the district. A one-day input teaches 5 keys skills for improvement including mental resilience. The content specifically covers safe friendships with specific reference to online safety.

Managers from areas of the council who do not attend the internal Safeguarding Group were invited to present to the meeting, regarding how safeguarding may present in their service areas.

**Horsham:** Horsham District Councils Annual Junior Citizens Week took place 1st – 5th April 2019 in Horsham. Over 1000 students from 33 different schools attended. The week is themed around 'staying safe'. The Community Development Team conducted a youth survey in November 2018 to capture the voice of young people on what they would like to see in terms of youth provision across the district.

The "Understanding Teenage Behaviour" course continued during this period. These courses are run for parents and offer an educational package to support parenting and has specific elements in relation to on-line safety, vulnerability and keeping young people safe. Eight additional neighbourhood wardens were recruited. Additional areas now covered include, Horsham Town, Billingshurst, Southwater and Storrington.

Horsham hosted an Exploitation Conference in October for staff and external partners to raise awareness of young people and exploitation. Speakers included former London gang leader Junior Smart, founder of the SoS Gangs Project run by the St Giles Trust. Horsham continued to deliver a wide range of awareness training sessions including Criminal Exploitation and Prevent to both staff and the voluntary sector throughout Safeguarding Month.



## District and Borough Councils continued

**Mid Sussex:** The Early Help officer ensures that the voice of the child or young person is embedded in and threaded through the work that is done with all families. This is done using many recording methods including the use of technology and social media platforms/gaming.

This practice and understanding was shared with Mid Sussex District Council colleagues who may not work directly with children and young people but may make decisions which will impact on them. The Early Help Officer ensured that the voice, in whichever format is most appropriate, was made clear at meetings with families and was also something all adults can constantly refer to or re-focus on during often difficult discussions.



## Education and Skills

A Safeguarding Leads Forum for the various disciplines across Education and Skills was launched, meeting twice per annum. This forum considers specific safeguarding issues, for example, how schools can train transport and catering staff remotely.

The Safeguarding in Education Team supported the Safeguarding Leads in West Sussex schools. In the past year the focus has been on delivery.

### Policies and training:

- A model policy and a training package/presentation for all schools;
- Statutory Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training for 300 staff;
- Continued to develop our DSL Network: more than 600 DSLs signed up and attend termly update meetings;
- An annual conference in June 2019 included safeguarding workshops;
- DSL Executive Group which considers specific issues and offers advice across the network;
- Delivery of a Harmful Sexual Behaviour policy, risk assessments etc., designed and co-trained with ATS;
- Training DSL's in threshold decision making and recording and child protection file systems
- Disseminating key messages from SCRs;
- Training DSL's on the use of managing professional differences protocol.

## Fire and Rescue Service (WSSCC)

Our Firewise programme is delivered by a specialist team (Targeted Youth Team). It is centred around children's safety and education and co-working with children's social care, families and schools to reduce risks for young people, change behaviours and support young people. It engages with young people who have either committed arson, have played with fire endangering themselves and/or others, or have an unhealthy fascination with fire.

We also deliver the Firebreak programme for young people with various lower level needs such as low self-esteem, social isolation, behavioural issues, or children who are at risk of educational exclusion.

The Fire and Rescue Service have a process and procedure established with West Sussex children's social care which enables us to report concerns to the MASH 24/7; this includes all our operational firefighters responding to incidents, as well as events and visits to homes ("Safe and Well" visits).





## Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSSCRC)

KSS CRC designed and implemented the Safeguarding Campaign 'See me, Hear me, Protect me, I am not invisible' which ran across the whole of the CRC and Seetec Group over a four month period. The campaign was based on the following themes: domestic abuse, exploitation, child neglect and abuse, radicalisation and mental health. At the end of the campaign all staff were encouraged to enter their teams into a safeguarding quiz to win a Chief Executive Team Award. Approximately twelve teams completed the quiz with an average pass rate of 93%.

KSSCRC embedded the use of professional curiosity within probation practice to support both adult and children's safeguarding by ensuring that all responsible officers attend mandatory 'Developing Professional Curiosity in Assessing Risk to Children' training and opening this training to other frontline staff and administrators. As well as holding a number of 'Curious & Curiouser' workshops for responsible officers. SCR themes and serious further offences learning was shared with teams across KSS CRC through attendance at team meetings by one of the Safeguarding Leads.

KSS CRC Research Department are currently conducting research regarding probation practice and working with families to support the service user in their rehabilitation journey. This research is being conducted across regional, national and international probation practice. Our service users and their families are being asked to contribute to this research with the aim to improve KSS CRC how work with them.

## WSSCB Lay Member

Until 2018 "Working Together to Safeguard Children" required Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to have lay members. For the last three years the WSSCB has had one lay member.

The original role of the lay member was to promote the work of the LSCB and foster links with the community. The current Lay Member has much experience in education and health. He has wide networks in Districts and Boroughs and the business community. He has also volunteered in the Youth Offending Service.

Through these networks the lay member has promoted and supported the work of the LSCB. However, his more valuable contribution at Board level has been to provide a welcome level of challenge based on his extensive experience of safeguarding children in a number of arenas. Board members have observed that "he is not afraid to ask the difficult questions".

The lay member also provided a valuable input into the Quality Assurance Group, bringing experience and questioning around what has been done and whether results had been delivered as expected." He has also joined the Chair of the Board as an active member of the Improvement Board.

## National Probation Service

We have continued to work in partnership with agencies through the WSSCB sub groups, including Exploitation. Our significant contribution in this area is focussing on prevention, where we monitor, supervise and assess offenders subject to community orders or released from custody on licence who present a risk of harm to children. We have strengthened our understanding of the dynamic nature of sexual harm risks in the community to children and young people, which has been reflected on our development of our strategy and practice, most notably observed through multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).

Significant progress has also been made in our work with the courts to reduce the use of custodial disposals in relation to women, enabling as a consequence more mothers to remain with their children in the community. We have developed our work with women and services around domestic abuse that in turn has promoted the welfare of children, keeping them as protected as possible from the fear of violence or psychological harm.

We have introduced reflective practice, enabling our staff to discuss their own practice learning in day to day situations, with a focus on safeguarding.

We continue to experience significant challenges with the number of County Lines coming into West Sussex and the risks this presents to young people. As noted above we have worked hard with partner agencies to fully understand the complexity and dynamic nature of County Lines and the connections to sexual and other forms of exploitation. We note with continued concern, the rates of alleged and convicted serious sexual offending committed by young people against other young people, reflected in the current YOI estate.



## Public Health (WSSCC)

During the April 2018 to June 2019 period, Public Health have:

- Made explicit reference within our updated service specification to the West Sussex Wellbeing Services, to training requirements to recognise and respond to child sexual and criminal exploitation, trafficking and modern slavery, FGM, and neglect, where wellbeing services incorporate working with, or in the context of, families.
- Reviewed our Public Health Quality and Risk Framework against the S11 standards and are agreeing how to further embed safeguarding policy and procedures as part of the next update.
- Completed and reported against the S11 action plan to be provided to the WSSCB for the 31 July 2019.
- Contributed to the development of the Sussex and East Surrey Local Maternity System plan prevention workstream. Under this workstream carried out and facilitated benchmarking with providers against NICE guidance, Better Births and PHE evidence reviews in relation to smoking, attachment, preconception care, integrated approach, healthy weight, and screening and immunisations and made recommendations to improve maternity data systems, such that causes of harm are routinely captured, including maternal smoking. Actions in 2019-20 will now support delivery to reduce maternal smoking rates and improve preconception care.

## Capturing and acting upon the voice of children, young people and families

Capturing and acting upon the voice of children, young people and families:

Public Health have provided input to the data collected through the School Nurse Review, part of the Healthy Child Programme. This has included thematic analysis of consultation data with Public Health Nurses and provided evidence that pupil voice is a key part of effective service delivery.

The presentation and report to the West Sussex Quality Assurance Group provided information captured through the Early Years Needs Assessment on how local services and communities support good outcomes during the early years. The Quality Assurance Group and Public Health are working together to identify how booking and needs assessment data can be updated and create change in service commissioning and delivery from 2020.

Produced 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Voice Summary outlining the work by the strategic partners of the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, relating to community voice and engagement activities. (JSNA – the purpose of which is to provide crucial information on the current and future health and care needs of local populations to inform and guide the planning and commissioning (buying) of health, well-being and social care services within a local authority area).

## Safeguarding Adults Board (West Sussex SAB)

We recognised the importance of working across our wider partnerships to develop the kind of professional relationships that help us get to complete our important work with due regard to each other's statutory duties and to reduce wherever and whenever we can, duplication.

The SAB will use the Collaborative Working Agreement as a means to share the challenges, as well as learning and development so that collectively we can improve services for those who use them, their families the wider community we are all here to serve.

The SAB undertook to lead collaborative working to improve the service provision for vulnerable children as they transition to adulthood. This acknowledges the need to improve outcomes for this group of young people and aspire to providing a seamless progression to adulthood with the right support at the right time.



## Surrey and Sussex NHS Trust (SASH)

We prioritise safeguarding children in our organisation by ensuring we deliver face to face mandatory training sessions as this remains the best method of engaging staff. We also offer a level 3 study day for all eligible staff and we ensure the content matches the needs of practitioners working on the frontline. Learning from SCRs is cascaded through various routes to ensure that it is received by the relevant practitioners. We have a varied audit programme to monitor activity and identify gaps.

All actions from SCR, S11 assessments and audits are added to our overarching Trust Safeguarding Children Action Plan which is monitored at the bi-monthly Trust Safeguarding Children Committee. Our staff are trained to capture 'the voice of the child' where appropriate and we have a Trust mechanism for gaining feedback on all patients' opinions of their care. All feedback is acted upon.

SASH also commented that the WSSCB partnership has worked well, however some of the Board Meetings are geographically too far to reasonably attend and so 'virtual attendance' could be utilised to maximise engagement further.

## Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT)

Capturing and acting on the voice the child continued to be a key target for the safeguarding team in 2018-19. Within training, the importance of listening to and acting upon the voice of the child continues to be emphasised to all staff and during supervision, the effectiveness of this in individual cases is reviewed. Bespoke professionals’ escalation training was delivered to ensure staff feel empowered to work as the child’s advocate and raise concerns when professional differences arise.

The concept of professional curiosity has become a key theme within bespoke training and also supervision. This is directly linked to recent SCRs, where this has become a point of learning for health agencies. It has been important for the team to be flexible with their training approach so that these crucial new elements of learning are quickly applied and not left until the new training year.

## Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)

Activities and achievements for West Sussex during the reporting timeframe included:

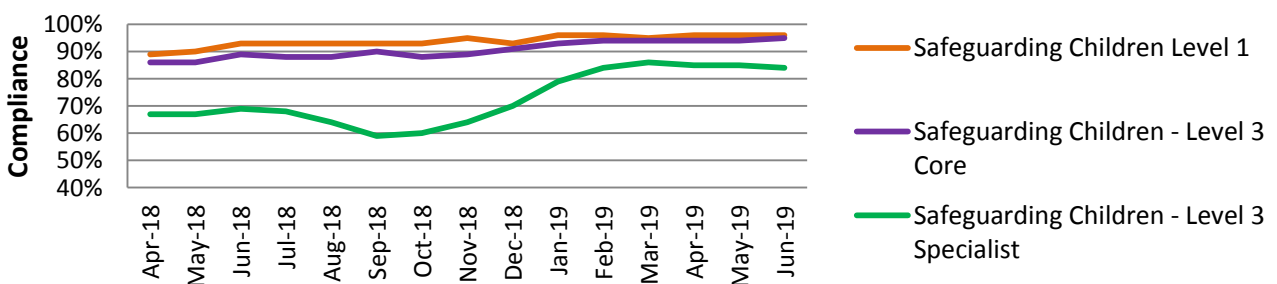
- Safeguarding/ CAMHS bespoke presentations as part of West Sussex Safeguarding Month.
- Revised training package to include learning from SCR K and SCR Q.
- Developed a working knowledge of the threshold documents in practice through case study review and analysis learning which included, CSE, CSA and CCE.
- Bespoke events for staff including CSE, Modern Day Slavery and Safer West Sussex Partnership.
- Prioritised attendance at West Sussex board and sub groups.
- CAMHS services use the friends and family test to receive feedback from young people, families and carers.
- There is a designated West Sussex young person’s participation worker who works collaboratively with services.
- SPFT offer the opportunity for membership of SPFT NHS Foundation Trust to young people.

The relationship with the board has been effective with designated SPFT West Sussex leads regularly attending and actively engaging in board and subgroup workstreams.

### (SPFT) – Key Challenges:

- Combining the roll-out of face to face training for safeguarding children and the national mandate of PREVENT<sup>11</sup> training was our main challenge in terms of resource and capacity.
- We have managed to deliver high levels of compliance for both areas.

### Safeguarding children training compliance 18/19



## Sussex Police

Sussex Police undertook a number of force-wide campaigns to raise awareness of all staff. The Think Child Campaign was widely promoted on the intranet, and has easily accessible links for staff to access the material for reference. The SCARF risk assessment Corporate Communications Strategy – extensive guidance has been circulated to improve compliance in submission of SCARF's, and the quality of the information included on them. 60 second briefings: Short (1 or 2 pages) briefings were circulated on a regular basis to all staff to highlight relevant issues, such as recommendations from recent SCRs or reminders to include documented rationales for decisions recorded on Sussex Police electronic systems. Because these are timely, and short, feedback is they are well received by staff, as quick reminders and updates, rather than long documents or policies.

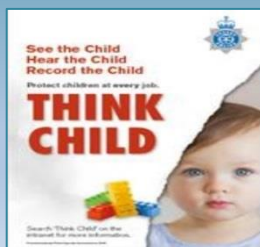
The Command Team have recorded short VLOGs (Video logs), in which updates are given to staff regarding current campaigns. Again, as these are timely and short, they are well received by staff.

There has been County Lines training, and updates on our intranet for staff regarding the risks to children and young people and how we can address and minimise these risks. SECAMB and Sussex Police are consulting on how the former can access police training, to assist their staff in looking out for the relevant signs, in order to further improve the safeguarding of children.

A central part of this work has been the Sussex Police 'Think Child' campaign.

The 'Think Child' campaign has utilised a variety of methods to improve the knowledge and response of all Sussex Police employees in the area of child safeguarding.

This has included targeted work around the voice of the child, both in terms of Police interaction with children and the subsequent recording / sharing of that information with partners.



[Operation Encompass](#) directly connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject to or experience police-attended incidents of domestic abuse. Rapid provision of support within the school environment means children are better safeguarded against the short, medium- and long-term effects of domestic abuse. Encompass directly connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject to or experience police-attended incidents of domestic abuse. Rapid provision of support within the school environment means children are better safeguarded against the short-, medium- and long-term effects of domestic abuse.

Sussex Police reported that Operation Encompass was rolled out to 338 schools across West Sussex (which represents 97% of applicable schools). The results of the Operation Encompass End of Year Survey are still being reviewed by Sussex Police, but early indications are that it is having a positive impact on the wellbeing and safeguarding of children in West Sussex. The results of the survey will be published in due course.

### HMICFRS feedback to Sussex Police following the Post Inspection review:

'The force has also worked hard to improve the culture and understanding of its workforce about their responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable children. There is now evidence of officers talking to children to understand their concerns and inform decisions. This helps them to properly assess need and manage risks.'

Further to this, Sussex Police has provided joint agency Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Interview training over the past 12 months; 4 courses took place resulting in 24 social workers across Sussex being trained. This training schedule is due to be repeated over the next 12 months. Going forward, there is a Police commitment to support the WSSCP's child safeguarding training programme.









## Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WSHFT)

For 2018-19 Learning has been shared for SCRs through learning events and training events. Safeguarding arrangements for the unborn baby have been strengthened through an increase of 0.4 whole time equivalent (WTE) within the Maternity Safeguarding Team establishment at Worthing and the introduction of two pre-assessment social workers employed by West Sussex County Council. Safeguarding practice at WSHFT continues to be challenged due to the increasing safeguarding activity each year and the effects of the local and national context we are working within. The resourcing of this activity, particularly in relation to the delivery of safeguarding training and child protection medicals needs to be closely monitored and reviewed.

Other areas of challenge and concern include: meeting the needs of the increasing numbers of children and young people frequently attending hospital seeking help and support, in particular for those who attend with mental health issues and self-harm. Also, maintaining effective communication and information sharing across the safeguarding system when there are multiple agencies and IT systems involved, in an environment which is complex and dynamic, remains challenging. Effective partnership working with children, families and partner agencies in addition to prevention and early help support are essential and continue to be the focus of improvement.

**Self-harm** is a public health priority in West Sussex. There are many complex factors that contribute to self-harm however the possibility that self-harm, including serious eating disorder, has been caused or triggered by any form of abuse or chronic neglect cannot be overlooked.

<p> There were <b>1,743</b> emergency hospital admissions for self-harm in West Sussex in 2017/18</p> <p> The rate of emergency admissions for self-harm in West Sussex continues to <b>exceed</b> England</p> <p> Within West Sussex, <b>Adur, Arun, Chichester and Worthing</b> had a significantly higher rate of self-harm admissions than England</p> <p> <b>68.5%</b> of emergency admissions for self-harm in West Sussex were among females</p> <p> Young people aged 15-19 accounted for a <b>fifth</b> of all emergency admissions for self-harm in the county in 2017/18</p> <p> There has been <b>little change</b> in the trend in admissions for self-harm at county level, although variation does exist across the districts and boroughs.</p> <p><small>Source: NHS Digital - Hospital Episode Statistics (local access)</small></p>	<p>The rate of emergency admissions for self harm in West Sussex is far higher than the national rate 220.3 per 100,000 (1743 admissions) in 2016/17 (England 185.3). Although this relates to all ages, self-harming is high amongst young women aged 15-24 years. Provisional data 2017/18 suggests no change locally.</p> <p>The rate of emergency admissions for intentional self-harm for 10-24 year olds was 499.9 per 100,000 (637 admissions). This was significantly higher than the national rate.</p> <p>In total, children and young people aged 10-24 account for <b>39%</b> of all admissions for self-harm in West Sussex.</p>
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## The Safeguarding West Sussex Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum

maintains an independent network of over 20 VCS safeguarding leads to create networking opportunities, disseminate information and review elements of practice across West Sussex. Over the past year we contributed to discussions about the Wood Review, Section 11 audits, the Police Intelligence and Guidance Form, Escalation Policy and more.

With regular input from the Board, the forum has been able to ask questions of the WSSCB and remain informed of any new developments. We have also been developing a plan with the Board to deliver a “Train the Safeguarding Trainers” scheme whereby leads in VCS organisations can be skilled up to deliver key safeguarding and child protection messages to their staff. Partners such as the CVS organisations and Sussex Clubs for Young People will be able to offer this training to their members to ensure the widest possible reach across West Sussex.

The key challenges for this partnership include navigating the changing landscape of Early Help and Children’s Services with the impact of Ofsted and the movements at senior management level in WSCC. As an unfunded forum, partners choose to attend to gather key messages and there is a range of competing partnership meetings for their time. Keeping the forum relevant and fresh requires continued support from the safeguarding partnership.

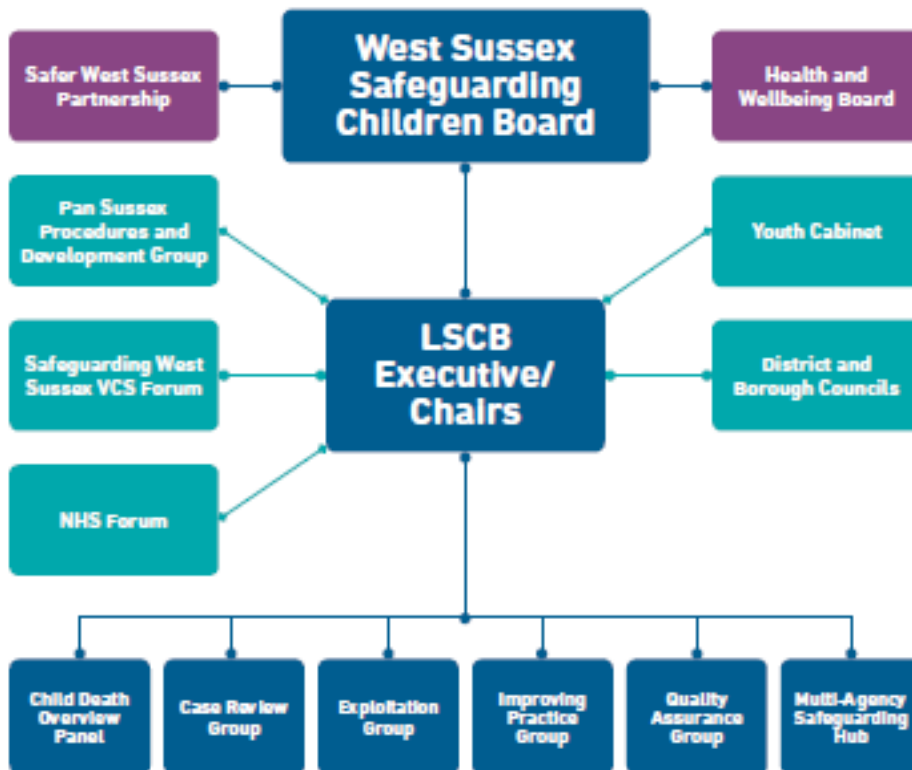
For the year ahead we hope to support discussions around the WSSCP’s Neglect Strategy and the Early Help Review.





## Appendices

### West Sussex Safeguarding Board, sub-groups and key partner agencies



### WSSCB Finance report

WSSCB income 2018-19		WSSCB expenditure 2018-19	
WSSCB	£199,670	Staffing costs (including Independent Chair)	£ 273,788
Others	£94,749	Serious Case Reviews	£ 11,959
Training income	£13, 909	Travel	£ 7,837
C/F	£58, 254	Other	£ 22,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>£366,582</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 316,582</b>
		Underspend (including allocation to SCR spending) to be carried forward	£50, 000

## Credits

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Katherine Wadbrook	change, grow live
Graham Potter	West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Public Health
Cathy Coppard	Western Hospitals Foundation Trust (WSHFT)
Alistair Evans	WSCC Fire and Rescue Service
Lucy Ivankovic	Barnardo's Charity
John Thompson	Lay member
Emma Vickers	Sussex Police
Cathy Coppard	Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Clare Poyner, Catherine Mouatt and Julian Skeates on behalf of	WSCC Children's Social Care
Jez Prior and Ellie Evans	WSCC Education and Skills
Jenny Whyte and Samantha Tyler	Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group; Horsham and Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group; Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group
Vicky Abbott	Surrey and Sussex NHS Trust
Margaret Pugh and Lucy Short	West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board
Unsplash Images	Unsplash.com
Chris Cook	Chief Executive Officer, Sussex Clubs for Young People and Chair of Voluntary and Community Sector Safeguarding Forum
Martin McAngus	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust
Georgina Colenutt and Michael Brown	Sussex Community Foundation Trust
Marie Foley and Anne Watkins, Caz Henry- Evans, Sarah Dimmock on behalf of	Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service (IPEH)
Mark Burden	National Probation Service
Jan Smith	Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSSCRC)
Clare Shepherd on behalf of	West Sussex Districts and Boroughs



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<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>4 March 2020</b>
<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Business Planning Group</b>
<b>Report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group</b>

## Summary

Each Scrutiny Committee has a Business Planning Group (BPG) to oversee the Committee's work programme and prioritise issues for consideration by the Committee. This report provides an update of the last meeting of the BPG held on 21 February 2020, setting out the key issues discussed.

## The focus for scrutiny

The Committee to consider the report and identify any future areas for scrutiny. Also, that members agree to hold an Education and Skills Task and Finish Group and appoint membership to this group.

## Proposal

### 1. Background and Context

1.1 The BPG met on 21 February 2020. All members were present.

### 2 Education and Skills Update

- 2.1 It was reported that the SEND and Inclusion Strategy was now live, and work had begun on the Special Support Centres. Members heard that the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) had been working on the development of the new Agreed Syllabus.
- 2.2 Members received a short update on Elective Home Education, and agreed that this item should return to the March BPG agenda, at which point it was hoped that the consultation report from Government would be published.
- 2.3 Members had previously received an update on Alternative Provision (AP) which detailed WSCC's responsibility for arranging suitable education for permanently excluded pupils and for other pupils who, for varying reasons, would not receive suitable education in a typical school setting. Members felt this may warrant scrutiny at a future committee meeting, therefore requested an update at the March BPG.
- 2.4 The BPG agreed that home to school transport should return as a substantive item at the March BPG.
- 2.5 Members considered a request from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee to consider education performance. The group agreed that this would be part of the annual Education and Skills Annual Report TFG, to be

held in April and reported back to the full Committee at the next appropriate meeting. The purpose of the TFG would be as follows:

- Scrutiny of the Education and Skills Annual Report provides an insight into the performance of West Sussex children and young people in the academic year 2019-20 and progress towards achievement against targets in the West Sussex Plan. This may inform recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and priorities for further scrutiny by the Committee.

### **3. Children and Family Services Update**

3.1 The BPG considered a report on the commissioning of high cost residential placements for children. Members agreed this item should be considered by the whole committee, with a focus on post 16. It was requested that this item be added to the work programme for September 2020.

### **4. Total Performance Monitor**

4.1 The BPG considered the latest TPM data.

- Members raised concern on the £1 Million cost on legal cases in the children's portfolio area and asked for an update on this at the March BPG, specifically concerning capacity for the officers concerned.

### **5. Work Programme Planning**

#### **5.1 Forward Plan**

5.1.1 No proposed decisions were identified for scrutiny other than those already identified.

#### **5.2 Agree the work programme for the coming year and plan the upcoming meetings**

5.2.1. The BPG agreed the Committee's work programme as at Appendix A, but recommended that the domestic violence item be removed and requested that the Member Development Group consider this as a potential member day/briefing.

5.2.2 Members agreed that an extra meeting on 7 April needed to be scheduled in order to consider the small school's consultation, and a further update on the Children First Improvement Plan.

5.2.3 Members received an update on the Youth Cabinet Scrutiny Committee takeover session on 23 April 2020, and agreed to add this to the March BPG agenda in order to plan this work.

5.2.4 It was agreed that the June 2020 meeting could be used for training, and potential visits to residential homes and other visits if required.

5.2.5 Members agreed that an item on fostering and adoption be considered at the September meeting, including an update on the Regional Adoption Agency.

5.2.6 Members requested an update on Children and Family Centres, as part of the information detailed in the budget, to be brought to the March BPG.

5.2.7 It was agreed that 1001 critical days be considered alongside items relating to early help.

## **6 Resources**

6.1 No impact.

## **Factors taken into account**

### **7 Issues for consideration by the Select Committee**

7.1 To consider the report and identify and future areas for scrutiny.

### **8 Consultation**

8.1 Members and the service are present at the BPG, details of which are then presented to the main Committee.

### **9 Implications**

9.1 There are no resource, risk management, Crime and Disorder Act or Human Rights Act implications arising directly from this report.

### **David Barling**

Chairman

Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee Business Planning Group

Contact: Natalie Jones-Punch - Assistant Democratic Services Officer – 0330 222 5098

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendix A** – Work Programme for Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee

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**Children and Young People's Services Select Committee Work Programme – March 2020**

<b>Select Committee Meeting Date</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Objectives/Comments</b>	<b>Key Contacts</b>
<b>7 April 2020 14.00</b>	Small Schools		Paul Wagstaff
<b>23 April 2020 18.00</b>	Youth Cabinet Takeover	Joint meeting with HASC	Democratic Services
<b>4 June 2020 10.30</b>	Potential training	Training for the Committee	Democratic Services
<b>24 September 2020 10.30</b>	High Cost Residential Placements and Residential Homes		Ann Marie Dodds
	Fostering and Adoption		Ann Marie Dodds

**Children and Young People’s Services Select Committee Work Programme – March 2020**

<p><b>Future Items to be timetabled</b></p>	<p>Education and Skills Annual Report – Report from the TFG. Children First Strategic Approach</p>
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Agenda Item 8  
Appendix A

<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee</b>
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<b>4 March 2020</b>
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<b>Call-in Response</b>
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<b>Report by Director of Law and Assurance</b>
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<p>A call-in request relating to proposals for the reorganisation of rural and small schools in West Sussex (<a href="#">CAB10 19/20</a>) has been considered and rejected by the Director of Law and Assurance in his role as Monitoring Officer.</p>
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<p>The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the reasons for the rejection of the call-in request as set out below.</p>
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### Reasons for rejection

The Monitoring Officer confirms that the request for a call-in of the decision of the Cabinet in relation to small schools further consultation has been rejected.

The request was made on two grounds:

1. That significant new information had been presented since the scrutiny of the proposal and
2. That delay to the implementation of the decision would be in the best interests of the County Council.

### Monitoring Officer's Assessment

I have considered all the material submitted in support of the request for a call-in. I have examined all the information being presented as new and significant and I have looked at the information previously provided both to the Scrutiny Committee and through both the public consultation exercise and the work of the scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

- **In relation to ground 1.** I have not found any of the material to amount to significant new information on the basis that it was not either available to or anticipated by the Scrutiny Committee at its last meeting. The Committee's recommendations and the subsequent cabinet decision were made with the benefit of this information and the representations aligned to it. There is no reason for concluding that the additional information would add materially to the information previously considered.
- **In relation to ground 2.** I consider that the rationale for the request for a delay is to enable the Committee to be seen to consider new information and that this would be in the interests of the Council's reputation and standing with the communities affected. That is also linked to a view that, to proceed with the proposal would compromise alternative plans the schools are pursuing and that

this would be contrary to the interests of the Council. My conclusion is that the first part of this rationale is contradicted by the finding that there is no new information to consider. The option to delay the decision to enable further options to be pursued was fully considered at the last scrutiny committee and considered fully by the cabinet and this assessment of what may or may not be the appropriate course in the interests of the County Council has already been carried out.

For these reasons the request is declined.

**Tony Kershaw**

Director of Law and Assurance

**Contact:** Rachel Allan – [Rachel.allan@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.allan@westsussex.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** none

**Background Papers:** none