

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership

Children & Young People's Annual Report 2024-25

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Introduction:

Welcome to the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) – Children and Young People version. This report has been produced to ensure local children and young people have an accessible version of the full BHSCP Annual Report 2024-25. Our plan is to co-produce future children and young people versions of our annual reports with our Young Scrutineers – more on this later in the report!

Governance: How does the BHSCP work?

Arrangements for keeping children safe are included in a local plan called [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#) this was published in December 2024 after the government updated national guidance called [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#). The named partners in these arrangements are the Local Authority (Brighton and Hove City Council, Children's Services), the police (Sussex Police), and Health (NHS Sussex ICB*). They work with lots of different partners but this year there has been a big change... Education was introduced as a fourth partner!

Education plays one of the most important roles in most children's lives. There are 111 schools and colleges, plus over 100 nurseries Brighton and Hove and it was agreed that one school or education leader couldn't represent all these local education settings. So, we created our Education Safeguarding Subgroup which includes representatives from all education stages including further education. The Education Safeguarding Subgroup was developed from Sept 2024 – March 2025, and they met for the first time as a group in April 2025. The group is still working on how they will link with our other subgroups and workstreams, and how they will help other partners to understand how schools keep children safe. But they are a group of named representative who will help to get safeguarding messages out to all education settings in Brighton and Hove. We will be able to provide a full year update in the Annual Report for 2025-26.

**Integrated Care Board – The organisations responsible for local health services i.e hospitals, GP surgeries.*

Introducing our Delegated Safeguarding Partners:



Deb Austin, Corporate Director,
Families, Children & Wellbeing
Services, BHCC



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



Richard McDonagh, Chief
Superintendent, Public Protection,
Sussex Police

Our Safeguarding Partners 2024-25



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

Before we move on let us explain what we mean when we say 'safeguarding'



Safeguarding, in simple terms, means keeping children safe from harm and making sure they grow up healthy and happy. It's about protecting children from abuse and neglect and ensuring they have the support they need to thrive.













An illustrated guide for children and young people has been written to help explain the [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) government guidance that explains how local agencies must work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. It might be useful to you if you have questions about what help you think you or someone you are worried about should be getting. You can read the illustrated guide by accessing the link below.

[Children & Young Persons Guide to Statutory Guidance - Working Together Guidance](#)

The guide provides a clear overview on how practitioners should work together to help keep you safe. It includes information on different types of abuse, your rights and what to do if you think you are being abused. It also provides information on what to expect if a concern has been reported and where to get help.

The video can be accessed here: [An animated guide to Working Together to Safeguard Children for children and young people](#)

Population Data in Brighton and Hove – March 2025

	46,666	Children and young people aged under 18 living in Brighton and Hove (B&H), mid-2023 population estimate
	30,566	Pupils on the school roll (January 2025 School Census), down from 32,296 in January 2020
	7,834	Free School Meal Pupils (Reception to Year11 - Jan 2025 School Census) – 26.9% of that cohort, up from 17.6% in January 2020 and above the national average of 26% (2025)
	5,492	Pupils receiving Special Educational Need Support in B&H Schools in January 2025. 18% of pupils compared to 14.2% nationally (2025)
	6.7%	16- and 17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training or whose status is not known (December 2024 to February 2025) compared to 5.6% nationally.
	14.3%	Children and young people aged under 16 living in relative low-income families (2024), below the England average of 22.1% .
	6.59%	Suspension rate for all pupils in the 2023-24 academic year, below the national rate of 11.31%
	1,771	Pupils have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) at Jan 2025, 5.8% of pupils compared to 5.3% nationally, (2025)
	574	Electively Home Educated Pupils at March 2025, up from 527 at March 2024.
	22.33%	Percentage of persistent absentees in the 2023-24 academic year, above the 2023-24 national average of 19.95%
	9,831	Pupils identified as other than 'White British' (January 2025 School Census). 32% compared to 38% nationally. (January 2025)
	5,007	Pupils exposed to a language other than English in their home (January 2025). 16.4% of pupils compared to 21.4% nationally. (2025)

Safeguarding Snapshot Data in Brighton and Hove – March 2025



289

Children in Care excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) - 31 March 2025. (Total of **334** including UASC), this is down from **304** - March 2024.



45

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) - 31 March 2025 down from **52** - March 2024, representing **13.5%** of Children in Care



364

Care Leavers aged 17 to 25 who receive our support - 31 March 2025, including **138** care leavers who were previously UASC, up from **354** - March 2024



2,611

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



675

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



42

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



260

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



3,222

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



19,962

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

Our objectives, vision, values, and principles



Our Objectives: To work together with our partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Brighton and Hove, and to plan how children and their families should be supported and protected in Brighton & Hove. You can see all our partners on page 4.

Our vision

Our vision is that children and young people in Brighton & Hove live a life free from fear, harm, abuse and exploitation, enabling every child in every part of the city to achieve their potential.

Our vision is underpinned by our core values:

- **A child centred approach:** for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.
- **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:** for services to be effective each citizen, practitioner and organisation should play their part.
- **Promoting preventative and early help approaches for outcomes to be improved:** there should be timely identification of a problem; the earlier the better to secure maximum impact and greatest long-term sustainability.
- **Always alert to transition points:** for outcomes to be improved known transition points should be planned for in advance.

Our principles

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

BHSCP Business Plan 2023-26

The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) [Business Plan 2023-26](#) sets out how we plan to make our vision a reality.

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

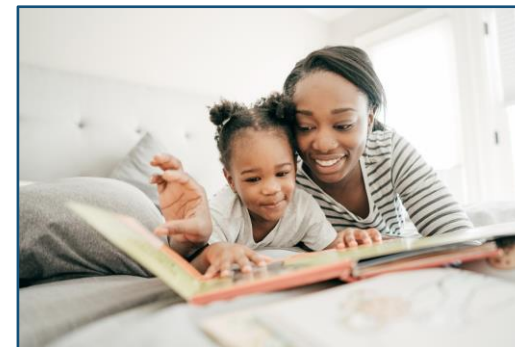
- Learning from local and national Safeguarding Practice Reviews (formally known as Serious Case Reviews).
- Legislation and policy.
- Inspection reports.
- National learning, briefings and research including National Review Panel reports and guidance.
- Local audit findings through monitoring and evaluation.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

Priority 1: Partnership Engagement and Accountability

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

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

Priority 4: Mental Health and Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Lead Agency: NHS Sussex ICB



How do we work together to keep children and young people safe?

When we introduced our new arrangements, we included information about our partners, how they meet to make decisions, our Subgroups and what they do to safeguard children, and how we deliver training to multi-agency practitioners i.e. social workers, nurses, teachers, police officers, and youth workers.

The arrangements also show how we share information between agencies including community and voluntary sector organisations, how we check what we do is effective i.e independent scrutiny and quality assurance, and how we will deal with any issues i.e. when practitioners or agencies don't agree on what is the best action to take. The arrangements also detail how we work with Safeguarding Children Partnerships in East Sussex and West Sussex.

We will review the arrangements at least yearly and will publish an annual report every September to demonstrate what we have been working on as a Safeguarding Children Partnership, where we still need to make improvements, and what we have planned for the next year. Our annual reports can be found on our website: [The BHSCP Business Plan & Annual Reports](#)



Our Independent Scrutineer:

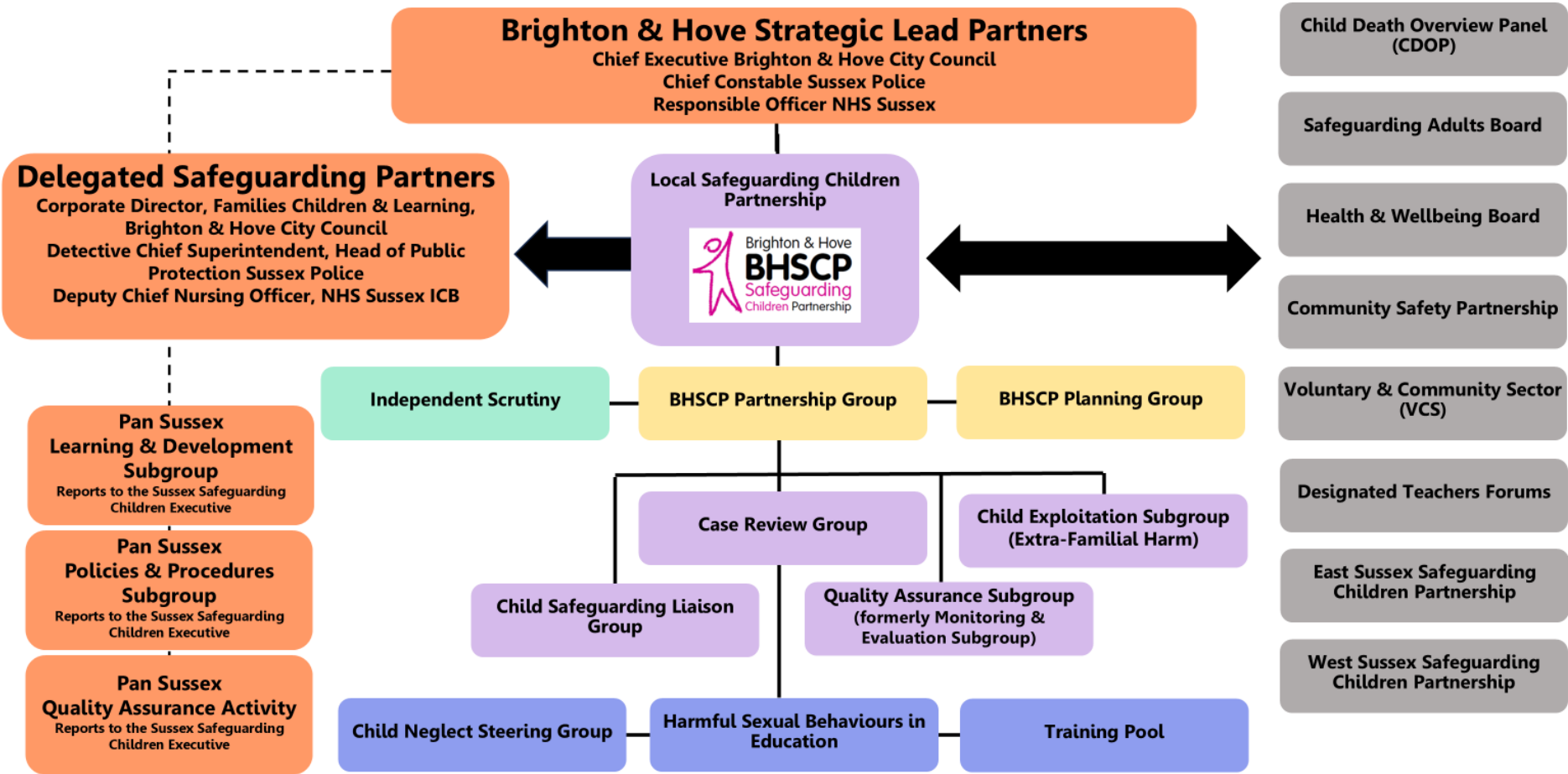
Rachel Egan supports the Delegated Safeguarding Partners (page 3) and the partner agencies (page 4), and works to ensure the culture of openness, reflection, and continuous improvement remains strong. The role of the Independent Scrutineer is also to ensure we continue to build on this foundation to safeguard children and young people across Brighton & Hove.

Rachel is also the Independent Chair of our Quality Assurance Subgroup.

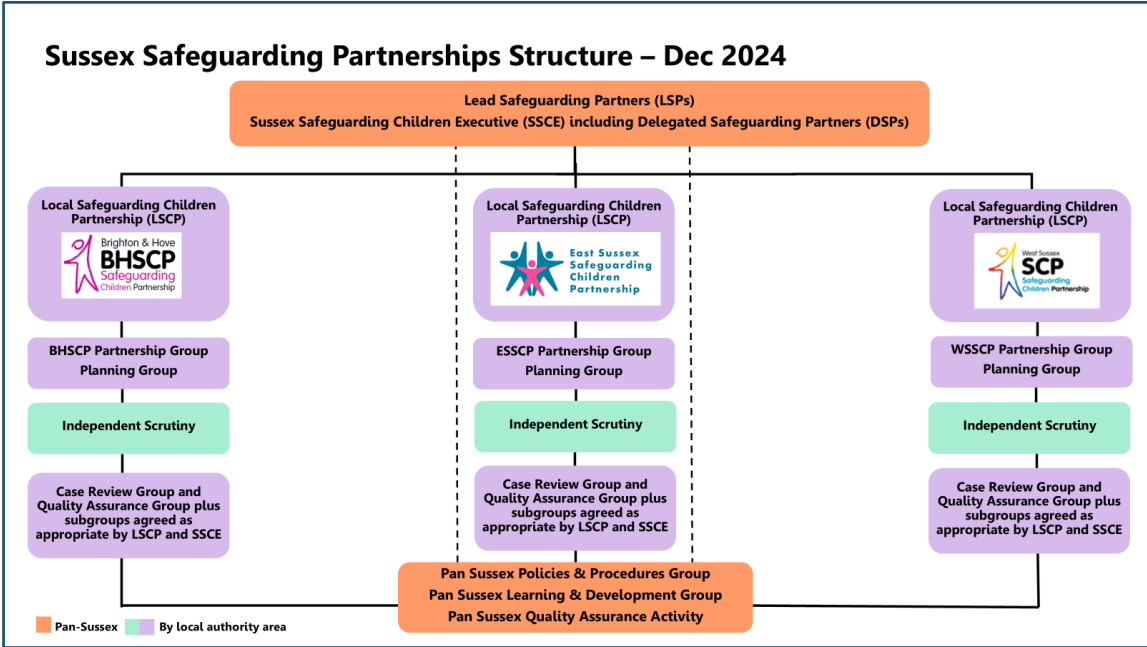
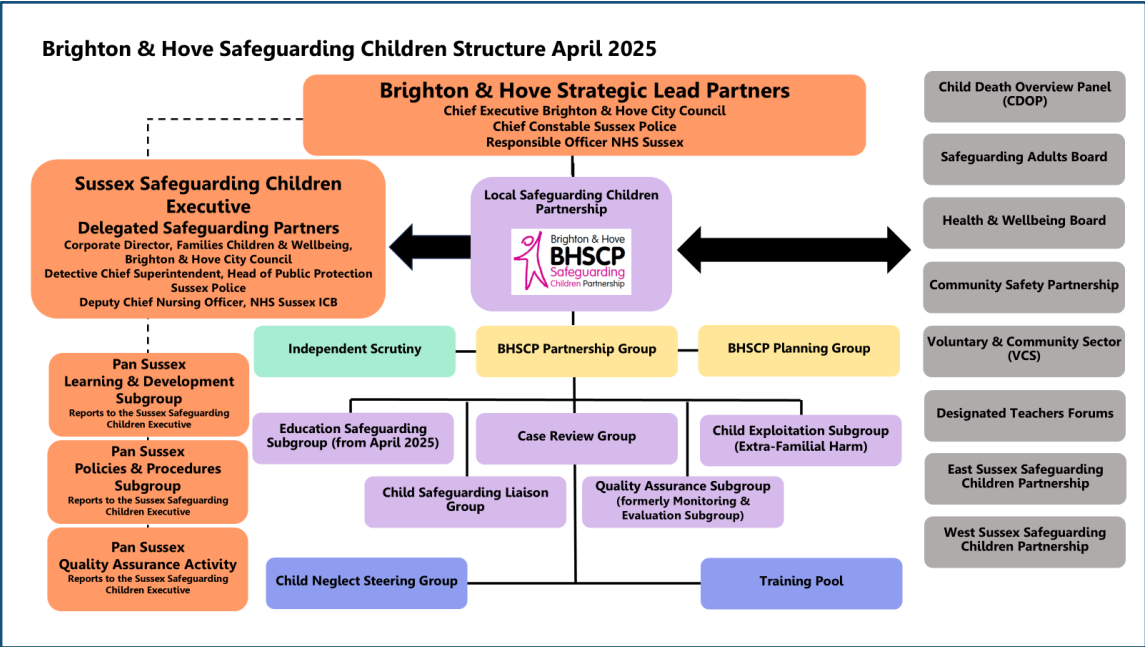


Our structure 2024-25 (Published 02/09/2024)

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Structure



Our Structure from April 2025 and how we link with Partnerships in Sussex



How do we check what we are doing?



Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is to judge the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods. In the early part of 2024-25 the BHSCP was supported by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer and a Quality Assurance Scrutineer who Chaired the Quality Assurance Subgroup, and three dedicated volunteer Lay Members attending some of our Subgroups. From September 2024 our Independent Chair and Scrutineer moved on but our Independent Scrutineer and Quality Assurance Chair and Lay Members have been with us throughout.

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)

Our Independent scrutiny arrangements were reviewed as part of the development of the new [Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements \(MASA\) 2024](#) Independent Scrutiny remains a priority for the Partnership, the named safeguarding partners, and the wider Partners – our scrutiny arrangements will be reviewed and evaluated as part of the overall review and evaluation of the Sussex MASA 2024 later in 2025-26.

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."

Our plans to recruit Young Scrutineers in 2025-26

Future Independent Scrutiny Planning – Young Scrutineers

As we embed our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, we are looking to strengthen our independent scrutiny arrangements and child's voice within the Partnership business by recruiting a at least two 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.

Who are Young Scrutineers and what will they do?

Young Scrutineers are usually aged over 16 up to around 22 years old. Ideally, Young Scrutineers will live in the Brighton and Hove area. Young Scrutineers can enrich a Partnership's approach by providing their views and voices to local safeguarding issues. They strengthen links between Partnerships and local young people, and they provide valuable lived experience.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide a young person's perspective on safeguarding issues and initiatives.
- Assist in co-designing and participating in community events and workshops.
- Help create engaging content for our social media platforms for those working with children.
- Attend some meetings and contribute ideas to improve our services.

When we are ready to recruit our Young Scrutineers, we will advertise full details widely including on social media, and in areas such as youth clubs, schools and colleges. We hope that our next Annual Report will include a Children and Young People version co-produced with our Young Scrutineers.



Our decision-making groups

BHSCP Partnership Group

Partnership Group meetings happen at least twice a year.

The role of the BHSCP Partnership Group is to bring together wider partners from across statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure the strategic direction of the Partnership and the BHSCP Subgroup activity is taken forward and put into practice in all organisations.

The purpose of the Partnership Group:

To provide a space where 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 all levels.
- Learning and improvement is promoted through a reflective approach to bring change.



Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) Planning

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

The purpose of this meeting is:

- 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.

Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive

The Executive 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. The Executive can request assurance from partner agencies, and if required, that resource allocation meets the needs of children and secures effective discharge of their statutory duties.

Our subgroups

Our structure charts show subgroups in Brighton and Hove and some that are pan Sussex, which just means that these groups meet with representatives from Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

Exploitation Subgroup – This Subgroup works in direct partnership with Safer Communities and the Safeguarding Adults Board providing oversight of our work on exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking of children and young people, and of the Violence & Exploitation Reduction Action Plan (VERAP). The focus of this Subgroup is **Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation**.

Case Review Group – One of our key functions 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 (LCSPR) 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 - to deliver improved outcomes for them. The Case Review Group performs this role.

Education Safeguarding Subgroup – [Working together to safeguard children 2023](#) highlights the responsibility held by Partnerships to fully engage with all agencies with safeguarding responsibilities for local children. 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 partner agencies.

Neglect Steering Group – A new steering group from October 2024 – The focus of the group is Business Plan **Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Poverty and Disadvantage**.

Quality Assurance Subgroup – This subgroup performs quality assurance through audits, data analysis, assurance requests and additional information requests.

Child Safeguarding Liaison Group – A forum that meets to review and improve joint working practice of Child Protection processes. This includes analysis of Child Protection enquiries and investigations using case studies. The group challenges practice and, where necessary, bring matters to the attention of relevant managers and agencies on our behalf with the aim of organisational and partnership learning. Case studies always aim to represent the voice of the child.



Our Pan Sussex Subgroups



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

Pan Sussex Learning and Development – Following the introduction of the Sussex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA 2024) our local Learning and Development subgroup was replaced by the Pan Sussex Learning and Development Subgroup from 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 will monitor multi-agency training and demonstrate a learning culture which supports all local safeguarding services to reflect, respond and introduce changes to practice. We are still required to provide high quality, up to date safeguarding training to enable practitioners in Brighton and Hove to keep safeguarding at the centre of their work.



BHSCP Workstreams in 2024-25 – Learning & Development

BHSCP delivered **58 training courses in 2024-25 attended by a total of 846 multi-agency practitioners.**

We also 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 Brighton & Hove City Council and Sussex Police.

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 practitioners 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 Black and Global Majority children and young people, community members, and colleagues but also how they could change racist narratives through Allyship,

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



In November 2024 we delivered our **Safeguarding Fortnight 2024** with colleagues from across Sussex.

A total of **295 practitioners** attended 13 thematic workshops and a conference on Hidden Harm including sessions on Safeguarding Children in Schools, The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Adolescents, Preventing Serious Youth Violence & Knife Crime, Gaming & Gambling Harm Prevention, Harmful Sexual Behaviours in Education, Digital Resilience – Keeping Childre & Young People Safe Online, and Child Neglect.

Feedback from practitioners 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."

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."

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"

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."

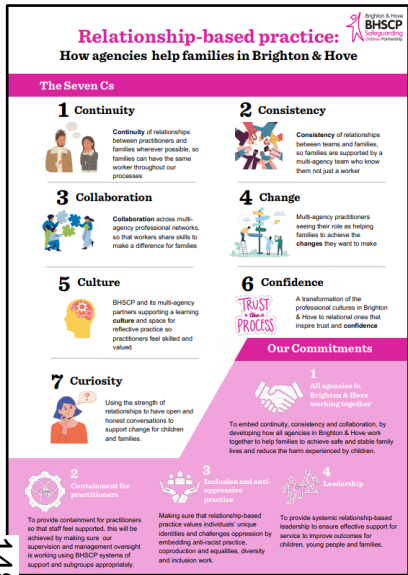
Hidden Harms Conference

"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."

BHSCP Workstreams in 2024-25 – Right Support at the Right Time and our focus on tackling Neglect



Guidance from the government requires us to have a framework to inform assessments and decisions about service delivery in our local area. This framework should include services to support children and young people who have suffered or are likely to suffer abuse, neglect, and exploitation (in the home or outside of the home environment). This is usually called a Threshold document.

In Brighton and Hove, we believe language and approach is important in describing how we deliver services to children – our approach is the deliver services that offer the right support, at the right time, delivered by the right people. 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.

In July 2024, we published the **Brighton & Hove: Family Help – the Right Support at the Right Time (RS @ RT)** documents linking with our Anti-Racist Practice Statement.

As part of this work, we developed the Relationship-based Practice Model of Practice, Community of Practice, Vision of Family Help, our Poverty Aware Practice Statement, and a fully Interactive Framework detailing levels of support, useful information, and links to resources these documents are all available on the BHSCP website.

You can read more about the Right Support at the Right Time on our website here: [BHSCP Policies and Procedures](#) under ‘**How we make Decisions**’ – **Brighton & Hove Family Help: Right Support at the Right Time.**

Introduction of Neglect Steering Group

Our new steering group from October 2024 – The focus of this group is **Business Plan Priority 3: Reducing Neglect, Recognising the Impact of Poverty and Disadvantage.**

The Neglect Steering Group reviewed the Neglect Strategy which was republished in June 2025 (available from the BHSCP website: [Neglect Strategy June 2025](#)).

A new multi-agency **Neglect Forum** was developed from October 2024. The Neglect Forum is led by the Family Hub service and Partners in Change and was launched in April 2025. As part of the Partners in Change initiative work is underway to establish space within the forum for open case discussions.

The Neglect Strategy works together with the existing Brighton & Hove: Family Help – the Right Support at the Right Time (RS @ RT) documents.

BHSCP Workstreams in 2024-25 – Case Review Group – Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Case Review Group were working on two practice reviews in 2024-25.

Child Zeta – Published in June 2025

Priority 2: Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation

Learning themes identified –

- Child criminal exploitation, serious youth violence and contextual safeguarding.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences in Child Zeta’s early life as a refugee from a war-torn country.

Findings –

- 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 the practice review are already known, they are national issues that cannot be solved locally. However, locally, there has been some significant service developments in key areas.
- Challenges in capturing the child’s voice in the review however the Reviewers attempted to capture his voice through family and practitioners who knew him well.
- Issues of identity and racial/cultural were identified.
- Child Zeta wanted things to change in his life, and he wanted the opportunity to leave his exploitation behind him.

Priority 4: Mental Health, Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Findings –

- Child Zeta struggled with 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 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 – Ongoing

Priority 3: Reducing Neglect

Early learning themes identified –

- The Rapid Review process indicated that physical and emotional neglect were factors in Baby Aspen’s daily life.

Priority 4: Mental Health, Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Early learning themes identified –

- One parent was a care leaver.
- Baby Aspen’s parents experienced mental health issues related to adverse childhood experiences and trauma, and domestic abuse as an adult.
- Potential longer-term impact of neglect and abuse.

BHSCP Workstreams in 2024-25 – Safeguarding Messaging Campaigns

Working with West and East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnerships we have developed a Safeguarding Messaging Campaign. Information is circulated to all agencies for sharing with local parents and carers.

In 2024-25 we promoted the following safety messages -

- Focussing on Safer Sleep arrangements at times when families visit extended family or have family stay with them which means usual sleeping arrangements don't always continue – Briefings were circulated in December 2023, summer 2024, and Christmas 2024.
- 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.
- A recent campaign focused on safer bathtimes with reminders of the risks of drowning, scalds and poisoning.
- All Briefings are available from the BHSCP website under [BHSCP - Parents, Carers and the Community](#).

This poster is titled "Bathtime Safety Reminder for Parents and Care-givers" and features logos for Brighton & Hove BHSCP, East Sussex SCP, and West Sussex SCP. It contains safety advice on drowning, burns, and poisoning, followed by the hashtag #EveryBathtimeMustBeSafe and a list of resources. A prominent blue button at the bottom reads "STOP and THINK! Keep your baby safer".

Bathtime Safety Reminder for Parents and Care-givers

Whether you love or loathe bath time, it's important to keep safety in mind as sadly many accidents happen in the bathroom. Babies and young children can drown in very little water. Their delicate skin can burn easily. And they can put harmful things in their mouths.

Drowning – Babies and young children drown in far less water and far more quickly and quietly than you'd assume. Stay with your baby all the time they're in the bath. Keep them in arms reach.

Burns – A baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's, so bath water can cause devastating burns with life-changing scars. Always run cold water before hot and test the temperature with your elbow.

Poisoning – Small children explore by putting things in their mouths. Once your baby starts to move there is no limit to what they can find. Move medicines, cosmetics and cleaning products into a high cupboard out of reach.

#EveryBathtimeMustBeSafe
For more information and safety advice please visit:

[Child Accident Prevention Trust | A safer world for all our children](#)
[Bath time - RoSPA](#)
[Baby & Toddler Safety](#)
[Washing and bathing your baby - NHS](#)

STOP and THINK! Keep your baby safer

Published June 2025 – BHSCP on behalf of Pan Sussex SCs

This poster is titled "Every Sleep Must be a Safer Sleep" and features logos for East Sussex SCP, West Sussex SCP, and Brighton & Hove BHSCP. It provides detailed advice on sleeping environment, temperature, routine, and position. A prominent blue button at the bottom reads "STOP and THINK! Keep Your Baby Safer".

Every Sleep Must be a Safer Sleep

Sleeping Environment – The safest place for your baby to sleep is a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months, even during the day. Keep the sleeping environment clear of toys, cot bumpers, pillows and any products marketed for babies to sleep with. Always seek advice from your Midwife or Health Visitor. Always take your baby out of the car seat when you are not traveling – the position carries potential risk and may inhibit breathing.

Temperature – It is important to make sure that your baby's room is a comfortable temperature – not too hot or too cold. The chance of SUDI* is higher in babies who get too hot. Try to keep the room temperature between 16 - 20°C. Remember to remove hats, blankets coats/snow suits when you move from cold environments to warm heated environments.
*SUDI – Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy

Out of Routine – If you're taking medication, consumed alcohol, taken any substances or away from home don't change your routine, stick to the safe sleep advice. Babies are at greater risk when any of these things have changed from the normal routine.
Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Position – Always put your baby on their back for every sleep, day and night, as the chance of SUDI is particularly high for babies who are sometimes placed on their front or side.

#EverySleepMustBeASaferSleep / For more information and Safer Sleep advice contact – The Lullaby Trust - Safer sleep for babies, Support for families

STOP and THINK! Keep Your Baby Safer

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BHSCP Workstreams in 2024-25 – Multi-Agency Audits and Section 11



Our Quality Assurance Subgroup completed two multi-agency audits in 2024-25 –

1. Non-Accidental Injuries
2. Impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people

Across both audits multi-agency practice was graded good, and no practice was graded inadequate. The audits also identified several areas of practice categorised as strengths including good quality referrals, parents being informed, and consistent information sharing and recording in the child's records.

Audit Learning Briefings were shared with practitioners based on the audit findings. Findings from the Safe and Well at School Survey was also shared with the Quality Assurance Subgroup; key points were discussed including areas of concern for local children and young people.

The group meet every 3 months, as part of the meeting the members evaluate the multi-agency safeguarding data which is presented as a Data Dashboard. Trends, areas of improvement, and areas of concern are discussed by the group members.

Areas of concern identified as areas for improvement in 2024-25 included –

1. Violent offences against a child by a child or an adult including reported sexual violence.
2. Dental caries (decay).
3. Children and young people not receiving access to mental health services.
4. Self-harm rates.
5. Child Sexual Abuse.

The Partners also complete their section 11 audit with West and East Sussex partners and our Independent Scrutineer Rachel Egan.

The audit provided valuable insights into how effective services are, and highlighted lots of strengths and examples of good practice. The audit also identified areas for improvement including – improved supervision for practitioners, including the child's voice in service developments and strategic decisions more, and the need to enhance data management systems to improve collaboration capabilities – currently all agencies use different data management systems.

What’s next? Our plans for 2025-26

Project	Rationale/Progress	Timeframe
Young Scrutineer recruitment	To strengthen existing scrutiny arrangements and increase the voice of the child in BHSCP functions.	From Sept 2025
BHSCP website redesign	Introduce Children and Young People’s pages and improve Parents, Carers and Community pages. Ask Young Scrutineers to review and make suggestions for what else is needed, also link with community and voluntary sector organisation youth groups.	Launch Sept/Oct 2025
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.	From April 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 Keyworker in Family Hubs, but the young person (YP) is not accessing any other services. YP with low or no school attendance, needs 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
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

Where can I find information and support?

Check out our new website page for children and young people, there is lots of information and helpful links to local and national organisations who could help - [BHSCP - Children and Young People](#)

But we've also included some helpful links below, some you may recognise but some may be new to you, and they may also be helpful to the adults in your life too –

NSPCC: [NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

Childline: [Childline | Free counselling service for kids and young people | Childline](#)

YMCA: [Home - YMCA DownsLink Group](#)

Trust for Developing Communities: [Youth - TDC](#)

Family Help Online: Advice and support for families - [Family Help Online](#)

Front Door for Families: If you're concerned about a child or young person - [Front Door for Families](#)

Allsorts: [Allsorts Youth Project](#)  [LGBT+ Youth Support in Sussex](#)

Young Minds: [Mental Health Support For Young People | YoungMinds](#)

The Mix: provide support and guidance on lots of subjects - [The Mix](#)

Worried about staying safe online: [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)

Fearless: [Discover Fearless: Empowering Anonymity for Safer Communities | Crimestoppers](#)

Is This OK? A free, anonymous, and confidential service, bringing trained professionals together to provide support to young people through a chat service - [Is This Ok?](#)

YOUNGMINDS



Trust for
Developing
Communities



Brighton & Hove
BHSCP
Safeguarding
Children Partnership



NSPCC



