



# Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership

**New Safeguarding Arrangements June 2019**

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## Foreword

Brighton and Hove has always been a place with a strong identity – one that our residents are rightly proud of. In 2019 we are now strengthening our partnership arrangements in regard to safeguarding children, in order to ensure we continue to provide safeguarding that the city can also be proud of.

In this document we have set out how the safeguarding partners, (Sussex Police, Brighton and Hove Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group) and other organisations, including schools, will work together to safeguard children and young people. These new arrangements are in response to Working Together 2018 which asks for a replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) with new local multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

The changes have given us the opportunity to review and change some of our ways of working, building on strengths within the good partnership relationships that already exist, but also focusing on how we can make a real difference to multi-agency frontline practice to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. We aim to achieve these improvements by developing and spreading good practice based on what we know works well and is evidenced based. We have made the new arrangements mindful of the fact that the LSCB was functioning well and had been

endorsed as such by Ofsted in 2015 which judged it to be 'Good'.

Our safeguarding partnership arrangements have been improved to form Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) and its priority-focused sub-groups. We are, therefore, very pleased to publish our arrangements in accordance with the requirements and inclusions prescribed in Working Together 2018.

As a partnership we are sticking to our principles and aims:

- for clear accountability;
- for clear and demonstrable influence;
- and for equitable and fair contributions from all partners.

We will be continuing to make sure that effective systems are in place to protect children from abuse and to prevent impairment to children's health and development. We want to be sure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. We will ensure that action takes place to improve practice and to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

Above all, we want to hear the voices of children and young people, by asking them for their views and letting them know what partners, and the Partnership, are doing as a result.

**Geoff Raw,**  
Chief Executive,  
Brighton and Hove City  
Council

**Adam Doyle,**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Sussex and East Surrey  
Clinical Commissioning  
Groups

**Giles York,**  
Chief Constable QPM,  
Sussex Police

## 1. BHSCP Vision and Values

The Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership has a vision that:

Children and young people in Brighton & Hove live a life free from fear, harm, abuse and exploitation, enabling every child in every part of the City to achieve their potential.

This is underpinned by our Core Values:

- A child centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each citizen, practitioner and organisation should play their part.



## 2. Introduction

These arrangements are in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC)' (2018) and are subject to approval by the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The partnership will be known as the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) and will be coterminous with the Brighton and Hove Local Authority area with the exception of the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which will have a Pan-Sussex geographical footprint.

The three lead safeguarding partners are as follows:

**Brighton and Hove City  
Council**

**Nominated officer:**

Executive Director,  
Families, Children and  
Learning (FCL)

**Sussex Clinical  
Commissioning Groups**

**Nominated officer:**

Head of Safeguarding and  
Looked After Children

**Sussex Police**

**Nominated officer:**

Detective Superintendent,  
Safeguarding  
Investigations Unit

The BHSCP will commission **Independent Scrutiny (IS)** for the partnership, whose role and function will be to provide external challenge to the business of the partnership, its meetings, subgroups and priorities.

The BHSCP draws on a **positive environment** of **multi-agency working** in Brighton and Hove. We are committed to partnership working between the three key partners, with all relevant agencies, with children and young people and with local communities.

We aim to **promote the welfare of all children** and to ensure that children and young people are effectively safeguarded. We aim to achieve this by implementing WTSC (2018) **effectively** and **imaginatively**.

We aim to work to support: universal safeguarding and protection of children and young people in public arenas, more safeguarding presence in social media, and more knowledge of safeguarding within organisations in the community.



The following **principles** have guided the work to develop the new arrangements:

- Striving to constantly improve and develop the quality of safeguarding across the city
- Development of an effective form of independent scrutiny
- Creative engagement with and seek the voice of young people
- Creative engagement with the wider community
- Ensuring that 'relevant agencies' continue to be involved in the activities of the partnership, for example, through membership and the work of the subgroups, participation in community engagement events, consultation on specific issues
- Development of pan-Sussex arrangements, as appropriate.

### 3. Governance

#### Pan-Sussex

In Brighton & Hove we start from a position where strong collaboration with West and East Sussex Safeguarding Partnerships is already happening, however, the safeguarding partners recognise the opportunity to further develop consistent policies throughout the safeguarding community. Any further collaboration, whilst welcomed, needs to be balanced against the acknowledged position that each local authority carries its own safeguarding risks.

Where appropriate the partnership will work with pan-Sussex partners to allow opportunity for innovation, improved practice, and creating better outcomes for our children and young people across a much wider area.

To drive forward the pan-Sussex arrangements there will be regular meetings at both business manager and strategic leadership level.

We will strive to ensure that there is 'consistency of language' pan-Sussex.



#### Pan-Sussex Strategic Leadership Group

The safeguarding partners from all three areas (West Sussex, East Sussex, and Brighton & Hove) will oversee Pan Sussex Strategic Governance through a Pan-Sussex Strategic Leadership Group; this will set a 'road map' for how to develop the partnership in the future.

#### Pan-Sussex Procedures Group

The pan-Sussex Procedures group currently oversees the [Safeguarding & Child Protection Procedures](#) website; this group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

#### Pan-Sussex Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)

We plan to develop a pan-Sussex Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), in relation to JTAI themes, which would create a consistent approach, better align quality assurance activity across the county, and reduce the potential for duplicated quality assurance efforts. A pan-Sussex QAF would also afford an opportunity to improve audit scheduling which could further support agency involvement from those agencies that span the county.

Each local authority area will also retain a local quality assurance sub-group.

## Brighton and Hove

### Steering Group

There will be a Brighton & Hove Steering Group which will meet quarterly and will be organised and supported by the Business Manager and Senior Administration Officer. This will be chaired by the Independent Scrutineer and attended by:

- The nominated officers for the three lead safeguarding partners
- The independent scrutineer
- The designated professionals for the 3 lead safeguarding partners
- The chairs of the BHSCP subgroups
- A representative from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- A professional to represent schools and early years
- People with expertise (including members of the Youth Reference Group) if required to discuss specific issues.

Deputies of sufficient seniority will be allowed to attend the steering group provided the Chair has been notified in advance.

The Steering group will be provided with data and intelligence in order to be fully appraised of the effectiveness of help, including early help, being provided to children and their families.

This group will be responsible for the following:

- Analysis of multi-agency statistics, performance measures and outcomes
- Scrutiny of reports
- Section 11 self-assessments and challenge events
- Practitioner and partnership challenge events
- Oversight of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)
- Developing & overseeing the overarching strategic aims of the BHSCP
- Setting safeguarding priorities for the BHSCP
- Financial planning and resourcing of the safeguarding arrangements
- Agreeing the Annual Report for publication
- Consideration of joint commissioning
- Oversight of safeguarding work completed by local partners through the Board
- Appointment of an independent scrutineer
- Consideration of opportunities for working in collaboration with other geographical areas to reduce cost and improve performance



## 4. Independent Scrutiny

The Independent Scrutineer will consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership. To achieve this, the Independent Scrutineer will attend the subgroups and speak to practitioners and service users to understand the effectiveness of partnership work.

The Independent Scrutineer will report to the steering group, providing details of strengths, weaknesses, and challenges.

The Independent Scrutineer will:

- Act as a constructive critical friend, providing critical challenge and appraisal of Brighton and Hove's multiagency safeguarding partnership arrangements in relation to children and young people
- Act independently of the three safeguarding partners
- Focus on the impact of the partnership arrangements and working rather than processes
- Promote reflection to drive continuous improvement
- Introduce the Annual Report
- Front 'Child Safeguarding Practice Review' publications, where needed, to demonstrate independent scrutiny

The Independent Scrutineer will scrutinise the decisions to undertake child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and provide challenge where s/he feels the decision is not correct. Where there is disagreement across the partnership in relation to commissioning of reviews the Independent Scrutineer will be the final decision maker.

The Independent Scrutineer role will be accountable to the partnerships and 3 Chief Officers. The employment and management will be through the Local Authority.

The partnership will continue to have lay member representation in the subgroups and board and lead member representation on the board, as this provides another level of scrutiny and challenge.



## 5. Annual Report

The steering group will produce an Annual Report which will be owned by the three Safeguarding Partners. This report will be available on the BHSCP website.



## 6. Business Delivery Model: Structure and Responsibilities

The work of the partnership will be driven by the BHSCP subgroups, which will be responsible for managing work streams and delivering against partnership strategies. The BHSCP will work in partnership with a list of 'relevant agencies', as defined by WTSC (2018), to ensure representation on the subgroups from wider partners.

The overall purpose of all subgroups is to:

- Drive forward and deliver the work of the Partnership
- Provide reports and information that will inform the strategies set by the Steering Group
- Report on progress to the Steering Group
- Keep the Steering Group apprised of emerging threats, patterns and gaps in safeguarding delivery
- Consider recommendations arising from local and national serious child safeguarding practice reviews.

The subgroups will require strong leadership and should be attended by individuals with decision-making status and who can contribute towards the end goals. The chairs of the subgroups will attend the steering group.



### Case Review Group and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The partnership will work to improve child protection and safeguarding practice through its review of practice, scrutiny and challenge functions, identifying areas of good practice, areas for improvement and in particular from the learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The reviews will be conducted in such a way to provide opportunities to explore why individuals and organisations operate in a particular way, making use of relevant research, case evidence, incorporating learning from national, regional and local reviews to inform findings and learning. The process will place the child at the centre, including them and their families (where possible) to understand their lived experience. Reviews will involve practitioners and managers in order to understand practice from their viewpoint.

Processes will be implemented to regularly monitor and follow-up actions from reviews/learning opportunities to ensure they make a real impact on improving outcomes for children and improvements are sustained.



The case review group will consider whether the partnership should undertake Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) or Learning Reviews, follow the progress of reviews underway, agree final reports, develop action plans and track actions.

All notifications, rapid reviews and practice reviews will be shared with the steering group and the Independent Scrutineer, so that they are fully aware of good practice, key incidents and developments.

We will review our Learning and Improvement framework to ensure that there is a mechanism to review good practice and disseminate any learning Pan Sussex.

### Monitoring & Evaluation Group

The BHSCP will ensure data and intelligence is used to fully appraise the effectiveness of help, including early help, being provided to children and their families. The Monitoring & Evaluation group will hold the quality assurance function and provide the review and scrutiny.

This group's work includes:

- Analysis of multi-agency statistics, performance measures and outcomes
- Single and multi-agency audits
- Joint targeted area inspections (JTAI) audits and action plans

The group will undertake two multi-agency audits per year and present the Management Information Report to the steering group every six months.

This group will oversee and ensure that threshold documents are reviewed, as appropriate.



### Exploitation Group

The Exploitation Group is a joint group with the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Community Safety Partnership.

The Exploitation group reports to all three boards but the strategy is held by the Community Safety Partnership. It ensures the Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) strategy is operationalised via the action plan and addresses any multi-agency sticking points.



### Learning & Development Group

The Learning & Development group will support the BHSCP Learning and Development Officer in commissioning, delivering, reviewing and evaluating the quality, scope and effectiveness of single-agency and multi-agency training to ensure all those coming into contact/working with children are competent and up to date with current legislation.

The Learning & Development group will work closely with other BHSCP groups, notably the Monitoring & Evaluation group and the Case Review group, so that output of one group informs the input to another.

Under the new arrangements this group will support the Business Manager with progressing the partnership's youth and community engagement work.

The group will ensure that learning from Pan-Sussex reviews is disseminated and incorporated into Brighton and Hove learning events.

### Safeguarding Liaison Group (SLG)

The SLG is a forum for managers across the multi-agency partners to discuss practice, review local pathways, and consider cases where there are multi-agency practice concerns.

This group is not a statutory requirement, but the partners feel this is a valuable group that helps address multi-agency operational safeguarding issues.



## 7. Safeguarding Partnership Board

The Safeguarding Partnership Board will bring together wider partners from across the city to ensure the strategic direction as set by the steering group and subgroups is taken forward and operationalised in all organisations.

The purpose of the Board is to:

- Ensure good representation from organisations on subgroups
- Operationalise the strategic aims of the steering group
- Raise issues put forward by Steering Group
- Engage the wider safeguarding community

This group will meet quarterly and will be chaired the Independent Scrutineer.

## 7.1 Proposed membership of the BHSCP Board:

<b>Brighton &amp; Hove City Council</b>	Executive Director of Children's Services Assistant Director Children's Services: Safeguarding & Care Assistant Director Children's Services: Education & Inclusion Head of Safeguarding Head of Safer Communities Tenancy Services Operation Manager, Housing Education/Early Years Safeguarding Lead Officer Lead Member, BHCC Children's Services Managing Principal Lawyer
<b>Public Health</b>	Director of Public Health Public Health Strategic Commissioner Children's Services
<b>Sussex Police</b>	Detective Superintendent, Public Protection Detective Chief Inspector
<b>National Probation Service</b>	Senior Operations Manager
<b>Kent Surrey &amp; Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company</b>	Senior Probation Officer
<b>CAFCASS</b>	Service Manager
<b>Violence Against women and Girls Forum</b>	Chair, VAWG Forum
<b>Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</b>	Three representatives, proving a good spectrum of representatives from across the CVS partnership, including sports groups.
<b>Schools</b>	Primary School Representative Secondary School Representative Independent Schools Representative College/FE Representation
<b>NHS England (South East)</b>	Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality
<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</b>	Head of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Named GP Designated Doctor Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
<b>Brighton &amp; Sussex University Hospitals (BSUH)</b>	Chief Nurse Named Nurse Named Doctor
<b>Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT)</b>	Named Doctor Named Nurse Head of Safeguarding Lead Nurse for CSARC
<b>Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)</b>	Lead Nurse Named Nurse
<b>East Sussex Fire &amp; Rescue Service (ESFRS)</b>	Head of Community Safety Inclusion and Partnership Manager
<b>South East Coast Ambulance Service</b>	Executive Director Safeguarding Practitioner

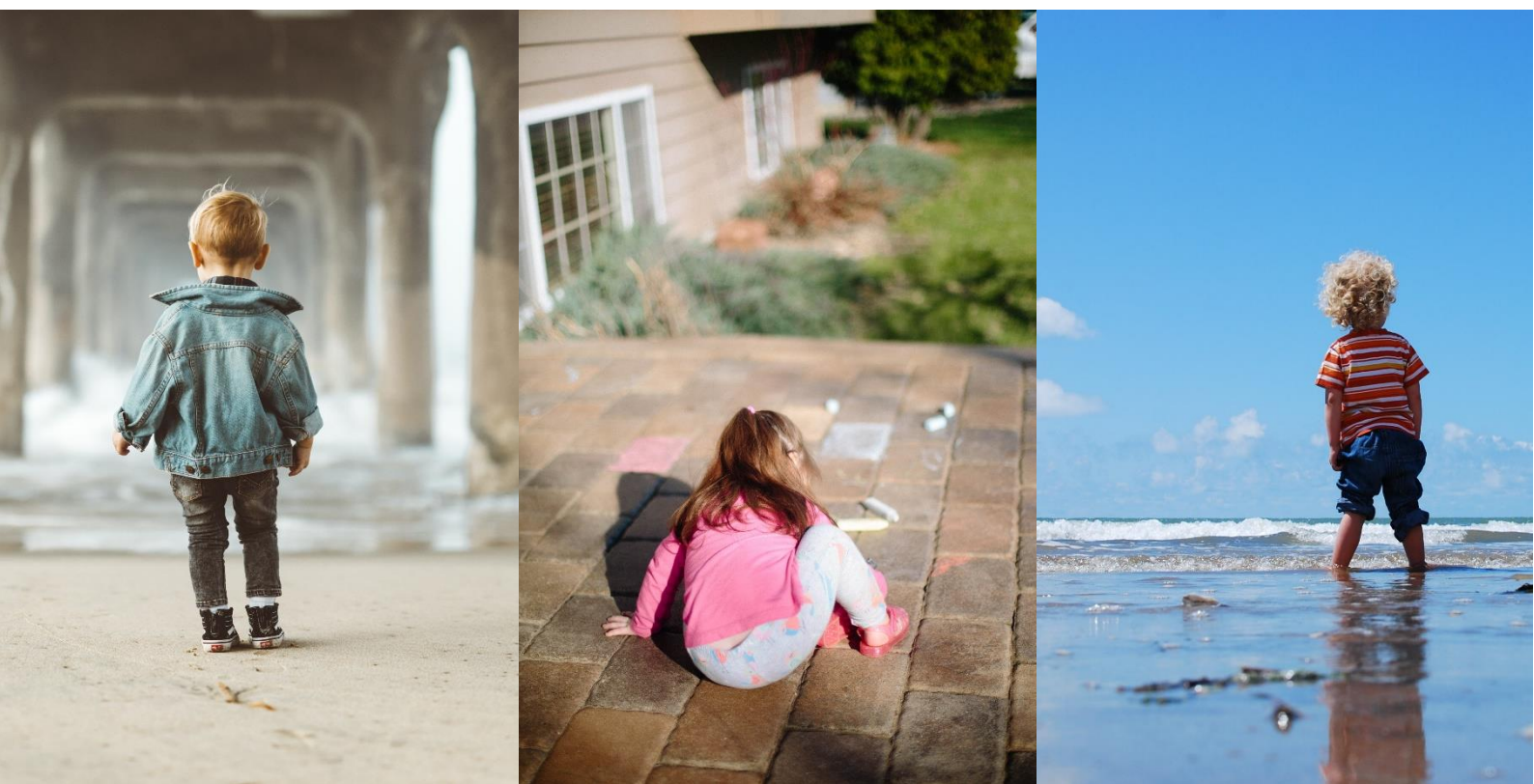
## 8. Arrangements for Commissioning and Publishing Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

BHSCP will work to improve local child protection and safeguarding practice through our practice, scrutiny and challenge functions.

Different subgroups will be responsible for leading on specific elements of CSPRs, for example commissioning and monitoring will be undertaken by the Case Review Group, and the Learning and Development Group will be responsible for identifying and responding to identified training needs as a result of the review findings.

We will incorporate learning from national, regional and local reviews.

The decision to undertake CSPRs sits with the three safeguarding partners. The Chair of the Case Review Group makes recommendations that will be ratified or rejected by the partners. If an issue cannot be resolved, it will be referred to the independent scrutineer.



## 9. Youth Custody and Residential Homes

Brighton and Hove do not have any secure residential accommodation for children and young people or Youth Offender Institutions. Should this situation change in the future then the BHSCP will include scrutiny of the effectiveness of these or similar settings.

Brighton and Hove have three children's homes run by an independent provider. A representative of the provider will be invited to join the Safeguarding Partnership Board and we will ensure that their staff are kept updated with the work of the partnership through our newsletter and training events.



## 10. Liaison with Other Partnerships

The partnership is committed to multidisciplinary working in order to deliver effective outcomes and have a positive impact on the lives of children and young people. Strong collaborative relationships which are already established with the Safeguarding Adult Board and the Community Safety Partnership will continue. Joint working arrangements on specific themes (e.g. exploitation and trauma) will be maintained and progressed.

## 11. Child Death Overview Panel

The future arrangements of the Child Death Overview Panel are being progressed separately, led by the Child Death Review (CDR) Partners, namely the Local Authority and the CCG. It is acknowledged that there is a need to maintain the excellent links with CDOP, including early information exchange when children die.

## 12. Participation and Engagement

The BHSCP is committed to ensuring that we are consulting with the community and children and young people when developing our strategies. The partnership will achieve this by including:

### **Community, Voluntary sector and faith group Voice**

We recognise that there are a lot of small voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) and faith groups within our city that we want to engage with.

Through offering one or two targeted community events a year we hope to engage voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) and faith groups in training, challenge and consultation.

The youth reference group (see below) would be involved in the planning of these events.

### **Youth Reference and Challenge Group**

A crucial element to our new working arrangements is to ensure the voice of the child and families are considered when developing strategies and delivering safeguarding.

In Brighton and Hove the Local Authority has already developed a 'Youth Voice Forum' which works with young people identified by the community and voluntary sector to provide challenge and scrutiny on work and delivery of services provided by the local authority and



council decision making. It is proposed that BHSCP work with this group, enabling them to provide challenge and the voice of young people to the partnership. Through additional joint work with the community and voluntary sector, there will be good access young people from across the city.

Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove CCG also have such arrangements in place, which the Partnership will seek to utilise.



### **13. Engaging with Partners within the Wider Safeguarding Arrangements**

BHSCP will maintain an up-to-date website that will contain all relevant information. We will publish briefings and newsletters aimed at relevant professionals, children, young people and families. Signing up for the newsletter will be widely promoted through training, events and through community outreach.

BHSCP will host a learning event each year, in addition to the training programme, targeting smaller community groups. It will focus and deal with key safeguarding issues and/or emerging themes. It will provide an excellent opportunity to disseminate learning to a wider safeguarding community, learning from each other and support both statutory and non-statutory agencies in their safeguarding provision. The forward plan for the themes will be determined by the Steering Group.

## 14. Supporting the Partnership: The Role of BHSCP Staff

It is crucial that the safeguarding partnership has stable and robust support to both instigate and then develop the safeguarding work in the medium and long term. In order to ensure this the safeguarding partners have agreed the following:

### Business Manager Role

The Business Manager will:

- Produce the Annual Report, Business Plan and strategies on behalf of the Partnership,
- Manage all case review activity, including liaison with the National Panel, on behalf of the Partnership,
- Set revised Terms of Reference for Partnership Sub-groups and manage the running of these,
- Vice-chair sub-groups,
- Provide business support to both the Partnership and the Independent Scrutineer,
- Recruit and support lay members,
- Manage the partnership staff, administration officer and the Learning and Development Officer,
- Be responsible for the BHSCP budget,
- Lead the community development work with faith/community groups, families and the youth group to ensure the voice of the child, families and the voice of the community are including and heard on all issues pertaining to the partnership.



### Learning and Development Officer Role

The Learning and Development Officer will:

- Co-ordinate and provide the partnership safeguarding training,
- Working with Pan-Sussex partners, develop a Pan-Sussex training programme, as well as a local programme, identifying areas that may need to be addressed for local issues,
- Ensure learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Learning Reviews across the Pan-Sussex area is disseminated (currently we only disseminate Brighton & Hove Reviews).

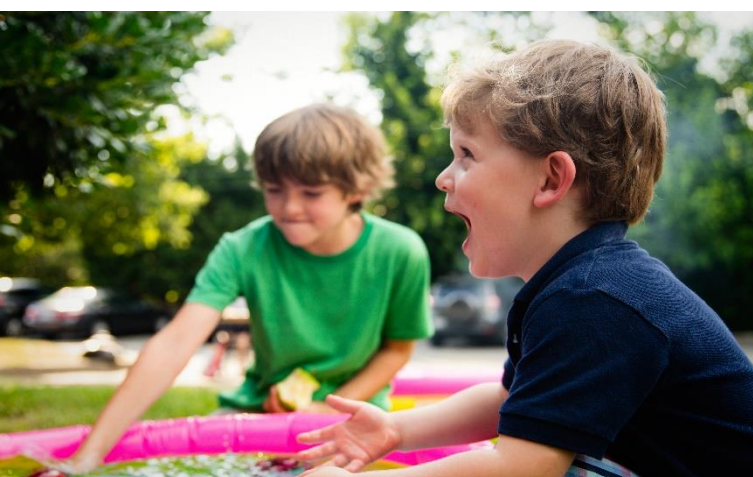
### Senior Administration Officer Role

The Senior Administration Officer will:

- Provide support to the Partnership, Business Manager and Independent Scrutineer,
- Service all meetings, training events and conferences,
- Ensure the website and Twitter accounts are up to date, generate and upload news stories on behalf of the Partnership onto social media sites,
- Support the community engagement work and coordination of the community engagement activities.

### Hosting the New Local Arrangements

The Local Authority will continue to host the post of Business Manager, Learning and Development Officer and Senior Administrator.





## 15. Finance

BHSCP will encourage equitable financial contributions from each of the partner organisations.

The partnership will seek funding from the wider partnership and explore the possibility of increasing income from training.

The partnership aims to put a mechanism in place for equal funding of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews if they go over budget. A MOU will be developed.

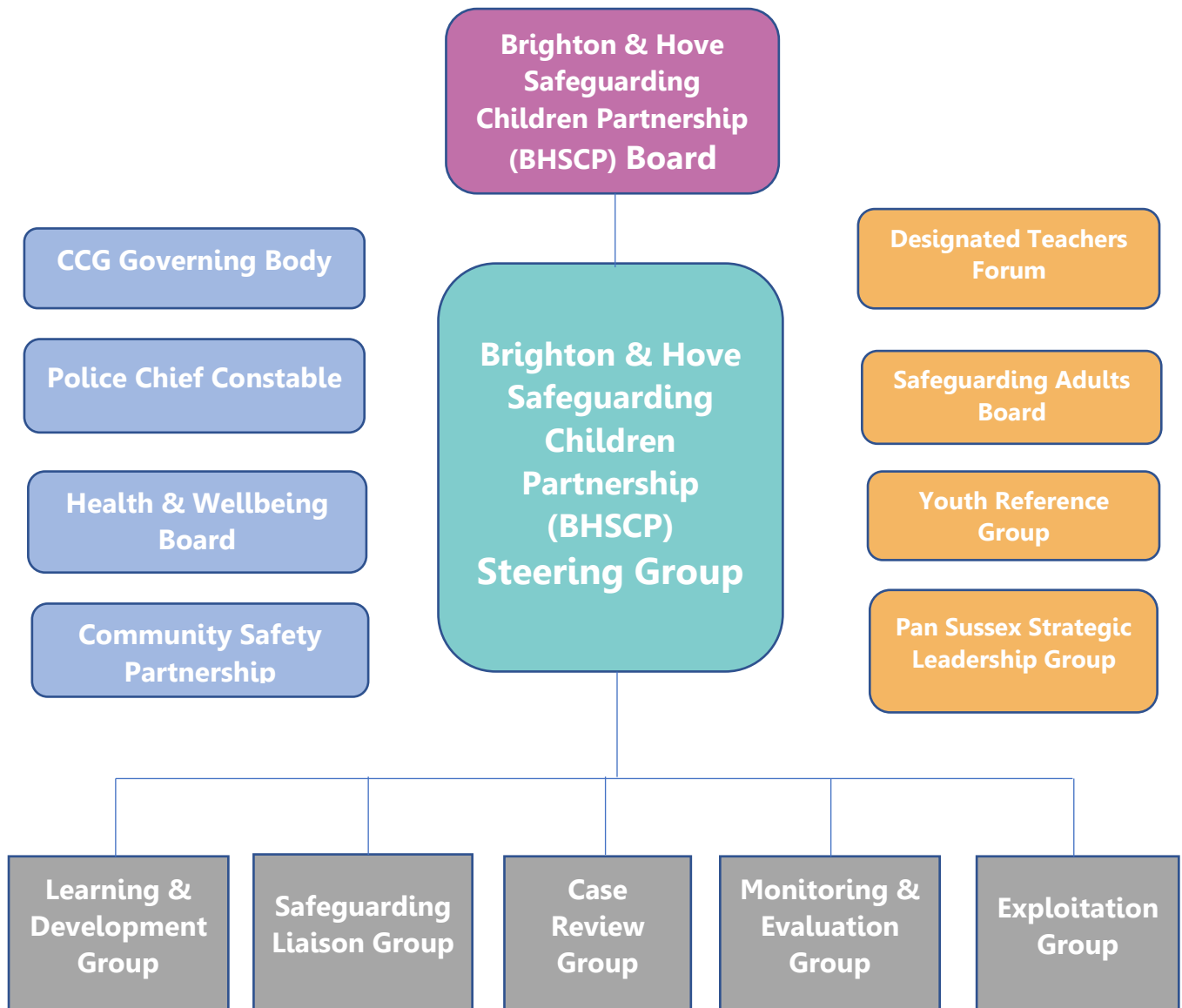
## 16. Dispute Resolution

The BHSCP will use the dispute resolution procedure for professional conflict or disagreement that already exists in the Pan Sussex Safeguarding Procedures. [Link here](#).

A conflict resolution protocol in regard to conflict between the three partner agencies will be developed. It is proposed that where there is conflict between the partners the independent scrutineer will be empowered to arbitrate to ensure decisions can be reached.



## Appendix 1: Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership Governance Flowchart



## Appendix 2: Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Governance Flowchart

