

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024-25



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Foreword from our Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to the 2024-25 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.

The publication of *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023* in December 2023 provided an opportunity for the Partnership to strengthen existing links with East and West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The new *Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) 2024* were published in September 2024. These arrangements detail how we will maintain and strengthen the positive, trusting and co-operative relationships across Sussex which will support our innovative work and sharing of best practice across the Sussex footprint. The arrangements also highlight how we will deliver our priorities locally including the introduction of new subgroups, the introduction of a Partnership Chair and Partnership Group, and revised scrutiny arrangements.

The new and existing subgroups continue to provide comprehensive oversight and scrutiny, bringing together strategic leaders and practitioners. There continues to be a strong commitment to being a learning partnership, developing safeguarding services and responses through training, reflection, evaluation, and challenge. Under the new arrangements we have introduced a Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup and expanded the pan Sussex Training Programme.

2024-25 has been a year of significant developments and successes across services:

- The development and publication of the MASA 2024 including the introduction of the Education Safeguarding Subgroup from April 2025 and the Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive from Sept 2024 demonstrates our commitment to adopting a pan Sussex approach where possible and future enhanced engagement with our partners in education.
- The publication in June 2024 of the Brighton & Hove 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.
- Delivery of a multi-agency Pan Sussex Safeguarding Children Fortnight in November 2024 in collaboration colleagues from the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards.

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 Brighton & Hove Family Help: Right Support at the Right Time document replaced the Threshold Document early in the reporting period and demonstrates how multi-agency partners aim to ensure children are safeguarded. The ethos and aim of multi-agency service delivery in Brighton & Hove is always, the right support at the right time, delivered by the right people.

The Partnership will continue to keep the safeguarding of children and young people in our city at the heart of what we do. This is only possible with the continued support, diligence and dedication of those working with children and families in our 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 & Wellbeing Services, BHCC

Deb Austin



Richard McDonagh, Chief Superintendent, Public Protection, Sussex Police

Richard McDonagh

Role of Scrutiny and the Annual Report by the Independent Scrutineer

Thank you for taking the time to read the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) Annual Report for 2024–25.

The BHSCP has a statutory duty to be transparent in how they co-ordinate, deliver, and fund services for children and families across the city. One of the key mechanisms for ensuring accountability is the publication of this Annual Report. I hope it provides a clear and honest picture of the work undertaken by the Partnership to safeguard children and young people in Brighton & Hove.

As the Independent Chair for Quality Assurance, my role is to provide objective oversight of the Partnership’s safeguarding arrangements and ensure that scrutiny is robust, evidence-based, and focused on continuous improvement. I am satisfied that this report reflects the efforts made by our partners and offers a fair assessment of both strengths and areas for development.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the BHSCP Business Team, particularly the Partnership Business Manager, whose professionalism and dedication have been instrumental in compiling this report and supporting the Partnership throughout the year.

I also want to acknowledge the exceptional work carried out every day by professionals and volunteers across our city. Their commitment, compassion, and resilience are the foundation of our safeguarding system. Their efforts often go unseen, but they make a profound difference in the lives of children and families in Brighton & Hove.

This year’s report outlines how scrutiny has been delivered in 2024–25, in line with the latest guidance from *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*. The revised structure under the new *Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) 2024* has enabled the Partnership to commission more targeted and flexible scrutiny with neighbouring Partnerships in East & West Sussex, whilst continuing to focus on priority areas and strengthening the quality assurance framework.

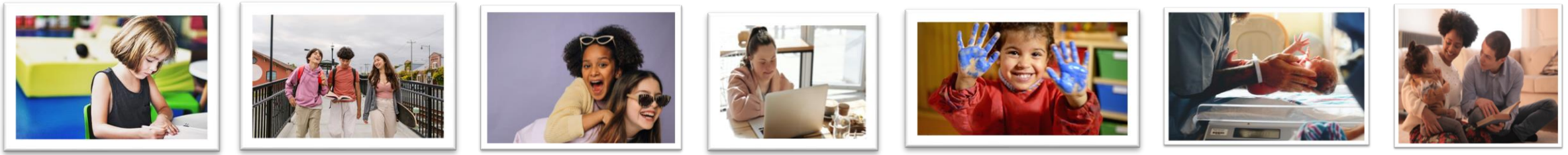
I am pleased to report that the BHSCP continues to embrace independent scrutiny as a vital part of its work. The culture of openness, reflection, and continuous improvement remains strong, and I am confident that the Partnership will continue to build on this foundation to safeguard children and young people across Brighton & Hove.



Rachel Egan
Independent Chair for Quality Assurance
Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership



Introduction to Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children 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 Wellbeing), Health (through NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board – later referenced as ICB) and Sussex Police. From December 2024 Education was included as the fourth partner under the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2024.

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

City Snapshot for Children & Young People 2024-25



46,666

Children and young people aged under 18 living in Brighton and Hove, mid-2023 population estimate



6.59%

Suspension rate for all pupils in the 2023-24 academic year, below the national rate of **11.31%**



5,492

Pupils receiving SEN Support in B&H Schools in Jan 2025. **18%** of pupils compared to **14.2%** nationally. (2025)



1,771

Pupils have an Education, Health & Care Plan at Jan 2025, **5.8%** of pupils compared to **5.3%** nationally, (2025)



30,566

Pupils on roll (Jan 2025 School Census), down from **32,296** in Jan 2020



9,831

Pupils identified as other than 'White British' (Jan 2025 School Census). **32%** compared to **38%** nationally. (Jan 2025)



7,834

Free School Meal Pupils (Year R to 11 - Jan 2025 School Census) – **26.9%** of that cohort, up from **17.6%** in Jan 2020 and above the national Average of **26%** (2025)



2,800

Children and Young People aged 0-25 with an EHC Plan (Jan 2025), up from **2,489** at Jan 2024.



5,007

Pupils exposed to a language other than English in their home (Jan 2025). **16.4%** of pupils compared to **21.4%** nationally. (2025)



6.7%

16- and 17-year-olds who are NEET or whose status is not known (Dec 2024 to Feb 2025) compared to **5.6%** nationally.



22.33%

Percentage of persistent absentees in the 2023-24 academic year, above the 2023-24 national average of **19.95%**



14.3%

children and young people aged under 16 living in relative low-income families (2024), below the England average of **22.1%**.



574

Electively Home Educated Pupils at Mar 2025, up from **527** at Mar 2024.

Safeguarding Snapshot for Brighton and Hove 2024-25



19,962

Initial Contacts to Front Door for Families during the year ending Mar 2025, up from **19,833** during the previous 12 months.



289

Children in Care excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) as at 31 Mar 2025. (**334** including UASC), down from **304** at Mar 2024.



45

UASC at 31 Mar 2025, down from **52** at Mar 2024, representing **13.5%** of CIC.



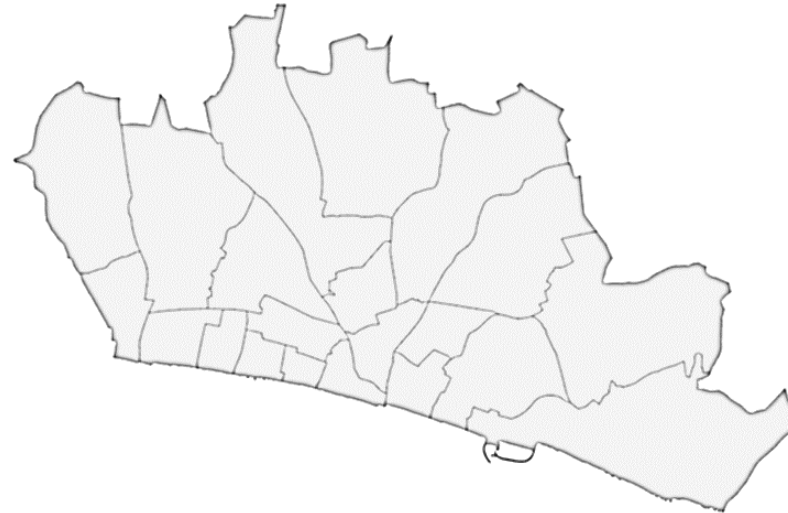
364

Care Leavers aged 17 to 25 who receive our support at 31 Mar 2025, including **138** care leavers who were formerly UASC, up from **354** at Mar 2024.



3,222

Referrals to Children's Social Care during the year ending Mar 2025, up from **3,135** during the previous 12 months.



2,611

Referrals to Family Hubs during the year ending Mar 2025, down from **2,827** during the previous 12 months.



260

Children subject of a child protection plan at 31 Mar 2025, down from **261** at Mar 2024. This is a rate of **55.7** per 10,000, compared to the 2023-24 national average of **41.6**.



42

First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System during the year ending 31 Mar 2025, down from 58 during the previous 12 months.



675

Children and young people open to Family Hubs at 31 Mar 2025, down from **761** at 31 Mar 2024.

How Partners contribute to the Annual Report

[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 2024-25 sets out how effective the multi-agency partnership working has been within this context.

The areas of focus for this year's report are – the impact of the newly introduced Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) to safeguard children and partnership work, how partners have contributed to the progress made on the [BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26 Priorities](#), how we collaborate locally and with partners in Sussex including East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) and West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSSCP), and areas to celebrate as well as challenges.

Our report introduces the three statutory partners on the next page including their safeguarding function and a description of the cohort of children and young people they provide services for. The same information for our wider partners is available on our website: [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)

An overview of the MASA 2024 is provided early in the report to demonstrate how the BHSCP has implemented statutory changes to governance, accountability and scrutiny to ensure we continue to prioritise the safeguarding of local children in all that we do individually and collaboratively.

All partner agencies were asked to provide information of how their agency has contributed to the progress made on the Business Plan Priorities – responses are included under the following headings – Agency, Activity, Impact and Evidence. This report includes responses from the statutory partners – NHS Sussex ICB and Sussex Police, and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) including Children's Social Care, Family Hubs, BHCC education and the Virtual School. Responses from wider partners are available as Annex A-C and are available at: [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)

Submissions from the Chairs of our multi-agency subgroups including the new Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup are used to demonstrate BHSCP activity, learning and improvement, evaluation and evidence, assurance, and impact. The subgroups work collaboratively and collectively to ensure the Partnership's strategic responsibilities are met. Subgroups are also the forum where partners professionally challenge each other.

This report includes several Annexes which can be viewed in full on the BHSCP website – full details included on page 57.



Our Statutory Partner Agencies

Name of Agency or Organisation	Safeguarding Function	Description of cohort of children/young people worked with/provide services for
Lead Safeguarding Partner: Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) Children's Social Care (CSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSC: 'Business as Usual' is to safeguard children and young people. ○ All aspects of statutory safeguarding work under the Children Act 1989. ○ Responsible for all safeguarding and child in need processes for children 0 to 18 and beyond for Care Leavers up to 25. 	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.
Lead Safeguarding Partner: NHS Sussex ICB	<p>Designated professionals provide training, supervision, leadership of complex cases and issues, and leads on partnership work to help assure the safeguarding and looked after children standards of healthcare provision across the county. The team also support service procurement processes, to ensure safeguarding processes are clearly recognised and implemented in practice.</p> <p>NHS Sussex safely discharge a statutory duty to identify and respond to safeguarding risks and themes.</p>	NHS Sussex provides patient-facing care to a small number of children and families in respect of Children and Young persons continuing care (complex packages of care for children with complex physical needs), Child Death Review (support for families whose child has died unexpectedly) and deliver the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) health function within the Brighton & Hove Front Door for Families.
Lead Safeguarding Partner: Sussex Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sussex Police is one of three statutory partners working in conjunction with the Local Authority and NHS Sussex ICB through the Safeguarding Children's Partnerships to embed and enhance joint working and safeguarding practices across each of three Sussex Local Authority areas. ○ Sussex Police 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. ○ Allocates resource to multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) supporting all associated functions. ○ Emergency protective powers in relation to children that allow for immediate safeguarding activity to be taken where associated concerns are identified. ○ 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. ○ 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. 	<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 Safeguarding Partners 2024-25



**Brighton & Hove City Council – Children’s Social Care, Family Hubs Service, Community Safety Team, Public Health, Education Team

Governance – Development of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements – September 2024

[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. This 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 were required to agree and lead local arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all local children no later than 31 December 2024.

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.



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 effective inclusion of education. Wider partners and stakeholders were consulted on the draft MASA throughout the process via the existing Steering Group and Partnership Board. 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 shared information and insight on an informal basis, and we have developed some strong common processes and protocols. Under the MASA 2024 LSPs for the pan Sussex local authority areas agreed to continue 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:

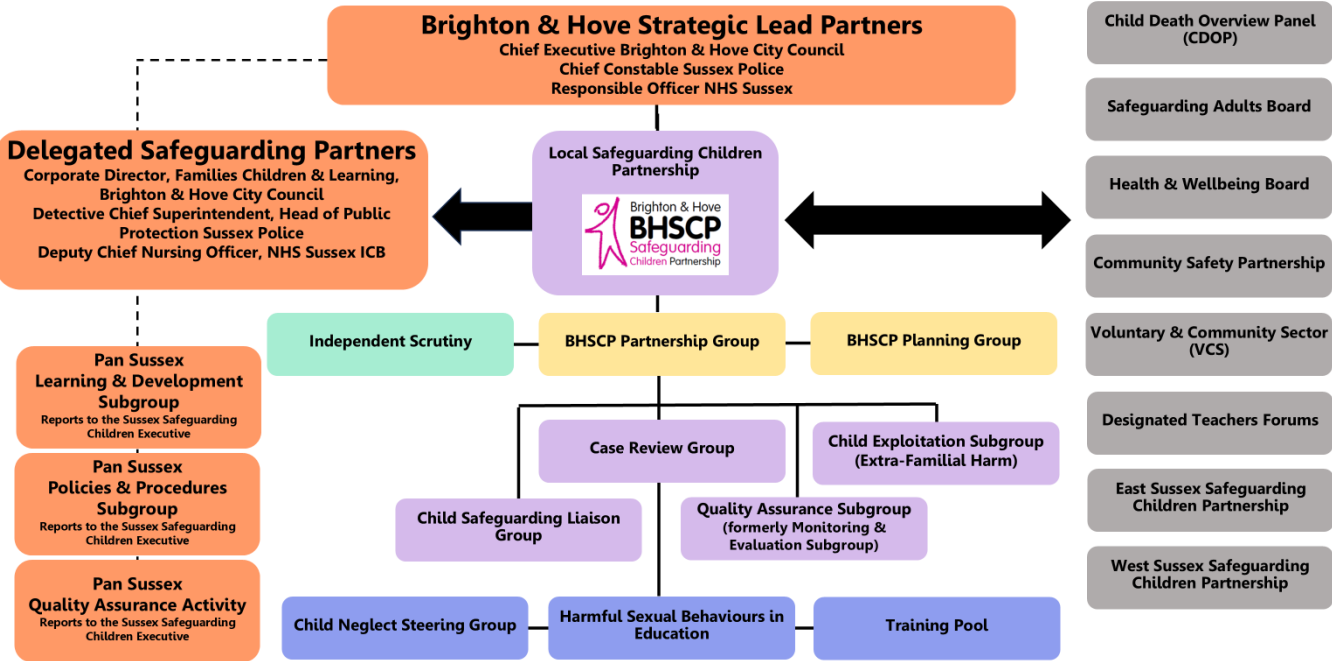
- A single Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive.
- Three local Safeguarding Children Partnerships – BHSCP, ESSCP and WSSCP.
- Three locality-based Partnership Groups.

Revised Sussex arrangements were published on 2 September 2024, ensuring the requirements set out in WT23 were fully met. These arrangements will be reviewed annually and will consider any future updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children. The Brighton & Hove structure from September 2024 onwards is on page 18, the Pan Sussex structure (Dec 2024) and the April 2025 revision of the Brighton & Hove structure are included as Annex E.

The full MASA 2024 is available here: [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#)

Our Structure 2024-25 (Published 02/09/2024)

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Structure



Key:

- Pan Sussex Subgroups & Governance/Reporting Mechanisms
- Independent Scrutiny
- Local Governance Groups
- Multi-agency Subgroups
- Multi-agency Task & Finish Working Groups
- Collaboration Partnerships

Our Structure demonstrates how our priorities are delivered through our multi-agency Subgroups, Working Groups and Task and Finish Groups.

Since the implementation of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) each Subgroup reports to the Statutory Lead Partners through the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) via the Partnership Group and the Planning Meetings.

BHSCP works collaboratively with other Partnerships in Brighton and Hove to co-ordinate services, whilst collectively focusing on safeguarding the children and young people in our city.

Our partner agencies coordinate audit and evaluation as part of the Quality Assurance Subgroup to 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 through our Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive, the Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup, the Pan Sussex Policies & Procedures Group, and pan Sussex audit activity.

Subgroup activity is discussed further on pages 31-47.

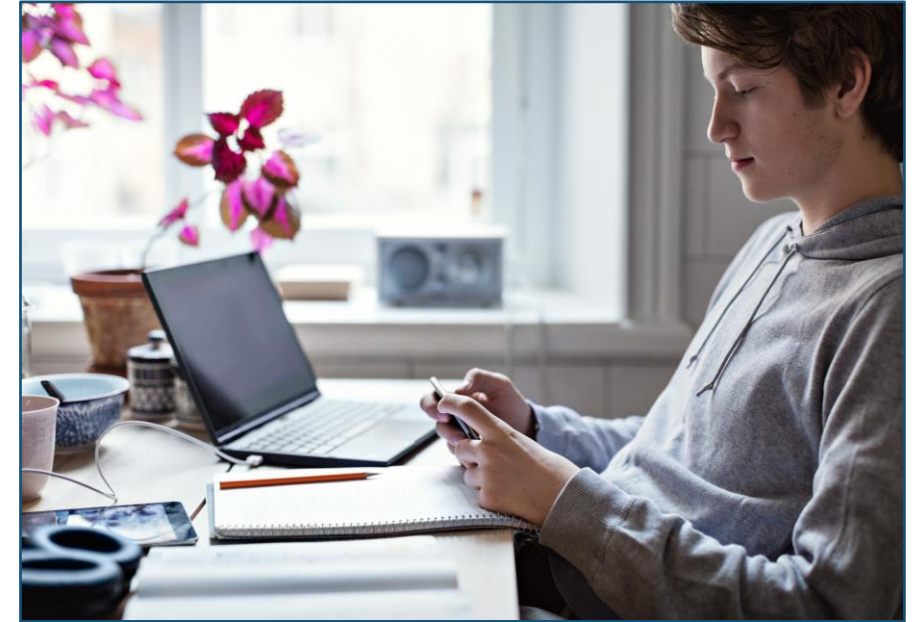
Governance, Accountability, Challenge & Scrutiny – Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive

When the new [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#) were implemented from September 2024 the Pan Sussex Leaders Group was replaced by a single **Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive (SSCE)** responsible for determining multi-agency safeguarding strategy and agreeing models for multi-agency working to safeguard children and young people across Sussex in accordance with statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) (WT23).

The Executive meets at least twice yearly and includes the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) from Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SCP).

The SSCE determines the regional strategic approach to all issues requiring multi-agency safeguarding action, including responses to reports published by the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (*National Panel*). The SSCE can request assurance from partners agencies, if required, that resource allocation meets the needs of children and secures effective discharge of their statutory duties.

The Executive is currently chaired by the DSP from Sussex Police and supported by the BHSCP Partnership Business Manager and Business Team.



The SSCE Purpose:

- To oversee strategic activity undertaken across the pan Sussex Partnerships to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people. Operational oversight sits within local SCP and individual agencies.
- To oversee and share best practice and efficiencies pan Sussex.
- The SSCE receive exception reports from the three areas of Sussex wide work including learning and development; collation and analysis of multi-agency safeguarding data; and Sussex child protection and safeguarding procedures. Each of these areas is supported by one of the area Partnership Business Managers, on a rotation of a minimum of two years.
- The SSCE may establish subgroups on a standing or task and finish basis as it sees fit, for example in relation to exploitation, neglect or other issues requiring collective strategic development.
- The SSCE may commission independent scrutiny when required for identified pan Sussex themes whilst individual SCPs retain local scrutiny arrangements.

Governance, Accountability, Challenge & Scrutiny – Partnership Group & Delegated Safeguarding Partners Planning

BHSCP Partnership Group

BHSCP Steering Group and Partnership Board were replaced by the BHSCP Partnership Group from September 2024.

The role of the **BHSCP Partnership Group** is to bring together wider partners from across statutory and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to ensure the strategic direction of the Partnership and the BHSCP Subgroup activity is taken forward and operationalised in all organisations.

BHSCP Partnership Group Purpose:

The BHSCP Partnership Group provides a forum to support and enable local agencies and organisations to work together in a system where:

- There is a shared understanding of safeguarding practice in Brighton & Hove.
- Safeguarding assurance is promoted at single agency and multi-agency levels.
- Learning and improvement is promoted through a reflective approach to bring change.

To support the functions of the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs), the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) and the Safeguarding Children Partnerships across Sussex one DSP assumes the role of **Partnership Chair** in each locality. The Partnership Chair has oversight of their locally based arrangements and acts as a conduit to inform and update LSPs.



Delegated Safeguarding Partners Planning

This meeting is held at least twice yearly, is attended by the DSPs, Heads of Safeguarding, and Partnership Business Manager, the meeting is chaired by the Partnership Chair.

DSP Planning Purpose:

- To ensure the effective working of the BHSCP.
- 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 determine how BHSCP resources are used.
- To agree how to resolve BHSCP issues and mitigate risks.

Governance, Accountability, Challenge & Scrutiny – The Role of Independent Scrutiny in the BHSCP

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. Until September 2024 the BHSCP was supported by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer and a Quality Assurance Scrutineer who Chaired the Quality Assurance Subgroup, and volunteer Lay Members in key Subgroups.

Under [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#): *'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 were reviewed under WT23 and the development of the new [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#). We would like to thank the former Independent Chair and Scrutineer Chris Robson who provided an independent voice in decision-making processes and provided constructive challenge to leaders, partners and agencies as the Partnership's 'critical friend' for many years. Independent Scrutiny remains a priority area for the lead safeguarding partners – these will be reviewed and evaluated as part of the overall review and evaluation of the Sussex MASA 2024 later in 2025-26.

During this reporting year the Partnership was supported by three **volunteer Lay Members** who attended our Partnership Group, plus our Quality Assurance, Exploitation, and Child Safeguarding Liaison Subgroups. The role of a Lay Member is crucial 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.

This approach to independent scrutiny provides a holistic form of scrutiny when combined with the aggregated scrutiny provided through the Quality Assurance Subgroup detailed on pages 45-47.

What our Lay Members Say...

"I have attended the Quality Assurance subgroup. As a non-safeguarding professional, I have been able to play my part in scrutiny of governance requirements. I have witnessed open discussion about securing the right data and to challenge organisations. I have been supported to raise questions. Where data has been difficult to secure, I have observed commitment to problem solving and stronger networks to support children and their families."

Future Independent Scrutiny Planning – Young Scrutineers

As we embed the MASA 2024, we are looking to strengthen our independent scrutiny arrangements and child's voice within the Partnership business by recruiting a cohort of Young Scrutineers. We have started discussions with our pan Sussex colleagues and local authority Participation Teams to ensure that our young scrutineers will be appropriately supported but also to enable us to offer this as a beneficial development opportunity to local young people. Young Scrutineers will receive training and 1:1 support from the business team and the Independent Scrutineer, peer support – locally and pan Sussex, and payment through the local authority Rewards and Recognition Policy.

BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

This section of our annual report looks at the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership [Business Plan 2023-26](#) which sets out our strategic intent in making our vision a reality. The Business Plan and Partnership workstreams 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 – see Structure Chart on page 12.

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 ongoing public health messaging, a more accessible website and increased social media activity enabling our community to act as the eyes and ears and to understand how, when, and where to seek help should they witness, or suspect abuse or neglect is happening. The ongoing website review will continue to improve accessibility for children and young people, parents and carers and members of the community.

During the reporting period we continued to strengthen the governance between the Partnership and key strategic forums including the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), Community Safety Partnership, the Association of Safeguarding Partners (tASP), and the Health & Well-being Board. The Partnership has maintained robust relationships with community and voluntary sector partners in training delivery, challenge, and consultation.

BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

BHSCP has involved and consulted children and young people in the process of helping to keep them safe. However, this continues to be an area of focus for Partnership core business including the 2024-26 Section 11 Audit cycle. The development of a Young Scrutineer Programme planned for 2025-26 with colleagues in East and West Sussex will provide a strong foundation for the child's voice and lived experience to be integral to the Partnership priorities.

We published our Anti-Racist Practice Statement in December 2022 and have embedded anti-racist working to identify where people are discriminated against because of race or membership of global majority communities. As a Partnership we have taken active steps to address the systems, privileges and everyday practices that maintain this unequal treatment, even when unintentional. We developed and introduced Family Help: the Right Support at the Right Time in June 2024 and developed the Poverty Aware Practice Statement as part of this approach.

Pan Sussex and local multi-agency assurance activity tests compliance and effectiveness of local safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures; and we are confident we can swiftly identify and respond to risks and issues that impact the Partnership. We are committed to using learning from audit, local and national practice reviews, and feedback to improve safeguarding practice locally. The introduction of the Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive, the Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup in September 2024 supports this approach.

We co-produced and published new [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#) with colleagues from East and West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The arrangements include the directive for evaluation towards the end of the 2025-26 reporting period to ensure they continue to reflect current safeguarding trends, concerns, and developments nationally, in Sussex, and in Brighton and Hove. Business Plan Priorities are due to be reviewed at the same time to ensure alignment with our MASA.

BHSCP collaborated with NHS Sussex, regional partners (WSSCP and ESSCP) in 2024 to develop a new robust [Pan-Sussex-SCP-Tier-1-Information-Sharing-Agreement-Nov 2024](#) providing clear guidance to all partner agencies about expectations and responsibilities.

As engagement and accountability continue to be part of our business as usual; the current Business Plan 2023 – 2026 focus is Priorities 2,3 and 4.

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.

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

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 priorities 2-4 in 2024-25 including key activities and evidence as identified by agency leads. This report includes responses from statutory partners plus Family Hubs and BHCC Education including the Virtual School. Future reports will include responses directly from the newly developed Education Safeguarding Subgroup as the mechanism for education partners to demonstrate and evidence their engagement and impact since the introduction of the Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2024 (Brighton & Hove).

Detailed responses from wider partners are published on the BHSCP website with this report as Annex A-C, the website link is included in the reference section on page 57.

BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26 – Progress made on Priority 2

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

Lead Agency: Sussex Police

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Sussex Police	Child Sexual Exploitation remains on the force control strategy. Every year, Sussex Police reviews its Control Strategy. This strategy determines policing priorities and informs many of our operational and strategic decisions for the year ahead.	Strategy impacts taskings, partnership activities, intelligence gathering and training requirements.	This is the second year Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has formed part of the Control Strategy. This is enabling portfolio holders and key leads greater access to support functions and analysis and research.
	Force has a designated Child Exploitation lead (DCI Public Protection) advocating for focus, resource and practice improvement.	Training programme designed and delivered. Improvements delivered: a. Practical guides, flowcharts and proforma technical documents to assist with responding to online grooming. b. Strategic Intel Review focused on repeat victims of Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSA&E) received and shared with partners.	Snapchat report produced (internal). Strong attendance at various groups, such as AVRMA Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) and Escalation and Child Exploitation Intelligence Meeting (CEIM), with representatives drawn from a range of internal disciplines.
Sussex Police	Learning from Reviews: Full engagement in BHSCP Practice Reviews. All actions plans taken forward. Learning Briefings/events shared and attended by practitioners – applicable across priorities 2-4.	Learning shared with staff/officers as part of single agency training/internal comms, recommendations escalated as applicable.	

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Sussex Police	Learning from Reviews: Operation Signet – In response to learning from West Sussex Rapid Review and subsequent multi-agency audit activity. This earlier operation led to the development of Operation Swordfish.	Operationalise learning from Rapid Review by improving coordination, accountability and partnership working through the appointment of a responsible officer to act as Point of Contact in relation to that child.	Positive feedback from partners who are now seeing responsible officers feeding into Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) . Better investigative grip has led to several cases being escalated for additional resources and tactical considerations. At the point of launch there were 84 qualifying children with 350 separate Officers in Charge (OiC). Currently 62 qualifying children (pan Sussex) and 62 Responsible Officers.
	Operation Swordfish - Launched following Rapid Review in West Sussex.	Focus on moving towards proactive investigation to identify the source of the risk.	
	Fully replacing Single Combined Assessment of Risk Form (SCARF) with refreshed vehicle for communicating risk with partners – SIGNS.	More detailed question set aimed at identifying risk to child through the promotion of professional curiosity and voice of the child is now used.	Positive feedback from partners regarding quality of information being shared. Data analysis in-train.
Sussex Police	Hydrant training deliver for a second consecutive year to Detective Inspectors & Detective Sergeants. Operation Hydrant are the National Police Chief Counsels subject matter experts in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	More than 60 of the force's Detective Inspectors and Detective Sergeants now trained with respect to national best practice on the investigation of CSE and safeguarding exploited children.	More frequent approaches being made to regional partners i.e. for tackling organised exploitation support and advice. Creation of a best practice library which has been used in several related investigations.

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
NHS Sussex ICB	<p>Involvement in Child Zeta LCSPR providing expertise to the Partnership with a focus on greater understanding of exploitation in the city.</p> <p>Training session on preventing serious youth violence and knife crime delivered through Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 facilitated by lived experience charity organisation Charlie's Promise Working to prevent knife crime</p> <p>NHS Sussex have supported the statutory duty of the devolved NRM process in Brighton & Hove.</p> <p>Project Manager for Tackling Serious Violence appointed to lead the implementation of the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) Minimum Dataset across accident and emergency departments throughout Sussex. The initiative aims to improve data sharing to better address and reduce serious violence in the region.</p> <p>Learning from Reviews: Full engagement in BHSCP Practice Reviews. All actions plans taken forward. Learning Briefings/events shared and attended by practitioners – applicable across priorities 2-4.</p>	<p>All multi agency professionals to consider risks and signs of exploitation, when working with children and families.</p> <p>Charlie's story, along with the profound impact his death had on his family, friends, and the wider community, was shared during the training. The goal was to raise awareness about the devastating effects of knife crime and to inspire changes in policy and practice to prevent further tragedies.</p> <p>During collaboration process with provider health trusts challenges were identified with the interface between Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) and the Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS), which were subsequently escalated to NHS England for further resolution.</p> <p>NHS England has mandated the inclusion of Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) data in the Emergency Care Data Set v4. This update will ensure that data on all A&E attendances related to violent incidents is comprehensively and accurately captured, strengthening the ability to address and monitor serious violence in emergency care settings.</p>	<p>NHS Sussex supported a practitioner and manager learning event with review authors to understand the life of Child Zeta, and their push and pull factors into exploitation.</p> <p>One attendee commented, <i>"This was a very impactful session. My colleague and I deliver knife crime interventions and are going to review them based on this and the interesting info from the YEF [Youth Endowment Fund] on the topic."</i></p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>'Business as Usual' is to safeguard.</p> <p>Front Door for Families (FDfF) makes decisions on pathways of support and intervention.</p> <p>CSC have a specialist Adolescent Service to prioritise those most at risk. This includes our Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting (AVRM) as a multi-agency forum.</p> <p>CSC's Relationship-Based Practice Model puts children at the centre of practice with containment and support for Social Workers as key.</p> <p>CSC's internal audits raise awareness and learning alongside thematic audits. Engagement and learning from BHSCP Exploitation and Missing Audits. Recent assurance requests completed on Missing Children processes for Quality Assurance Subgroup.</p> <p>CSC's devolved National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision making pilot is embedded and working well with swift decision making for children. Ongoing workstream with Sussex Police under the Exploitation Subgroup related to the disruption of perpetrators of exploiting children. This is a focus area.</p> <p>The dedicated Missing Manager and workers continue to improve CSC's integrated missing response and close working in partnership with Sussex Police.</p> <p>Learning from Reviews: Full engagement in BHSCP Practice Reviews. All actions plans taken forward. Learning Briefings/events shared and attended by practitioners – applicable across priorities 2-4.</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>Current Risk Identified: Despite high quality services CSC cannot always eliminate all contextual safeguarding risks as demonstrated through the sad death in 2023 of a young person through a knife incident (Child Zeta LCSPR).</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> <p>All the above are evidence of effective multi-agency working and that the foundations of this have been systematically developed and built upon.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Family Hubs Service	Audit of 50 cases where families on waiting list for whole family work were re-referred and escalated into social work. This focussed on: 1) whether the reasons for referrals and escalation of risk were the same as the original referral, 2) whether the audit identified that the risk escalated because of waiting time.	Evidence found in some cases that where a young person is waiting the risk can escalate quickly. Introduced a 90-day period where families must have regular contact and are prioritised for support when there is a young person in the family.	
	Family Hubs representation at Children Missing from Education (CME) Panel and Early Intervention Youth Meetings with partners.	Schools refer young people with an attendance rate of less than 30% for a multi-agency discussion regarding further support measures to implement; onward referrals and possible enforcement measures.	Family Hubs practitioners have been able to support school attendance as part of ongoing interventions.
	Youth Participation Team working with Trust for Developing Communities and the Violence Reduction Partnership on Serious Violence Duty (SVD).	Supported consultation focus group, survey and SVD conference events – child's voice and lived experience included.	City SVD network established.
BHCC Education & Virtual School	BHCC Education Team working in partnership with the Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership to provide the Safer Now exploitation training programme to all education staff working with children in Years 5, 6 and 7. Education professionals explore the various forms of exploitation, how it may manifest, and how it is perceived by children, young people, and professionals.	Through in-depth discussions and practical insights, staff gain a comprehensive understanding of exploitation and its complexities, practical application, localised knowledge of challenges faced, and knowledge of local leads, partners and organisations staff to refer for specialist support. Intent to disrupt exploitation early.	Anecdotal reports from staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ better equipped to recognise early warning signs, ○ raised awareness/understanding of how exploitation impacts young people and their families, ○ knowledge of local support services, ○ consideration for how children at risk of exploitation are highlighted for enhanced transition / monitoring when entering secondary education.
	Education training sessions on creating exploitation early indicator profiles/toolkits and risk assessments.	Practitioners equipped to explore and consider challenges for children at risk of exploitation.	Toolkits used to support Front Door for Families referrals.

BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26 – Progress made on Priority 3

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>Neglect is a priority area for CSC as it is for BHSCP.</p> <p>CSC have developed the BHSCP Neglect Steering Group which has led on practice developments around a Neglect Strategy, Neglect Forum, Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) promotion and a clearer pathway. This is augmented by an internal BHCC Neglect Meeting to push development of practice aligned to that of the BHSCP work. A push for Multi-Agency Chronologies as part of this work. Promotion of the GCP2 toolkit and training across all Social Work Teams.</p> <p>Thematic Audit on Long Term Neglect took place Q1 2024/25 with an action plan and push for development work in CSC.</p> <p>Organisational restructure allowed for Family Hubs and Social Work to be under the same Senior Leadership Team. This has set the foundations for work aligned to the Family First Partnership Programme to be developed. The change to CSC and Family Help are actively being planned with a Transformation Director to be in post in Q1 2024/25.</p> <p>The shared model of practice across BHSCP continues to be embedded.</p> <p>Learning from Case Studies promoted via 9 min briefings.</p>	<p>Overall, our decision making is good however we continue to see for some families the escalation to chronic neglect is not engaged with early enough meaning some children suffer neglect.</p> <p>The Neglect Steering Group will provide tailored performance management in this area. There are more requests for Neglect Consultations which suggests more curiosity in interventions.</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> <p>All the above are evidence of effective multi-agency working and that the foundations of this have been systematically developed and built upon.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Family Hub Service	<p>Jan-March 2025: Planned and implemented the Neglect Forum for multi-agency practitioners to access for advice and support on 'stuck' neglect cases where families do not have an allocated social worker (monthly forum meetings from April 2025).</p> <p>Cost of Living events hosted at Tarner Family Hub.</p> <p>Supermarket vouchers to families in poverty alongside specific intervention relating to this. Free period products are also available from all Family Hubs and distributed to schools for families to access.</p> <p>Provision of funding to access essential household items such as carpets, bedding and kitchen equipment.</p> <p>The Youth Participation Team accessed the Household Support Fund to enable Children and Young people, children in Care and Care Leavers access to vital funds supporting utility costs and food.</p>	<p>Families able to budget effectively, provide food for their children, manage debt and agree with providers how to schedule payments.</p> <p>Families who are re-housed, escaping domestic violence or are newly arrived in the city have access to clean and safe essential equipment in their homes.</p> <p>Children and Young people were able to pay their utility bills and have enough food, without the need to access food banks</p>	<p>270 individual families supported with vouchers during the year. Outcomes for the intervention reported as better or much better for most families.</p> <p>19 successful applications to charities totalling £5112</p>



Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
NHS Sussex ICB	<p>Led development of GCP2 Steering Group in 2024-25 which has now amalgamated with the new Neglect Steering Group under the new arrangements from Sept 2024.</p> <p>Awareness raising sessions via training and supervision to encourage completion of GCP2 assessment tool. New process established on FDfF information system to allow non-Council workers submit GCP2 assessments which can be saved to the record.</p> <p>Safeguarding Fortnight session on ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’ as part of Hidden Harms Conference.</p>	<p>BHSCP business priorities:</p> <p>3.1 Review of the Neglect Strategy by Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children.</p> <p>3.3 GCP2 included as standing item in Neglect Steering agenda.</p> <p>3.4 New Neglect Forum developed with the Family Hub Service.</p> <p>For professionals to be confident in assessing Neglect in terms of school attendance and the impacts this has on a child's future outcomes.</p>	<p>See Neglect Forum on page 59.</p> <p>NHS Sussex updated the neglect matrix from a health perspective and supported the development of the Safeguarding children neglect tool kits across the partnerships.</p> <p>Increase of knowledge and understanding of the issue and impact by multi-agency practitioners. Also identified role of Primary Care in supporting school attendance.</p>
Sussex Police	<p>Repeat Missing Audit completed in Q4 2023/24 and presented to the Partnership in April 2024 – relates to priority 2 and 3.</p> <p>Sussex Police were one of the Audit Leads with Lead from CSC – Adolescent Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crewmate Neglect Tab: Officers continue to use accessible guidance on neglect via officer’s devices at the scene and remotely. ○ Training: Embedding of training received through BHSCP Learning & Development in 2023-24 to embed use of common language around neglect. ○ CSE Child Protection Working Group: Includes neglect and poverty. 	<p>The cases of twelve children were selected for audit using Children’s Services data and included a range of age (12-17 yrs), ethnicity, gender, disability, SEND.</p> <p>Common language around neglect in use resulting in meaningful enquiries from Officers are based on same criteria as GCP2 assessments.</p>	<p>The Brighton Missing Persons Team assisted in completing the audits due to their expertise in this area. Overall, the practice of officers and staff was good with some recommendations regarding how Return Home Interviews are completed and the understanding of the Philomena protocol with care homes which the missing team and the adolescent team continue to work together to improve.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
BHCC Education & Virtual School	All schools in Brighton and Hove to have at least one GCP2 trained practitioner . Education is a key agency in recognising and exploring strengths and areas of support needed around early signs of possible neglect.	School staff can provide early intervention, education and support around schooling, clothing, hygiene, health and parental engagement.	Education Safeguarding Audit: 80% of schools have trained practitioner – ongoing development.
	Practitioners refer to and attend newly formed Neglect Forum (from March 2025). Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Education Rep attends to support multi-agency links.	Improved collaboration.	Anecdotal reports from staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>better understanding on early indicators of need,</i> o <i>using the relationship-based model of practice to improve children’s lives.</i>
	Virtual School supports the most disadvantaged children in the city – using Personal Education Plans (PEPs) to remove barriers to achievement especially literacy and numeracy.	Children in Care (CiC) receive bespoke supports to progress educationally.	
	Virtual School run Raising Awareness trips – providing children and young people with an insight into the possibilities of further and higher education.	Professionals are aware of impact of disadvantage on learners and on strategies that are useful to support.	



BHSCP Business Plan 2020-23 – Progress made on Priority 4

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

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
NHS Sussex ICB	NHS Sussex facilitated the engagement of general practice with the new Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAMHET) in Brighton & Hove.	General Practice are aware of and able to contribute/participate in MAMHET discussions for their patients.	Liaison from MAMHET team where challenges arise.
	NHS Sussex support with managing cases involving children in acute hospital settings who are experiencing psychological distress through the provision of safeguarding expertise. NHS Sussex also attend and escalate any concerns arising from the weekly Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Escalation Call . This support is vital in promoting a holistic, child-centred approach to prioritise safety, well-being, and effective care.	Complex care planning and discharge planning is enhanced and barriers to progress addressed .	Individual children are safe, hospital discharges are expedited as quickly as possible, and professionals receive support to manage these complex and often challenging cases.
	NHS Sussex undertook a site visit to the young persons inpatient unit in Sussex.	The visit evidenced the unit prioritises safety in all its activities . Staff are aware of processes regarding safeguarding this vulnerable group including ligature risk assessments.	Evidence from the visit showed the complexity of children is considered during their treatment. Evidence around the unit shows their voices are heard and views considered as part of their treatment path.
	NHS Sussex has worked in partnership with UHSx and Front door for Families (FDfF) on improving the content and timely completion of paragon reports to FDfF where children and young people presenting to hospital with mental health and self-harm.	Paragon reports were of limited detail and not being received in a timely manner where there were concerns around Mental health. This meant not all children were screened appropriately at FDfF. Since NHS Sussex intervention the quality and consistency of referral has improved .	Feedback from FDfF.

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Sussex Police	<p>OP Encompass. Operation Encompass Sussex Police Schools are informed of children that are subject to Domestic Abuse households and are notified of new incidents within 24 hours. 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 Brighton & Hove.</p> <p>Officer compliance is rising and officer understanding improving of SIGNS (updated risk assessment form – replacing SCARF).</p>
	<p>Embedding of Op Moonlight and Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAMHET) - Op Moonlight extended to all schools.</p> <p>Language Matters video - Focused on educating officers & staff in the use of language when speaking with and writing about their interactions with children.</p>	<p>Broader reach.</p> <p>Improved practitioner awareness - 20-minute video shown to more than 1000+ officers.</p>	<p>Weekly Op Moonlight meetings to discuss at risk children.</p> <p>Positive feedback from those viewing video. Officers/staff have been directed to challenge inappropriate language where seen.</p>
Children's Social Care (CSC)	<p>This continues to be an area of concern, CSC are not the main statutory partner providing MH support to children however do promote good practice. Well-established Schools Wellbeing Team alongside the Educational Psychology Team.</p> <p>The development of MAMHET is best practice and learning from suicide clusters across Sussex.</p> <p>Development of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Alternative Provision Change Programme in response to escalating SEN need aiming to keep our children in local provision in the city. This is a major piece of work that continues into 2025.</p> <p>Mental Health (MH) practitioners within the Partners In Change service to provide consultation support to all Social Work (SW) Pods.</p> <p>Regular training offers in place. MH part of core SW training.</p>	<p>Demand is increasing and pressure on services is a challenge.</p> <p>CSC engage proactively with Health Partners around MH in-patient and MH Section reviews and S17 aftercare planning.</p> <p>Children are supported by trained and supported staff.</p> <p>CSC 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>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> <p>All the above are evidence of effective multi-agency working and that the foundations of this have been systematically developed and built upon.</p>

Agency or Organisation	Activity	Impact	Evidence
Family Hub Service	The Youth Participation Team Youth Arts Project offers 1:1 Arts Award qualifications to children and young people (CYP) who are unable to access education due to their mental health or emotional well-being.	CYP who otherwise would be without any form of education are able to access a qualified alternative provision, improving their reported confidence, overcoming anxiety and achieving mental health soft outcomes.	24 CYP completed an Arts Award course 2024-25. 3 YP continued their education journey to access a college course.
BHCC Education & Virtual School	Education Professionals refer to and attend Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAMHET). Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) education rep attends key Access to Education Panels to provide key link between multi-agency partners. Engagement with BHSCP Subgroup activity.	Robust monitoring and containment through weekly input from schools for highly vulnerable children/young people. Schools directly involved in safety planning. A multi-agency approach to considering and exploring significant barriers to education, attendance, monitoring and external referrals.	Minutes highlight links between services and key actions agreed upon based on multi-agency chronologies.
	Virtual School extra-curricular programmes designed to support positive mental health and well-being, confidence, and a safe space to socialise alongside other children in care.	Safer Now training came through education engagement, involvement and scrutiny with the multi-agency exploitation audit – includes mental health and well-being elements.	

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation & Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Learning & Development Subgroup

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.

Learning & Development subgroups were replaced by the **Pan Sussex Learning and Development (L&D) Subgroup** in September 2024. This regional Subgroup provides strategic oversight to enable us to work collectively across Sussex to maximise our wide-ranging expertise and resources to best safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and families.

The subgroup monitors multi-agency training 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 Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive (SSCE). Each local Partnership is still required to provide high quality, up to date safeguarding training to enable practitioners to keep safeguarding at the centre of their work.

Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup Purpose:

- Implementation of a Pan Sussex Learning and Development Strategy including the agreement and monitoring of a two-year action plan for delivery and embedding the strategy.
- Development of a pan Sussex training programme, recognising that some training will still be delivered locally and ensuring that training is responsive to local needs.
- To undertake a Sussex Training Needs Analysis to identify gaps in provision to strengthen the Sussex training offer.
- Developing strategic links to learning and development activity with other partnerships/agencies, such as Safeguarding Adults Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, and Public Health.
- Working in conjunction with other Partnership subgroups, including Quality and Assurance and Case Review Group in each Local Authority area to respond to Sussex wide learning needs i.e. audits and local/national safeguarding practice reviews/reports.
- Sharing locality-based learning from audit and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) identifying any actions for implementation with strategic oversight by the Sussex wide Learning & Development Plan.
- Training development and delivery which will be data and insight driven and evidence based. This will include consideration of the local area Joint Strategic Needs assessments (JSNA), Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWS) and incorporate national strategies aligned to learning and development opportunities.
- Coordinating communication on Sussex wide learning themes.
- Delivery of a pan Sussex biennial conference, drawing themes from local and national learning to determine themes and approaches.
- Reporting progress via the partnerships' annual reports and providing twice per annum updates to the SSCE on progress, good practice, and emerging risks.



Future Activity of the Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup:

1. Develop an approach to evidence impact of training on practice through evaluation.
2. Consider the value of a pan Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership website landing page to optimise efficiency and consistency.
3. Develop local and Sussex wide communication campaigns and align with national campaigns, seasonal campaigns and public health messaging.

The BHSCP Learning & Development Subgroup and more recently the Pan Sussex Learning & Development Subgroup (PSL&D Subgroup) contributed to meeting the BHSCP Business Plan Priorities and objectives as follows:

Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation

A Training Needs Analysis was completed in Brighton & Hove in 2023-24 which indicated a mainly sufficient training offer available to all partners which met the needs of practitioners. However, gaps were identified in safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and refugees. This has been adopted as a priority area for the PSL&D Subgroup for 2024-25 and into 2025-26.

BHSCP delivered an Exploitation Learning Event in Q1 2024-25 based on the findings of a multi-agency exploitation audit completed in Q4 2023-24. The event was attended by 52 multi-agency partners including Exploitation Subgroup members. A presentation from NWG Network on the Disruption of Perpetrator Activity and the breakout rooms provided meaningful discussions about next steps which has fed into the BHSCP Exploitation Subgroup review – this demonstrates Subgroup collaboration and impact. Evaluation feedback: very positive.

The **BHSCP Hidden Harm Conference and Safeguarding Fortnight 2024** included sessions on the *Disruption of Perpetrator Activity, Harmful Practices, Harmful Sexual Behaviours in Education, Misogynoir and Gender-based Violence on Black and Global Majority Femmes including Femicide*, and *Incels: A Deep Dive into Extreme Misogyny*. **The in-person Conference was attended by 133 professionals.** Evaluation feedback: very positive.

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

Child Neglect and Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) training and refreshers were provided throughout 2024-25. The BHSCP **Hidden Harm Conference and Safeguarding Fortnight 2024** included sessions on ***Child Neglect, GCP2, and Impact of Poverty and Financial Exclusion on Children, Young People and their Families***. The BHSCP Learning & Development Subgroup linked with the Neglect Steering Group (formerly the GCP2 Steering Group) to promote training on *Child Neglect* and *GCP2*. Over 400 practitioners trained in GCP2 since licence purchased in 2021, but number of assessments completed with families is still low despite a slight increase in 2024-25.

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

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**. The Pan Sussex Training programme includes **Suicide Prevention courses** commissioned from Grassroots; and based on feedback from Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 new courses for 2025 on the **impact of youth gaming and gambling on well-being**.

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

The PSL&D Subgroup is still developing so barriers and responses will be fully evaluated as part on the MASA 2024 evaluation in Dec 2025-Apr 2026. Completion of GCP2 assessments in Brighton & Hove is still low across all agencies despite a high number of professionals accessing the training. The introduction of the Neglect Steering Group, the development of the Neglect & GCP2 Pathway, and the new Neglect Strategy 2025 are a direct response to this issue.

Learning & Development – Anti-Racist Practice & Allyship Conference

This page has been included to acknowledge the BHSCP's ongoing commitment to **Anti-Racist Practice**, **Cultural Competence** and **Allyship** through a safeguarding lens as part of the local Learning & Development Programme and one-off events.

BHSCP Anti-Racist Statement: *There is no place for racism in Brighton & Hove. We recognise that the impact racism has on our communities is devastating. It is our responsibility to create safe, inclusive and supporting environments and challenge racism when we see it. We stand firmly together with our partners in being committed to tackling institutional and interpersonal racism in all its forms.* (Full statement available from: [BHSCP-Anti-Racist-Practice-Statement-2022](#))

The BHSCP training programme includes sessions on cultural competence, adultification, misogynoir, raising awareness of harmful practices such as female genital cutting/mutilation, and more recently courses on effective working with interpreters. Courses are delivered by local and national community organisations and partners. In addition to this provision, we hosted the **Anti-Racist Practice & Allyship Conference** on 10 October 2024 as a follow-up to our Anti-Racist Practice Conference in November 2022 and in response to the race riots and counter-protests witnessed in many towns and cities across the UK including Brighton in the summer of 2024.

The event included presentations and discussions led by local community partners including a young person and parent-facilitator and Anti-Racist Advisors/Leads from statutory partners.

The conference discussions were facilitated by AFRORI Books and subjects covered:

- Amplifying Black & Global Majority (BGM) Voices – AudioActive
- The challenges BGM children with SEND/neurodiversity experience, and Youth Development & Empowerment – A Seat at the Table
- Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion: Race Action Plan – Sussex Police
- Developing Anti-Racist Practice in Education Settings – Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) Anti-Racist Education Team
- Allyship & Understanding/Changing Your Own Narrative – BHCC Children's Social Care
- Listening to Narratives to Impact Organisational Culture Change – BHCC Strategic Anti-Racist Lead.



The event was attended by 110 multi-agency partners and included enthusiastic discussions about the need for 'collabor-ACTION' and going beyond collaboration.

As part of the post-event evaluation attendees were asked to include their 'commitments' of how they would listen to the narratives of local BGM children and young people, community members, and colleagues but also how they could change racist narratives through Allyship –

- "Actions to drive our anti-racism approach to our work" - "Being actively anti-racist ... making changes myself to ensure the BGM young people are supported in my work"
- "Continue to read, learn & practice Allyship" - "Recruiting more BGM Independent Visitor Volunteers" - "Greater focus on how we support mixed heritage children"
- "Bringing pace to changes" - "Doing the work with our white families and continuing my own education and learning"
- "Challenging when I see adultification in the students I work with" - "To be open. To listen. To be aware of what I am bringing to work – bias, racism, white privilege"
- "Welcoming young BGM voices" – "Challenge my own discomfort in talking about race/racism with families, incorporate family's experiences into their assessments"
- "Sharing my learning, collabor-ACTION".

For more information on the Racist Riots of 2024 - [One year on: Reflections since the 2024 Racist Riots - Race Equality Foundation](#)

Learning & Development Courses and Attendance Data

Course Area	Name of Course
Core Safeguarding Children Training	Working Together in Child Protection – 1. Developing a Core Understanding 2. Assessment, Referral & Investigation 3. Conferences & Core Groups
Professional Curiosity	○ Professional Curiosity and Professional Challenge within a Safeguarding Context
Neglect	○ Child Neglect ○ Graded Care Profile 2
Exploitation	○ Child Criminal Exploitation ○ Child Sexual Exploitation: Getting the Fundamentals Right ○ National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
Mental Health	○ Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families ○ Trauma Informed Practice: A Multi-agency Approach ○ The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse ○ Suicide Prevention (2 courses - under 16s and over 16s)
Online Safety	○ Safeguarding in a Digital Age
Child Sexual Abuse & Harmful Sexual Behaviours	○ Child Sexual Abuse – Identifying, Responding & Supporting Children & Young People who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviours
Anti-racist Practice	○ Cultural Competency Through an Anti-racist Lens ○ Adultification: Addressing Barriers to Safeguarding Children Effectively & Appropriately ○ Working with an Interpreter ○ Anti-racist Practice & Allyship Conference – August 2024

Course Area	Name of Course
Equalities, Diversity & Inclusivity	○ Incels – A Deep Dive into Extreme Misogyny ○ Misogynoir: Beyond the Barriers – Inclusive Safeguarding for Black Femmes Facing Violence ○ Supporting LGBT+ Children & Young People ○ Working with Children & Young People in the Gypsy & Traveller Communities ○ Working with Parents with Learning Difficulties and Other Relevant Needs Under the Care Act 2024 ○ Safeguarding Adolescents ○ Improving Outcomes for Children in Care & Care Leavers ○ Safeguarding Children & Young People with Disabilities
Harmful Practices	○ Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation & Breast Ironing/Flattening ○ Honour Based Violence & Forced Marriage ○ Abuse Linked to Witchcraft & Spirit Possession
Domestic Abuse	○ Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People ○ Domestic Abuse – Understanding Protective Orders and the National Centre for Domestic Violence
ICON & Safer Sleep	○ Coping with a Crying Baby and Safer Sleep for Babies – What everyone Needs to Know
Hidden Harm	○ Gaming & Gambling Harm Prevention – delivered by YGAM ○ Safeguarding Fortnight & Hidden Harms Conference – Nov 2024*

Learning & Development Courses and Attendance Data

Number of BHSCP Courses	Courses Cancelled	Attendees
58	1	846

Agency	Attendance by %
Children’s Social Care & Family Hubs	36
Health Agencies	9
Police	0
Education & Early Years	35
Community Voluntary Sector	11
Other/Not Stated	9

*Attendance by % chart does not include attendance at Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 events

Type of Briefing	Title
LCSPP Learning	Child Epsilon Early Learning Child Epsilon 9-Minute Briefing Learning from Historic Reviews
CSLG Briefings	Bruising in Young Babies – 15-Minute Briefing
Subject Briefings	Exploitation Case Study Briefing Working with Interpreters: Guidance for Practitioners
Pan Sussex Briefings*	Safer Sleep: Advice for Parents & Carers – Summer 2024 Safer Sleep: Advice for Parents & Carers – Winter 2024 Winter Beach & Coastal Safety: Advice for Parents & Carers Beach Safety: Advice for Parents Bathtime Safety: Advice for Parents
Audit Briefings	Non-Accidental Injuries in Pre-school Aged Children Children with Repeat Missing Episodes

Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 – Hidden Harm Conference & Workshops	
Hidden Harm and the Right Support at the Right Time Conference	
Misogynoir and Gender-based Violence on Black & Global Majority Femmes including Femicide	
Child Neglect	
Harmful Sexual Behaviours in Education	
Digital Resilience – Keeping CYP Safer Online	
Community of Practice – Relationship-based Model of Practice	
Safeguarding Children in Schools	
Impact of Poverty & Financial Exclusion on CYP and their Families	
Harmful Practices: FGM/C & Breast Ironing/Flattening	
Disruption of Perpetrator Activity (Exploitation)	
Safeguarding Adolescents	
Impact of Parental Substance Misuse	
Incels: A Deep Dive into Extreme Misogyny*	
Gaming & Gambling Harm Prevention*	
Fabricated & Induced Illness*	
Abusive Head Trauma in Infants*	
Preventing Serious Violence & Knife Crime: Charlie’s Promise*	
Total Attendance (not including pan Sussex courses booked through NHS Sussex Eventbrite*)	295

Forward Planning for Learning & Development

1. The Pan Sussex Learning and Development Subgroup have developed a ‘delegation of task’ process to enhance communication between subgroups and to ensure governance and oversight of work.
2. Development of a Neglect Champions project is currently ongoing, with plans to formalise their role in supporting and promoting the neglect strategy across agencies in Q1 2025-26 – a development opportunity for practitioners and will be supported by the Learning & Development Officer.
3. Standardised pan Sussex charging & non-attendance policy – in-train.

Qualitative Feedback from Learners Attending BHSCP Training Programme Events

Domestic Abuse – Understanding Protective Orders and the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)

"Very knowledgeable facilitator and clear information that will help me to support clients"

Anti Racist and Allyship Conference

"I'm going to go away and see how we can set up an anti-racist lead at school"

Trauma Informed Practice

"I found it thought provoking and insightful. It will be valuable not only in informing my interactions with children and young people on our programmes, but also in working with the professionals around them too."

GCP2

"The pace of it was very good and it was comfortable asking questions. I really appreciate the offer of support in using this tool when we take it back to work."

Cultural Competence and Anti-Racist Practice

"Stand out for me was the realisation around language, the impact it can have. I have stolen with pride the adoption of the inclusion of Equalities Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) as a standing topic of discussion."

Adultification: Addressing Barriers to Safeguarding Children Effectively & Appropriately

"I attended this course almost two years ago, and it still influences my practice and training I deliver today"

Working Together in CP day 1

"A deeper understanding of the support that I can access for families so that I can be empowered in my role."

Supporting LGBT+ Children & Young People

"Helping to think about how I support the young trans person I am working with and being sensitive to their needs."

Hidden Harms Conference

"Everything was relevant, and I found it all totally interesting. I have already referred to ygam since 'All learning will be useful for my agency. It was helpful to hear more on changing the narratives and what more I can, and my agency can do to support this."

Incels

"I found all aspects of the training extremely useful and will greatly assist me in my role as Designated Safeguarding Lead"
"One of the best pieces of training I have attended in a while - well presented, clear and allowed for conversations topics."

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Neglect Steering Group

The **Neglect Steering Group** is a newly formed subgroup building on the work of the GCP2 Steering Group from October 2024. The group meets bi-monthly and is currently chaired by the Head of Safeguarding from Children’s Social Care and the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children from NHS Sussex ICB.

Are you working with a child in a family where you are worried about neglect?
Are you feeling stuck/uncertain about what to do?
Would you like some help to think through how best to support the family?



If so, you are invited to Brighton and Hove's Neglect Forum

Child neglect can be complex and difficult to talk about with families. The Neglect Forum is a space to bring any difficulties you may be experiencing. It is for any professional to attend to discuss a child or young person and their family where there are signs of neglect. The forum has representatives from health, the safeguarding education team, the police, adult mental health, BHSCP, Family Hubs, early years, and social work.

It is a reflective space to talk about your work and think about what's working well and where you might be stuck or uncertain about what to do next. You might want help to consider what needs to change, how to promote and sustain change and if there are other services that might support this change.

It is not a forum to help escalate a case, or for those families who need urgent or immediate intervention, but a space to support critical thinking, consider the perspectives of other agencies and receive fresh ideas. We cannot take referrals for families who already have a child protection plan.

Meetings are in person at Moulsecoomb Family Hub, Hodshrove Lane, BN2 4SE.

For upcoming dates please see [Brighton & Hove's Neglect Forum](#) on the BHSCP website or just scan the QR code.



Email Familyhubs@brighton-hove.gov.uk for more information or to make a referral.



The focus of the Neglect Steering Group is Business Plan **Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Poverty and Disadvantage.**

During the latter months of 2024-25 reporting period, the Neglect Steering Group undertook a **review of the Neglect Strategy** which was published in June 2025 (available here: [Neglect Strategy - June 2025](#)). The strategy provides guidance to practitioners including the Neglect and GCP2 Pathway and links to useful resources.

The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is now a standing agenda item of the Neglect Steering Group, ensuring ongoing focus on its implementation and impact.

A new multi-agency **Neglect Forum** was developed as a key workstream of the subgroup from October 2024. The Neglect Forum is led by the Family Hubs service and Partners in Change and was launched in Q1 2025-26. The Forum includes multi-agency representation. As part of a Partners in Change initiative plans are in-train to establish space within the forum for open case discussions. The working group developed referral forms and posters, whilst the Business Team developed the [Brighton & Hove's Neglect Forum](#) webpage.

Family Help: The Right Support at the Right Time was launched in July 2024 and includes references to neglect as a concern for children, young people and families, and links to tools, resources and guidance. Right Support at the Right Time is discussed in more detail on the next page.

Potential barriers and response actions:

GCP2a (Antenatal) Tool – Pilot and Decision: As part of the neglect-focused work under GCP2, consideration was given to implementing the GCP2a (antenatal) assessment tool. Following the pilot, the NSPCC advised that ongoing delivery would require additional funding for both the programme and associated e-learning. Given the unsustainability of these costs and existing challenges with GCP2 completion rates, the decision was made to not commission the GCP2a tool at this time. Instead, partners will continue to focus on embedding and improving the core GCP2 tool.

No current Private School or voluntary service agency on Neglect Forum, this will be considered in Q1/Q2 2025-26.

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

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT23) states:

'Safeguarding partners should agree ... 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

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. Our 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's or family's needs meet a criterion of a Social Work assessment under Section 17 of the Children's Act. Our aim is 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 work 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 fully Interactive Framework detailing levels of support, useful information, and links to resources which are available on the BHSCP website under [Policies and Procedures – How we make decisions](#) and [Brighton-Hove-Family-Help-The-Right-Support-at-the-Right-Time-2024](#)

During the development stages the new Family Help documents were shared with Steering Group and Partnership Board (pre-MASA 2024), 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.

Progress:

- o Family Help: Right Support at the Right Time and Relationship-based Practice was included as a key theme of the BHSCP Hidden Harm Conference and Safeguarding Fortnight in November 2024.
- o Development of the Family Help Strategy originally and more recently development of the Families First Partnership Programme to align with Family Help: The Right Support at the Right Time and associated documents.
- o Successful communication across multi-agency partners.
- o **Initial feedback from partners and practitioners has been positive.**

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

The Seven Cs

1 Continuity

Continuity of relationships between practitioners and families wherever possible, so families can have the same worker throughout our processes

2 Consistency

Consistency of relationships between teams and families, so families are supported by a multi-agency team who know them not just a worker

3 Collaboration

Collaboration across multi-agency professional networks, so that workers share skills to make a difference for families

4 Change

Multi-agency practitioners using their role as helping families to achieve the changes they want to make

5 Culture

BHSCP and its multi-agency partners supporting a learning culture and space for reflective practice so practitioners feel skilled and valued

6 Confidence

A transformation of the professional culture in Brighton & Hove to relational ones that inspires 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

1 All agencies to Brighton & Hove working together

To embed continuity, consistency and collaboration, by developing how all agencies in Brighton & Hove work together to help families to achieve safe and stable family lives and reduce the harm experienced by children.

2 Commitment for practitioners

To provide containment for practitioners so that staff feel supported, this will be achieved by making sure our supervision and management oversight is working using BHSCP systems of support and supervision appropriately

3 Realisation and each practitioner's potential

Making sure that relationship-based practice values individuals' unique identities and challenges opportunity by embedding anti-racist practice, conduct and equality, diversity and inclusion work

4 Leadership

To provide systemic relationship-based leadership to ensure effective support for service to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

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

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Child Safeguarding Liaison Group

The **Child Safeguarding Liaison Group (CSLG)** is an interagency forum that meets monthly 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. The group is cognisant of BHSCP's priorities and uses this to drive discussions. **The case studies used always aim to represent the voice of the child.**

Priority 1: Partnership Engagement and Accountability

The aims of the group are aligned to Priority 1. 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 frontline staff**.

Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation

The group engages in learning in this area. Recent **learning related to children held in custody is being developed pan Sussex**. A Case Study was developed and shared around learning related to Exploitation.

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

As above discussions has also included neglect. A recent **Learning Briefing was looking into bruising pathways and the role of neglect**.

Priority 4: Mental Health and Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Recent Case discussion related to professionals' relationships in **complex scenarios**. This related to a child in **Tier 4 Mental Health provision** where hypothesis of the risk involved were polarised in the professional network. **CSLG helped unpick this and develop learning for agencies**.

Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups:

Continual need to review and push for referrals which is successful with at least one case discussion in each monthly meeting. Plaudits and learning from positive cases continues to be pushed for but is not very common.

Keeping a non-defensive culture that creates learning and honest reflection and a 'window into practice'. This is a well chaired meeting with consistent attendance which allows this to happen. Ongoing challenge of how to land learning in agencies, use of briefings, case studies and training updates is used but there is also some reliance on participants driving learning conversations within their own agencies. The approach to learning is a systemic one and the group avoids blame but looks to learning. CSLG regularly feed into Learning & Development and Pan Sussex Policies & Procedures subgroups. Using a Relationship-based Practice model the group can identify gaps and barriers to service provision and development. The group has shared information with the Exploitation Subgroup, and the QA Subgroup thematic audits have used in CSLG to discuss families where learning may be apparent.

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**.

All Subgroup Chairs meet formally quarterly to share practice and activity. Informally, fertilisation of ideas and activity between the groups happens regularly.

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Case Review Group

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](#).

In 2024-25 we received two child safeguarding practice case review referrals. The first was after the tragic the death of a teenager in Brighton town centre in October 2023. A **Rapid Review** meeting was held, members considered the circumstances of the case and decided that the case met the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR), specifically as this case involved criminal exploitation and racial/early and intergenerational trauma factors. The national Safeguarding Practice Review Panel agreed with our decision. Independent Reviewers were commissioned to complete the practice review for **Child Zeta**. The purpose of a LCSPR is to learn lessons through a **systems analysis of the single and multi-agency work undertaken** to assess and support children and their families. The methodology used in the Child Zeta review aimed to understand professional practice in context, identifying systemic factors that influence the nature and quality of work with children and families, with one aim to identify systemic patterns, which are generalisable beyond this case. This approach provides what is called a **'window on the system'**. The intention is to provide a proportionate and meaningful account of what happened from the perspective of the child and family to add reflection and learning into the local safeguarding system. Report was published outside of this reporting period in June 2025, available at: [Child-Zeta-LCSPR-Report-June-2025](#), associated Learning Briefing shared in later in 2025-26 with Practitioner event in pre-planning for autumn 2025.

In March 2025 BHSCP received a second referral, this case involved a young child who had received physical injuries and experienced emotional distress. The CRG decided that the circumstances of the case met the criteria for a LCSPR to be completed. A comprehensive desktop review and secondary analysis methodology was agreed which will include the **production of a Summary of Learning report** by the Independent Scrutineer, **Assurance Requests through the Quality Assurance Subgroup**, and a **thematic learning event for professionals planned for autumn 2025**. **Early learning** from the Rapid Review was **published outside of reporting period in Q2 2025**. The review is known as **Baby Aspen**.

The ongoing challenge in 2024-25 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. The **Child Epsilon LCSPR** has been on hold for some time due to parallel processes. Solution focused discussions within CRG and with colleagues in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). **Early learning was circulated to practitioners, and a Learning Event is in the pre-planning stages** whilst we await conclusion of parallel processes.



Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews 2024-25

Child Zeta

Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation

This review has explored and identified learning around child exploitation, violence and contextual safeguarding. Child Zeta was a young man who from a young age suffered a variety of Adverse Childhood Experiences, including fleeing his war-torn country as a toddler, arriving in the UK as a refugee and later in his life becoming involved in child criminal exploitation.

The review found that on the whole services across the multi-agency system worked to try and put support in place that would help Child Zeta but as is often the case in child exploitation, the system was not always able to keep him safe. Many of the issues identified in this LCSPR are already known, indeed they are national issues that cannot be solved completely at a local level. However, locally, there have been some significant service developments in key areas.

There were challenges in capturing **Zeta’s direct voice** due to the fatality, however the review attempted to **capture his voice through professionals (and family)** who worked with and alongside him. The issues of identity and racial/cultural were identified. The review now knows that Child Zeta wanted things to change in his life and that he wanted the opportunity to leave behind his exploitation.

Priority 4: Mental Health, Emotional Health and Wellbeing

The review concluded that it is not surprising that Child Zeta struggled with both his emotional wellbeing and mental ill health and at times found it difficult to source and access help.

Child Zeta came from a highly supportive family, and it is to their credit that throughout the timeframe examined as part of the review, they continued to seek support for him. **The push and pull factors of children into criminal exploitation cannot be underestimated and are clearly evidenced in Child Zeta’s life.**

Baby Aspen

Priority 3: Reducing Neglect

There are 4 broad types of neglect – physical where a child’s basic needs are not met, or the child is not kept safe, emotional neglect, educational neglect, and medical neglect. **Neglect can put children and young people in danger but can also have longer-term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.**

Neglect can often become an issue when parents are dealing with complex problems sometimes including domestic abuse, mental health issues, and substance misuse.

The Rapid Review for Baby Aspen indicated that physical and emotional neglect were factors. The **Rapid Review Panel discussed what Aspen’s lived experience** during the review timeframe would have been and the potential impact of their experiences may have on current and future well-being.

Baby Aspen and their sibling have been safeguarded, and it is reported that they are currently settled in foster care.

Priority 4: Mental Health, Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Trauma in early childhood can have a significant impact on a child throughout their life, it can have a severe effect on mental and physical health and can influence how they interact with others. It is reported that Baby Aspen’s parent experienced mental health issues relating to **Adverse Childhood Experiences** and trauma, and domestic abuse as an adult.

At the time of writing the Baby Aspen review process is still ongoing, but the aim would be to assess all potentially significant factors within the family leading up to the incident to assess what support was available, and whether the system supported early identification and intervention.

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Child Exploitation Subgroup

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). In 2024-25 the Exploitation Subgroup was chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector from Serious Investigations Unit, Sussex Police 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 2023-26 providing rich evaluation of progress made and challenges around Priority 2.

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

- The BHSCP has a comprehensive understanding of the local Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) picture and uses this to inform operational activity and aid disruption work.
- Repeat victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) problem profile is nearing completion, a 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.

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

- VERAP in place and reviewed at quarterly Exploitation Subgroup meetings.
- The Subgroup has received updates on VERAP at each quarterly meeting and reviewed versions for next financial year presented to the group for feedback.
- In the year ending March 2025, **Serious Violent Crime (Public Place and Non-Domestic) in Brighton & Hove had decreased by 22%** (or 150 fewer occurrences) **compared to the baseline year (2019)**. Compared to the previous 12 months (2023-24), there has been a 1% reduction (or 4 fewer occurrences).
- Proceeding the subgroup workshop in June 2024, the Community Safety Team and Sussex Police Exploitation Team reviewed the VERAP to ensure actions were aligned with business plan priorities.

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.

- **No. of referrals: 53**
- **No. of positive Reasonable Grounds (RG) decisions: 19 (no negative RG decisions made)**
- **No. of positive Conclusive Grounds (CG) decisions: 12**
- **No. of negative CG decisions: 7**
- **No. of joint positive RG&CG decisions: 31**
- **All "reasonable grounds" (RG) decisions reached within prescribed 45-day target.**
- The panel pilot is continuing into 2025-26. At present there has been no indication from the Home Office as to whether it will come to an end or become a statutory requirement.

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

- Strategic Oversight & Partnerships – BHSCP ensures effective interventions through membership in key partnerships and boards addressing exploitation, serious violence, and safeguarding.
- Targeted Strategies – Community Safety Partnership Board oversees serious violence and exploitation within the Community Safety Strategy, while the Combatting Drugs Partnership drives a 10-year strategy to disrupt drug supply, linking to exploitation and violence.
- Safeguarding & Data-Driven Approaches – Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Anti-Slavery Network focus on modern slavery and cuckooing, while the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) monitors serious violence across the city, using Sussex-wide data for informed action.

2.1 (v) Consideration of Transitions work in Brighton & Hove

- 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 Director of H&ASC) with representation from Safer Communities and Head of Safeguarding & Performance (Children's Social Care).
- **Transitions strategy is due to be published in late 2025** and work is underway on a Transitional Safeguarding process. The SAB, NHS and Community Safety Team are planning a learning event to embed the process, once in place.

2.2 (iii) Quality Assurance

- BHSCP Performance Dashboard has been created to allow monitoring of progress across this Subgroup area. Data contained in this dashboard is under regular review to ensure it gives practitioners actionable insights. **Priority 2 Dashboard presented to Exploitation Subgroup as a standing agenda item from September 2024.**

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.
 - Our partner **Trust for Developing Communities worked with focus group of four young people trained as researchers to engage with local "specified authorities" to assess their current use of community engagement/youth voice in their approach to serious violence.** This will culminate in a learning event for agency community engagement leads in early 2025-26.

Potential barriers, response actions, coordination with other Subgroups:

Barrier	Response Action and coordination with other subgroups
The Exploitation Workshop held in June 2024 highlighted areas for growth in how the group operates. It was felt that there was too great a focus on agency updates and need for more collaborative input from attendees.	Agenda Planning: To give fuller discussion on what each meeting should include. Inclusion of Priority 2 Data Dashboard presented by Quality Assurance Independent Scrutineer to drive discussion and workstreams.
Subgroup lacking defined purpose and activity.	As above plus introduction of thematic agenda setting.
Inclusion of data: In previous years, the Data Dashboard was not shared in the Exploitation Subgroup.	Data Dashboard discussion introduced as a standing agenda item; meeting now attended by Quality Assurance Independent Scrutineer.
Workforce development need identified.	Cuckooing training delivered in partnership by Community Safety Team and Sussex Police to HASC, Housing and NHS staff. Modern Slavery/National Referral Mechanism training delivered to operational managers in HASC & frontline staff in Housing Options. Exploitation Team (Sussex Police) supporting BHSCP Learning & Development Officer with new criminal exploitation training. Following the highlighted need to understand the level of risk held within youthwork services , money from the Violence Reduction Programme Coordination & Development budget was allocated to a Safeguarding Audit which was published in early 2024-25.
Stability – Subgroup Chair has changed several times due to personnel changes within key agencies.	Currently being monitored.



Introducing the new Education Safeguarding Subgroup

The **Education Safeguarding Subgroup** is a new subgroup **introduced in January 2025** under the new [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#).

The group has several functions and tasks delegated to it which will continue to evolve as we move through 2025-26. In summary, the Education Safeguarding Subgroup will coordinate the following inter-related activity:

- **Promote the engagement of education safeguarding partners in the partnership functions** contributing to the Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive, the Partnership Group and local Subgroup activity as required by statutory guidance.
- The Subgroup will escalate strategic and operational issues to the Partnership Chair/Partnership Group and to the Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive, as necessary.
- To discuss and share learning from local and national reviews and audit activity with the aim to **cascade this throughout education networks, forums, and professional teams**.
- To **promote safeguarding awareness campaigns** targeted at children and families, nurseries and early years providers, schools and colleges
- To promote the introduction of Family Help: The Right Support at the Right Time.



Context: Education & childcare settings have prolonged and daily contact with children and their families. As a result, they are uniquely placed to identify concerns, and to support early intervention with partners agencies. [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#) highlights the responsibility held by Partnerships to fully engage with all agencies with safeguarding responsibilities for local children.

Progress in 2024-25:

- 1) Representatives from Brighton & Hove Headteacher forums were invited to attend the BHSCP Partnership Group in December 2024. It was agreed that representatives would like to explore a Subgroup model with an extended group of representatives from across the education economy to include early years, post 16, and alternative provision sectors.
- 2) A meeting was convened with the DfE National Safeguarding Partners Facilitator for Education in March 2025 to discuss options – attended by proposed Subgroup membership.
- 3) Representatives agreed to commit to the subgroup model, terms of reference were discussed and co-produced.
- 4) Quarterly meetings agreed, subgroup representatives to attend Partnership Group, and partnership subgroups as relevant.
- 5) The first Education Safeguarding Subgroup meeting was convened in April 2025.

Given the Education Safeguarding Subgroup's infancy as a standing subgroup, it will be formally evaluated as part of the planned review of the MASA 2024 towards the end of 2025 and will feature more prominently in the BHSCP Annual Report 2025-26.

Learning, Improvement, Evaluation and Evidence, Assurance, and Impact – Quality Assurance

The introduction of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in September 2024 saw the introduction of the **Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup** (formerly know as the Monitoring and Evaluation Subgroup). As a key partnership subgroup, the QA Subgroup commits to 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 QA through audit, data analysis, assurance requests and additional information requests (AIR) providing aggregated scrutiny to BHSCP.**

Audit Activity

During the reporting period the **Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup completed all planned multi-agency audits, and these have demonstrated engagement and analytical capacity across statutory and relevant partners.** This year the chosen themes were Children with Non-Accidental Injuries (Q1/Q2) and Domestic Abuse using JTAI Criteria (Q3/Q4). The report for children with Repeat Missing Episodes completed in Q4 2023-24 was also presented. Across the audit activity most multi-agency practice was graded good, and no practice was graded inadequate.

Strengths of multi-agency practice included:

- a) **Good quality referrals** where, **concerns, strengths, the impact on the child, and action** the referrer had already taken **were clearly set out**
- b) Parents being consistently informed, engaged, and updated in all cases
- c) **Child's voice was heard**, or the child was observed and their **lived experience mentalised**
- d) **Consistent information sharing** and communication
- e) **Multi-agency reflective practice groups**
- f) Adolescent Services and the Police Missing Team **collaboration**
- g) Operation Moonlight
- h) MAMHET following Operation Warren which won a Health Service Journal award.

This demonstrates the impact of learning from reviews and multi-agency audits on practice.

The **Assurance Request process is now embedded**, and this has **given clarity on the learning that needs to be actioned** by agencies and enabled partners to **identify where issues are/are not reflective of wider practice** across their organisation, **the actions they will undertake to address issues, the expected improvement and how they will evidence that improvement is delivered and embedded.** The BHSCP Quality Assurance Framework was reviewed in October 2024 and is available on the BHSCP website - [Quality Assurance Framework 2024](#)

Data Dashboard

The BHSCP has a clearly defined set of key performance indicators that are owned by partners linked directly to the priorities. Partners reflect on the information and develop challenge questions that support the partnership to have an established culture of continuous learning and improvement. **Data is being used to encourage learning and drive improvements within BHSCP through reflection and challenge in the Quality Assurance Subgroup but also in other subgroups and the Partnership Group meetings.**

Forward Planning for 2025-26: Data Strategy to ensure strategic alignment with BHSCP objectives enhancing early intervention, reducing neglect and exploitation, and strengthening mental health services and addressing structural inequalities by ensuring reliable data informs policy and practice developments.

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

- The BHSCP Dashboard is presented at each Exploitation Subgroup by the Quality Assurance Subgroup Independent Chair and Scrutineer; this is **supporting multi-agency dialogue** within the Exploitation Subgroup as well as **between subgroups and stimulating action to address the challenges highlighted by the indicators** including -
 - 385 violence with injury offences where the victim was aged 0-17 years during the year ending 31/03/2025. 497 violence without injury offences were reported for the same age group. This data is based on geographical location of the crime. The QA Subgroup has requested that future data is provided based on home address.
 - 22 rape offences where the victim is aged 0-17 and the offender is over 18 were reported in 2024-25. 67 other sexual offences were reported for the same demographics in the same period.
- **The concerning data above has been identified as an area for improvement and continues to be discussed in the QA and Exploitation Subgroups, and with Delegated Safeguarding Partners and Partnership Group.**

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 2024-25 with 98-100% of plans good quality (up from 93% - 96% in 2023-24) . Most (90.6%) of Strengthening Families Assessments completed during the year ending 31 Dec 2024 were completed within 45 working days (up from 84.8% during the year ending 31 Dec 2023) , above the 2023-24 national average of 84.5%.

- **Dental caries was identified by the Subgroup as a concern through the Data Dashboard discussions.**
- Data shared in the March 2025 meeting indicated that in 2023-24 hospital admission for dental caries in 0–5-year-olds was (276.4 per 100,000) compared with the England average of 178.8.
- Representatives from Public Health commissioned services attended the March 2024 meeting to discuss what universal work is currently in place including free oral care programmes to healthcare professionals, **visits to early years settings to provide oral care advice, class talks and assemblies with key stage 1 children, training to care givers including 1:1 sessions, and drop-in sessions at Family Hubs and schools.**

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

- Multi-Agency Mental Health Education Triage (MAMHET) has a direct link to the partnership priority of Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing and is a key aspect of local suicide prevention strategy and action plan. Whilst the strengths e) – h) on the previous page all have a direct link to the partnership's priority to safeguard children from violence and exploitation and the business plan objective to target intervention where young people are deemed to be at risk of extra familial harm.
- Inclusion of **Safe and Well at School Survey data** in QA Subgroup **discussions include the child's voice and give vital context to what concerns our children and young people.**
- 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.

Potential barriers, response actions, coordination the QA Subgroup and the other Subgroups:

- The partnership indicators for Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing are still evolving. They need to have a direct relationship to key safeguarding challenges such as waiting times for specialist services.
- The partnership indicators for child exploitation are not supported by benchmarking data, this limits the understanding of the issues in comparison to other areas.
- Partners capacity to respond to Additional Information Requests relating to the Data Dashboard indicators is limited this means that the Partnership is not fully maximising the intelligence that sits behind the indicator for example demographic and spatial information.
- **Risks, issues and challenges highlighted by multi-agency audits**, via the BHSCP Data Dashboard, or through Assurance Requests **are raised as alerts** by the Independent Chair of the Quality Assurance (QA) Subgroup to the Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- The BHSCP Data Dashboard is presented at each Exploitation Subgroup and Partnership Group meeting; this is **supporting dialogue between groups and stimulating action** to address the challenges highlighted by the indicators.
- The **Exploitation Audit and Workshop in June 2024 provided a good opportunity to coordinate with other subgroups**, this is a process the QA Subgroup are keen to continue.

Identified areas of improvement for BHSCP and the QA Subgroup in 2024-25

- Maximising opportunities for earlier intervention and identification of risks.
- Quality of Return Home Interviews (RHI).
- Dental caries rates.
- The inclusion of the child's voice.
- Accessibility of services particularly to support mental health and emotional well-being.
- To reduce sexual harm experienced by young people.



DadPad® Update – BHSCP continued to promote the DadPad App in Brighton & Hove throughout 2024-25 with a further 369 downloads in the final months of 2024 (438 downloads were reported in last year's Annual Report for Jan-June 2024, Q4 data was unavailable at time of writing). Pages viewed varied across the year but the most popular included – The Human Baby: What's it all about?, When the crying won't stop, Holding and handling your baby, Why your baby cries, How babies like to be held, Safer sleeping, Caring for a crying baby, and Surviving without sleep.

We are due to launch an updated App around September 2025 and hope to have a full CoParentPad App available around the same time to add to the hardcopy versions currently available.

[DadPad | The Essential Guide for New Dads | Support Guide for New Dads \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](https://thedadpad.co.uk)
[Co-ParentPad Launch | Support for new parents \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](https://thedadpad.co.uk)



Evaluation & Assurance - Inspection of Brighton & Hove Local Authority Children's Services

Brighton & Hove's Inspection of **Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)** was published on 16 May 2024, with an overall rating of **'Outstanding'** improving on the 2018 rating of Good.

The ILACS focuses on the effectiveness of a council's services across 4 main areas:

- the impact of leaders on social work practice
- the experience and progress of children who need help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care
- the experiences and progress of care leavers

Brighton & Hove City Council received **'Outstanding'** sub judgements for their work with children in care; care leavers; and for the impact of leadership and management. The sub judgement for children in need of help and protection improved to **'Good'**. The inspection report can be read on the [Ofsted website](#)

On publication of the Ofsted Inspection Report Delegated Safeguarding Partner Deb Austin wrote to BHSCP agencies advising that **partnership working** and **the partnership itself was highlighted as a strength** during the inspection which was reflected in the outcome letter as below:



The report concluded with a wonderful summary: **'The quality of work is strong throughout children's social care services** and is **making a positive difference to the progress and experiences of children and families in Brighton & Hove**. This new judgement means that **Brighton & Hove now has the highest rating across 3 key areas of Children's Services:**

- Children's Social Care Services
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision
- Youth Justice Service

Working with our Sussex Partners: Section 11 2024-26

The **Section 11 Audit** serves as a vital mechanism for safeguarding partners in Brighton and Hove, ensuring that statutory duties are fulfilled and that the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA) is rigorously assessed. The audit encourages agencies to be reflective and honest about their safeguarding practices to identify areas for improvement.

For the 2024-26 cycle of Section 11 the BHSCP commissioned the Independent Scrutineer from our Quality Assurance Subgroup with Partnerships in West and East Sussex to complete the audit process with agencies delivering services pan Sussex. Brighton and Hove agencies completed the same audit tool but will be assessed separately in 2025-26 and findings and recommendations will be discussed in more detail in next years' annual report.

The audit methodology used for pan Sussex agencies included the provision of Challenge Logs and Challenge Conversations for agencies, which facilitated a thorough review of safeguarding standards. The process involved gathering agency comments, documentary evidence, and triangulating information with survey responses from managers and staff.

Assurance of Embedding Section 11 Standards

The scrutiny of the Section 11 returns revealed a **medium level of assurance** regarding the delivery of statutory duties, with a **high level of assurance** observed in areas such as senior management commitment, clear statement of responsibilities, accountability for safeguarding work, and effective recruitment and allegation management practices. However, there were **identified areas needing improvement identified, particularly in integrating the perspectives of children and families into frontline practices**.

Analysis of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Effectiveness

The final Section 11 Report emphasised the need for agencies to create learning cultures and safe environments for challenge. It identifies that while many agencies have made progress in embedding child protection standards, there are still challenges in understanding the impact of decisions on children and families. The report also showcased a wide range of positive practices.

Recommendations

Opportunities for Improvement in the Section 11 Process

- Streamline Reporting Mechanisms: Reduce administrative burdens for agencies by simplifying reporting processes.
- Enhance Inclusivity: Adapt the Section 11 audit tool to accommodate diverse agency contexts, ensuring all voices are heard.
- Review Documentary Evidence Requirements: Evaluate the necessity of documentary evidence during audits to make the process more efficient.

Opportunities to Deliver System Improvements Across Agencies

- Peer Support: Foster peer support networks to encourage collaboration and mutual learning.
- Thematic Sharing of Positive Practices: Regularly share thematic insights and positive practices across agencies to promote continuous improvement.
- Codify Challenge into Existing Processes: Integrate mechanisms for constructive challenge into existing processes to ensure ongoing scrutiny and enhancement.
- Regular Surveys: Conduct surveys with managers and practitioners at regular intervals to gather feedback and measure progress.
- Develop Solutions Collaboratively: Engage managers and practitioners in the development of solutions, ensuring that changes are practical and cost-effective.



Recommended Focus for Improvement

1. Supervision

- Implement regular, structured supervision and reflective practices for staff.

2. Child's Voice

- Include children's perspectives in service development and strategic decisions.
- Codify and frame the child's voice to minimise unconscious bias and enhance impact.

3. Digital and Information Sharing

- Enhance data management and inter-agency collaboration capabilities.
- Visualise existing data to assess risks better.
- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration and information sharing.

Conclusion

The **Section 11 Audit 2024-26** has provided valuable insights into the safeguarding landscape across Sussex.

Overall, there is a:

- ✓ **Medium level of assurance** for the delivery of statutory duties
- ✓ **High level of assurance** for the capacity to critically evaluate strengths and areas for improvement.

Delivery of the recommended focus for improvement would increase the levels of assurance for three of the standards. This would increase the number of standards with a high level of assurance from four to seven out of nine. Based on the Section 11 scrutiny, **increasing the focus on impact for children, embedding positive practices for supervision and improving information sharing and inter-agency collaboration would also have the most significant impact across a range of priority areas in audit Standard 9**, such as neglect, domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

BHSCP would like to thank the Independent Scrutineer, all the agencies who committed to the Section 11 Audit process locally and across Sussex, and colleagues in the ESSCP Business Team who supported this work as their lead area under the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2024. Information about the Section 11 Audits can be found on the BHSCP website - [BHSCP Policies and Procedures - Section 11](#)



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

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 [Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures Resource](#)

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

- Contextual Safeguarding of Children and Young People
- Pan Sussex Complaints Procedure
- Pan Sussex Escalation Procedure

Over 50 policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure they remain current and effective for practitioners across the multi-agency safeguarding partnerships.

In depth reviews took place in relation to -

- Parents or carers who have a learning disability
- Parenting capacity and mental health difficulties
- Understanding sexual behaviour in children
- Working with children and families who move across safeguarding children partnership boundaries
- Unexplained injuries to children
- Safeguarding children who arrive from abroad (including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, victims of modern slavery, trafficking and exploitation)

The group removed the Criminal Compensation standalone policy and added relevant information into the Looked After Children (Children in Care) policy.

Evidence on barriers or risks to achieving subgroup activities -

- Quarterly schedule can cause delays in completing actions, impacting the timely publication of policies. Attendance and engagement can be a challenge.
- The group spent a year preparing for the introduction of the **new website provider** to take over advise, support, and hosting services, ensuring anticipated risks were mitigated – initial feedback on the new platform is positive.
- We currently benefit from a jointly funded position. Recruitment for this role would be particularly challenging if it were to become vacant, as the success of our initiatives heavily relies on this post.
- The group produces a **quarterly briefing for all practitioners**, summarising changes and new policies. While some practitioners respond to these briefings and limited analytics show visit statistics, assessing the actual impact on safeguarding practice remains challenging.

Actions in response to barriers or risks -

- Reminders about attendance and nominating suitable representatives have been necessary due to busy workloads across the partnerships.
- The group undertook research into an alternative website provider and developed an options paper – this included external and in-house options.
- We are currently unable to gather qualitative insights from practitioners on the impact policies and procedures but plan a user survey at 6 months.





Coordination of work between Pan Sussex Policies & Procedures (PSP&P) and other Subgroups –

A structured and regularly updated workplan underpins the Pan Sussex Policy & Procedures activities. This plan outlines all policies and procedures alongside their scheduled review dates, providing a **clear framework for accountability**. Members are encouraged to propose agenda items or **initiate policy reviews** in response to local issues, audit findings, and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Most of these requests are **initiated by local Child Protection Liaison Groups/Child Safeguarding Liaison Groups, Case Review Groups, or Pan Sussex Learning and Development Subgroup, reinforcing the PSP&P Group's alignment with frontline operational needs** and regional safeguarding priorities.

The Group also maintains active engagement with other pan-Sussex committees, networks, and forums to ensure consistency and collaboration across the safeguarding landscape. For example, it routinely works with the Harmful Practices Working Group to co-develop and refine relevant policies, ensuring that they remain responsive to emerging challenges and best practices.

Through these mechanisms, the Group **ensures that safeguarding policy and, by extension practice, are both dynamic and responsive, grounded in frontline perspectives and shaped by multi-agency collaboration.**

Working with our Sussex Partners: Child Death Overview Panel

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 living in Sussex, including those resident in Brighton and Hove. The reviews take place once all other child death processes, including coronial inquests and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPR), have concluded. [CDOP - 7 Minute Briefing](#)

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

The **key learning and actions** arising from child deaths in 2024-25 relate to: information sharing, safeguarding, sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI) and unsafe sleeping, road safety, asthma, and bereavement support. **BHSCP uses CDOP evidence to inform our work** including the development of safety messaging for practitioners and parents detailed on the next page.

More information is available as part of the CDOP Annual Report 2024-25 at: [Pan-Sussex-CDOP-Annual-Report-2024-25](#)



Working with our Sussex Partners: Safety Messaging Campaigns – Responding to Evidence from CDOP

Safer Sleep Campaign: This campaign started in December 2023 because 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** 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 including the importance of keeping baby's room at the right temperature.

BHSCP has committed to continue the promotion of the safer sleep message for professionals and parents throughout the year including Christmas.

Safer Sleep courses are available throughout the year for practitioners as a part of the Pan Sussex Learning & Development Programme.

We have **continued to develop this pan Sussex 'light touch' safety messaging strategy** to include guidance posters and social media posts relating to –

- **Sea/water safety in the winter months** – with messages about the dangers associated with frozen bodies of water, staying together when near the sea especially at high tide or during periods of rough water, and the dangers of 'playing chicken' and 'tombstoning'.
- **Beach safety during the summer months** including swimming in the sea, using inflatables, and respecting the water.
- The most recent campaign focused on **safer bathtimes** with reminders of the risks of drowning, scalds and poisoning.
- Briefings available from the BHSCP website under **BHSCP - Parents, Carers and the Community**. Safety messaging is also included on the new Children and Young People website pages.

Every Sleep Must be a Safer Sleep

Bathtime Safety Reminder for Parents and Care-givers

#EveryBathtimeMustBeSafe

STOP and THINK! Keep Your Baby Safer

STOP and THINK! Keep your baby safer

Forward Planning – 2025-26

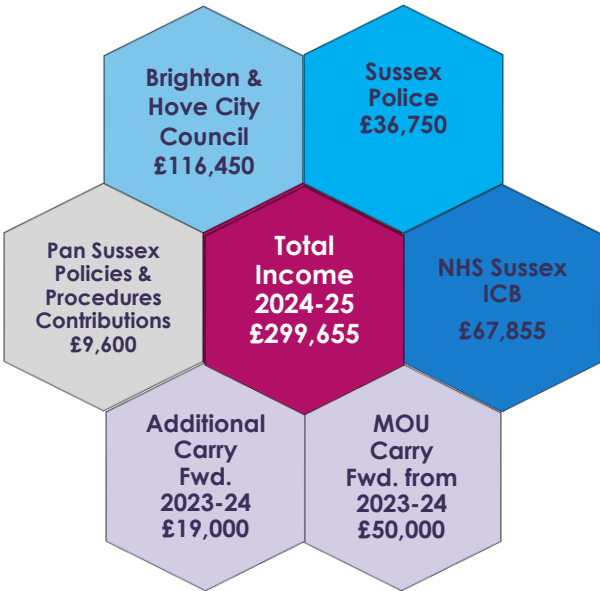
The table below provides a summary of key projects and workstreams planned for 2025-26.

Project	Rationale/Progress	Timeframe
Evaluation and review of Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) 2024	Pan Sussex discussions ongoing, evaluation of local and Sussex arrangements to include evaluation of Learning & Development commissioning and delivery across the three Sussex partnerships.	From December 2025-April 2026
Review of BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26	Business Team to liaise with Education Safeguarding Subgroup and Subgroup Chairs to review existing plan to ensure alignment with MASA 2024 and future MASA.	From July 2025
Introduction of Education Safeguarding Subgroup	Membership to include senior leaders from all parts of education economy to ensure representation and engagement in all BHSCP functions. Planning and discussion took place Sept 2024-March 2025, meetings held in April & July 2025. Addendum-Engagement-of-Education-Partners-in-BHSCP-March-2025	From April 2025
Launch of new DadPad App and CoParentPad App in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex	New DadPad App will include new interactive functions for local Dads and Dads-to-be. CoParentPad currently only available offline.	Summer 2025
Transformation: Families First Partnership Programme / Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams / Family Hubs Transformation	Families First Partnership Programme - Newsletters Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK	From April 2025
Inspection readiness	Agency Leads will continue to meet monthly to ensure inspection readiness i.e. for JTAI (Joint Targeted Area Inspection)	Ongoing throughout 2025-26
Young Scrutineer recruitment	To strengthen existing scrutiny arrangements and increase the voice of the child in BHSCP functions.	From Sept 2025
Family Hubs Service – P/T Youth Worker in collaboration with the Hangleton & Knoll Project	Employed to work with young people (YP) aged 11-19 whose families are currently engaging with Key work in Family Hubs, but the young person (YP) is not accessing any other services. YP with low or no school attendance, need support with mental health and wellbeing, socially isolated, or at risk of school exclusion. The Youth worker will engage assertively supporting keyworkers by introducing the YP to other services within the community	The pilot will run for one year from April 2025 and is for families living in the West of the city.
Safeguarding Month 2025	BHSCP to collaborate with Sussex partnerships and NHS Sussex Safeguarding Team to deliver a month of bespoke training including Serious Youth Violence/Knife Crime conference.	November 2025
BHSCP website redesign	To improve accessibility by introducing Children & Young People (CYP) pages, and an improved Parent, Carers and Community pages. Young Scrutineers will be instrumental in the development of the 'look and feel' of the website's CYP pages.	Launch Sept/Oct 2025
Response to CSA – 'I wanted them all to notice' Report Recommendations	Working with pan Sussex colleagues to develop local and pan Sussex responses to the national child sexual abuse (Intrafamilial CSA) report – including learning events, audits, task & finish groups as required.	From April 2025

Financial Report 2024-25

Expenditure: Headlines	Amount
Staffing	129,794.48
Independent Scrutiny	10,138.24
Pan Sussex Section 11 Contribution	2,000.00
Training Costs	14,616.06
Recovered Training Costs	-10,658.00
Safeguarding Fortnight 2024 including Hidden Harm Conference, Anti-Racist Practice Event, and Allyship Conference	15,220.50
IT/Websites/Equipment/Telephony	1,366.60
Website Costs including commissioning of new Pan Sussex Policies & Procedures site and development of RS @ RT Interactive Framework	7,105.72
Payments to Other Bodies	1,236.00
LCSPR Reviewers	11,484.00
Contribution to LA Performance Analyst	20,592.00
Reimbursement to Partners for 2023-24	18,759.40
Expenditure	£221,655.00
MOU C/F to 2025-26 (not included in total income)	50,000.00
Reimbursed to Lead Safeguarding Partner Agencies (pro rata based on contribution %)	28,000
Total Expenditure	£299,655.00

BHSCP Income 2024-25



Department for Education MASA Grant - £47,300

Development of Young Scrutineer Programme in collaboration with WSSCP & ESSCP and Education Safeguarding Subgroup.	Redesign and development of website to include children & young people’s pages and enhanced parent/carer/community pages. To include enhanced comms strategy development to ensure meaningful circulation.
Commissioning of Independent Scrutineer to undertake Pan Sussex Exploitation Scrutiny.	Commissioning of Independent Scrutineer for Pan Sussex & local Section 11 Scrutiny and Challenge/Reflection events.
Commissioning of Independent Scrutineer for Pan Sussex and local evaluation of MASA 2024 and Learning & Development programme.	Resources to support children & young people in custody.

Summary of BHSCP Annual Report 2024-25 & Acknowledgements

This report summarises the work of the BHSCP over the last 12 months including the introduction of the new arrangements, how the subgroups responded to these, the role of multi-agency partners, how we collaborate with our local and pan Sussex partners and forums, and our progress against our Business Plan priorities.

Our report shows how we come together as agencies and community sector organisations to deliver the best possible safeguarding services locally, provide comprehensive oversight and scrutiny; and our commitment to being a learning partnership through training, reflection, challenge and evaluation. The report discusses the new arrangements published in September 2024 which provided an opportunity to strengthen links across Sussex, to evaluate, to innovate, and to share best practice. The planned evaluation of these arrangements in 2025-26 will provide further opportunity to assess their impact on safeguarding children.

The report also mentions our strategic plans for 2025-26 which include the embedding of key partners from the education sector as our fourth partner to ensure representation and engagement in all BHSCP functions, reviewing our business plan priorities to ensure alignment with the new MASA and strengthening our aggregated approach to scrutiny and our exciting plans to include young scrutineers in this approach.

Thank you for reading our Annual Report 2024-25.

Sarah Smart
BHSCP Partnership Business Manager

Acknowledgements



Delegated Safeguarding Leads
Independent Scrutineer & Lay Members
Subgroup Chairs, Data Analyst & Policies &
Procedures Lead
Partnership Business Manager
Partnership Coordinator
Learning & Development Officer
Agency Leads

Picture Credits

Deb Austin, Naomi Ellis and Chief Supt Richard McDonagh
Rachel Egan, Phil Worsfold, Vera Jakimovska and Jo Yule
Rachel Egan, Justin Grantham, Jenny Whyte, DCI Neil Phillips, Dr Jamie Carter, Daryl Perelli,
and Mia Brydon
Sarah Smart
Nicky Packham
Astrella Chapman
Tom Bennett, David Kemp, Jo Templeman, Helen Cowling, Jo Gough, Holly Baker, Stevie
Graves, Michael Brown, Abigail Taylor, Sarah Colombo, Jayne Grier, Lindsey Dearnley, Rachel
Strudwick, Sam Tyler, Laura Litchfield, Adam Muirhead, Catherine Coppard & Emma
Robson, Sam Wilson, Richard Barker.
VisitBrighton & Brighton & Hove City Council where applicable

References –

[Home – BHSCP](#)
[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
[BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26](#)
[RISE Five-year Strategic Aims 2024 to 2029 | RISE \(riseuk.org.uk\)](#)
[Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#)
[Addendum-Engagement-of-Education-Partners-in-BHSCP-March-2025](#)
[Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meeting \(AVRM\)](#)
[Pan-Sussex-SCP-Tier-1-Information-Sharing-Agreement-Nov 2024](#)
[Charlie's Promise | Working to prevent knife crime](#)
[Young Adults Under 25 Years - Oasis Project](#)
[Domestic Abuse Support | Domestic Abuse Refuges & Support at Stonewater | Stonewater](#)
[AudioActive](#)
IMPACT INITIATIVES
[Joint National Protocol for Transitions in England](#)
[Youth - TDC](#)
[Hospital Youth Work - TDC](#)
[Pelican Parcels](#)
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/pub-007366> (SPFT resource)
[Operation Encompass | Sussex Police](#)
[One year on: Reflections since the 2024 Racist Riots - Race Equality Foundation](#)
[Neglect Strategy - June 2025](#)
[Brighton & Hove's Neglect Forum](#)
[Policies and Procedures – How we make decisions](#)
[Brighton-Hove-Family-Help-The-Right-Support-at-the-Right-Time-2024](#)
[The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#)
[BHSCP Quality Assurance Framework 2024](#)
[DadPad | The Essential Guide for New Dads | Support Guide for New Dads \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](#)
[Co-ParentPad Launch | Support for new parents \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](#)
[Ofsted website](#)
[BHSCP Policies and Procedures - Section 11](#)
[Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures Resource](#)
[CDOP - 7 Minute Briefing](#)
[Pan-Sussex-CDOP-Annual-Report-2024-25](#)
[BHSCP - Parents, Carers and the Community](#)
[Families First Partnership Programme - Newsletters](#)
[Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK](#)

Partner Agency Website Locations –

[BHSCP - Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
[BHSCP - Learning & Development](#)
[BHCC - Children's services](#)
[Sussex Health & Care and NHS Sussex](#)
[Sussex Police](#)
[Community Safety Partnership](#)
[Family Hubs and what they offer](#)
[Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust - SCFT - Safeguarding](#)
[Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)
[SouthEast Coast Ambulance Service | NHS](#)
[Brighton and Hove: Brighton Probation Office - GOV.UK](#)
[Oasis Project - We give hope to people affected by drugs & alcohol.](#)
[University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust](#)
[B&H Public Health](#)
[B&H Virtual School Homepage](#)
[Youth Employability Service](#)
[East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service](#)
[Impact Initiatives](#)
[Trust for Developing Communities - TDC](#)
[Domestic Abuse & Violence Refuge | Our Refuges & Safe Spaces | Stonewater | Stonewater](#)
[Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation](#)
[YMCA DownsLink Group](#)
[Freedom from domestic abuse | RISE](#)
[Brighton Community Works](#)
[The Lioncare Group – Specialist Services for Children](#)
[The Lioncare School – The Lioncare Group](#)
[Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\)](#)
[ESSCP - East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
[WSSCP - West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Appendices:

Annex A - C – Website link to all multi-agency responses relating to Priorities 2-4 (Business Plan 2023-26) [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)
Annex D – Website link for Partner Profiles (2024-25) [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)
Annex E – Pan Sussex and BHSCP Structures under MASA 2024
Annex F – Website Link to Agency Responses relating to Voice of the Child/Young Person and their Families, and Areas to Celebrate [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)

Annex E: Safeguarding Children Partnership Structures 2025-26

*Published Dec 2024 & April 2025

