

**West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**Business Plan 1st Jan 2020- 31st June 2021**

**Review December 2020**

**Vision**

***An assured safeguarding partnership which collectively engages with children and families enabling them to thrive.***

**Delivering our vision will mean that:**

* Children and young people are safe from harm and able to thrive within their family units.
* Children and young people enjoy a healthy life, including good mental health and emotional wellbeing.
* Families are resilient and feel supported within their communities, via bespoke community led work to meet their needs.
* Our wider networks, including schools and colleges, keep our children and young people safe and helping to support and equip them with the skills they will need for their adult life.
* We will disrupt criminal activity and hold offenders to account, so that children and young people are protected from harm.

**Statutory Framework**

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 reframed the approach to local safeguarding by removing the statutory requirement for local authority areas to have a Local Safeguarding Children Board and placing a duty on three lead partners: Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the local authority to agree local arrangements to work together to safeguard children. The changes were introduced to enable local authority areas to work more flexibly and innovatively when developing the delivery of their local safeguarding children partnership work.

**Key Priorities for West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership**

**The safeguarding partnership has identified three key practice priorities and two overarching priorities:**

**The main practice priorities are:**

1. Neglect
2. Child exploitation
3. Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding practice

**The overarching priorities are:**

4. Lead and consolidate effective partnership arrangements

5. Revise and embed a learning and Improvement Framework

**Shared principles that underpin our key priorities:**

* **Child Centred Practice** - the partnership will ensure that children and young people have opportunities to participate and collaborate in the work of the Partnership and that the voice of children is embedded in multi-agency practice.
* **High support high challenge** - the partnership will promote a culture of high support and high challenge to develop working environments where growth and learning is accelerated.
* **Promoting Practice leadership** - the partnership willInvolve practitioners in the continuous learning process of quality assurance and scrutiny in a supportive and challenging way, in order to build practice leadership capacity across the partnership.
* **Restorative approach** - the partnership will take the approach of ‘working with’ rather than ‘doing to’ with key stakeholders including children and families.
* **Promoting a culture of continuous learning** - the partnership willcreate the environment for learning, recognising the way systems influence each other and the benefits of working together rather than in individual agencies. We will ensure that we learn from best practice, case reviews and multi-agency audits, including the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations.

Working in this way we will ensure our core safeguarding practice is of high quality, responsive to the needs of our communities and improves outcomes for children and families in West Sussex.

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| **Priority** | |  | | --- | | **Outcomes** | | **Activity and timescale** | **Group responsible and**  **mechanism** |
| **1. Neglect** | Practitioners across the partnership can identify, assess and intervene early to prevent the harmful impact of neglect on children | 1. Develop and launch Neglect Strategy ***by March 2020.*** 2. Develop toolkit for practitioners ***by March 2020.*** 3. Complete voice of child project to capture the experiences of children and young people who have recently been on a child protection plan due to neglect ***by March 2020.*** 4. Capture the views of front-line professionals to inform the strategy, toolkits and inform improvements to practice ***by February 2020.*** 5. Develop multi-agency workshops for front line professionals to roll out the Strategy and toolkits ***by February 2020.*** 6. All agencies to produce action plans linked to the strategy ***by February 2020.*** 7. Develop a Neglect Impact Framework and dataset to monitor impact and progress ***by March 2020.*** 8. Pilot scrutiny event using the new Framework ***by September 2020.*** 9. Develop a network of neglect champions ***by September 2020.*** | Neglect task and finish group established to commence work. |
| **Related action plans:** Neglect action plans developed by each agency  **Impact information:** The Independent Scrutineer will lead a review of the effectiveness and impact of the neglect work using the Neglect Impact Framework | | | |
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| **Priority** | |  | | --- | | **Outcomes** | | **Activity and timescale** | **Group responsible and**  **mechanism** |
| **2. Child Exploitation** | All partners can demonstrate how they recognise, respond and evaluate the risks in relation to Child Exploitation | 1. Review the function and terms of reference of the group ***by May 2020.*** 2. Produce an overarching workplan ***by June 2020*** and ensure individual action plans are in place to support improvements ***by September 2020.*** 3. Ensure clear governance mechanisms are in place to clarify how the Community Safety Partnership and Exploitation sub-group will hold each to account for key activities ***by October 2020***. 4. Develop a plan to improve the recognition and response of professionals and communities to child exploitation ***by June 2020.*** 5. Develop opportunities to share intelligence to enable effective disruption, prevention and intervention ***by July 2020.*** 6. Develop plan to support interventions for children, young people and families who place other young people at risk ***by September 2020.*** | Child Exploitation subgroup |
| **Related action plans:** Child exploitation subgroup action plan  **Impact information:** The Independent Scrutineer will lead a review of the effectiveness and impact of multi-agency practice in relation to child exploitation. | | | |
| **Priority** | |  | | --- | | **Outcomes** | | **Activity and timescale** | **Group responsible and**  **mechanism** |
| **3. Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding practice** | All partners can demonstrate that core safeguarding practices are effective and embedded within their agencies and are keeping children safe | 1. Identify and agree core safeguarding activities and standards that contribute to keeping children safe e.g. Core Groups, Strategy Discussions etc and develop a programme to evaluate whether the required standards are being met ***by*** ***June 2020.*** 2. Work with partners and CSC in line with the Practice Improvement Plan to review thresholds and revise our Continuum of need. ***Launch September 2020.*** 3. Develop and agree the annual Audit and scrutiny programme, aligned to priorities ***by* *June 2020.*** 4. Monitor the effectiveness of recommendations from SCR’s and other reviews. ***Ongoing.*** 5. Develop format for learning from audits and reviews ***by July 2020.*** 6. Ensure Learning from SCR’s, Practice Learning Reviews and audit is disseminated quickly and embedded in practice. ***Ongoing.*** 7. Ensure robust tracking of recommendations from SCR’s and practice learning review. ***Tracker in place by April 2020.*** 8. Oversee the Launch and embedding of the ICON programme by ***September 2020*** undertake the first stage professional and public evaluation of impact of the programme by ***January 2021.*** | Case Review Group and  Quality Assurance & Learning and Development Subgroups (formally IPAG) |
| **Related action plans:** Action plan for CRG & Quality Assurance subgroups  **Impact information:** The Independent Scrutineer will lead a scrutiny learning event focussing on effective safeguarding practice. | | | |
| **Priority** | |  | | --- | | **Outcomes** | | **Activity and timescale** | **Group responsible and**  **mechanism** |
| **4. Lead and consolidate effective partnership arrangements** | The partnership is assured that the arrangements are delivering both the strategic priorities and improving multiagency practice | 1. Review the strategic governance, meeting structures and membership as laid out in the new Multi- Agency Safeguarding Arrangements to ensure its fit for purpose ***by April 2020.*** 2. Review the new sub-groups to ensure they are fit for purpose to deliver the business of the Partnership and can evidence clear impact of their work *by* ***April 2020.*** 3. Develop a participation and engagement strategy to ensure that children’s voices are at the core of our work, practitioners are fully involved, and we work with families to improve safeguarding outcomes ***by October 2020***. 4. Benchmark with other partnership arrangements to identify good practice and opportunities to innovate and improve ***by*** ***May 2020.*** 5. Review the capacity of the partnership support team to ensure it is fit for purpose ***by April 2020.*** | Safeguarding Partnership Team, Lead Partners, Steering Group and Scrutineer |
| **Related action plans:** Health and Wellbeing Board Plan, Community Safety Business Plan and Safeguarding Adults Board Business Plan and in line with the Memorandum of Understanding ensure that other Strategic Boards are held to account for delivery of shared priorities. **Impact information:** The Partnership will have clear governance, will be aligned to the other Strategic Boards and the work of the partnership will be directly influenced by the voices of children and young people, front-line professionals and families. | | | |
| **Priority** | |  | | --- | | **Outcomes** | | **Activity and timescale** | **Group responsible and**  **mechanism** |
| **5. Revise and embed a learning and Improvement Framework** | Partners have the required knowledge, experience, skills and information to improve safeguarding outcomes for children | 1. Develop a Quality Assurance and Scrutiny Framework ***by*** ***June 2020*** 2. Revise the Performance data set to ensure it identifies risks and strengths in the Partnership to inform the necessary improvement activity ***by*** ***June 2020*** 3. Revise the multi-agency audit process to ensure that it is practice focused and captures the lived experience children and their families ***by June 2020*** 4. Plan the scrutiny events in line with key priorities to review progress and impact and inform future planning ***by June 2020*** 5. Develop and deliver a partnership training and learning programme based on a robust need’s analysis linked to the learning from scrutiny events, case reviews and audit ***by*** ***May 2020*** | Safeguarding Partnership Team, Steering group, Training and Development and Quality Assurance sub-groups and Scrutineer |