



# Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-24



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# Foreword from our Delegated Safeguarding Leads

Welcome to the 2023-24 Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership's annual report. The report outlines the Partnership's work over the past year and shows the coordinated approach across statutory agencies and community sector partners to deliver the best possible safeguarding services to children and their families in the city.

Brighton & Hove's Safeguarding Children Partnership is well-established with proactive subgroups and robust links with East and West Sussex. The subgroups, Steering Group and Partnership Board provide comprehensive oversight and scrutiny, bringing together strategic leaders and practitioners. There is a strong commitment to being a learning partnership, developing safeguarding services and responses through training, reflection, evaluation, and challenge.

Our vision to improve the lives of children and young people in Brighton and Hove remains our shared priority. The Partnership believes language is important in describing how we deliver services to children and their families. The ethos and aim are always, the right support at the right time.

2023-24 has been a year of significant developments and success across services:

- In March 2024, an Ofsted inspection of Local Authority Children's Services resulted in an Outstanding judgement, with inspectors highlighting that "Partnership working at all levels, led by the safeguarding partnership and the multidisciplinary practice are real strengths in Brighton and Hove".
- Family Hubs were launched across the city in April 2023, providing multi-agency help and support to families with children pre-birth to age 19, (up to 25 for those adults with Special Educational Needs and Disability).
- The Partnership developed the Family Help: Right Support at the Right Time document, a framework for how support and safeguarding services are provided to children and families across the city. It includes our vision of Family Help, model of practice, and the importance of poverty aware assessment and intervention.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was published in December. This requires the introduction of updated multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. We welcome this as an opportunity to strengthen our existing arrangements, locally and pan Sussex. The Partnership will continue to keep the safeguarding of children and young people in our city at the heart of what we do moving forward. This is only possible with the continued support, diligence and dedication of those working with children and families in the city. We would like to say thank you to colleagues from across statutory and community and voluntary services who work so hard to keep children and young people safe in Brighton and Hove.



*Naomi Ellis, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Patient Experiences and Involvement, NHS Sussex*

*Naomi Ellis*



*Deb Austin, Corporate Director, Families, Children & Learning Services, BHCC*

*Deb Austin*



*Richard MacDonagh, Chief Superintendent, Public Protection, Sussex Police*

*Richard MacDonagh*

# Role of Scrutiny and the Annual Report by the Independent Scrutineer



Thank you for taking the time to read this year's Annual Report. BHSCP have a statutory duty to be transparent in how they co-ordinate, deliver and fund services for children and families locally. In order that others can hold the safeguarding partners to account there are two mechanisms for reporting on service delivery and leadership, one of these is the publication of this document, the Annual Report. I hope that the report helps you understand the work and efforts made by the Partners to safeguard children in Brighton and Hove. One of my roles is to ensure that this report is accurate and gives an honest assessment of children's safeguarding. Having read it I am content this is the case. I would like to thank the Business Team, particularly the Business Manager who has worked incredibly hard to draw this document together. Their consistent support and professionalism throughout the year is essential to the smooth running of our day-to-day business.

I would also ask that when you read this document you consider the incredible work that our people do to protect children. We all read headlines that deal with tragic cases, but we rarely consider the fantastic professionalism of people who dedicate their lives to safeguarding children, making their lives better and providing them with opportunity for the future. Brighton and Hove is blessed with some of the most dedicated professionals and volunteers who go over and above to assure our children are safe. On behalf of the BHSCP, I would like to offer them our sincere thanks for all they do.

This Annual Report includes detail of how scrutiny has been delivered to the BHSCP in 2023-24. Scrutiny affords those who lead the Partnership an opportunity to seek assurance that they are doing all they can to safeguard children. WT23 sets out the necessity to have independent scrutiny and the different ways this can be achieved. The same document also sets out the functions of independent scrutiny and states: 'Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that the arrangements are working effectively for children, families and practitioners.'

During 2023-24 the BHSCP employed an Independent Scrutineer and an Independent Chair for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Subgroup. The Independent Scrutineer also performed the role of Independent Chair for the Partnership, a role that has been removed from the structure in the latest iteration of Working Together. These roles provided critical analysis and challenge for various aspects of the Partnership, and there was an increased focus on data collection and analysis. The Independent Chair of M&E led a significant review of how data was collected, putting systems in place, improving the wider contribution to the overall data picture for the Partnership. This, in turn, afforded strategic leaders with opportunities to give more considered directions in key practice areas. The BHSCP completed several audits that highlighted good practice, gaps in service provision and opportunities for improvements. This scrutiny was presented to strategic leaders and the wider Partnership. Action plans to learn from this work are now in place with a view to improving practice, service delivery and outcomes for children. The independent Chair and Scrutineer acted as a critical friend to the Partnership, chairing Partnership meetings and providing challenge. Reviewing and advising on a Rapid Reviews and submissions to the National Panel. Advising on Safeguarding Children Practice Reviews, leading the pan Sussex section 11 process and acting as an essential conduit between Partners.

Looking forward, WT23 provides an opportunity to further optimise independent scrutiny. The removal of the chairing role will afford the BHSCP to task individual pieces of scrutiny to be completed more frequently focusing on the priority areas. It will also increase opportunities to engage with children, families and practitioners gaining insight into their lived experiences. As the Independent Scrutineer I am happy to be able to say that the BHSCP continues to do all it can to safeguard children and improve outcomes for them and their families. They have developed and maintained a culture where independent scrutiny is seen as a vital part of their core business. I believe they will focus on developing this culture to provide the best possible scrutiny and seek opportunities for continual improvement.



# Introduction to Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Partnership



**The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP)** consists of three key agencies who collectively hold statutory responsibilities for keeping children and young people safe: the Local Authority (through Families, Children and Learning), Health (through NHS Sussex ICB) and Sussex Police.

**Our Objectives:** To co-ordinate the local work undertaken by all agencies and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, to ensure the effectiveness of that work.

## Our vision and values

Our vision is 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.

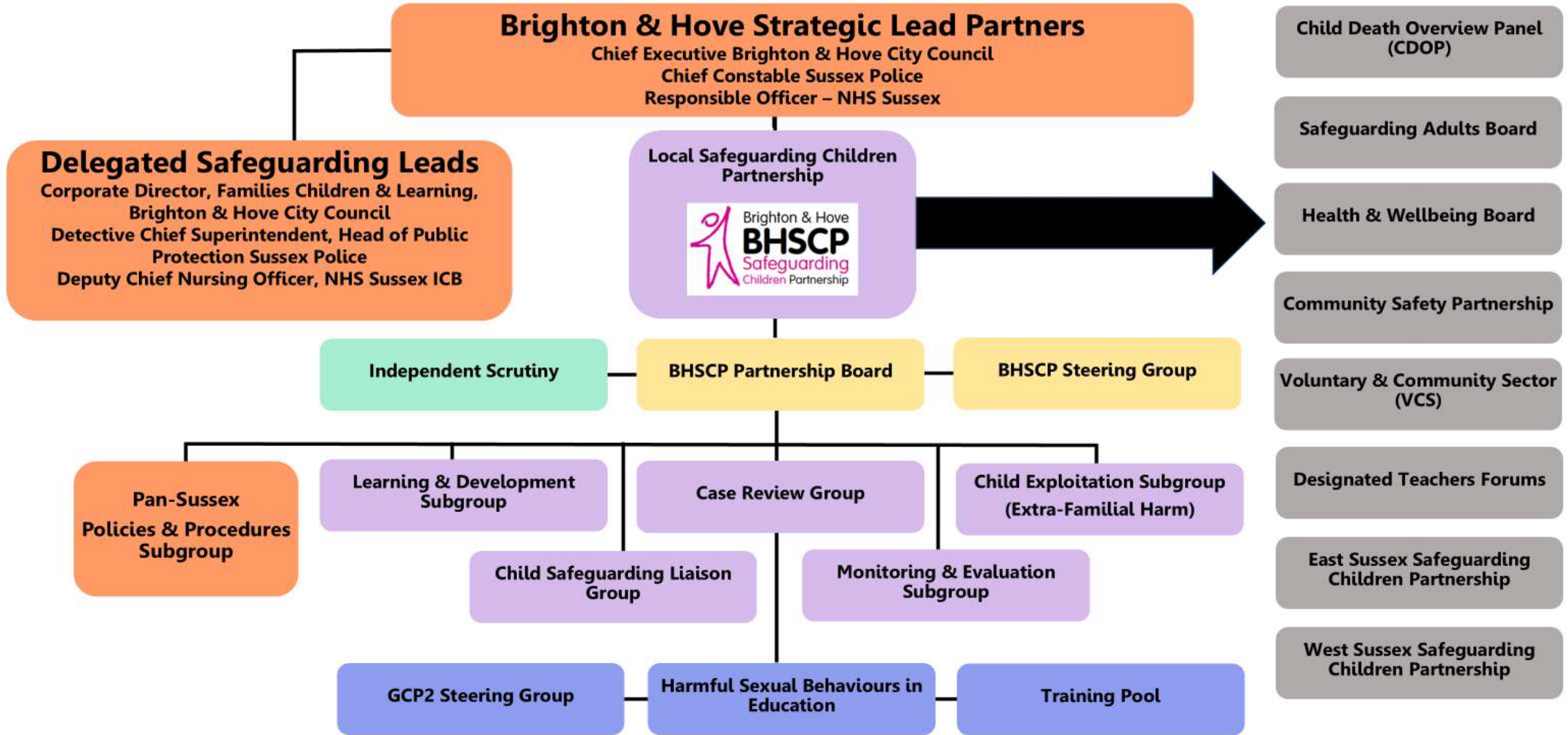
## Our vision is underpinned by our core values:

- 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.
- Promoting preventative and early help approaches for outcomes to be improved there should be timely identification of a problem; the earlier the better to secure maximum impact and greatest long-term sustainability.
- Always alert to transition points: for outcomes to be improved known transition points should be planned for in advance.

## Our principles

- To work in partnership.
- To commit to genuine engagement: listening to, and acting, on what our community tells us.
- To be a learning partnership.
- All BHSCP activity is characterised by an attitude of constructive professional curiosity and challenge.
- To be flexible to respond to emerging threats and risks.
- To always ask 'so what' to ensure what we do makes a difference.

# BHSCP Structure 2023-24



# Brighton & Hove: Our Population

The data included on pages 7 and 8 comes from the *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Executive Summary May 2024* and the *Brighton & Hove JSNA Summary March 2024 - Population* produced by Public Health Intelligence Team, Brighton & Hove City Council. JSNA information is available online from [What the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) is](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/what-the-joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna) ([brighton-hove.gov.uk](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk))

## PEOPLE

### Population



**277,965**

resident population of Brighton & Hove, 2022

### Population estimates and projections



Please read

Due to the need for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to rebase national and local population estimates and projections following the 2021 Census there are currently no population projections beyond 2022 available.

According to the ONS release calendar, the new population projections based on the 2021 Census have a provisional release date of 'early' 2025.

In December 2023, the ONS released:

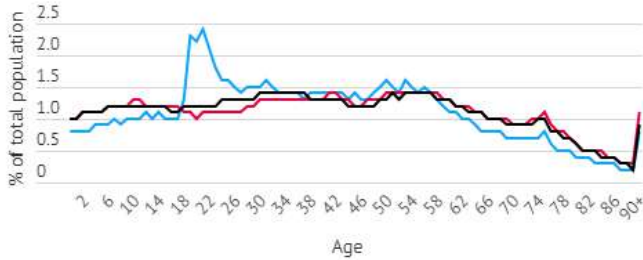
- Rebased national and local population estimates covering the years 2012 to 2020
- Updated 2021 national and local population estimates
- 2022 population estimates

This report will be updated shortly to include these estimates, meanwhile the data is available on the [ONS website](https://www.ons.gov.uk).

### Our population profile is younger than the South East and England



**15% (41,300) under 16** (19% South East, 19% England)  
**73% (201,700) 16 to 66** (64% South East, 65% England)  
**11% (29,300) 67 to 84** (15%, South East, 14% England)  
**2% (5,600) 85 or older** (3% South East, 2% England)

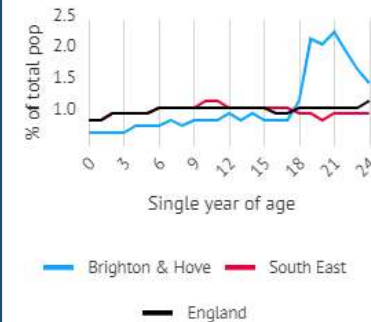


## STARTING WELL

### Population

In 2022 it is estimated that Brighton & Hove has a **significantly smaller number of children aged under 18** (46,900 people, 17%) compared to the South East (21%) and England (21%) and a **significantly higher number of young adults aged 18 to 24** (38,100 people, 14%) compared to the South East (5%) and England (6%)

### Proportion of residents aged 0 to 24 years old, 2022



Our children and young people's wellbeing is influenced by a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors:

### Children in care

**74 per 10,000 children and young people (0-17 years old) in care (31 March 2023)** South East (57), England (71)

### School readiness

**69% achieving a good level of development at end of reception (2022/23)** South East (70%) England (67%)

### Education

**Educational progress pupils make between primary and secondary schools is above the England average (2021/22)**

### Child poverty (IDACI)

**15% of children live in poverty (2019)** South East (13%), England (17%).



### Youth unemployment

**3.8% 16-17 year olds (200 people) not in education, employment or training (2022/23)** South East (6.9%), England (5.2%).



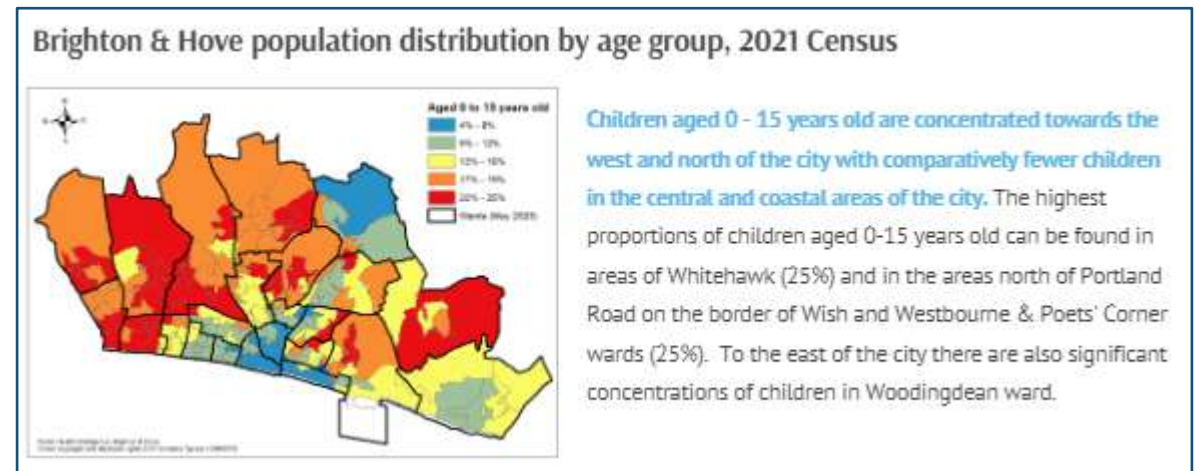
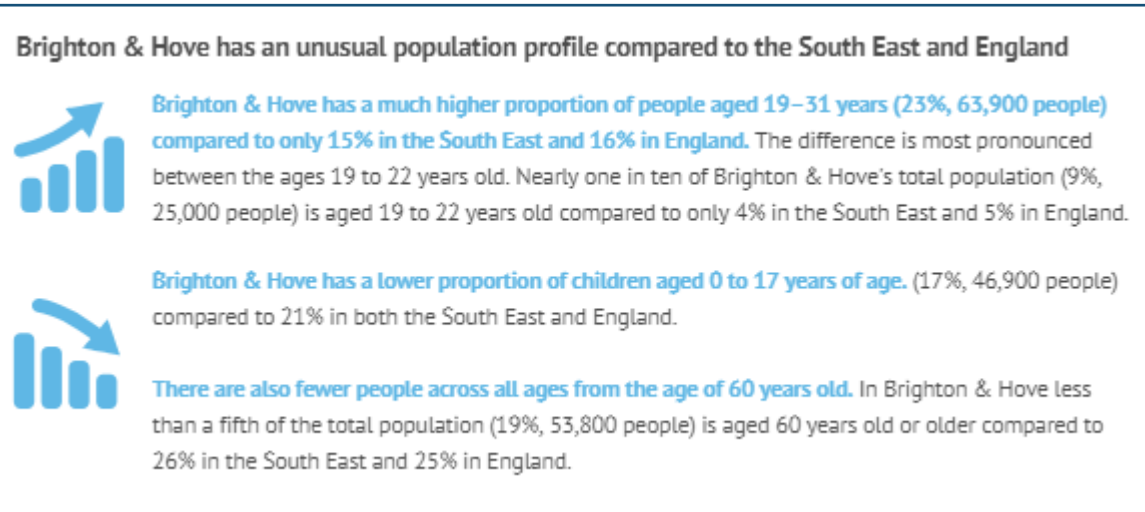
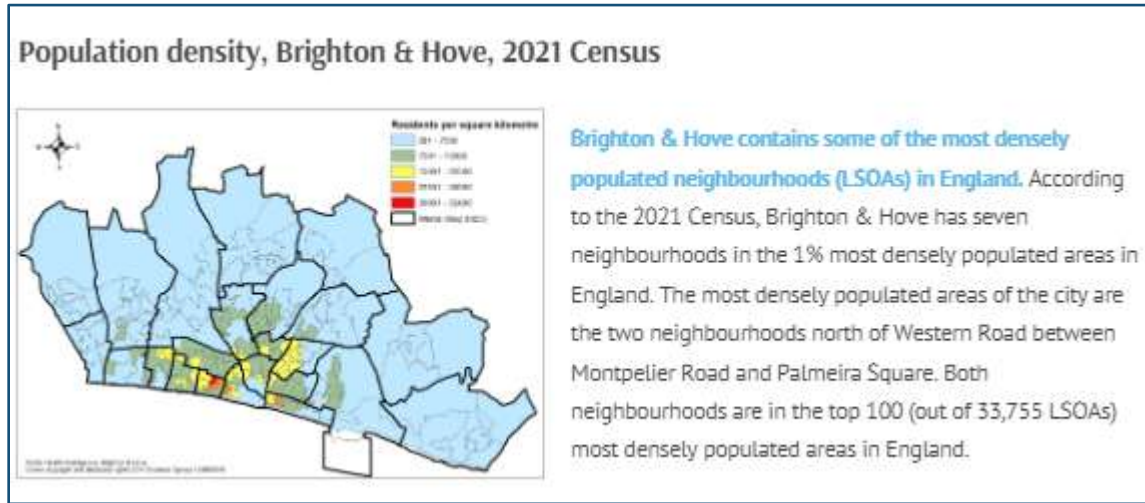
### Disabilities and sensory impairments

More than 4,500 children and young people with a disability on the local register (2019/20)

It is estimated that there up to **600** children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions living in the city



# Brighton & Hove: Our Population





## Partner Contributions – Partner Profiles

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 requires all local Safeguarding Children Partnerships to prepare and publish a 'yearly' report about activities to improve safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children in their local area. The BHSCP annual report 2023-24 sets out how effective the multi-agency partnership working has been within this context. We asked agencies to report on the following areas:

The impact of multi-agency partnership work to safeguard children.

- Progress made against Business Plan Priorities 2023-26, including key achievements and barriers/challenges/risks and issues.
- Challenges Partnership members faced during this period.
- Areas to celebrate.

Partnership members were asked to set out the multi-agency work they have undertaken to demonstrate how their agency has contributed to 'the functioning and structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements'.

Partner agencies were asked to:

- ✓ Describe their agency's/organisation's key safeguarding functions, including a brief description of the cohort of children/young people they work with/provide services for.
- ✓ Detail how they raised awareness, embedded learning and improved practice for each of the Business Plan 2023-26 Priorities.
- ✓ To identify and include any audit activity, training, and learning from local or national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and responses to concerns detailed in any agency reports (IMRs) they had undertaken.
- ✓ To identify any work their agency had undertaken to promote the voice of children, young people and their families in their work, processes, and policies.
- ✓ Areas to celebrate and any identified gaps in activity or services including action taken to mitigate risks to safeguarding.
- ✓ How their agency contributed to any other multi-agency activity to improve the safety and well-being of children during 2023-24.

The following pages are used to collate agency responses demonstrating the multi-agency response to safeguarding risks in Brighton and Hove.



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Lead Safeguarding Partner: Brighton &amp; Hove City Council (BHCC) Children's Social Care (CSC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CSC: 'Business as Usual' is to safeguard children and young people.</li> <li>○ All aspects of statutory safeguarding work under the Children Act</li> <li>○ Responsible for all safeguarding and child in need processes for children 0 to 18 and beyond for Care Leavers up to 25.</li> </ul>	<p>Children and young people aged 0-18 and up to 25 years for Care Leavers supported from Front Door For Families (FDfF) through to our Family Help Services and Social Work under Child in Need, Child Protection and Children in Care.</p>
<b>Lead Safeguarding Partner: NHS Sussex ICB</b>	<p>NHS Sussex represent health as one of the three Lead Partners of the BHSCP.</p> <p>Designated professionals provide training, supervision, leadership of complex cases and issues and leading on partnership work to help assure the safeguarding and looked after children standards of healthcare provision across the county.</p> <p>NHS Sussex safely discharge a statutory duty to identify and respond to safeguarding risks and themes.</p>	<p>NHS Sussex is a commissioning organisation and does not deliver direct patient-facing care, however they hold statutory responsibilities to oversee and assure the care delivered by provider organisations across Brighton is safe and effective.</p>
<b>Lead Safeguarding Partner: Sussex Police</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sussex Police provides support and information to partners to encourage the best safeguarding outcomes.</li> <li>○ Partnership activity extends to a range of functions and arrangements including safeguarding practice reviews, the chairing and participation in a variety of themed subgroups in addition to learning programmes.</li> <li>○ Allocates resource to multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).</li> <li>○ Emergency protective powers in relation to children that allow for immediate safeguarding activity to be taken where associated concerns are identified.</li> <li>○ Investigate every crime or incident where a child is involved as the victim or as a suspect. Understanding the "why" is fundamental with the desire to not criminalise children unnecessarily.</li> <li>○ Proactive patrol activity in places and spaces where children can be found enabling the agency to use its powers to proactively safeguard children both within and beyond the home, but also disrupt those responsible for perpetrating harms.</li> </ul>	<p>Sussex Police works with all children coming to police attention, regardless of age, and where there is a policing need.</p> <p>Sussex Police are the biggest referring agency to the MASH/FDfF with this information being shared with the broader child protection network.</p> <p>Sussex Police leads on finding / returning missing children and all subsequent investigations including Child Sexual Exploitation / Child Criminal Exploitation.</p>



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Safer Communities, BHCC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-chair of BHSCP Exploitation Subgroup along with Sussex Police.</li> <li>○ Member of Community Safety Partnership.</li> <li>○ Member of the Brighton &amp; Hove Violence Reduction Partnership.</li> <li>○ Coordination of Violence &amp; Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP).</li> <li>○ Ownership of BHCC’s internal pathway for Modern Slavery</li> <li>○ Attendance of BHCC’s National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Decision Making Panel pilot &amp; Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM)</li> </ul>	<p>The work of Safer Communities in this space primarily addresses children and young people who have experienced or at risk of involvement with various forms of exploitations and/or serious violence. This work is largely advisory or related to commissioning, procedures and training, rather than working directly with children and young people as practitioners.</p>
<b>Family Hubs Service, BHCC</b>	<p>The service includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intensive whole family work at level 3.</li> <li>○ Whole family work at level 2.</li> <li>○ Group and 1-1 interventions.</li> <li>○ Information, advice and guidance.</li> <li>○ Youth participation.</li> <li>○ Youth advocacy.</li> <li>○ Independent Visiting.</li> </ul>	<p>The Family Hubs service provides support to families from conception – 19 / 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across all levels of need providing Early Help to prevent needs escalating to social work or specialist support.</p>
<b>Sussex Community Foundation Team (SCFT)</b>	<p>SCFT has a safeguarding team which provides specialist advice for adults and children across all services and supports staff to recognise signs of abuse and how to report it. The Trust works effectively with pan Sussex safeguarding partnerships to ensure a multi-disciplinary and cross agency approach. The safeguarding team provide safeguarding training specific to role as defined by the Intercollegiate Document (NMC 2019) across SCFT services.</p> <p>The safeguarding team works closely with new service developments to ensure SCFT provide high quality and effective health services. The team is part of a Quality and Safety Department, which enables close working both with specialist safety teams and clinical staff. This ensures that SCFT focus on learning for improvement and strengthens our personalised approach to safeguarding.</p>	<p>SCFT serves a wide geographical area which includes, West Sussex, Brighton &amp; Hove, and High Weald, Lewes, and Havens, and provides health services in the community to adults and children.</p> <p>SCFT provide a range of health services for children and young people including the Healthy Child Programme (0-19 years); Community Children’s Nursing Service, Child Development Centres, Speech and Language Services, Occupational Therapy, Special School Nurses, Specialist Dental Services and Physiotherapy.</p>



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)</b>	SPFT are the specialist mental health provider pan Sussex. To discharge their safeguarding section 11 functions SPFT have an established integrated safeguarding team. The team is imbedded in workstreams within and across SPFT. This includes policy development specific to safeguarding and ensuring all policies have a safeguarding lens, designing and delivering safeguarding children training for all staff, clinical consultations and subgroup activity across Sussex.	SPFT provide mental health services to working age, children, older age, forensic and learning disabilities service users and their families.
<b>SouthEast Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmbs)</b>	<p>As a Trust, SECAmbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Receive and respond to 999 calls from members of the public.</li> <li>○ Respond to urgent calls from healthcare professionals e.g., GPs.</li> <li>○ Receive and response to NHS 111 calls from members of the public.</li> </ul> <p>SECAmb reinforces the principle that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and develops a culture of continuous learning and improvement to promote the safety and welfare of adults at risk, children and young people and looked after children.</p>	<p>SECAmbs provide services across the Southeast Coast region – Kent, Surrey, Sussex and parts of Northeast Hampshire and Berkshire (except for the NHS 111 service).</p> <p>In 2023/24, a total of approximately 35,000 referrals were received across the NHS111 and 999 services: 28,000 for adults and 7,000 for children. This equates to an increase of 17 per cent compared to the previous year.</p>
<b>National Probation Service (NPS)</b>	<p>Assess risk to children posed by adults on probation. To liaise with partner agencies to share information and manage risks of harm to children.</p> <p>Manage risks of harm to children posed by adults on probation.</p> <p>Complete interventions with people on probation to address risks of harm.</p>	<p>NPS work with adults on probation – on community sentences or during the licence period of custodial sentences.</p> <p>NPS work with prisoners during their pre-release period to support resettlement and public protection. Whenever adults within NPS service have contact with children risk is assessed and referrals made to partner agencies for support as needed.</p>



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Oasis Project</b>	<p>Oasis Project provides services for women with drug and alcohol problems and provides care and support to children and young people affected by drug and alcohol misuse in the family. We work in partnership to deliver treatment services across Brighton and Hove.</p> <p>Oasis have a broad portfolio of services which reflect the diversity of the women and families they work with, their specific needs, and their routes into accessing support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drug/alcohol treatment for adult women including POCAR (Parenting our Children, Accessing Recovery) for parents whose children are open to social services.</li> <li>○ A dedicated therapy service for children/young people 5-18 years affected by a parent or family member's substance misuse.</li> <li>○ 'Looking Forward' service for women who have had children removed from their care, who may still have contact either indirect or indirect with their child/children.</li> <li>○ Substance use recovery Partners In Change (PIC) workers- based in Brighton and Hove children social work hubs.</li> <li>○ Sex Workers Outreach Project - in the context of child protection processes.</li> </ul>	<p>Children of women receiving services from Oasis Project, children and young people receiving services i.e. therapy service.</p> <p>Oasis also provide a free, therapeutic creche (registered with Ofsted, on voluntary children's register) for babies and children of parents with a treatment need (the main cohort is 0-4years old, however they extend provision for older children during holiday periods).</p>
<b>University Hospital Sussex (UHSx)</b>	<p>UHSx provide care to people for West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and parts of East Sussex and other areas. UHSx hospitals include Worthing, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, St Richard's, Princess Royal and Southlands.</p> <p>Section 11 (s11) of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key organisations to ensure that in discharging their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. UHSx has important and distinct duties to ensure that children and young people receiving services, experience safe and dignified care, and that they are safeguarded from harm, abuse, and neglect. This includes ensuring appropriate action is taken when staff become aware of concerns taking place outside of the Trust.</p>	<p>Dedicated paediatric and urgent and emergency care services are provided for children and young people at Brighton, Chichester, and Worthing Hospitals. Maternity services are provided from St Richard's, Worthing, Royal Sussex County Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital.</p>



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Public Health</b>	Public Health commissions services that provide universal, early help and targeted support for children and young people and their parents and carers. Safeguarding children and young people and vulnerable adults is an essential part of the commissioning and delivery of those services.	Service users of Public Health commissioned services.
<b>Virtual School (VS)</b>	<p>The VS role is to enhance the life opportunities for children in care (CiC), children previously in care and children who have a social worker, by supporting their education and enabling them to achieve the best they can.</p> <p>The VS tracks the attendance of CiC and acts if a child becomes persistently absent or is suspended.</p> <p>The VS uses Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) to ensure interventions support good progress, engagement and attendance.</p>	The VS is responsible for ensuring all CiC have high quality termly Personal Education Plan (PEP), which outline bespoke plans to remove barriers to children achieving their full potential.
<b>Youth Employability Service (Y.E.S)</b>	<p><b>Youth Employability Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statutory tracking of Yrs12-Yr13 - reporting to the Dept for Education (DfE) monthly.</li> <li>○ Data collection for September Guarantee and Annual Activity Survey (offers and enrolments) from Post 16 education providers to the DfE which is then published benchmarking against Local Authority's in the Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and Participation Scorecard.</li> <li>○ The NEET and Not Known cohorts are allocated to advisers to call and build a trusting relationship to engage in support and then education, employment or Training. Sit on AVRМ panel, attend Channel Panel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Employment Hub:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) partnership with BHCC.</li> <li>○ Young people aged 16-18 can join weekly activities to increase confidence, independent living skills and peer support.</li> <li>○ Those who are eligible to claim for Universal Credit receive wrap around support as well as being able to access benefits in a safe, youth led space.</li> </ul>	<p>NEET children and young people, the team provide careers guidance up to age 25 to groups facing additional challenges such as young people who have experienced care, young carers and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) young adults.</p> <p>Children and young people aged 16-25 years.</p>



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# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>East Sussex Fire &amp; Rescue Service (EFRS)</b>	<p>ESFR Schools Education Programme School sessions include learning about fire, road and water safety, as well as knife crime, alcohol, drugs and smoking, and mental health for their secondary-age sessions.</p> <p>ESFR Firewise scheme is a one-to-one intervention for CYP for whom there are concerns about their behaviour with fire.</p> <p>Safety in Action events at Hove Community Fire station, delivered in partnership with Sussex Police, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Southern Rail, UK Power Networks, RLSS Lifeguards, Safety Net, SECamb and Brighton &amp; Hove Buses.</p>	<p>Attended by 930 primary and secondary school children and young people in Brighton &amp; Hove including at Blatchington Mill School following the fire on the school grounds and Russell Martin Foundation Extra Time project.</p> <p>21 CYP through our Firewise scheme in the city.</p> <p>Attended by 1240 year 6 pupils in Brighton &amp; Hove.</p>
<b>Impact Initiatives</b>	<p>Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whitehawk After School Project (WASP) - based at City Academy in Whitehawk.</li> <li>○ Stopover Supported Housing Mother and Baby project in Whitehawk and a Move-on Project in Moulsecomb.</li> <li>○ Young People's Centre (YPC).</li> </ul>	<p>Impact Initiatives provide services to clients who have experienced a high level of childhood trauma resulting in current behaviours including serious mental health concerns, suicidal ideation, self-harm and substance misuse.</p>
<b>Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)</b>	<p>TDC offer universal and targeted youth work services, focussed on young people in Brighton &amp; Hove who face disadvantage and exclusion through poverty, racism and other factors.</p> <p>Key safeguarding functions include monitoring concerns and disclosures, sharing information in line with Section 11 of the Children Act, 1989, and reporting concerns where appropriate with statutory bodies in line with guidance in Section 17, and joining Strategy and other information-sharing meetings in line with Section 47 of the Children Act, 1989.</p>	<p>TDC work with approximately 1,800 young people each year.</p> <p>In the year to the end of March 2024, 41.5% of all young people TDC worked with were in the bottom decile of the IDACI Scale. 31% had SEN support or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place.</p>



# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>Stonewater (Brighton Refuge)</b>	<p>The Brighton refuge is a safe space providing accommodation and support for women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse. Stonewater support children with physical, emotional and mental health support needs, safeguarding concerns, education and any other support as required.</p> <p>Within the local Capacity Building Programme for the Black and Global Majority (BGM) community Stonewater provide safe places for women experiencing domestic abuse or living with the trauma of domestic abuse. Stonewater specialise in creating inclusive spaces for women from BGM communities. Stonewater support children by offering advice, support and safety plans to families. They provide sessions outlining people’s rights ensuring communities are educated ensuring the support needs of children are paramount.</p>	<p>Stonewater support children fleeing domestic abuse with their mothers and support from newborn up to 18 years, male and female.</p>
<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Albion Foundation (B&amp;HF)</b>	<p>B&amp;HF are the official charity of Brighton &amp; Hove Albion (BHA), using the power of football to engage and inspire people to change their lives and help them to get active, learn new skills and improve their wellbeing.</p> <p>The Foundation offers a safe space, and free football, particularly in the more socially deprived areas of the city to encourage young people to engage in a healthy lifestyle, and personal development opportunities, giving young people a positive outlet for their energy.</p>	<p>B&amp;HF work with around 5,000 children every week in BHA.</p> <p>B&amp;HF disability programme is one of the biggest in the South.</p>
<b>YMCA Downlink Group</b>	<p>YMCA DownLink is the largest regional charity in Sussex and Surrey working to prevent youth homelessness and support children and young people’s emotional and mental health. YMCA Downlink employ 325 people and have 80 volunteers.</p> <p>Support offered in three service areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing provision and sustaining accommodation</li> <li>○ Specialist information, advice and support</li> <li>○ Emotional wellbeing and mental health</li> </ul>	<p>YMCA Downlink support children and young people up to the age of 25 with multiple and complex needs.</p> <p>Services are inclusive supporting children and young people who are LGBTQ+, Black and Racially Minoritised, neurodiverse, have experienced exploitation, care experienced, young families, young carers, young refugees and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.</p>





# Our Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
<b>RiSE</b>	<p>RiSE is the local specialist domestic and sexual abuse service.</p> <p>RiSE work with all levels of safeguarding in the context of domestic and sexual violence and abuse up to level 4 providing specialist expertise and collaboration including support in family courts, safe housing support, counselling, therapy and targeted interventions with schools and health providers working closely with early help, public health and child protection teams.</p>	<p>Services provided to women, children, and LGBT people in Brighton &amp; Hove.</p>
<b>Community Works</b> <b>(Voluntary and Community Organisations VCS)</b>	<p>VCS organisations operate across BHSCP Threshold Document Tiers 1-4 from Universal Level to Specialist Services to address Acute &amp; Chronic Need for young people in Brighton &amp; Hove. They provide early recognition and intervention, referral to partner agencies and Front Door for Families.</p> <p>The large and diverse reach of charities, community groups, clubs and not for profit organisations is a cornerstone of good safeguarding practice with an umbrella provided through Community Works.</p>	<p>Children and young people in Brighton and Hove, ages and circumstances of cohort dependant on VCS organisation services.</p>
<b>Lioncare Group</b>	<p>Lioncare Group care for children on a medium-long term basis who have social, mental, emotional and behavioural difficulties – referred to as complex needs. Children from the age of 6 – 18 years old are supported in three homes based in the City.</p>	<p>All the children supported by Lioncare have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma which brings different safeguarding concerns across all homes and staff teams. Children are chronologically delayed due to the abuse they have suffered whilst not in care and this is acted out at a subconscious level which needs experienced and trained adults to contain, keep safe and enable them to grow.</p>



# BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

This section of our annual report looks at the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) Business Plan 2023-2026 which sets out our strategic intent in making our vision a reality. The Business Plan and Partnership Workplans underpin the statutory objectives of the BHSCP to coordinate agencies, practice, and approaches to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Brighton & Hove.

## The BHSCP Business Plan 2023 – 2026 priorities are informed by the following:

- Learning from local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews (formally known as Serious Case Reviews).
- Legislation and policy.
- Inspection reports.
- National learning, briefings and research including National Review Panel reports and guidance.
- Local audit findings through monitoring and evaluation.
- Data sources including BHSCP Dashboard.
- Learning through Subgroup activity and professional challenge.



## How we deliver our priorities:

Our priorities are delivered through our Subgroup activity. Each Subgroup reports to the Statutory Lead Partners, the Steering Group, and Partnership Board every quarter. BHSCP works collaboratively with other Partnerships and Boards in Brighton and Hove to co-ordinate services, whilst collectively focussing on safeguarding the children and young people in our city. Our partner agencies coordinate audit and evaluation to effectively monitor the effectiveness of services and improve outcomes for local children, young people, and families. We work with our Pan-Sussex Partners to provide cross county professional challenge, shared learning, and a shared approach to safeguarding practice.

## Business Plan 2023 – 2026 – Priority 1: Partnership Engagement and Accountability

Partnership arrangements have provided strategic leadership to fully embed the principles of multi-agency safeguarding across all aspects of our work, and that children, young people and their families, the local community, and professionals assist in shaping the work of BHSCP. Since the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children (WT23) the Partnership has developed new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) to continue this further.

The Partnership demonstrates effectiveness in delivering against statutory functions, leads the safeguarding agenda in Brighton and Hove, and challenges the safeguarding work of partner agencies and organisations. The Partnership has committed to an approach that learns lessons and embeds good practice. Public safeguarding awareness has improved through the on-going 'See Something, Say Something' campaign, enabling our community to act as the eyes and ears and understand how, when, and where to seek help should they witness, or suspect abuse or neglect is happening.

# BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

BHSCP has strengthened the governance between the Partnership and other key strategic forums including the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), Community Safety Partnership, Pan-Sussex strategic leadership meetings, the Association of Safeguarding Partners (tASP), Pan-Sussex Policies and Procedures Group, and the Health & Well-being Board. The Partnership has maintained robust relationships with community and voluntary organisations in training, challenge, and consultation. BHSCP has involved and consulted children and young people in the process of helping to keep them safe. However, this is an area we need to focus on as we implement the new MASA from 2 September 2024 and the 2024-26 Section 11 Audit cycle.

The Partnership has adopted anti-racist working to identify where people are discriminated against because of race or membership of global majority communities, and has taken active steps to address the systems, privileges and everyday practices that maintain this unequal treatment, whether they be intentional or unintentional. We have also developed the Poverty Aware Practice Statement as part of our Threshold Document refresh in collaboration with Children's Social Care colleagues.

Pan-Sussex and multi-agency assurance activity tests compliance and effectiveness of local safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures; and the Partnership is confident it can swiftly identify and respond to risks and issues that impact the Partnership. The Partnership continues to use learning from audit, local and national practice reviews, and feedback to improve safeguarding practice in Brighton and Hove.

As engagement and accountability continue to be part of the foundations and daily business of the Partnership; the Business Plan 2023 – 2026 focus is Priorities 2,3 and 4. Our business objectives will be reviewed after the introduction of the new MASA in September 2024 to ensure they continue to reflect current safeguarding trends, concerns, and developments in Brighton and Hove and as well as nationally.

## **Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation - Lead Agency: Sussex Police**

**Aim:** Ensure there is a clear understanding of the scale of complex and contextual safeguarding within Brighton & Hove and that the needs of children and young people affected by any form of violence, from any source, are identified and assessed effectively resulting in timely and appropriate intervention.

**Outcome:** The risk of children and young people experiencing criminal or sexual exploitation has reduced.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

- 2.1** Develop a profile analysis for each of the elements of complex safeguarding to target interventions.
- 2.2** Organisations and agencies have the skills and knowledge to recognise and undertake high quality assessments regarding exploitation delivering interventions for children, young people, and families at all levels of need.
- 2.3** Target intervention where children and young people are deemed to be at risk of extra-familial harm. Prevent the exploitation of children through raising awareness, building young people's resilience, providing appropriate diversionary activities, and upskilling practitioners across the partnership.

# BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

## Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage – Lead Agency: Brighton & Hove City Council

**Aim:** Ensure the needs of children and young people affected by neglect are identified and assessed effectively resulting in timely and appropriate intervention.

**Outcome:** All children where neglect is a feature are identified and helped at the earliest opportunity, without drift or delay.

### Strategic Objectives:

**3.1** Strengthen and maintain the governance of partnership arrangements to further support a co-ordinated and multi-agency response to neglect. Review and refresh our multi-agency neglect strategy to underpin this work, highlighting the importance of poverty aware practice. Strengthen strategic links through the engagement of the wider partnership, including those services that do not predominantly work with children.

**3.2** BHSCP in partnership with the Voluntary, Community Sector to ensure the roll out and use of neglect tools and strategies to ensure early prevention and detection of neglect.

**3.3** The Partnership is assured that an effective whole family approach to assessing neglect, as well as planning and monitoring interventions is embedded city wide across agencies and organisations.

**3.4** The Partnership is assured that all agencies are equipped to tackle the impact of neglect, to recognise the impact of child poverty and disadvantage, and the importance of poverty aware practice.

## Priority 4: Supporting Mental Health, Emotional Health and Well-being – Lead Agency: NHS Sussex ICB

**Aim:** Ensure that service provision for children who need support for emotional and mental health issues is consistently good across Brighton & Hove.

**Outcome:** Children and young people have access to effective support that helps them deal with a range of pressures arising from the different contexts in which they live their lives.

### Strategic Objectives:

**4.1** Evaluate the availability and impact of services and resources on the safety of young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues, and contribute to future service developments, particularly where gaps are identified.

**4.2** Strengthen the governance interface between the BHSCP, NHS Sussex ICB and Public Health on the local suicide prevention strategy and action plan.

**4.3** BHSCP in partnership with the Voluntary, Community Sector to ensure roll out and use of Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) in Schools tools and strategies to ensure early detection and prevention of HSB in schools.

The following pages are used to demonstrate the impact of multi-agency partnership work to safeguard children, and the progress made against our business plan priorities in 2023-24 including key activities and evidence as identified by agency leads. Full responses from all partners are published on the BHSCP website with this report, website links are included as Appendices (Annex A) in the reference section.

# BHSCP Business Plan 2020-23 – Partner Contributions to Priorities

## Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation Lead Agency: Sussex Police

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<p><b>Sussex Police</b></p>	<p>In Autumn 2022 Sussex Police funded and recruited to a small exploitation team. The funding for this has been renewed for the 2023 – 2024 financial year.</p> <p>The objectives of this team are multi-faceted and includes challenge, improving practice, reviewing the forces strategic approach, in addition to supporting thematic leads through the development and delivery of training, focused action and engagement.</p> <p>Force has a designated Child Exploitation lead (DCI Public Protection) advocating for focus, resource and practice improvement.</p>	<p>Impact has been significant, including the impact on training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jan 2023 – Child Exploitation Recognition and Response – Response</li> <li>○ Feb 2023 – Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – Public Protection (PP)</li> <li>○ April 2023 – Childrens Services Powers and Policies – Criminal Investigations Department (CID) &amp; PPP</li> <li>○ July 2023 – Hydrant Programme and Under Cover Online (UCOL) – PP Detective Inspectors &amp; Detective Sergeants and key divisional reps</li> <li>○ Aug 2023 - Child Exploitation – PP</li> <li>○ Aug 2023 – Child Sexual Assault Referral Centre &amp; Child Protection Medical – PP.</li> <li>○ Sept 2023 – Child Exploitation and Online Grooming – Force Contact, Command, Control Department (FCCCD).</li> <li>○ Jan 2024 – Online Grooming – Response, Response Investigation Team (RIT) &amp; Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT).</li> </ul>	<p>Provision of products and awareness to support investigators and front-line practitioners in recognising, responding to and investigating child criminal exploitation.</p> <p>Strong attendance at various groups, such as AVRME Escalation and CEIM (Child Exploitation Intelligence Meeting), with representatives drawn from a range of internal disciplines.</p>

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Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>Children's Social Care (CSC)</b>	<p>Front Door for Families (FDfF) make decisions on pathways of support and intervention.</p> <p>CSC have a specialist Adolescent Service to prioritise those most at risk. This includes the Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Management Meeting (AVRM), a multi-agency forum.</p> <p>CSC RBP Model puts children at the centre of their practice with containment and support for Social Workers as key.</p> <p>CSC internal audits raise awareness and learning alongside thematic audits. Recent engagement and learning from BHSCP Exploitation and Missing Audits.</p> <p>Learning around adultification across the service.</p> <p>CSC are piloting devolved National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision making.</p> <p>CSC have reviewed and strengthened their response to Missing including dedicated missing workers and close working in partnership with Sussex Police.</p> <p>Engaged in early learning from a Safeguarding Children Practice Review into a death of a young person linked to exploitation.</p> <p>Driven multi-agency learning from case studies.</p> <p>Driven practice developments on the disruption of exploitation.</p>	<p>CSC have robust and thorough support services for children at risk of exploitation.</p> <p>Children are supported and listened too.</p> <p>Multi-agency work is of good quality.</p> <p>Targeted interventions are in place to support escalating risk.</p> <p>The risk is that despite high quality services CSC and partners cannot always eliminate all contextual safeguarding risks as demonstrated through the sad death in 2023 of a young person through a knife incident.</p>	<p>Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection Feb 2024 - Outstanding</p> <p>Ofsted Youth Offending Service (YOS) Inspection 2022 - Outstanding</p> <p>Ofsted Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inspection 2023 – Grade 1</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
NHS Sussex ICB	<p>November 2023, Safeguarding and children in care fortnight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 13 virtual events held and an in-person conference.</li> <li>○ Sessions included <b>transition in safeguarding, response, sexual safety, exploring extreme right-wing narratives, safer sleep, self-neglect, fraud, intimate partner violence, adversity and mental health, crimes of honour and learning from the lives and deaths of people with a learning disability/autistic people.</b></li> <li>○ Conference: Links between health inequalities and safeguarding and children in care.</li> </ul>	<p>NHS Sussex received extremely positive Feedback from staff –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How this training would alter and develop their patient-facing practice.</li> <li>○ How learning from statutory safeguarding reviews was being implemented into frontline care delivery.</li> </ul>	<p>Evaluation Responses (from 195 attendees) –</p> <p>Organised &amp; easy to follow: Strongly agree 125, Agree 59</p> <p>Content relevant and useful to my work: Strongly agree 128, Agree 62</p>
Safer Communities, BHCC	<p>Multi-agency activity with Sussex Police - visiting hotels, guesthouses, hostels and language schools to promote Op Makesafe (how to spot, challenge and report potential exploitation) and changes to the law regarding possession of offensive weapons in private spaces.</p> <p>Safer Communities are part of the NRM Decision Making Panel, chaired by Adolescent Services. This commenced in Spring 2023.</p>	<p>Greater understanding and knowledge of exploitation within the community.</p> <p>The panel has driven much swifter decisions for those referred and noted a greater shared understanding of the NRM and exploitation in general across partners.</p>	<p>Demonstrating immediate impact from preventative work is consistently challenging. However, during visits Safer Communities saw Op Makesafe resources displayed within premises that had been visited during previous days of activity, and robust procedures and knowledge from service managers/proprietors.</p> <p>All first stage decisions reached within 45 days of referral (for context some referrals that went to the Home Office under previous arrangements took 18 months+ to get a response) / Increased number of submissions to the NRM for u18s locally.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>East Sussex Fire &amp; Rescue (ESFR)</b>	Safety in Action             Firewise	Improved knowledge of risks that children and young people face and how to keep themselves safer.  ESFR Firewise interventions often include discussions around how to deal with peer-pressure. ESFR occasionally find that young children are spending time with and are influenced by older young people. When this is the case, ESFR signpost families to support and make a safeguarding referral as appropriate.	Evaluation: Pre and post event knowledge assessment.  Very low rate of reoffending, as measured by re-referral after intervention, and feedback.  Number of *Coming to Notice Referrals.  <i>*ESFRS internal safeguarding alert form</i>
<b>Impact Initiatives</b>	Worked with service users in respect of emotional literacy to identify safe and unsafe behaviours and practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ WASP 1:1 work.</li><li>○ Stopover 1:1 work.</li><li>○ Stopover accredited group work.</li><li>○ Stopover professional. psychological interventions.</li><li>○ YPC drop-in.</li><li>○ YPC workshops.</li><li>○ E-motion online counselling provision.</li></ul>	Improved sense of self, with service users more able to recognise when feeling unsafe. Built a network of trusted adults.	Feedback from service users

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Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>University Hospital Sussex (UHSx)</b>	<p>Introduction of Extrafamilial Harm and Violence Reduction single agency Learning &amp; Development.</p> <p>Sexual Health representation at B&amp;H AVRMS – identifying learning/areas of risk and feeding back to clinical areas.</p> <p>Improved information sharing - child's name, context of assault and location of assault shared with Police to help identify vulnerable children &amp; support multi-agency working.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) tool utilised by UHSx practitioners.</p> <p><b>TDC Hospital Youth Workers:</b> signposting, risk reduction, positive impact on young person's wellbeing and mental health. Youth workers for the children's emergency department at the Royal Alexandra Children's hospital (RACH).</p> <p><b>Domestic Abuse:</b> Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) in post on all sites. MARAC process being developed across sites to manage alerts on Sussex IT systems and to ensure information sharing for MARAC is supported across all sites.</p> <p>Maternity Service has been involved in the development of SCARF process. Maternity attend MARAC meetings for all areas covered by UHSx.</p>	<p>Staff able to support young people who are vulnerable and/or at risk of violence.</p> <p>Developing trusting relationships and good communication with young people, healthcare practitioners and, where relevant, young people's parents and carers. Keeping youth work values central to practice.</p> <p>Impact being collated. A process is being developed for Princess Royal hospital to input into the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.</p> <p>Collaborative approach encourages information sharing to reduce risks for both pregnant women, unborn babies and the staff providing care.</p>	<p>Feedback/evaluation from training.</p> <p>Supervision and team meeting notes.</p> <p>Feedback from Sussex Police.</p> <p>TDC Hospital Youth Work Report.</p> <p>Feedback from staff has been positive, valuing IDVA support</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT)</b>	<p>SCFT have participated in the B&amp;H Pilot NRM to support the national framework for victims of modern slavery within the criminal justice system. This has included sharing information for children subject to a NRM to support the NRM panel's analysis of all available information across agencies for the best outcome for each child. NRM's are parallel process to existing Safeguarding and child protection structures. SCFT completed 26 requests for information in 2023-24.</p> <p><b>Introduction of Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School Nurse Level 3 - <i>Criminal Exploitation and School Aged Children</i>.</li> <li>○ Trust wide <i>Level 3 Safeguarding Children Training 2023-24</i>.</li> <li>○ School Nurse Level 3 - <i>Safeguarding children</i> with the school liaison officer from YMCA Downlink group to present a discussion called <i>Harmful Sexualised Behaviour</i> and the prevalence of CSE amongst boys.</li> </ul>	<p>NRM referral added as significant event to their SCFT health record; this alerts services should the child be in receipt of care or become in receipt of care to the risk of exploitation to support curiosity within their assessment, consider communication with other agencies and the child's support needs.</p> <p>Improved professional understanding of criminal exploitation (CE), recognition and prevention of CE, and how to support children at suspected risk of CE.</p> <p>The BHSCP Exploitation audit October 2023 showed school nurse service activity (3 of the 8 children were receiving a specialist service form a school nurse) - this included evidence of creative ways to engage with the child, as well as understanding to the number of professionals involved and how that may feel for the child.</p>	<p>SCFT health records and data stored by the safeguarding team.</p> <p>Attendance, concerns, and plan is recorded within SCFT records visible to all services on System one and AVRМ minutes.</p> <p>Positive feedback from the training sessions – i.e. relevant to role, increased understanding and motivation to change practice. HSB in education training feedback included all responses as 'agree or strongly agree'.</p>
<b>National Probation Service (NPS)</b>	<p>Collaboration with Brighton and Hove YOS, Sussex Police and housing providers re young adults linked to county lines and risks in terms of exploiting young children (siblings and/or associates).</p>	<p>Improved communication and understanding of the links between young adults and children known to agencies. This helps improve risk assessment and risk management plans and the targeting of interventions.</p>	<p>Feedback from practitioners and partner agencies.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>RiSE</b>	<p>Early recognition and intervention, referral to partner agencies and Front Door for Families. Attending key training and conferences</p> <p>Leadership through partnership and forums from VCS. Sharing learning opportunities through VCS.</p> <p>Deliver <i>Domestic Violence &amp; Abuse: The Impact on Children &amp; Young People</i> training as part of the BHSCP multi-agency training programme.</p>	Improved practice and local expertise.	Attendance at training and events.
<b>Lioncare</b>	<p>Each child has a Safeguarding Risk Profile which highlights the risks they arrive with.</p> <p>Working with the Police and Youth justice around children presenting violent behaviours towards the staff team. Always trying to use a restorative pathway so no child becomes criminalised.</p>	<p>To decrease and manage this within the team and with each child.</p> <p>Positive impact using a restorative approach and allowing the child to remain and progress.</p>	<p>The risk profiles show a decrease in each child starting point throughout their journey with Lioncare.</p> <p>Child is settled in placement and their risks have decreased due to working together.</p>
<b>Oasis Project</b>	<p>Development and growth of Hope Service – targeted intervention for 16–25-year-olds with substance use needs. This service was developed to respond directly to the wants and needs of young adults requiring support with substance use, including risk of extra-familial harm including violence and exploitation.</p> <p>In recognition that young people with substance use needs may be at increased extra-familial harm including risk of violence and exploitation, services are trauma-informed and developed with knowledge from Transitional and Contextual Safeguarding models.</p>	Access to specialised drug and alcohol interventions which include psychosocial support, clinical treatment and therapy. This increases access to holistic support to make changes which increase safety, enhance well-being and prevent issues becoming embedded into adulthood. Young people who have accessed youth services may be less likely to disengage from services when turning 18 through a transitional approach between youth and adult providers.	Oasis Project’s Hope Service received national recognition and contributed to knowledge sharing and improving practice nationally. The Hope Service was featured in Transitional Safeguarding textbook authored by Holmes, Cooper and Cocker (2024) as an example of innovative practice for young people at risk of harm and transitioning into adulthood.

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<p><b>YMCA Downlink Group</b></p> <p>*Commissioned by BHSCP including Safer Streets 4 PCC funding.</p>	<p><b>WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation) Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers direct support for children experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and harmful sexual behaviours (HSB).</li> <li>Pan Sussex Exploitation Learning Network – for professionals to understand victim blaming and language, support networks and interventions.</li> </ul> <p><b>YMCA Downlink offer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations for professionals.</li> <li>CSE awareness training: Level 1 and Level 2 training days.</li> <li>*School liaison services to 10 secondary schools in B&amp;H to raise awareness of HSB and deliver bespoke training, including PSHE lesson plans for KS3 and KS4 students, and support for home educated students and their parents/carers. Commissioned by BHSCP including PCC Safer Streets 4 funding.</li> <li>*HSB support to alternative education providers (in pupil referral units, connected hub and special educational schools) with PSHE lesson plans on this subject to explore with students plus guidance for teachers to use.</li> </ul>	<p>Children and Young people up to the age of 25 years old can access our service for direct support to understand CSE, trauma responses and contextual safeguarding.</p> <p>Upskilling and sharing knowledge and resources to other professionals.</p> <p>Increased professional knowledge and confidence including a better understanding of impact of CSE on children, families and wider communities and be equipped with resources and interventions.</p> <p>Improved knowledge of HSB across school staff teams including impact on children and proportionate responses.</p>	<p>Feedback from children, young people, professionals, commissioners.</p> <p>More details of the Harmful Sexual Behaviours Project and evaluation included on page 29.</p>
<p><b>Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)</b></p>	<p>Youth Work delivery on projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital Youth Work.</li> <li>Brighton Streets Detached Youth Work.</li> <li>School Youth Work.</li> <li>Pattern &amp; Progress Young Men’s Mentoring.</li> <li>Turnaround Community Navigation.</li> <li>Neighbourhood Youth Work.</li> <li>Health &amp; Wellbeing Youth Work.</li> <li>New View Youth Mentoring.</li> <li>Networking and Learning, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convening the Brighton &amp; Hove Youth Services Network.</li> <li>Developed Safeguarding Audit for Universal Youth Services in the city.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37% reduction in knife-enabled serious violence – under 25s.</li> <li>44% reduction in Serious Violent Crime – victim under 25.</li> <li>40% reduction in robbery.</li> <li>24% reduction in hospital attendances in A&amp;E for assault with a knife.</li> <li>43% reduction in possession of weapons.</li> </ul> <p>Causation not proven.</p>	<p>End of Q2 (2023-24) report to the Violence Reduction Partnership.</p>

# Harmful Sexual Behaviours in Education Project

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people which is harmful or abusive.

After the Sarah Everard case came to light, many children in schools started campaigns and protests around the experiences of young girls within our schools and our society. There had been an increase in Front Door for Families (FDfF) referrals involving incidences of concern where girls had been victims of various levels of abuse up to quite serious assaults. A practice review was completed by FDfF and CSC to ensure operations were appropriate and support for the children was correct, but also considering the boys that may be displaying harmful sexual behaviours in our schools.

A self-assessment activity completed by the local authority HSB Task & Finish group confirmed that services were good and there was a robust understanding of not having a punitive approach to perpetrators but having a strong approach about how to address harmful behaviours. It was apparent this was a cultural issue across all spaces in society, not just high-end issues. The review looked at experiences of children in schools and other young people's spaces and looked at the various low-level incidents – a service risk assessment was completed. This generated schools-based actions such as a review of PSHE and the Safe and Well at School Survey, and an Action Plan was developed.

**BHSCP Response:** As part of the action plan BHSCP agreed to commission YMCA Downlink (WiSE) and the Trust for Developing Communities (TDC) to deliver support to local secondary schools including:

- **A Harmful Sexual Behaviours Schools' Worker:**

- To support schools to feel confident to effectively address and combat harmful sexual behaviours in their settings.
- Schools would know how to identify and respond to problematic behaviours earlier, develop robust and clear procedures to ensure consistent responses, and work collaboratively to begin to engender an anti-misogynist, positive culture when approaching violence against women and girls.

- **Pattern & Progress Young Men's Mentoring offer:**

- 4 x Pattern & Progress programmes (delivered in 4 secondary schools).
- Targeted mentoring focusing on positive masculinity and the reduction of HSB for 24 young men, identified by each school setting (6 in each school).

BHSCP also used Police Crime Commissioner funding to extend the programme to non-mainstream Alternative Education Provision in Brighton & Hove:

- Connected Hub (a Year 11 only Pupil Referral Unit).
- Connected School - Homewood College (A maintained special school for students aged 11 to 16 with social, emotional and mental health difficulties).
- Electively Home Educated Children.
- Special School(s).

Initial evaluation of the project has been positive with schools reporting the value of the support received. Full reports from the TDC and WiSE are available from [Keeping Children Safe - BHSCP](#)



# BHSCP Business Plan 2020-23 – Partner Contributions to Priorities

## Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage Lead Agency: Brighton & Hove City Council

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Children’s Social Care (CSC)	<p>This is a priority action area for the LA.</p> <p><b>Development of –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poverty Aware Statement, now adopted as a BHSCP Statement.</li> <li>○ The development of a Communities of Practice around Poverty.</li> <li>○ Development of a shared model of practice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Promotion of –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Graded Care Profile (GCP2) toolkit and training across all Social Work Teams.</li> <li>○ Learning from Case Studies promoted via Learning 9 min briefings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Approach –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Driven the development of the Neglect Working Group and GCP2 reviews.</li> <li>○ BHCC disadvantage strategy in place, ‘A Fairer Brighton &amp; Hove’ 2022 to 2025.</li> <li>○ Review and relaunch of CSC CIN Procedures to ensure robust oversight and effective plans are in place for our CIN.</li> <li>○ Closer working with Family Hubs and development of improved step across processes between our Family Help and Social Work services.</li> <li>○ Current Thematic Audit on Long Term Neglect taking place Q1 2024/25 which will develop an action plan.</li> </ul>	<p>CSC are monitoring impact. Awareness of neglect as a major priority area.</p> <p>Learning is being promoted to ensure practitioners are skilled.</p> <p>A systemic review has enabled CSC to consider responses to Neglect.</p> <p>This is still under way, so impact is to be considered.</p> <p>Overall CSC decision making is good however they are seeing for some families the escalation to chronic neglect is not engaged with early enough meaning some children suffer neglect.</p>	<p>Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) inspection Feb 2024 - Outstanding</p> <p>Ofsted Youth Offending Service (YOS) Inspection 2022 - Outstanding</p> <p>Ofsted Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inspection 2023 – Grade 1</p>

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NHS Sussex ICB	<p>NHS Sussex deliver safeguarding training to all their staff and partner services as per the Intercollegiate Documents.</p> <p><a href="https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/pub-007366">https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/pub-007366</a></p> <p>Neglect is a key focus of Level 3 training during the last 12 months. This included training delivered to NHS Sussex staff and Primary Care staff in Brighton and Hove.</p>	<p>All training now contains focus on Trauma Informed Practice, to ensure staff are aware of the impact of neglect and the importance of early identification and intervention.</p>	<p>Feedback from staff is that they find the training helpful and informative. Moved training to in-person sessions from September 2023, with a focus on 'lifespan' – based on feedback from virtual sessions - received positively by trainers and attendees.</p>
Sussex Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Op Denver:</b> Offender Managers disrupt NFA'd (no further action) suspects investigated for a sex offence against a child. Suspects are targeted to find any other opportunities to prevent further risks including neglect.</li> <li>○ <b>Crewmate Neglect Tab:</b> Accessible guidance on neglect via Officer's devices at the scene and remotely.</li> <li>○ <b>Training:</b> Neglect sessions through BHSCP Learning &amp; Development used to embed use of common language around neglect.</li> <li>○ <b>CSE Child Protection Working Group:</b> Includes neglect and poverty.</li> <li>○ <b>AVRM Escalation:</b> Sussex Police response to the AVRM is being reviewed jointly by CSC and Sussex Police.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiple partner agency meetings on the AVRM escalation process. CSC and Sussex Police proposing new joint process.</li> <li>○ Child Protection Working Group is well attended.</li> <li>○ Improved knowledge of neglect and Child's Voice through training and use of Cre Mate Neglect tab.</li> </ul>	<p>Data not available in this timespan, however, could be possibly mapped upon request with a discussion about what was required.</p>

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<b>Family Hub Service</b>	<p>Whole family work at tier 3 and tier 2 – Priority 2 for full explanation of tiers 2 and 3.</p> <p>Targeted interventions around <i>Cost-of-Living</i> and <i>Employment Support</i>.</p> <p>Staff across the service including nurseries are trained in use of neglect GCP2 assessment tool.</p> <p><i>Poverty Focus Month</i> delivered.</p>	<p>Reduce demand for social care service and holding cases in Early Help</p> <p>Support provided to families to support with employment and cost of living issues.</p> <p>Staff trained to support families.</p>	<p>94 of Early Help whole family assessments completed in 2023-24 identified that the family required support with their finances and/or have unmanageable debt. 101 whole family closure forms identified the same, of which 82 recorded positive progress.</p> <p>160 families supported with <i>Cost-of-Living</i> interventions and 72 with <i>Employment Support interventions</i>.</p> <p>342 multi agency staff attended the <i>poverty focus month</i>.</p>
<b>Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)</b>	<p>Learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and Rapid Reviews, direct consultation work, and continued engagement with BHSCP and Trust’s neglect workstreams constantly see a focus in neglect.</p> <p>These areas are reflected in our Neglect Strategy and overarching commitment to neglect across Sussex.</p>	<p>Increased awareness and confidence within practitioner teams - use of Neglect Strategy within our overarching policy and procedure.</p>	<p>Neglect Strategy, overarching policies and procedures.</p>
<b>Public Health</b>	<p>Public Health, working with Families, Children and Learning and the UHSx Medical School using <b>Safe and Well at School Survey</b> anonymised data to evidence the impact of the Poverty Proofing programme for schools and colleges.</p>	<p>This evaluation is ongoing and will report in 2024.</p>	<p>Unavailable at time of writing.</p>



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<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Foundation (B&amp;HF)</b>	<p>Award-winning educational and outreach programmes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve wellbeing.</li> <li>○ Supports learning.</li> <li>○ Enable those at greater risk of inequalities to access the opportunity for support.</li> <li>○ 53 schools including Alternative Provision and SEND, delivering school sports and PE, literacy, numeracy and STEM to support learning and personal development.</li> <li>○ Provide free sessions in low affluent areas and a bursary scheme to low-income families to attend our football pathway sessions.</li> <li>○ Holiday football camps, providing financial assistance for low-income families.</li> <li>○ Free kit and boots for families struggling to afford sports and PE kit.</li> <li>○ Free football tournaments to 121 refugees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 103 young people through the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme</li> <li>○ Improve teachers' confidence in delivering PE.</li> <li>○ Increased children's confidence in English activities.</li> <li>○ Improved children's communication skills and resilience.</li> <li>○ Healthy eating workshops and assemblies in schools.</li> <li>○ Nutritional advice for young people and their families.</li> <li>○ Healthy cooking sessions in schools and at community events.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://bhafcfoundation.org.uk/impact-stories/">https://bhafcfoundation.org.uk/impact-stories/</a></p>
<b>Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)</b>	<p>Distribution of Household Support Fund to families in need.</p> <p>Community Development and Leading the Inclusive Communities Partnership. Equalities and Health Inclusion work with migrants and refugee/asylum seekers.</p>	<p>50 families supported with an average grant of £200 to help with food, energy or clothing in the year to 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Healthy, inclusive city where people can thrive.</p>	<p>Reports to funders</p>
<b>Lioncare</b>	<p>On referral children can enter with signs of severe neglect i.e no clothes, toys, signs of dental neglect, and growth and development issues. Lioncare service includes the development of a therapeutic package for all children on arrival.</p>	<p>Therapeutic package living and treatment plan enables the children ant Lioncare to feel safe, loved and contained.</p>	

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Stonewater (Brighton Refuge)	Child Empowerment stars completed for each individual child.	These ensure that children's voices are heard and central to the support they receive.	Support plans are produced from these sessions which ensure that the needs of children are addressed and set goals are worked towards. Families can access equipment needed for the care of their children
	Applications to Pelican Parcels	These allow families to access support for equipment they may need in relation to the children such as cots, push chairs etc.	Applications and referrals made.
	Applications to Buttle	Applications are made in relation to children with SEN and learning difficulties. They allow families with low income to access equipment and support to assist with the care of their children and enable them to access sensory equipment and learning tools.	
	Application for free school meal placement	Child support workers assist residents to apply for free school meals ensuring that all children have access to healthy balanced meals through the school day.	Applications are made in conjunction to nursery and school applications and part of the support planning process.
	Applications for local schools	When a family arrives in refuge, applications are made to local schools immediately ensuring children do not miss out on their right to education despite having to flee.	Children are provided with access to education in a timely manner when arriving at refuge. 8 families attended sessions – some feedback received :-
	Cooking workshops with Healthworks	Sessions were run in conjunction with food provided through our Fareshare provision. They allowed families to understand how different ingredients could be utilised to make healthy meals for their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>F4 - It was good, I signed up to a zoom meeting with the nutritionist.</i></li> <li>○ <i>F9 - It was very good; the ladies were lovely. Nice group session.</i></li> </ul>

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<b>University Hospital Sussex (UHSx)</b>	<p><b>Neglect Champions</b>                      Named Safeguarding midwife has recently completed the Train the Trainer GCP2 course. Plan is for the evidence-based tool to become embedded within Maternity practice for use alongside other practitioners.                      Named and specialist safeguarding practitioners have also undertaken additional BHSCP child neglect training and are participative members of the Neglect Forum.</p> <p><b>Learning &amp; Development</b> Neglect remains a core component of the level 3 safeguarding children training - risk factors included, and resources <a href="#">Neglect - BHSCP</a> shared. There is also the opportunity for discussion and reflection using scenarios and sharing the learning from LCSPR (Child Delta).</p> <p><b>Supervision and Escalation</b> Complex cases including those related to children young people experiencing neglect are discussed at weekly Group supervision - psychosocial/ safeguarding meeting and peer review - concerns escalated in accordance with partnership guidance.</p> <p>UHSussex Safeguarding Supervision Policy currently open to consultation</p>	<p><b>Case Example - Child B:</b> 2-year-old recently diagnosed with a diabetes and a neuro/muscular disorder which would require long term health management. Concerns raised following frequent hospital attendances when Child B presented unwell. Considerable parental conflict noted during their hospital attendances/admissions. Parent disclosed they were finding the situation overwhelming and difficult to meet their children’s needs. One parent had notable chronic health needs which made it difficult for them to practically provide some of the health interventions Child B required to have stable diabetes. Therefore, concerns raised that parents were struggling to meet their child’s health needs. The needs of the other siblings in the home were also considered as they may also be young carers. A referral was made to CSC following discussion with family for early help support however this was closed with no further action.</p> <p>Discussed at weekly safeguarding / psychosocial meeting due to continuing concerns. Actions were agreed to gather further evidence and complete a health chronology. Concerns escalated to children’s social care with additional information. Outcome: a child and family assessment was agreed alongside additional community health package of support.</p>	Referrals to CSC for Neglect: 476 (19 %) out of total of 2,455 referrals to CSC during 2023/24

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<b>Virtual School (VS)</b>	<p>VS support the most disadvantaged children in the city. VS use Personal Education Plans (PEPs) to remove barriers to achievement, especially literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>VS provide training to professionals on how best to support educational achievement.</p> <p>VS run "Raising Aspirations" trips. These trips provide children and young people with an insight into the possibilities of further and higher education and a wide range of potential graduate careers.</p>	<p>Children in Care (CiC) receive bespoke support to progress educationally.</p> <p>Professionals are aware of impact of disadvantage on learners and on strategies that are useful to support.</p>	<p>Training programme</p> <p>PEPs</p> <p>School visits.</p> <p>Well attended Raising Aspiration Trips.</p>
<b>Youth Employability Service (Y.E.S)</b>	<p><b>Improved data flows:</b> Y.E.S have over a thousand young people who do not appear on enrolment lists and ensuring they reach those most in need of support on a database which isn't linked to any other Family Children and Learning (FCL) service database.</p> <p>Y.E.S have used <i>Studybugs</i> attendance data, Free School Meals, Youth Justice Service, Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) indicators to mark young people in Yr11 at risk of not in education, employment or training (NEET) and ensure they are contacting those young people first.</p> <p><b>Working in partnership with the Skills &amp; Employment Post 16 Consultant:</b> To provide a quarterly meeting to share good practice and introduce new processes such as the vulnerability index between schools and Post 16 education. Police attend this network and give updates and training to safeguarding teams in Post 16 education.</p>	<p>It has meant increased referrals before leaving school and in the future will hopefully mean reducing NEETs and early leavers.</p>	<p><b>Referral numbers and low <i>Not Known</i> figures:</b> Due to robust tracking processes with qualified advisers BHCC were aware of the whereabouts and status of 5154 young people. Y.E.S had not managed to contact only 30 young people during this period.</p> <p>Brighton and Hove are a leading local authority for <i>Not Known</i> situations nationally.</p>

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<p><b>Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT)</b></p>	<p><b>BHSCP GCP2 steering group and BHSCP training programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Children delivery of the GCP2 multi-agency training.</li> <li>○ Specialist Nurse Safeguarding Children delivery of multi-agency Child Neglect training.</li> <li>○ Two Healthy Child Programme Practitioners trained to deliver GCP2 multi-agency training.</li> <li>○ GCP2 refresher training package delivered on 3 occasions for Health Visitors and School Nurses to support the practical application and overcome some of the barriers experienced by staff using the tool.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supervision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Neglect is a regular theme within safeguarding supervision - this will always include the impact of neglect on child's health, growth, and development.</li> <li>○ Reminder to all staff re: handover of care between Health Visitor (HV) and School Nurse (SN) for a child receiving a Healthy Child Programme (HCP) specialist service (formerly universal partnership plus level of service) at age 5 years.</li> </ul> <p>Participation in BHSCP Neglect Audit (January 2023).</p>	<p>Supports a multi-agency delivery and perspective in neglect training and incorporates health expertise and view within the GCP2 steering group. For the desired impact to see an increase in GCP2 tool use - at the time of writing SCFT cannot confidently evidence this.</p> <p>Increased health representation and availability to deliver the multi-agency training.</p> <p>Improved staff understanding and confidence in tool application and recording on child's health record – positive feedback received.</p> <p>A plan is made to support parents to address their children's health, development, and growth needs; and communication/referral/escalation to other agencies as required.</p> <p>Children who received HCP specialist service transfer between HV to SN (for oversight of health needs) – an opportunity for SN to review child's health needs and any ongoing role with child.</p> <p>Children and their family where services found to be hard to engage with, are discussed in safeguarding supervision.</p>	<p>Feedback from training and minutes form the GCP2 steering group. Minutes for training pool meeting.</p> <p>Attendance registers and feedback/evaluation.</p> <p>Safeguarding supervision forms.</p> <p>HCP and Safeguarding record keeping audit 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 19 out of 22 audited records which showed indicators of neglect had a plan to address them.</li> </ul> <p>Reaudit of handovers (children aged 5) between HV and SN in June 2023: showed all children (9 audited) had appropriate handover recorded.</p> <p>HCP and Safeguarding records keeping audit 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 23 of a 100-case audit where the service found difficult to engage child/family - 17 had been discussed in Safeguarding supervision.</li> </ul>

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SECAmbs	<p><b>Case Study:</b> A 999-call received from CSC (Friday PM) – 11-year-old child, neglect and self-neglect identified by CSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child hadn't left the house, attended school, or washed for several months.</li> <li>○ Clinical review would have been well-placed, but call was not indicated as an emergency that required immediate conveyance on the Friday.</li> <li>○ Saturday AM: Child was reluctant to engage and became distressed and worried about attending A&amp;E.</li> <li>○ Clinicians on scene contacted SECAmb Safeguarding on Call and CSC Emergency Duty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Case Study Outcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner and Duty Social Worker (SW) agreed conveyance to A&amp;E was inappropriate and hospital admission should be formally arranged with input from the mental health team.</li> <li>○ SW agreed they would make an urgent referral to the Emergency Approved Mental Health Professional Team with a recommendation for assessment.</li> <li>○ Clinicians on scene explained the plan to the child and their parents who were satisfied with the plan.</li> <li>○ Child and parents appreciated the care and support from SECAmb.</li> </ul>	<p>This case evidences the value of strong multi-agency working that proportionally supported the needs of a neglected 11-year-old child.</p>
<b>Community Works (Voluntary and Community Organisations VCS)</b>	<p>CW members provide information, advice, guidance and support to local families providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Money advice.</li> <li>○ Access to food banks.</li> <li>○ Provide culturally sensitive independent help.</li> <li>○ Support families to access education and training options to support movement out of poverty.</li> <li>○ Support families to access hardship grants and support to maximize household income.</li> </ul>	<p>Relief of hardship. Families can access a range of support from across the CVS organisations.</p>	<p>Number of services provided. Number of people accessing services.</p>
<b>Impact Initiatives</b>	<p>WASP Whitehawk top 5% of disadvantaged areas in the country - support services for the most at-risk children.</p> <p>Stopover accommodation for young women aged 16 and over who present as homeless at BHCC - 1:1 support and group work activities.</p> <p>Young Persons Centre (YPC) provides workshops and online counselling services for children and young people aged 13 and over via the E-motion platform.</p>	<p>Improved sense of self, with clients more able to recognise the impact of poverty and neglect.</p> <p>Within Stopover continual monitoring of self-neglect and subsequent impact.</p>	<p>Service users feedback including WASP Whitehawk, Stopover and YPC.</p>

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OASIS Project	<p>Increased 'foodbank' provision for families accessing Oasis Project. Provision of ad-hoc food, clothes and toiletries to families who may be in need. Staff will also signpost or refer families to foodbanks or services such as Pelican Parcels, for specialist and ongoing assistance.</p> <p>Oasis Project continues to deliver POCAR programme which delivers specialist family-focused drug and alcohol support to parents. With parental drug and alcohol use often a risk factor for neglect, POCAR seeks to enhance safety and reduce risks to children and young people through support to parents. The programme works with families who are open to BHCC Children's Social Care and can be referred by Social Worker.</p> <p>Family Practitioners on the POCAR programme all received BHSCP Graded Care Profile training.</p>	<p>Families are provided food, items and advice to reduce impact of poverty. Offer of food and provisions has been an opportunity to explore living circumstances with family, identify any impact of poverty and cost of living, and provide advice and support to families in need.</p> <p>Parents with substance use needs and have intervention from children's social care, have opportunity to receive specialist family focused recovery support. The programme promotes reduction or abstinence of drug and alcohol use, increased self-awareness, confidence and enhances resilience and safety for families.</p> <p>Oasis Project's holistic family-centric approach responds to both parents and children, providing a nurturing environment for families where relationships are built across the organisation, and support can be effectively targeted at the family members needs at different stages. This has been identified as effective for families through learning exercises such as <i>BHSCP Neglect Audit</i>. Oasis have sought to retain this approach and advocated for the needs of children and families within local commissioning from national drug strategy via Office for Health Improvement &amp; Disparities. The connection with the organisation promotes relationship-based support and empowers change through a sense of community. Highly-trained staff work internally with colleagues across disciplines to keep families together and enhance safety.</p>	Case study provided by Oasis Project as evidence

# BHSCP Business Plan 2020-23 – Partner Contributions to Priorities

## Priority 4: Supporting Mental Health, Emotional Health and Well-being Lead Agency: NHS Sussex ICB

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
NHS Sussex ICB	<p>Through triangulation of data (see evidence*) it was identified that clinical and CSC front line staff often lack confidence or competence to use the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) (2005) in decision making, care planning and patient care.</p> <p>To enable development and delivery of a comprehensive MCA education programme across Sussex Integrated Care System (ICS), a successful bid for funding was made to the NHS Health Education England (HEE) Community Upskilling programme (NHS Long Term Plan 2023). The funds received enabled the development of a comprehensive MCA training programme of 16 webinars for 648 delegates from across Sussex Health and Social Care with training delivery completed during 2023/24.</p>	<p>A nationally respected expert legal trainer/ Court of Protection lawyer was commissioned to work alongside safeguarding and MCA professionals across all NHS organisations in Sussex.</p> <p>A series of 16 three-hour workshops using anonymised real life case studies provided by NHS and CSC colleagues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hospital Discharges – Capacity and Best Interests</li> <li>○ Unwise Decision? Self-Neglect and the Mental Capacity Act (2005)</li> <li>○ Medical Intervention – How to approach delivering treatment where capacity is in question</li> <li>○ MCA and the use of restraint in care delivery</li> <li>○ Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) for 16–17-year-olds</li> </ul> <p>A wide range of clinical practitioners reached to help improve outcomes for children and their families within this critical area of care.</p>	<p>*MASH data, Care Act (2014) Section 42 enquiries, learning from Safeguarding Practice Reviews and local audits/ Serious Incident Investigations (SI).</p> <p>Attendance data provided by NHS Sussex ICB including roles of attending professionals.</p>



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Sussex Police	<p><b>OP Encompass.</b> Work continues to embed. <a href="#">Operation Encompass   Sussex Police</a></p> <p>As a result, schools are informed of children that are subject to Domestic Abuse households and are notified of new incidents within 24 hours.</p> <p><b>Embedding of Op Moonlight and Multi-agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAHMET)</b> - Op Moonlight was constrained to three schools but is being increased to additional educational establishments.</p>	<p>Encompass is now well embedded, and Sussex Police are looking to expand to pre-school and Private Schools. This will be done after an upgrade to Signs V2.</p> <p>Better information sharing with GPs assists in building a broader awareness among professionals of children living within households experiencing DA.</p>	<p>Highest use of Signs across Sussex falls within B and H.</p> <p>Officer compliance is rising and officer understanding with Signs improves.</p> <p>Weekly Op Moonlight meetings to discuss at risk children.</p>
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>This is an area of concern for BHCC. CSC are not the main statutory partner providing mental health (MH) support to children however they do promote good practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CSC have a well-established Schools Wellbeing Team alongside our Educational Psychology (EP) Team.</li> <li>○ The development of Multi Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAMHET) is best practice and includes learning from suicide clusters across Sussex.</li> <li>○ CSC have driven the review of Child Suicide Response processes through PSP&amp;Ps.</li> <li>○ Development of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Alternative Provision (AP) Change Programme in response to escalating SEN need aiming to keep our children in local provision in the city.</li> <li>○ SEN Forum embedded to review children of concern.</li> <li>○ MH practitioners within our Partners in Change (PIC) service to provide consultation support to all Social Work Pods.</li> <li>○ Regular training offers in place. MH part of core SW training.</li> </ul>	<p>Demand is increasing and pressure on services is a challenge.</p> <p>CSC engage proactively with Health Partners around MH impatient and MH Section reviews and S17 aftercare planning.</p> <p>Children are supported by trained and supported staff.</p> <p>Our safeguarding response is coordinated and appropriate.</p> <p>There is a national challenge on the lack of MH Tier 4* beds which impacts on CSC.</p> <p>* Tier 4 - specialised day and inpatient units, where people with more severe mental health problems can be assessed and treated.</p>	<p>Ofsted Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) inspection Feb 2024 – Outstanding.</p> <p>Ofsted Youth Offending Service (YOS) Inspection 2022 – Outstanding.</p> <p>Ofsted Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inspection 2023 – Grade 1.</p>

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Family Hub Service	Whole family work – supporting families	<p><b>Early Help whole family assessments completed in 2023-24:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 191 identified that a child needed support with mental health.</li> <li>○ 153 identified that an adult needed support with mental health.</li> <li>○ 183 closure forms with child mental health identified, of which 146 showed improvement.</li> <li>○ 158 closure forms with adult mental health identified, of which 116 showed improvement.</li> </ul> <p>Accreditations gained where often young people were not attending school or may not have been able to access any other formal qualifications.</p> <p><b>Youth Arts Worker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1:1 support session(s) offered to 23 young people in 2023-24.</li> <li>○ 8 young people completed their Youth Arts Award as achieving 48 AQA Unit Awards.</li> <li>○ 48 Positive Mental Health Outcomes recorded including applying for further education, being inspired to apply for GCSE Art, improving their school attendance, and having the confidence to attend a 'gig' in London after previously struggling to leave the house.</li> </ul>	Data supplied from FH records and Eclipse.
	<b>Youth Arts Interventions</b>		

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East Sussex Fire & Rescue (ESFR)	<p><b>Schools' lessons</b></p> <p><b>Firewise</b></p>	<p>ESFR lessons covered MH and wellbeing, encouraging children and young people to talk if they are struggling, as well as strategies to deal with peer pressure.</p> <p>ESFR Firewise interventions often include discussions around how to deal with peer-pressure and they occasionally find that 'fire setting' behaviour is because of MH concerns. When this is the case, ESFR can signpost to support and make a safeguarding referral as appropriate.</p>	<p>Evaluation: Pre and post event knowledge assessment.</p> <p>Very low rate of re-offending, as measured by re-referral after intervention, and feedback.</p>
Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)	As a specialist mental health provider SPFT's core business is the mental health and wellbeing of the people SPFT serve.		
Trust for Developing Communities (TDC)	<p><b>Youth Work delivery of projects, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Health &amp; Wellbeing Youth Work</li> <li>○ Hospital Youth Work</li> <li>○ New View Youth Mentoring</li> <li>○ Pattern &amp; Progress Young Men's Mentoring</li> <li>○ Brighton Streets Detached Youth Work</li> <li>○ School Youth Work</li> <li>○ Turnaround Community Navigation</li> <li>○ Neighbourhood Youth Work</li> </ul>	Improved mental health & wellbeing.	<p>Hospital Youth Work evaluation into MH impact currently underway.</p> <p>TDC internal Youth Work review.</p> <p>Pattern &amp; Progress evaluation.</p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing Youth Work user surveys and Case Studies.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT)</b>	<p>BHSCP training opportunities shared onto staff groups within B&amp;H.</p> <p><b>Chat Health</b> (school nurse (SN) texting service):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to children and young people (11 to 19 yrs.) - use to chat to a SN - can include emotional health and well-being. Emotional health is a regular topic within Chat health. Safeguarding supervision is opportunity to share resources, guidance and learning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Multi-agency mental health education triage (MAMHET):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SN representative attends to discuss children within the 4 secondary school who currently take part in MAMHET.</li> </ul> <p><b>SCFT have specific support service for staff - connect service:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports improving trauma informed practice and available for staff debrief after difficult and complex situation.</li> </ul>	<p>Upskill in staff.</p> <p>Responses / communication to text in relation to emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Sharing information, multi-agency contribution to decision making.</p> <p>Staff are supported and have access to well-being services.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Care training was delivered to Healthy Child Programme (HCP) 0-5 service in January 2023 and strengthened by a further course to all HCP Team leads during 2023.</p>	<p>Training attendance data.</p> <p>Chat health Safeguarding supervision notes.</p> <p>Case discussion outcomes.</p> <p>SCFT Intranet pages.</p>
<b>Public Health</b>	<p>Commissioned <b>suicide awareness training for education professionals</b> alongside development and launch of the <b>Toolkit for Schools</b> in the Event of an Unexpected Death.</p>	<p>Primary and secondary education staff received the training which accompanied the launch of the Toolkit.</p>	<p>Training evaluations showed participants valued the sessions.</p> <p>Educations settings experiencing critical incidents have reported using the guidance.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
University Hospital Sussex (UHSx)	<p><b>Strengthening Psychological support for parents / carers / families during the antenatal and postnatal period:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 specialist Perinatal MH midwives who liaise with the Perinatal MH leads to ensure pathways of care are followed.</li> <li>○ Monthly Maternity Multi-agency Safeguarding meeting for each site.</li> <li>○ Parents/carers/families are directed to Bliss service resources and 'DadPad' provides additional information and support for fathers.</li> <li>○ Maternity staff attend training yearly and staff report this has had a positive impact on their practice. feedback has been positive.</li> <li>○ Funding for Specialist Psychological support currently for Trevor Mann Baby Unit (TMBU) – Brighton Neonatal Unit. parents/carers/families and staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Children &amp; Young People Mental Health Project Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developed and led by UHSx in partnership with multi-agencies to ensure Children and Young People (CYP) attending emergency department with a MH need and/or admitted to an acute paediatric ward with a mental health need, receive timely and appropriate care. Policies and new ways of working have been developed; including new clinical posts Head of Mental Health Nursing and enhanced workers to support care.</li> <li>○ The hospital Safeguarding team continue to have oversight for young people in hospital with MH difficulties and facilitate partnership working to enable safe care.</li> </ul>	<p>Impact is to be evaluated however initial feedback from parents/carers and families who received specialist psychological support on the TMBU-neonatal unit at Brighton is particularly positive.</p> <p>Anecdotal feedback: In response to multi-agency policy development and new ways of working the impact has been welcomed by patients, carers and staff.</p>	<p>There were 1,513 referrals to CSC for children and young people with MH and emotional health difficulties which is <b>61.6%</b> of the total number of referrals made by UHSx to CSC for 2023/24 (Trust wide).</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>University Hospital Sussex (UHSx) continued</b>	<p><b>‘Valuing mental health equally with physical health’ (NHS England):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory training for all Maternity staff to increase awareness of mental health impacts within pregnancy and immediate postnatal period, including trauma informed care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Development of holistic care for CYP presenting to acute hospital settings with emotional and MH difficulties</b> through an educational programme.</p> <p><b>Trauma informed care</b> included in safeguarding children training.</p> <p><i>Oliver McGowan Training - mandatory for all UHSx Staff to ensure they have the right skills and knowledge to provide safe, compassionate, and informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disability.</i></p>	<p><b>‘Valuing mental health equally with physical health’ (NHS England): Training feedback:</b></p> <p>Positive feedback and indication that great changes have already started to happen in practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased confidence in all areas, increase in awareness and intentions to improve documentation and plans, adjustments in practice, cultures, and debriefing.</li> <li>Staff report increased confidence – MH Act and Mental Capacity Act (MCA), adding they would like to use the MCA more in practice.</li> <li>The programme won an NHS England SE Green award.</li> </ul>	<p>Formal evaluation is currently in progress.</p> <p>UHS strategy for MH &amp; well-being narrative and data.</p> <p>Minutes from Children &amp; Young People MH Protect group.</p> <p><a href="#">Sussex team win award for delivering green initiative to improve care for young patients - University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust Green Award (uhsussex.nhs.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism   NHS England   Workforce, training and education (hee.nhs.uk)</a></p>
<b>Community Works (Voluntary and Community Organisations VCS)</b>	<p>MH &amp; well-being services available through CVS organisations.</p> <p>Attending key training and conferences through BHSCP training programme.</p> <p>Sharing learning opportunities through VCS.</p>	<p>Children and young people supported through non-statutory agencies through increased options available.</p> <p>Improved practice, confidence, and expertise within CVS organisations.</p>	
<b>Safer Communities, BHCC</b>	<p>In addition to the activity mentioned under Strategic Priority 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Commissioning of Fresh Youth Perspectives</b> via the Violence Reduction Partnership - community group providing advocacy for parents of those involved in exploitation or violence, as well as a Peer Support Drop-in service.</li> </ul>	<p>Parents/Carers of children being criminally exploited by Organised Crime supported.</p> <p>8 Parents supported intensively through 1:1 Parental Befriending Advocacy to assist navigation of Health, Education and Criminal Justice services.</p>	

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Foundation (B&amp;HF)</b>	<p>COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on children and young people. This has included an increase in childhood obesity, diabetes, stress and anxiety, eating disorders and much more. This increased need has led to children and young people often having to wait too long to access assessment and treatment or support, across the range of services offered.</p> <p>B&amp;HF programmes aim to address this increased need post-pandemic.</p>	<p><b>B&amp;HF programmes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Help to inspire and empower young people.</li> <li>○ Offer support from an early outset to support MH, wellbeing and prevent ill-health later in life.</li> <li>○ Offer mentoring to young people.</li> <li>○ Improve quality of life and MH through physical activity including football.</li> <li>○ Unite communities.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://bhafcfoundation.org.uk/impact-stories/">https://bhafcfoundation.org.uk/impact-stories/</a></p>
<b>Virtual School</b>	<p>In Personal Education Plan (PEP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support for MH and emotional health and well-being is discussed.</li> <li>○ If a child in care (CiC) has a high Strengths &amp; Difficulties Questionnaire score (SDQ) the CiC will be discussed at a multi-disciplinary MH meeting. A clinical psychologist can advise on useful courses of action to support the child.</li> <li>○ A current focus of the VS is to ensure all CiC have their voices heard and accurately reflected in the PEP.</li> </ul> <p>Raising Aspirations trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide CYP with an insight into the possibilities of further and higher education and a wide range of potential graduate careers.</li> </ul> <p>Extra-curricular programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes a Dance club, Art and Table-Tennis clubs.</li> <li>○ Provide CiC with an opportunity to learn new skills and a space to socialise and grow in confidence, alongside other CiC.</li> </ul>	<p>PEPs include a plan of action to support mental and emotional health.</p>	<p>PEPs</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<p><b>Oasis Project</b></p>	<p>Free training delivered to professionals in Brighton and Hove including kinship carers, social workers, trainee social workers, and health visitors. "Unlocking the Family Secret Working with families affected by parental alcohol or drug problems"</p> <p>Training was developed and delivered by Specialist Substance Use Social Worker, Lead Young Oasis therapist and volunteer with lived experience as a child of alcohol dependent parent.</p> <p>Young Oasis Therapy sessions</p> <p>N.B Examples of co-production with people with lived experience of issues affecting children and young people adopted within Transitional Safeguarding/Hope Service training and 'Unlocking the Family Secret- Working with Families Affected by Parental Alcohol or Drug Problems' demonstrate Oasis Project's commitment to including the voice of the child in all aspects of their work - referenced in all priorities.</p>	<p>Professionals and kinship carers across Brighton and Hove were more confident with discussing therapy offer with families/children/young people and referring to Young Oasis for support. Trainees were given skills and resources to support with their relationships with children and young people.</p> <p>Professionals and kinship carers were provided opportunity to consider the importance of the child's experience, and the narrative adults give to children about parental substance use. Professionals and kinship carers provided opportunity to build confidence and consider ways to support children with their understanding of parental substance use, reduce shame and enhance resilience.</p> <p>Promotion of resilience, understanding of circumstances and enhance emotional well-being. Therapeutic offer seeks to improve mental health and outcomes in child and into adulthood.</p>	<p>Young Oasis therapy service noticed an increase in referrals to service following delivery of training, resulting in more young people and children referred for support with mental health, emotional health and well-being.</p> <p>Self-reported benefits to trainees' skills and confidence in training evaluation.</p> <p><b>Quotes from families who have accessed Young Oasis therapy:</b></p> <p>"My child's confidence has grown, and she felt safe and happy attending sessions." Mother of 11-year-old girl, whose father is long term drug user, facing charges for domestic violence.</p> <p>"Seeing my child get the help she needs, her behaviour is getting slowly better" Father of 10-year-old girl, mother with long term drug and alcohol problems,</p> <p>"I saw my child blossom" mother of 8-year-old, father with alcohol problems.</p>



Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
<b>Youth Employability Service (Y.E.S)</b>	<p>Successful bid £100k with the Department of Work &amp; Pensions (DWP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BHCC provision of wellbeing and signposting.</li> <li>○ Y.E.S have provided city wide well-being fairs, drop-in services from e-well-being, <i>Art in Mind</i> courses.</li> <li>○ The range of activities mean young people can access education and peer support on a drop-in basis.</li> </ul> <p>Social Media campaigns regularly include local and national wellbeing, mental health campaigns.</p>	<p>Additional resource for families and professionals based in East Brighton.</p> <p>Reported increased confidence, improved outcomes for the same cohort for the DWP.</p> <p><b>Social Media:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3000 followers on Y.E.S Fan page.</li> <li>○ Reach includes parent and carers.</li> <li>○ Regularly tagged in community groups or <i>Raising Teens</i> group as an excellent resource.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2023 – Apr 2024: Over 800 unique registrations, 66% self-disclosed SEND, 356 paid employment outcomes</p> <p>March 2024: Awarded 'Highly Commended in a Local Government Chronicle Award for illustrating good practice and a 'no-wrong-door' approach through partnership working. <a href="https://www.lgcplus.com/LGC-Awards-2024-Public/Public-Partnership-2024">LGC Awards 2024 - Public/Public Partnership 2024 (lgcplus.com)</a></p>
<b>Stonewater (Brighton Refuge)</b>	<p><b>Engagement of play therapist</b></p> <p><b>Bike sessions</b></p> <p><b>Activities including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PRIDE BBQ's, Spring and Easter Picnics, Celebration of International Women's Day events, Ramadan and many more.</li> <li>○ A trip to the local pier, to go for a day out as a family - tickets for the family, allowing them a day out of refuge where they could embrace one another and have some fun.</li> </ul>	<p>Refuge has supported a play therapist to achieve her qualification. Following this Refuge have secured funding to offer this service at the refuge 3 hours per week. Service includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1:1 and group support sessions for children.</li> <li>○ Child led and trauma informed and allow the children to express their emotions through play.</li> </ul> <p>In collaboration with local charity SUSTRANS: Project offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Free bikes for all children and women and individualised sessions.</li> <li>○ Allows the children and women to learn a new skill and boosts confidence and self-esteem.</li> </ul> <p>Activities allow children to experience joy with their family increasing their self-esteem by trying out new experiences.</p>	<p>Formal referrals and applications made to play therapist.</p> <p>Positive feedback includes:</p> <p><i>'...my older son is particularly uplifted and calmer after having a cycling session...'</i></p> <p><i>'...I feel like the first time in my life that I could just go for a nice ride with my children as it is something we do together as a family practicing our riding. So, it has brought us closer especially when mummy almost falls off the bike - which I can actually laugh at and not feel ashamed!'</i></p>

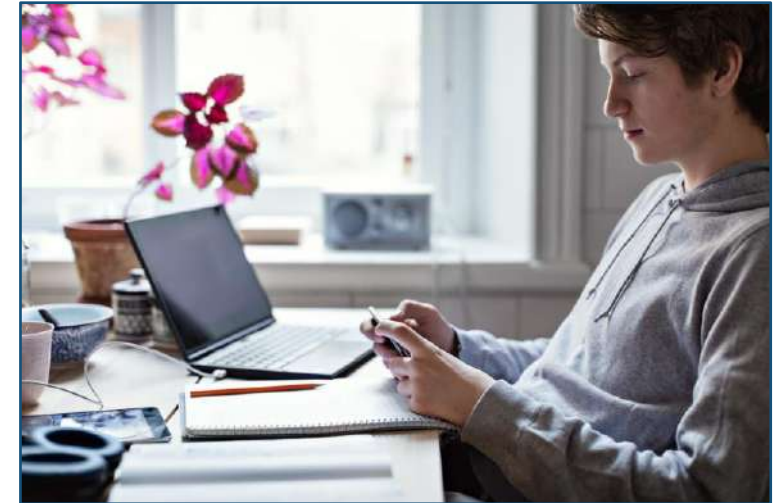
Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Lioncare	Provision on CAMHS support as needed. All children at Lioncare receive individual therapy including mental health and well-being. 'All about me' section developed for all children.	Voice of the children evident in all therapeutic interventions.	
YMCA Downlink Group	<p>Safeguarding Training delivered to YMCA DLG teams across Sussex - refresher required every 3 years.</p> <p>Termly CPD days for all YMCA DLG counsellors on a range of issues including Child Sexual Exploitation, Managing Risk &amp; Safety Planning, Supporting &amp; Validating our Autistic Children &amp; Young People</p> <p>MH and any other risk safety plan working group established.</p> <p>Piloted use of Outcome Rating Scale *(ORS) / Session Rating Scale (SRS) clinical evaluation tools in primary &amp; secondary schools (school counselling service) already in use in YMCA DLG West Sussex Community Service</p> <p>Creation &amp; development of the <b><i>'Dialogue Helping Children and Young People Mental Health Threshold Framework'</i></b></p> <p>*Assessment tools designed to provide clinicians with direct feedback from clients about the clients' views on progress in therapy and their views on the quality of each session provided by the clinician</p>	<p>Clinicians, supervisors and managers kept up to date with safeguarding practices.</p> <p>Clinicians feel increased confidence when working with specific issues and presentations.</p> <p>Improved cross agency consistency and quality of mental health and any other risk safety planning for children &amp; young people</p> <p>Gain increased insight &amp; understanding of changes in wellbeing/mental health of the children &amp; young people receiving school counselling. Monitoring the therapeutic alliance, giving children &amp; young people a voice in how their therapy progresses.</p> <p>Counsellors and schools have a deepened understanding of who our service can work with effectively and helps to support schools know where else they can refer children &amp; young people onto to get more specialised support.</p>	<p>Feedback from counsellors demonstrates a sense of increased skill &amp; confidence.</p> <p>Initial uptake from key external organisations &amp; YMCA internal services; this is an ongoing project currently and evidence of impact will be gathered once further progress has been made.</p> <p>Full project will be launched in September 2024, following pilot in Jan-May 2024.</p> <p>Counsellors feel more able to signpost schools to other services who may be more appropriate in supporting the child or young person. Increased appropriateness of referrals.</p>

# Governance, Accountability, Challenge & Scrutiny

**Steering Group** – This group was responsible for strategic direction and work of the Partnership during 2023-24 as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and at the time Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WT2018). The Steering Group was attended by Lead Partners, agency Leads, Subgroup Chairs and was Chaired by the Independent Scrutineer. However, new statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children 2023 was published in December 2023. This guidance requires all Partnerships to develop new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA), under these arrangements the Steering Group will be replaced by the BHSCP Partnership Group. More details on the MASA 2024 and updated statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children 2023 (WT23) are included on page 68.

## **Purpose of the Steering Group in 2023-24**

- To ensure the BHSCP is fulfilling its statutory duty to monitor and challenge the effectiveness of the local multi-agency response to safeguarding children and young people.
- To oversee strategic activity undertaken across the Partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people.
- To analyse data and intelligence to be fully appraised of the effectiveness of help, including early help, being provided to children and their families.



**Partnership Board** – The Children and Social Work Act 2017 in conjunction with statutory guidance, WT2018 required partner agencies, to work together to safeguard children, young people, and their families effectively and to promote their emotional health and wellbeing. WT2018 was replaced by WT23 in December 2023 as described above.

The role of the Partnership Board was to bring together wider partners from across statutory and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in Brighton and Hove to ensure the strategic direction as set by the Steering Group and BHSCP Subgroups was taken forward and operationalised in all organisations.

The Partnership Board ensured that all agencies and organisations have access to and an understanding of the full scope of the BHSCP's work and how they contributed to working together to safeguard children and promoted their wellbeing across the city. Under the new MASA 2024 the Partnership Board will be replaced by the Partnership Group.

## **Purpose of the Partnership Board in 2023-24**

The main purpose of the Partnership Board was to:

- Operationalise the strategic aims of the Steering Group.
- Raise issues put forward by Steering Group.
- Engage the wider safeguarding community.

The Partnership Board was attended by Lead Partners, agency Leads, wider agency representatives; and was Chaired by the Independent Scrutineer.

# Governance, Accountability, Challenge & Scrutiny

## Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance to the whole system in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods. During 2023-24 the BHSCP was supported by an Independent Scrutineer and Chair, a Quality Assurance Scrutineer who Chaired the Monitoring and Evaluation Subgroup, and volunteer Lay Members. Our Independent Scrutineer and Chair provided an independent voice in decision-making processes and provided constructive challenge to leaders, partners and agencies as the Partnership's 'critical friend'. Our Independent Scrutineer was also the Independent Chair of the strategic Steering Group and Partnership Board.

*Under WT23: 'Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews and thematic reports. The independent scrutineer or scrutiny group should be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills and expertise in the area being scrutinised and consequently add value to the work of local agencies.'* (2023, p.37)

Independent Scrutiny arrangements are currently being reviewed under WT23 and the new MASA but will remain a priority area for the Partnership, the lead safeguarding partners, and the wider Partnership as we move through 2024-25.

During this reporting year the Partnership was supported by three volunteer, independent Lay Members who attend our Partnership Board, Case Review Group, Learning and Development, and Monitoring and Evaluation subgroups, as well as Child Safeguarding Liaison Group towards the latter part of the year. The role of a Lay Member is crucial to the Partnership as they provide an independent voice in the decision-making processes and provide a unique perspective as members of public from the Brighton and Hove community.

Lay Members are appointed to BHSCP for a term of two years, with the option to extend the tenure, subject to agreement by the Lay Member and the BHSCP. Training and support is provided through the BHSCP Training Programme and the Business Team.

## What our Lay Members Say...

*"I'm a parent of two children at school in the city and a former Chair of a school government body and know how important it is that there's strong support for our children and young people so that they are safe and can thrive -they deserve the best! I enjoy bringing some external support and challenge ... focussed on securing successful outcomes for children and that lessons are learnt quickly. Partnership working takes time and effort – it's a challenge to keep up with so many expert and professional views. It is challenging to be exposed to issues where children and young people's welfare has not been secured but independent scrutiny is essential for increased accountability and the development of stronger partnerships over time - this fosters learning not blame. I feel I've been listened to when I have contributed and being a Lay Member has enabled me to contribute to my home city."*

*"I wanted to do something for our wider community, having a child combined with my experience working in a risk environment inspired me to join BHSCP. I enjoy being part of a collective multi-agency to make a change in the prevention of harm to children. The most challenging part of being a lay member is ensuring some time to understand how the whole safeguarding system works. Independent scrutiny ensures strategy goals have been delivered. I have enjoyed the learning journey and have always been welcomed. I've met some outstanding people who are spending their working career to serve our public and protect our children. This is very empowering."*

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

This section will detail the work of BHSCP Subgroups and how they contribute to meeting Business Plan Priorities and objectives, returns were completed by subgroup Chairs.

The **Learning and Development (L&D) Subgroup** exists to support the BHSCP meet its Business Plan objectives and discharge its multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and responsibilities as outlined in WT18 and more recently WT23. Our role is to provide high quality, up to date training on safeguarding to enable practitioners working in Brighton and Hove to keep safeguarding at the centre of their work. The subgroup seek assurance that both single agency and multi-agency training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is provided to meet local needs. The subgroup monitors multi-agency training and development and demonstrates a learning culture which supports multi-agency local services to reflect, respond and implement changes to practice. The subgroup is chaired by the ICB Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and is accountable to the BHSCP.

## **Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation**

Training Needs Analysis (TNA) was completed in 2023-24 which indicates a broad and mainly sufficient training offer available to all partners which meets the needs of practitioners. The Exploitation Audit was completed in Q4 2023-24, and a learning event planned for Q1 2024-25.

## **Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage**

Making Every Contact Count is promoted and embedded in practice across the partnership. Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) training and refreshers have been provided throughout 2023-24. Multi-agency Trainers and Champions have been recruited from broader section of agencies including education, NHS Sussex providers, and Family Hubs/Early Help. A GCP2 Steering Group has been reestablished and well attended with a multi-agency commitment to improve the quality and number of completed GCP2 assessments in 2024-25. This will include the introduction of GCP2 antenatal. The wider partnership is engaged in the development and city-wide implementation of the refreshed Neglect Strategy. The Strategy will deliver a whole family approach to addressing neglect.

Conference The focus of the 2023-24 conference was Neglect and co existing factors which was attended by 196 professionals. The evaluations showed learning outcomes were met.

## **Priority 4: Mental Health and Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

The partnership has developed Trauma Informed Practice which supports partners to recognise the trauma responses, resilience and the impact of vicarious trauma. The BHSCP Learning programme includes training for staff working with adult mental health services to understand the impact of parental mental health on the lives of children and young people. We also provide training on Suicide and self-harm which is a new agreement on a rolling programme with RUOK.

## **Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups/Business Team:**

The TNA identified gaps in provision - specifically around 'Hidden Children' including refugees. Approaches have been made to organisations who may be able to provide training for these areas which will be a 2024-25 Priority. The TNA and Subgroup activity has been included in the yet unpublished Training Strategy 2024. Engagement of fathers and male carers was identified by the Partnership in 2022 which resulted in the commissioning of DadPad - see page 64. As part of expansion of the L&D offer, we have developed Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) podcasts with Survivors Network as an easily accessible tool to educate on CSA including making a disclosure, spotting the signs, and have developed a toolkit for social care.

The impact of the L&D Officer vacancy was mitigated by the Business Team and the Training Pool will be supported by a partner from within the education safeguarding team until successful recruitment processes conclude.

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

Course	Attendances
Graded Care Profile (GCP2)	89
GCP2 & Neglect Overview for Sussex Police	62
Child Neglect	22
Safeguarding Children 1: Developing a Core Understanding	155
Safeguarding Children 2: Assessment Referral & Investigation	121
Safeguarding Children 3: Child Protection Conferences & Core Groups	102
The Impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse	42
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	7
Harmful Practices	23
The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse	7
Child Sexual Abuse	19
Trauma Informed Approaches	70
Suicide Awareness with Under 16s and Over 16s	11
Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families	8
Working with Parents with Learning Difficulties	2
Working Effectively with Parents	19
Fabricated/Induced Illness & Perplexing Cases	14
Non-Accidental Injuries	13
Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders	18
Safeguarding Adolescents	12
Safer Sleep: Coping with a Crying Baby	44
Exploitation	23
Safeguarding in a Digital Age and Online Safety	62
Adultification: Addressing Barriers to Safeguard Children	46
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	18
DadPad Launch & Introduction to CoParentPad Event and Sessions*	56
Professional Difference and Challenge	3
Improving Outcomes for Children who are Looked After	7
Cultural Competence	34
LGBT+	37
Joint Investigations	10
Working with CYP in the Gypsy and Traveller Communities	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1194</b>

Agency Type	
Local Authority i.e., SW, PiC, Adolescent Services, FH etc.	320
Health Providers i.e., SCFT, SPFT, UHSx etc.	147
Sussex Police	90
Education including LA schools and LA early years providers	246
Independent schools and private early years providers	119
Community and Voluntary Organisations	136
Foster Carers	18
BHCC Other	46
National Probation & ESFR	16
Unknown (DadPad/CoParentPad*)	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1194</b>

**Evaluation of Training Programme:** Responses from learners was overwhelmingly positive including:

**Do you think this training could make you more effective in your role?**

- Not at all – 0-2.38%
- Partially – 0-50% (average 20.6%)
- Completely – 50-100% (77.92%)

**How well was the voice of the service user represented in the training?**

- Excellent – 70.9-85.71%
- Good - 17.72-75%
- Average – 0-12.5%
- Poor - 0%

**Qualitative feedback from learners included in Appendices as Annex F.**

The Subgroup Chairs Forum meets formally to discuss ongoing themes of work and potential cross-over themes - this promotes collaboration and maintains a coordinated approach with support from the Business Team. As a result of these meetings the L&D Subgroup worked in partnership with the Child Exploitation and the Monitoring & Evaluation Subgroups to plan and deliver a multi-agency Exploitation Audit Learning Event in Q1 of 2024-25 based on the findings of the audit from 2023-24.

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

The **Child Safeguarding Liaison Group (CSLG)** is an interagency forum that meets regularly to review and improve joint working practice in respect of inter-agency Child Protection processes. This includes analysis of examples of operational practice within the context of Child Protection enquiries and investigations. It challenges practice and, where necessary, bring matters to the attention of relevant managers and agencies on behalf of the BHSCP with the aim of organisational and partnership learning.

## **Priority 1: Partnership Engagement and Accountability**

The group has positive engagement from all agencies with positive feedback on outputs. The group looks at agency engagement as related to individual children and families and pushes for learning and best practice across the partnership. This leads to changes to Policy and Procedures, National Challenge and the development of Learning Briefings shared widely with front line staff.

## **Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation**

The group engages in learning in this area. It is currently developing a learning briefing around exploitation from a case study discussion into the experiences of a young person that provided systemic learning opportunities.

## **Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage**

As above discussions has also included neglect and linking with the thematic audits in BHSCP. A current learning briefing is looking into bruising pathways and the role of neglect.

## **Priority 4: Mental Health and Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

The group has made representations nationally about the gaps in Tier 4 beds for children with Mental Health difficulties. A policy review and development took place into inter-agency planning around transfer to hospital or another place of safety between Police, SECAMBS, SPFT/ CAMHS, Hospital and AMPS.

## **Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups:**

The group membership is broad, engagement is consistently good. The group is evidence based and has outputs in learning across all agencies. The group uses a model of case studies to pull out learning for agencies. There are also avenues to policy discussion and challenges in the multi-agency system from all agencies.

The group has an open safe environment which encourages challenging conversations and 'critical friend' approaches to discussions. The group models Relationship Based Practice (RBP) to allow this difficult work to be done. Using a RBP model the group is able to identify gaps and barriers to service provision and development. The approach to learning is a systemic one and the group avoids blame but looks to learning. The case studies always aim to represent the voice of the child.

The value base of making a difference for all children is clear.

CSLG regularly feeds into L&D and the pan Sussex Policies & Procedures (P-SP&P). The group has shared information with the Exploitation Subgroup and M&E thematic audits have used CSLG to discuss families where learning may be apparent. The Subgroup Chairs meet formally quarterly to share practice and activity. Informally, fertilisation of ideas and activity between the groups happens regularly.

Actions of the group are proactively managed by the chair and minute taker to avoid drift. This is in the context of acknowledging all services are busy however CSLG has a good reputation of being impactful for children and a group that has outputs that make a difference.

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

The **Child Exploitation Subgroup** works in direct partnership with the Safer Communities and the Safeguarding Adults Board providing oversight of BHSCP work on exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking of children and young people, and of the Violence & Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP). The Exploitation Subgroup is Co-Chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector from Serious Investigations Unit, Sussex Police and the Head of Safer Communities, with support from the Exploitation and Violence Reduction Coordinator. This Subgroup approached reporting slightly differently linking responses directly to their areas of responsibility within the Business Plan 2023-24 providing rich evaluation of progress made and challenges.

## **2.1 (i) Sussex Police to undertake a problem profile across the geographical area.**

- The BHSCP has a comprehensive understanding of the local Child Exploitation (CE) picture and uses this to inform operational activity and aid disruption work.
- Repeat victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) problem profile is nearing completion, sanitised version will be shared with partners in due course, a broader problem profile has been requested and is in the early stages of negotiation. As part of the early work, data analysis has been completed regarding our repeat victims of CSE. Testing and comparison Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) currently underway, once complete conversations to begin with partners around activity in relation to children identified.

## **2.1 (ii) Violence and Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP)**

- VERAP in place and reviewed at quarterly Exploitation subgroup meetings.
- Subgroup has received updates on VERAP at each quarterly meeting and reviewed versions for next financial year presented to the group for feedback.
- Compared to the baseline (*year to December 2019*) there has been a 35% reduction in serious violent crime where the victim is under 25 years old in Brighton & Hove (106 fewer offences)

## **2.1 (iii) Develop practice of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) panel pilot and use learning to inform understanding of NRMs for children across the partnership.**

- Thorough, well-evidenced NRM referrals submitted by children's practitioners for potential victims.
- 15 of 17 submissions have resulted in a positive "reasonable grounds" decision, of which 12 of 15 also received a positive "conclusive grounds" decision at the first hearing at the panel.
- All "reasonable grounds" decisions reached within prescribed 45-day target.
- Only 2 of 12 "conclusive grounds" decisions have been challenged via quality assurance by the Single Competent Authority at the Home Office.

## **2.1 (iv) BHSCP to have oversight of existing scrutiny related to exploitation and serious violence.**

- BHSCP assured that sufficient interventions are in place through membership to relevant Boards / Partnerships.
- Community Safety Partnership Board (CSPB): Serious Violence and Exploitation - quarterly oversight Exploitation & Violence Reduction sections of the Community Safety Strategy 2023-26.
- Combatting Drugs Partnership: has oversight of the development and delivery of the Combatting Drugs Strategy (10-year strategy). One of the pillars and associated action plan is stopping the supply of drugs – links with exploitation and serious violence.
- Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) & Anti-Slavery Network: links with modern slavery and cuckooing.
- B&H Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP): looks at serious violence across the city and links to exploitation. Data produced and discussed by the Sussex wide VRP.



# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

## 2.1 (v) Consideration of Transitions work in B&H

- BHSCP assured that sufficient interventions are in place through membership to relevant Boards / Partnerships.

### **BHSCP has oversight of existing work through partners linked to / membership of –**

- Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)
- Transitions Working Group (chaired by H&ASC AD) with representation from Safer Communities and Head of Child Safeguarding

## 2.2 (iii) Embed and progress understanding of the Serious Violence Duty across relevant partner organisations.

- All “Specified authorities” of the Serious Violence Duty engaged at Brighton & Hove level.
- Serious Violence Steering Group established, with attendance from all “specified authorities” at the correct level.
- Progress in community engagement and use of community voices in shaping the local response.
- Planned Hope Hack event held 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024, and learnings used to guide interventions and implementation for subsequent financial years. Steering group composed of 6 local young people involved in design of the event.
- 6 peer researchers trained via Young Ends+ project.

### **Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups:**

- Key stakeholders came together to review the function of the group to minimise overlap with the VERAP and focus the role of the group in meeting the BHSCP objectives more effectively. We held a workshop in June 2024 bringing together attendees for their feedback and input regarding the future work of the group, refocussing on the strategic priorities laid out in the BHSCP business plan.
- The Home Office’s use of a local hotel for accommodating Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) was a significant driver of concern across the partnership following high numbers of missing children in the summer autumn of 2022-23. This developed into a piece of published independent scrutiny completed in January 2023 - [BHSCP statement - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children \(UASC\) Scrutiny Paper - BHSCP](#)
- The level of missing children from the local UASC hotels was an obvious and unacceptable driver of safeguarding risk, drawing concern politically and from the public. Sussex Police Missing Persons Team committed significant resources to tracing those who had gone missing, and pressure was brought to bear on the Home Office by partners at the regular meetings with their points of contact, to improve the preventative measures within the hotel (provision of information and support/educational, recreational and health offerings) as well as legal proceedings from the local authority to challenge the ongoing use of the hotels for this purpose. The hotel was eventually closed in early Q2 2023 following the successful legal challenge by the charity [ECPAT.org.uk](#) and Kent County Council, supported by BHCC.
- The Exploitation Audit was presented by the Independent Chair and Scrutineer for the M&E Subgroup and was later the subject of a learning event. The audit report highlighted weaknesses within the current approach to exploitation across the partnership in terms of outcomes for those at highest risk. The learning taken from this work will inform the future development work within the Exploitation Subgroup in response to these challenges.

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

A key function of the Partnership is to reflect on systems and practice following a serious child safeguarding incident. A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is undertaken when a child dies, or the child has been seriously harmed. The purpose of a practice review is for agencies and individuals to learn lessons to improve the way in which they work individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and ultimately to deliver improved outcomes for them. Our **Case Review Group (CRG)** meets monthly, overseeing the process for undertaking LCSPR in accordance with the guidance set out in WT23 and [The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#). CRG work closely with the L&D Subgroup.

**Child Delta LCSPR** was published in November 2022. An **Adultification Bias & Safeguarding Children** practitioners learning event was held in June 2023 and included contributions from the Review author, members of the Brighton & Hove Adolescent Team, and one of the UK's leading specialists in the safeguarding of black and global majority children Jahnine Davis. The 60 multi-agency attendees received a Review Summary Briefing and the L&D 9-Minute Briefing to support their learning before the workshop. The learning objectives for the virtual workshop were:

1. To understand what a Child Safeguarding Practice Review is and why we have them.
2. To understand the key learning and recommendations from the Child Delta Review.
3. To explore and broaden participants' understanding of Adultification Bias within the safeguarding children forum.
4. To consider unconscious bias and stereotypes and how to address them within us as well as challenge them.
5. To understand the challenges faced by Black, Asian and Minorities Ethnic Communities.
6. To understand some the challenges faced by adolescents and young people in Brighton and Hove.

## Feedback and identified learning from the workshop:

*'Excellent training session – and very well organised.'*

*'The importance of capturing the voice of the child and identifying the different perspectives ... getting staff to provide that detail and separate out what's happening for each vulnerable party.'*

*'Considering the needs of black and global majority children more, in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse and re extra familial harm generally.'*

## What changes to practice will your agency make considering continued learning from the Child Delta Learning Event? responses:

*'Being mindful of trauma and racialised trauma and how this may present in black and global majority children, with lived experience of racism.'*

*'Approaching patients transitioning from Child to Adult Mental Health Services with greater sensitivity and trauma awareness.'*

The ongoing challenge in 2023-24 involved **unavoidable delays to progressing safeguarding practice reviews due to parallel processes** and in particular the impact this has on the families and the practitioners involved. As a Partnership we acknowledge the impact the review subject, and the associated processes, can have on those involved. Partner agencies are committed to ensuring sufficient well-being support is in place for all. The **Child Epsilon LCSPR** has been on hold for some time due to parallel processes. Solution focused discussions with Crime Prosecution Service colleagues are ongoing. Early learning was circulated to professionals and a Learning Event is in the pre-planning stages whilst we await conclusion of parallel processes. CRG currently have one other LCSPR in train – **Child Zeta** – this review is ongoing and currently unpublished and was commissioned after the sad death of a teenager in Brighton town centre in October 2023.

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

The **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Subgroup** commit to listening, monitoring and continually evaluating our practice because we recognise that good anti-racist practice for the Partnership leads to better outcomes for our children in our city. The subgroup performs quality assurance (QA) through audit, data, assurance requests and additional information requests (AIR).

## **Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation**

The partnership completed a multi-agency audit to test the partnership objective that '*Organisations and agencies have the skills and knowledge to recognise and undertake high quality assessments regarding exploitation delivering interventions for children, young people, and families at all levels of need.*' The purpose of the audit was to provide assurance that those safeguarding processes, including child protection reduce the risk to children of criminal and sexual exploitation in the Brighton & Hove . The audit leads were from Sussex Police and Children's Social Care demonstrating the collaborative culture within the subgroup; 58 audits completed by 15 agencies - all were graded as good or better. This is a marked improvement in multi-agency practice and the first time, since audits began being graded that all practice has been at this level.

### **Strengths identified in the Exploitation Audit:**

- Recognition of risk was a strength as evidenced by schools and Police who made timely and appropriate referrals to the Front Door.
- Risks around contextual safeguarding understood and identified in most cases.
- When exploitation was identified the initial response was effective.
- Evidence of good professional curiosity including by the school, the Missing Team, UHSX and GP.
- The Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) was effective in monitoring risk – it ensured that there was a shared understanding of the vulnerabilities, and that alternative timely action was taken when change was not secured and/or the risk to the child remained or intensified.
- The value of building trusting relationships with children and young people who were being exploited/at risk of exploitation was evident with some very good practice reported.
- Strong evidence that systems and processes to support best safeguarding practice were being utilised by agencies.

## **Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage**

*The Partnership is assured that an effective whole family approach to assessing neglect, as well as planning and monitoring interventions is embedded city wide across agencies and organisations.*

Needs, risks and strengths are consistently clear in Strengthening Families Assessments. Quarterly QA shows this as 100% for 2023-24 with the majority (93% - 96%) of plans good quality. Most (84.8%) of Strengthening Families Assessments completed during the year ending 31st Dec 2023 were completed within 45 working days, above the 22/23 national average of 82.5%

# BHSCP Activity – Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, & Impact

## Priority 4: Supporting Mental Health, Emotional Health and Well-being

Evaluate the availability and impact of services and resources on the safety of young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues, and contribute to future service developments, particularly where gaps are identified.

- The partnership has made progress on the above objective. The BHSCP Performance Dashboard has been developed to include several indicators to deepen the Partnership's understanding of progress in working towards the outcome that: *Children and young people have access to effective support that helps them deal with a range of pressures arising from the different contexts in which they live their lives.*
- Indicators show that children and young people do not have timely access to the right mental health services to meet their needs and that hospital admissions as result of self-harm for children aged 10-14, 15-19 and young adults 20-24 are at a significantly higher rate than national – see data in following slides.

## Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups:

- We introduced a system of making Assurance Requests and Additional Information Request (AIR) to agencies. Between **89-100% of Assurance Requests were completed** by agencies as required by the M&E subgroup. These requests were made based on audit findings and/or recommendations and **indicate the Partnership's continued culture of learning.**

In 2023-24 these include:

- AIR: Impact of the CSARC Pathway.
  - AIR: To confirm response times for the provision of health information for red/amber/green MASH enquiries.
  - Assurance Request: To deepen understanding of access to effective support for adolescent mental health. This currently remains unresolved and has therefore been escalated to DSPs and Steering Group for discussion and action.
  - Assurance Requests relating to elective home education, child neglect and exploitation audit findings, and single agency QA Framework.
- The Exploitation Audit provided a good opportunity to coordinate with other Subgroups, this is a process M&E are keen to continue.

## Identified areas of improvement for BHSCP and M&E for 2024-25:

- Maximising opportunities for earlier intervention and identification of risks.
- Quality of Return Home Interviews (RHI).
- Involvement of the child's voice.
- Accessibility of services particularly to support mental health and emotional well-being.
- Professionals understanding of the needs and risks for adolescents with SEND.
- Adulthood.

# What does our Data Dashboard and Audit Activity tell us?

This section highlights some of the key statistical indicators used to guide the Partnership's priority safeguarding areas collated quarterly for sharing as the Partnership data Dashboard developed through our Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Subgroup.

## Multi-agency Audit Activity in 2023-24:

- ✓ We completed two multi-agency audits in 2023-24 - '*Children with Repeat Missing Episodes*' and '*Child Exploitation*'.
- ✓ Responses and cases in both audits demonstrated concern about adolescent mental health which has resulted in the planning of a deep dive audit in 2025-26.
- ✓ Audit findings indicated that as a safeguarding system we are learning from audits and LCSPR findings to improve practice.
- ✓ A total of 20 case audits were completed – 75% (15) were rated GOOD compared to 50% (10) in 2022-23 demonstrating a 25% improvement.



## Development of Data Dashboard:

- ✓ The Dashboard has continued to develop and improve since its introduction in 2021-22.
- ✓ The Dashboard is used as a quality assurance and reporting tool to Steering Group and is shared with Partnership Board members.
- ✓ The Dashboard discussions provide independent scrutiny of single agency and multi-agency performance against business plan priorities but also provides narrative, identification of trends, and highlights emerging risks through discussion and challenge.
- ✓ The BHSCP would like to thank agencies for providing comprehensive data and subsequent narrative through agency leads and completed AIRs.

## Priority 1: Partnership Engagement & Accountability

1. 100% of partner agencies responded with a **completed section 11 self-assessment** audit tool 2022-24 cycle. **100% of agencies** reported they were **confident all staff/volunteers are aware of how safeguarding policies and procedures are applied in practice.**
2. BHSCP **website views have significantly increased** from 154,744 in 2022-23 to 190,672 in 2023-24.
3. Social Work Regular Audit: 94-100% where **consideration was given to the child's identity** (age, disability, race, ethnicity, culture, faith/belief, gender, gender identity, language, & sexual orientation) and the impact of this addressed in the work with the child. Furthermore, for Black & Global Majority children, there is **good evidence of social workers using the audit to reflect on the child's identity and to consider whether racism has been discussed with the child/family.**

## Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation

1. We now have a **better understanding of children experiencing sexual harm** – data highlights that this is a significant issue in Brighton and Hove. This includes when both victim and suspect/offender are under 18 and when the suspect/offender is over 18.
2. Data indicates a **higher than England average for hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children across all ages.** However, we are working on getting locally significant data because current data potentially includes children from outside of Brighton and Hove who have attended local hospitals including Royal Alexander Children's Hospital Accident and Emergency. Locally significant data will provide a better indication of where we need to focus.

## Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation

3. The 2023 **Safe and Well at School Survey** data indicates:

- 85% of primary school children (key stage 2) and 90.5% of secondary school pupils feel safe travelling to school and back alone/with friends.
- 79.4% of key stage 2 children and 87.4% of secondary school pupils reported they felt safe in their neighbourhood whilst alone/with friends.
- 90% of key stage 2 children feel safe at school which is down from 92% in 2021, and 71% of secondary pupils feel safe at school which is down from 77% in 2021.

4. Recent '**Children with Repeat Missing Episodes**' and '**Child Exploitation**' audits found widespread evidence of good quality effective multi-agency practice and risk was identified by professionals in most cases.
5. In the '**Children with Repeat Missing Episodes**' audit agencies were working appropriately together in five cases, but risk remained high/episodes had continued or escalated.
6. In the '**Child Exploitation**' audit recognition of risk was a strength and timely referrals to Front Door for Families were made, risk around contextual safeguarding was understood and identified and when exploitation was identified the initial response was effective in most cases audited.
7. Despite encouraging survey data and audit findings our focus is on children who do not feel safe, those with continued or increasing missing episodes, and those at continued risk of exploitation. Coming together as a system to demonstrate that exploitation will be disrupted, and that we will use all powers available to disrupt perpetrator activity.

## Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Child Poverty and Disadvantage

1. 85.5% of **Strengthening Families Assessments** were completed within 45 working days, above the 2022-23 national average of 82.5%.
2. March 2024: 96.2% of children open to social care (excluding Care Leavers and children in assessment) had a plan up from 92.5% (December 2023), and 85.7% had a plan within timescales compared with 74.5% (Dec 2023). **This shows an improving trajectory.**
3. *QA Standards data* indicates that Strengthening Families Assessments are consistent (96-100%) in identifying needs, risks and strengths, and between 93-98% are addressed within a SMART plan .
4. QA Standards data demonstrates **improving practice, but child neglect continues to be a concern for the Partnership**. For example, data indicates an **increasing trend** in hospital admissions of children aged 0-5 years for dental caries across Sussex. We need to understand the interface between neglect and access to services in Brighton and Hove.
5. Of all **children subject child protection (CP) plan** 8.7% (23 children) were subject for 18 months or more – 31 March 2024 – this is down from 11.6% at December 2023. This shows **a slight improvement**.
6. 2023-24 saw a **significant improvement in the percentage of children who became subject of a CP plan** for a second or subsequent time down from 37.3% to 24.3% despite still being slightly above the national average of 23.6%. The percentage of referrals to children's social care that were within 12 months of a previous referral was also down slightly from the previous year but again still slightly above national average.
7. Children **receiving a suitable education remains a priority for BHSCP**, data indicates some progress but there is still more to do. Absenteeism data from the academic year 2022-23 shows **persistent absenteeism down from the previous year** with:
  - 39.58% of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) down from 44.9%.
  - 51.5% of children in need (CiN) down from 55%.
  - But children subject to a CP plan had increased slightly to 69.1%.
  - Brighton and Hove percentages were slightly above the national average for the same period.
8. Data relating to **suspensions** in academic year 2021-22:
  - 26.9% - suspensions for pupils with EHCP as percentage of the school population compared with the national average of 17.63%.
  - 10.7% of CiN slightly up from 10.1% in the previous year but below national average of 11.9%.
  - A slightly lower 14.1% of children subject to a CP plan compared to 14.8% in 2020-21 and a national average of 13.9%.
  - **Only 4 permanently excluded children in Brighton and Hove which is below national rate.**

9. Data indicates that **agencies have made positive in roads where neglect is a feature and children are vulnerable, by keeping these children visible. However, identification and early intervention without drift and delay remains a priority.**

#### Priority 4: Mental Health and Well-being

1. BHSCP has identified **mental health and well-being as a priority area for 2023-26 and remains concerned about children and young people having timely access to mental health services (MHS) to meet their needs.** In this context commissioners and Community Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are identifying what changes can be made to provision to reduce waiting times.
2. BHSCP M&E subgroup have requested on behalf of the Partnership an Additional Information Request (AIR) to understand the issue and the impact on children and young people. A multi-agency audit is scheduled for audit year 2025-26 to understand the impact of these changes.
3. We **remain concerned about the level of hospital admissions for self-harm** in Sussex which continues to be significantly higher than the national average across all ages (10-14 years, 15-19 years, and 20-24 years). As a way of better understanding what this looks like for children and young people in Brighton and Hove the M&E subgroup will include questions around self-harm as part of the AIR.
4. Safe and Well at School Survey - **12% of secondary school respondents report they often or sometimes self-harm. 15% of 15-year-old respondents say they have smoked cigarettes, 24% say they have tried cannabis, and 11% say they are drinking alcohol weekly.**



# DadPad® Update

The BHSCP launched the DadPad App in Brighton and Hove in November 2023 after a pre-launch event for professionals was held in July 2023.

## What is DadPad® ?

DadPad is an essential guide for new dads developed with the NHS. The online App and hardcopy guides provide quick reference information, guidance, and support for new dads in the care of their baby. The guide covers from pregnancy, to the birth, and through to the baby's first birthday.

[DadPad | The Essential Guide for New Dads | Support Guide for New Dads \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](https://thedadpad.co.uk)

## What are the benefits?

- Reduce anxiety by getting involved and gaining in confidence in how to care for a baby.
- Dads learn how to create a strong bond with their baby and healthy attachment.
- Build stronger family relationships by sharing the load and learning how to parent together.
- Recognise the signs of postnatal depression and learn how and where to get help early.
- Quick read guides covering the basics of baby care including crying, feeding, holding, soothing, and sleeping.
- Developed with dads and health professionals so the information is relevant and comes from a trustworthy source.

## Use of App and Feedback

Q3 (Jan – March 2024) – 197 registrations on the App

Q4 (March – June 2024 – 241 registrations on the App

**What did you like about the DadPad® app and why?** *Easy to use and full of useful information.*

**Overall, how much has your knowledge improved in relation to your baby and situation after you were given/used DadPad® app?** *Greatly improved.*

**What did you like about the DadPad® app and why?** *I liked the way DadPad spoke to me as a dad and what my role is for mum and baby and reassured me on things I didn't understand at the time that was a little scary.*

**How would you improve the DadPad® app?** *I wouldn't it's helpful as it is.*

**What did you like about the DadPad® app and why?** *It was easy to understand and kept to the main points needed for new dads.*

**How would you improve the DadPad® app?** *I think it works well how it is. Maybe recommendations of other books for child development or information on dads' groups around.*

**How would you improve the DadPad® app?** *Not sure I think it's fantastic maybe have a personalised section you could add photos of you and your baby.*

**How likely are you to recommend the DadPad® app to other dads in your situation?** *Definitely.*

## Next Steps:

Brighton and Hove will be one of the first local authority areas to launch of CoParentPad in early 2025.

[Co-ParentPad Launch | Support for new parents \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](https://thedadpad.co.uk)





# Working with our Sussex Partners – Pan Sussex Policies & Procedures

**Pan-Sussex Policies and Procedures:** This Subgroup meets to co-ordinate the development of safeguarding and child protection policies, procedures and guidance used across Sussex to safeguard children and young people. The group is well attended, with all participants engaging proactively and meaningfully with policy reviews. Where possible the policy authors/practitioners are invited to the meeting to demonstrate the value and impact of working together across the Sussex footprint. The webpage is publicly accessible via [Welcome to your Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual | Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual](#)

Throughout the year, several new policies were developed to enhance safeguarding practice in response to local child protection issues. These policies include:

- Pan Sussex Protocol on the Transfer of Young People to Local Authority Accommodation from Police Custody
- Sussex Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Procedure
- Pregnancy of Children/Young People Under 18 Who Become Parents
- Sussex Joint Protocol to Reduce the Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers

Additionally, the group prioritised supporting practitioners amidst the rise of AI technologies within safeguarding contexts.

- Comprehensive reviews were conducted leading to significant changes in several policies and procedures, including:
- Allegations Against Individuals who Work with, Care for, or Volunteer with Children
- Review of Self-Harm and Suicidal Behaviour Policies

Over 50 policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure they remain current and effective for practitioners across the multi-agency safeguarding partnership. In December, the publication of WT23 necessitated a revision of the group's planner to ensure that adjustments mandated by the updated statutory guidance were promptly addressed and prioritised.

## **Risks & Barriers to achieving Subgroup activities –**

- Ensuring completion of agreed actions.
- Transition of current website service provider.
- Dependency on jointly funded position.
- Involvement of young people in policy reviews.
- Assessing impact and engagement of practitioners.

## **Coordination of work between Pan Sussex Policies and Procedures and local Subgroups –**

Overall, the Group remains committed to fostering strong coordination, proactive engagement with stakeholders, and efficient management of priorities to enhance the effectiveness of our safeguarding practices. Members can suggest agenda items and request policy reviews based on local issues, audit findings, or child safeguarding practice reviews. Most of these requests originate from area-specific Child Protection Liaison Groups (CSLG) or Child Safeguarding Practice Review Groups (CRG), ensuring alignment with frontline needs and priorities.



# Working with our Sussex Partners: Child Death Overview Panel & the Safer Sleep Campaign

**Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP):** The death of a child is a devastating loss that profoundly affects all those involved. There has been a legal requirement across England since April 2008 for Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP) to review child deaths (including live-born babies of any gestation) up to the age of 18 years. The purpose for reviewing these deaths:

- Is grounded in respect for the rights of children and their families with the intention to ascertain why children die.
- To put in place interventions to protect other children, to prevent future deaths from occurring.

**Child Death Review Partners:** Pan Sussex Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards (NHS Sussex ICB) hold legal responsibility for reviewing child deaths in Sussex as set out by the Children Act 2004, amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

**Role of the CDOP:** The Panel conducts statutory reviews on behalf of the Partners to provide independent multi-agency scrutiny for the deaths of all children in Sussex including those resident in Brighton and Hove. The reviews take place once all other child death processes, including coronial inquests and safeguard practice reviews (LCSPR), have concluded.

**Statutory Framework:** Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance 2018 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

**Safer Sleep Campaign – December 2023:** Over the past few years there have been several tragic sudden unexpected deaths of infants (SUDI). Each one of these child deaths brings with them unimaginable trauma and pain for families, friends, communities and professionals. Sadly, some of these deaths are preventable. The risk factors for SUDI are well recognised, and the steps parents can take to reduce the risk are generally shared with parents and carers by professionals including Social Workers, Midwives, and Health Visitors.

The Chair of CDOP and the pan Sussex Independent Scrutineer requested the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships coordinate a public campaign with colleagues in Public Health in the run up to Christmas 2023 focussing on **'out of routine'** sleeping arrangements.

Comms were developed and circulated to professionals for sharing with parents, a training programme was developed with NHS Sussex teams attended by 44 professionals in Brighton and Hove by 31 March 2024, and social media was used to promote the **'Every sleep must be a safer sleep'** message across Sussex. This campaign was extended into the summer period 2024 as this is another time when sleeping arrangements may change due to visiting relatives and trips away. This time we included other summer safety information. BHSCP has committed to continue the promotion of the safer sleep message for professionals and parents throughout the year.



# Working with our Sussex Partners: Section 11 (s11) and pan Sussex Conference

## Section 11 Audit:

This reporting year saw the two-year s11 cycle 2022-24 conclude. It was run in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance, which set out agencies and organisations responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This cycle saw a shift in approach, from compliance to continuous improvement, and included *Peer Reflection & Challenge* Events pan Sussex and locally as part of the scrutiny process. The number of standards in the self-assessment tool were reduced from 86 to 77 (11% approx.).

### Key findings for pan Sussex agencies were:

- 7 out of the 11 returns had 5 or less **AMBER** ratings of which:
- 2 agencies returned a completely **GREEN** rating return of which:
  - 1 of the agencies did not have an action plan for improvement.
  - 1 of the agencies did include some narrative as part of the Action Plan.

This led to concerns that agencies were overly confident in their assessments.

### Identified Strengths in Brighton & Hove agencies/organisations returns were:

1. Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
2. Staff training on safeguarding/promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or, depending on the agency's primary functions, in contact with children and families.
3. Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### The lowest rated standards within Brighton and Hove agencies / organisations returns were:

1. Data, audit, performance and QA is used to good effect to ensure practice supports effective safeguarding
2. Systems/support for staff to challenge other professionals/agencies appropriately.
3. Strategies/Initiatives in place to ensure services and inclusive and accessible to all users.

The full Section 11 Report is available on the BHSCP website – [Section 11 Self-Assessments – BHSCP](#)

### Pan Sussex Learning and Development Conference for Practitioners:

The pan Sussex Conference took place in November 2023. The virtual conference was led by BHSCP, focussing on **Neglect and Co-Existing Factors** as part of Safeguarding Week 2023 which also included several themed workshops. Conference places were shared equally across all three Sussex areas; 185 multi-agency partners attended the event. Expert presentations were delivered by Dr Tracee Green, Head of the Centre for Child Protection and Dr Sheena Webb, Consultant Clinical Psychologist specialising in children, adolescents & families with complex needs. Subjects included a trauma informed perspective on assessing parents' capacity to parent and meet their children's needs, and how professionals assess capacity. Understanding parents' journeys to best understand the child's lived experiences; and how to best help families.

**Evaluation** - 44 (27% of delegates) submitted feedback – providing constructive feedback overall with over 20 practitioners describing how they would reflect upon and change their practice based on what they had learned at the conference. Full report available from [Briefings, Learning & Training Reports – BHSCP](#) It was noted by L&D Subgroup that attendances at BHSCP Safeguarding Week workshops were low, potentially because the BHSCP week followed the NHS Safeguarding Fortnight. In response, it was agreed the Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships would coordinate their 2024-25 Safeguarding Week events with the NHS Safeguarding Fortnight, and the pan Sussex Safeguarding Adult Boards would also contribute. Thus, providing a broad range of learning opportunities in a more coordinated way.

# Working with our Sussex Partners: Development of new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT23) sets out expectations about how safeguarding children partnerships (SCPs) provide help, support and protection for children and their families. It applies at every level, from senior leaders to those in direct practice with families, and across all agencies and organisations who work with or support children and young people. WT23 gives practitioners clarity about what is required of them individually and how they need to work in partnership with each other to deliver effective services. As Statutory Lead Safeguarding Partner agencies, Sussex Police, NHS Sussex (ICB) and Brighton & Hove City Council must agree and lead local arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brighton and Hove.

The named Lead Safeguarding Partners (knowns as LSPs) in Brighton and Hove are:

- The Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council
- The Chief Executive of NHS Sussex
- The Chief Constable of Sussex Police

The way in which LSPs and local agencies work together is known as multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA). Robust arrangements help to ensure that information about a child and their family is shared effectively, risk of harm is correctly identified and understood, and that children and families receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

**Development of the pan Sussex MASA:** The pan Sussex LSP representatives – known as Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), the Partnership Business Managers, and the Independent Scrutineer met with the National Safeguarding Partner Facilitator (LA Lead) in November 2023 to discuss WT23 and the new MASA including the inclusion of education. Wider partners and stakeholders were consulted on the draft MASA throughout the process via the Steering Group and Partnership Board meetings. Our DSPs are the Corporate Director of Children’s Services, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Patient Experiences and Involvement - NHS Sussex, and Detective Chief Superintendent and Head of Public Protection for Sussex Police.

For many years there have been common formal child protection procedures across Sussex and colleagues within each of the three partnership areas, how we have shared information and insight on an informal basis and have developed some strong common processes and protocols. Under the MASA 2024 LSPs for the pan Sussex local authority areas agreed to discharge their statutory responsibilities locally. However, LSPs remained committed to working closely together to develop the strongest possible arrangements which ensure consistency in strategic approach while continuing to engage local partners, including our partners in education. Pan Sussex LSPs agreed a partnership structure with the following components:

- A single Sussex Safeguarding Executive.
- Three local Safeguarding Children Partnerships – BHSCP, ESSCP and WSSCP.
- Three locality-based Partnership Groups.

Revised multi-agency partnership arrangements in Sussex will come in to force from 2 September 2024, ensuring the requirements set out in WT23 are fully met. These arrangements will be reviewed annually and take in to account any future updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children. Proposed pan Sussex and Brighton & Hove structures for 2024 onwards are included as Annex D.



# Future Planning: Introduction of Brighton & Hove Family Help: The Right Support at the Right Time

## Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) states:

*'Safeguarding partners should agree with their relevant agencies the criteria for different levels of assessment to inform which services are commissioned and delivered in their local area and ensure that the right help is given to children at the right time. This should include services for children who have suffered or are likely to suffer abuse, neglect, and exploitation whether from within or outside the home. This should also include a range of appropriate services for disabled children and be aligned with the short breaks services statement.'*

*The safeguarding partners should publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, evidence-based, accessible, and easily understood. This should include: • the process for early help assessments, and the type and level of early help and targeted early help services to be provided under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004.*

BHSCP recognises this statutory need however we believe language is important in describing how we deliver services to children. The ethos and aim is always, the right support at the right time.

A multi-agency working group reviewed the BHSCP Threshold Document in Q3 and Q4 of 2023-24 considering WT23 requirements. It was agreed to no longer refer to the Document as a *'threshold'* as we believe this is too prescriptive of when a child or family's needs meet a criterion of a Social Work assessment under Section 17 of the Children's Act. We aim to scaffold support across our Family Help services, including Social Work oversight, to provide continuity for families from the professional network around them.

As part of this piece of working the BHSCP working group developed – The Relationship-based Practice Model of Practice, Community of Practice, Vision of Family Help, Poverty Aware Practice Statement, and a new Interactive Poster detailing level of support, useful information, and links to resources which will all be available on the BHSCP website - [How We Make Decisions – BHSCP](#) .

During the development stages the new Family Help documents were shared with Steering Group and Partnership Board, with frontline staff by agency leads, we held a consultation session in April 2024, promoted at single agency conferences, and asked partners to provide feedback on the draft documents virtually.

## Next Steps:

- Publish finalised versions on BHSCP website.
- Promote as part of Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 including as a key theme of the BHSCP Hidden Harm Conference in November 2024.

**Relationship-based practice: How agencies help families in Brighton & Hove**

**The Seven Cs**

- 1 Continuity**: Continuity of relationships and services wherever possible, so families can have the same worker throughout our processes.
- 2 Consistency**: Consistency of professional practice across teams and settings, so families who are referred to a multi-agency team will know them not just a worker.
- 3 Collaboration**: Collaborative models multi-agency professional expertise so that workers share skills to make a difference for families.
- 4 Change**: Multi-agency professionals working their role as being funded to achieve the changes they want to make.
- 5 Culture**: BHSCP and its multi-agency partners supporting a learning culture and space to reflect a practice so practitioners feel valued and valued.
- 6 Confidence**: A demonstration of the professional culture and expertise of Brighton & Hove in partnership with the Trust Process that helps trust and confidence.
- 7 Curiosity**: Using the strength of relationships to have open and honest conversations to support change for children and families.

**Our Commitments**

- To establish a relationship with families and support them.
- To ensure continuity, consistency and collaboration, by working with all agencies in Brighton & Hove to help families to achieve safe and stable family lives and reduce the harm experienced by children.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people.

To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people, we will be supported, this will be achieved by making sure our agencies and the agencies we work with are working using BHSCP in a way that supports and supports appropriately.

Making sure that relationship-based practice values collaborative, unique identities and challenge together, working with all agencies in Brighton & Hove to help families to achieve safe and stable family lives and reduce the harm experienced by children.

To provide a safe and secure environment for children and young people, we will be supported, this will be achieved by making sure our agencies and the agencies we work with are working using BHSCP in a way that supports and supports appropriately.

**Relationship-based practice: Community of practice**

**Join the new community of practice for supporting relationship-based practice across all agencies**

**Together, we have already achieved:**

- A joint model of relationship-based practice for social work and Family Hubs
- Set up reflective practice groups for social workers, Family Hubs and Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Delivered multi-agency training

**We need your help:**

- Join our community of practice
- Share relationship-based practice in your agency
- Be a voice for practitioners in the model

**Join us!**

Quarterly meetings from summer 2024

Email: familyhubs@brighton.hove.gov.uk

# Acknowledgements

## **Delegated Safeguarding Leads**

Deb Austin, Naomi Ellis, Chief Supt Richard McDonagh

## **Independent Scrutineer & Lay Members Subgroup Chairs**

Chris Robson, Phil Worsfold, Vera Jakimovska Rachel Egan, Justin Grantham, Jenny Whyte, Jim Whitelegg, DCI Luke Kyriakides-Yeldham/DCI Carrie Williams, and Emma Gilbert/Dr Jamie Carter

## **Partnership Business Manager Learning and Development Officer Partnership Coordinator Agency Leads**

Sarah Smart  
Vacant Post  
Nicky Packham  
Mia Bryden, Tom Bennett, Rebecca Butler, David Kemp, Jo Templeman, Jo Gough, Holly Baker, Stevie Graves, Michael Brown, Eleanor Gregory, Sarah Colombo, Sam Tyler, Phillip Tremewan, Martin Ryan & Jayne Bruce, Laura Litchfield & Kate Hall, Adam Muirhead, Catherine Coppard, Sam Wilson, Alice Gothard, and Jane Rayner.



## References –

[Brighton & Hove JSNA Executive Summary May 2024](#)  
[What the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) is \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Home – BHSCP](#)  
[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Self-harm infographic.pdf \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[B&H JSNA Executive summary May 2024 by Brighton and Hove City Council – Infogram](#)  
[BHSCP Business Plan 2023-2026](#)  
[ECPAT.org.uk](#)  
[BHSCP statement - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children \(UASC\) Scrutiny Paper – BHSCP](#)  
[Safe & Well at School Survey 2023 by Brighton and Hove City Council – Infogram](#)  
[Section 11 Self-Assessments – BHSCP](#)  
[Keeping Children Safe - BHSCP](#)

## Appendices:

Annex A - C – Website link to Agency Responses relating to Priorities 2-4 (Business Plan 2023-26) [Annual Reports – BHSCP](#)

Annex D – Pan Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Charts

Annex E – Financial Report for 2023-24

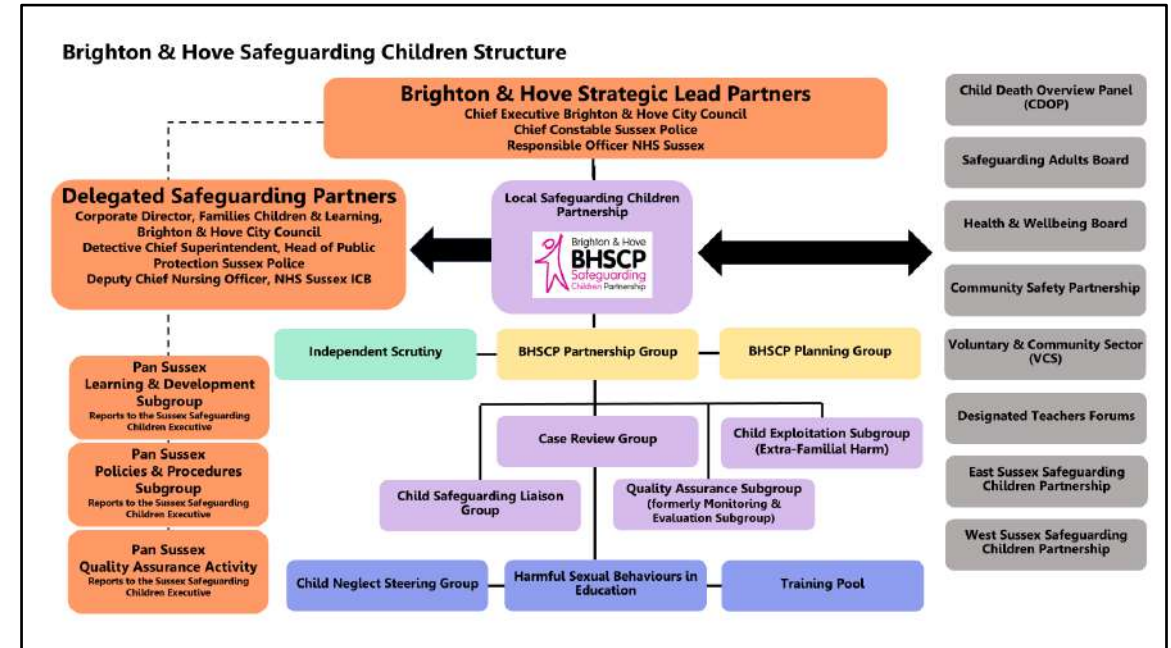
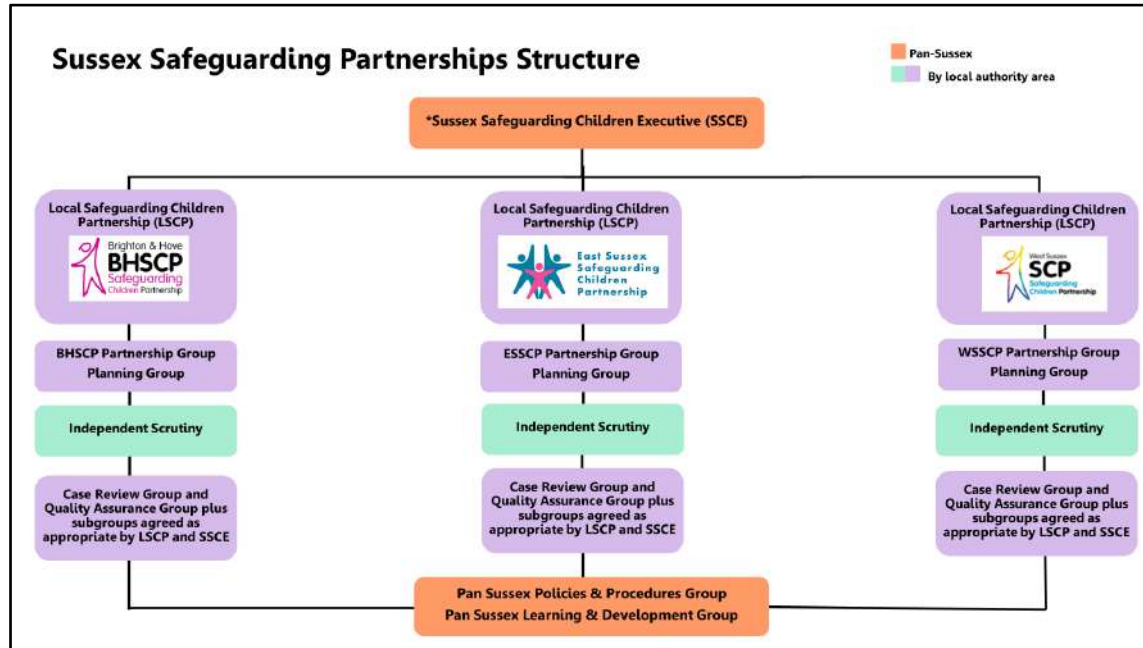
Annex F - Qualitative Feedback from Learners attending BHSCP Training Programme Events

Annex G – Website Link to Agency Responses relating to Voice of the Child/Young Person and their Families, and Areas to Celebrate [Annual Reports – BHSCP](#)

## Partner Agencies -

[Community Safety Partnership \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[What Family Hubs offer \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Brighton & Hove Family Hubs | Facebook](#)  
[Home - Trust for Developing Communities \(trustdevcom.org.uk\)](#)  
[About Public Health \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Youth Employability Service | Brighton and Hove | Facebook](#)  
[Youth Employability Service \(YES\) \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust \(uhsussex.nhs.uk\)](#)  
[Brighton & Hove City Council \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Sussex Health & Care and NHS Sussex \(ics.nhs.uk\)](#)  
[The Lioncare Group – Specialist Services for Children Home | Sussex Police](#)  
[Home | Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust](#)  
[Home :: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)  
[Welcome to South East Coast Ambulance Service | NHS \(secamb.nhs.uk\)](#)  
[Probation Service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Virtual School for Children in Care and Previously in Care \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Home | East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service \(esfrs.org\)](#)  
[Oasis Project - We give hope to people affected by drugs & alcohol.](#)  
[IMPACT INITIATIVES – Providing a voice, hope and change for Sussex people in need. \(impact-initiatives.org.uk\)](#)  
[Domestic Abuse & Violence Refuge | Our Refuges & Safe Spaces | Stonewater | Stonewater](#)  
[Home - Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation \(bhafcfoundation.org.uk\)](#)  
[Home - YMCA DownsLink Group \(ymcadlg.org\)](#)  
[Freedom from domestic abuse | RISE \(riseuk.org.uk\)](#)  
[The Lioncare School – The Lioncare Group](#)  
[Home Page - Community Works](#)  
[Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\) - Sussex Health & Care \(ics.nhs.uk\)](#)  
[Home – ESSCP](#)  
[Home - West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership - West Sussex SCP](#)

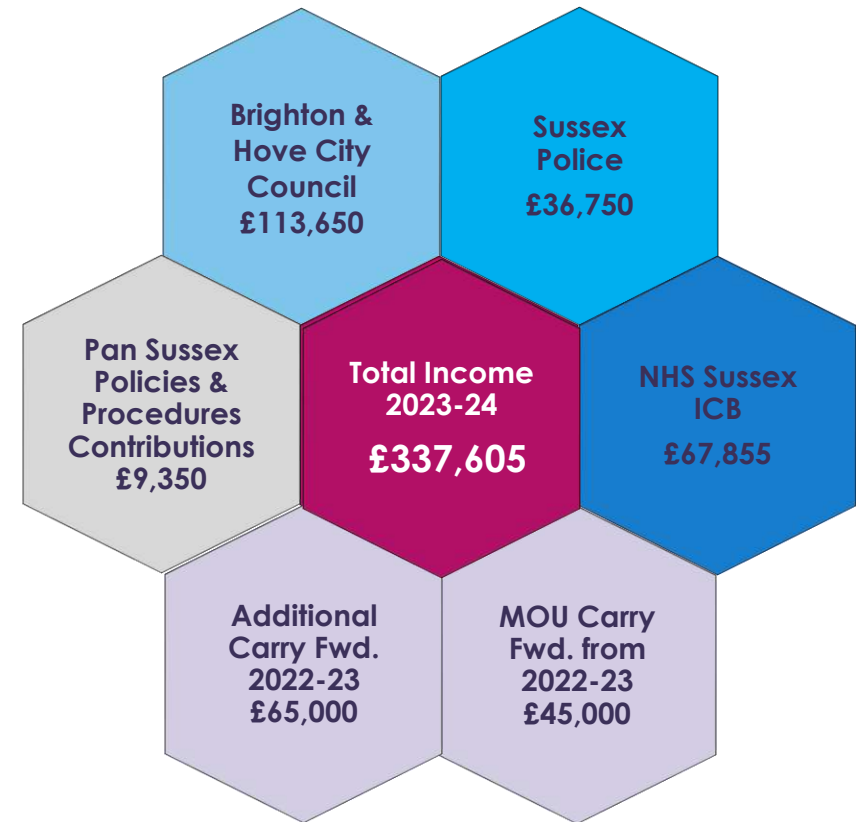
# Annex D: Proposed Safeguarding Children Partnership Structures 2024





## Annex E: Financial Report 2023-24

Expenditure: Headlines	Amount
Staffing	147,084.18
Independent Scrutiny	20,248.61
Training Costs	13,553.55
Recovered Training Costs	-1265.70
IT/Websites/Equipment/Telephony	4,272.13
Miscellaneous Costs	2,747.39
Miscellaneous Recharges	-1,772.16
Contributions to Public Health for the Evaluation of Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) Project	2,404.00
HSB Project – PCC & 2022-23 C/F	45,175.00
LCSPR Reviewers	6,398.60
Contribution to LA Data	30,000
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>268,845.00</b>
MOU C/F to 2024-25 (not included in total income)	50,000.00
Reimbursed to Lead Safeguarding Partner Agencies (pro rata based on contribution %)	18,759.40
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>337,605.00</b>



**BHS CP Income 2023-24**

# Annex F: Qualitative Feedback from Learners attending BHSCP Training Programme Events

**Working Together to Safeguard Children – Day 1:** *I think it is one of the best courses I have ever attended. The ability to get across such a serious message but in such a way that you walk away feeling empowered and not distraught is no small feat.*

**Child Neglect:** Learning about referrals and the agencies to refer to. Other people on the course were informative and it was nice to hear other's perspective with their individual roles.

**Working Together to Safeguard Children – Day 2:** *Deepened and embedded knowledge from previous course. Understanding the systems and mechanics of what happens when referring to Front Door for Families.*

**Child Sexual Abuse – Identifying, Responding & Supporting:** *It was excellent that the course featured a variety of different speakers from different agencies who were able to give different viewpoints without being repetitive or contradictory.*

**Child Sexual Abuse – Identifying, Responding & Supporting:** *In depth explanation of what happens in CSARC, so I can explain to parents that it won't hurt their child*

**Safeguarding Adolescents:** *Hearing from professionals working in the area and the young person's 'story' was the most useful. Trainers were calm, knowledgeable and well informed about their areas of work. Useful to learn about the NRM pilot.*

**Working Together to Safeguard Children – Day 3:** *The mock CP conference was very useful. It really made us professionals think about how it feels to be a parent on the receiving end of a CP conference. I am experienced at attending CP conferences (9 years), and I found the training very useful.*

**Children & Young People who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviours:** *It was so great to have a practical course where I come away and know I can utilise what I have learned immediately and that it will hold such value in the way it can support families.*

**Cultural Competence & Anti-racist Practice:** *Challenging preconceptions and gaining a better understanding of the lived experiences. Stand out for me was the realisation around language, the impact it can have and how factually incorrect. I have stolen with pride the adoption of the inclusion of equalities, diversity and inclusion within briefings, so this is a standing topic of discussion.*