

## Comms for WSSCP Safeguarding Week

Welcome to the first of five bulletins to support WSSCP Safeguarding Week. Each day will provide you with some information and resources on a different safeguarding topic to support your work with children and families.



### Day One

#### Safer Sleeping

Safer sleeping messages are an important part of your communications with the families you work with. Working with babies could apply to role in a direct or indirect way –

#### **Directly working with babies**

- Nursery
- Childminder
- Midwife
- Health Visitor
- Supporting new families or those expecting a new baby

#### **Indirectly working with babies**

- Teenagers who look after their own infant siblings or babysit as a part time job
- Working with parents who have new babies or are expecting a baby
- Working with children who have infant siblings

How ever you share messages with those spending time with babies, it is important to have these conversations about keeping babies safe. His includes when they are awake, but also when they are asleep. It can often be helpful to share visual aids and practical resources to help get a message across. All of the resources below can be shared with parents during face-to-face conversations, by adding to newsletters, or setting up displays where parents spend time (playgrounds, waiting areas, shared areas, etc).

- [Unplanned and Unsafe Sleeping for Babies – 5min Briefing](#)
- [Basic-Awareness-of-Safer-Sleeping-Messages-Electronic-Flyer](#)
- [Lullaby Trust Safer Sleep for Babies a guide for parents](#)
- [Lullaby Trust Sudden Infant Death Syndrome a guide for professionals](#)
- [Lullaby Trust Safer Sleep for Babies easy read card](#)
- [Lullaby Trust factsheet on Smoking](#)
- [Lullaby Trust factsheet on Mattresses, Bedding and Cots](#)
- [Lullaby Trust factsheet on Breastfeeding](#)
- [Lullaby trust factsheet on bed sharing](#)
- [Lullaby Trust Back to Sleep factsheet](#)
- [Lullaby Trust Baby Checklist: is your baby really ill?](#)
- [Safer Sleeping Information Flyer \(SUDI / Pan Sussex\)](#)

Advice and guidance for families can be found in the [NSPCC Handle with care](#) guide which covers:

- Keeping your cool
- How babies like to be held
- Copying with crying
- Where to get help
- Nappy Sack



Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), previously known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is a devastating form of child abuse.

The ICON Programme is a preventative programme, based around helping parents cope with a crying baby. The word 'ICON' represents the following message:

**I – Infant crying is normal**

**C – Comforting methods can sometimes soothe the baby**

**O – It's OK to walk away**

**N – Never, ever shake a baby**

- Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), previously known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is a devastating form of child abuse.

## **Further ICON Information:**

- [ICON-Leaflet](#)
  - [ICON Leaflet for Parents](#)
  - [ICON Poster](#)
  - [ICON A3 Poster](#)
  - [ICON Poster -explained](#)
  - [Crying curve](#)
  - [ICON Factsheet](#)
  - [ICON-Video](#)
  - [ICON 7-minute briefing FINAL](#)
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## **Comms for WSSCP Safeguarding Week**



### **Day Two**

## **Key Messages from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

Welcome to the second of five bulletins to support WSSCP Safeguarding Week. Each day will provide you with some information and resources on a different safeguarding topic to support your work with children and families. Please share across your organisations. These comms will be available on the WSSCP website at the end of Safeguarding Week.

When the WSSCP is informed of a serious incident involving a child the Safeguarding Children Partnership is required to consider carrying out a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) into the involvement of organisations and professionals in the lives of the child and their family.

### **What is meant by a serious incident?**

- ✚ Where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- ✚ When the child has died or been seriously harmed. Serious harm includes (but is not limited to): serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's physical health, mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. (This is not an exhaustive list).

### **What is the purpose of a CSPR?**

- ✚ To establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- ✚ To identify what those lessons are, how they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result, and therefore, improve inter-agency working and better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### **Statutory Responsibilities -**

Chapter 4 of [Working Together 2018](#) sets out in full the statutory responsibilities and process for LCSPRs.

A CSPR is **not** a criminal enquiry and is separate from an investigation undertaken by the police. This process focusses on being open and transparent and taking learning from practice to improve inter-agency working. A CSPR is **not** about blame or any potential disciplinary action.

Learning from Reviews is vital to try and prevent a similar incident from reoccurring in the future. Learning will often take place within single organisations as well as across the Partnership. This helps to share the key messages in order to enhance and improve practice across all agencies.

The WSSCP aims to share key messages from CSPRs using a range of different ways. This helps to meet the needs of those professionals who may work shifts, not be able to attend regular training sessions or prefer receiving learning in different ways. The WSSCP shares learning in the following ways:

- ✚ By regularly updating the WSSCP training content in formal training (this is done through face to face and virtual courses)
- ✚ Through podcasts
- ✚ Through Learning Briefings
- ✚ At face to face practitioner events
- ✚ In eLearning courses
- ✚ By regularly reviewing our training offer to make sure it reflects the needs of the children's workforce
- ✚ By [providing a comprehensive website that holds a wide range of safeguarding information and resources for all practitioners (as well as volunteers, parents/carers and children) to access
- ✚ By providing a Professional Log in Zone for practitioners to access so that they can view professional / confidential information not meant for public viewing
- ✚ Through different "Champion" groups such as the Neglect Multi Agency Champion meeting

Below you will find links to useful resources and information –

- ✚ [West Sussex Learning Safeguarding Reviews 19-21](#)
- ✚ [West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Final Report: CSPR Hazel and Lilly](#)
- ✚ [Serious Case Review S – Executive Summary](#)
- ✚ [Serious Case Review Family W – Final Report](#)
- ✚ [East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership – Family CC LSCPR and Neglect Learning Briefing](#)
- ✚ You can view the WSSCP website page where CSPRs are published by visiting [WSSCP West Sussex Serious Case Reviews/Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Audits](#)

If you are a professional working with children and young people across West Sussex you can request a username and password to access professional information. To request access please email [wsscp@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:wsscp@westsussex.gov.uk)

Please ensure your request is sent using your professional email address so that we can identify you as a professional.

Wednesday's email communication focus will be on: Reducing Parental Conflict

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### **Day Three**

#### **Reducing Parental Conflict**

Conflict between parents is normal, but if exposure is frequent, intense and poorly resolved, this can have a damaging impact on children, resulting in long-term mental health issues and emotional, social and behavioural and academic problems as they grow up.

Parental conflict can be reflected in a wide range of behaviours, from constructive (helpful) to destructive (harmful) behaviours. Harmful behaviours in a relationship which are frequent, intense and poorly resolved can lead to a lack of respect and a lack of resolution.

Behaviours such as shouting, becoming withdrawn or slamming doors can be viewed as destructive. Parental relationship distress is different from domestic abuse. This is because there is not an imbalance of power, neither parent seeks to control the other, and neither parent is fearful of the other.

Conflict can affect children in all types of parental relationships, including:

- ❖ parents who are in a relationship, whether married or not
- ❖ parents who have separated or divorced
- ❖ biological and step-parents
- ❖ other family members playing a parenting role
- ❖ foster and adoptive parents
- ❖ same-sex couples

Resources to support your work with families around reducing parental conflict

- ✚ [Department for Work & Pensions / Gov Guidance – Reducing Parental Conflict](#)
- ✚ [Reducing Parental Conflict animation](#) (suitable for professionals, parents/carers and also children (please view beforehand to assess the suitability according to the child's age and level of understanding))
- ✚ [Between Us Relationship app](#)
- ✚ [Reducing Parental Conflict Introductory Webinar](#)
- ✚ [Getting on better cards](#)
- ✚ [Better conversations resource](#)
- ✚ [Access the Reducing Parental Conflict page on the WSSCP website](#)



**Day Four**

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## **Professional Curiosity and Escalating Professional Differences**

Occasionally situations arise when workers within one agency feel that the decision made by a worker from another agency is either not safe or not in the best interests of a child; this may relate to professional involvement in early help services, children in need, child protection or children looked after.

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between agencies. Problem resolution is an integral part of professional co-operation and joint working to safeguard children.

Ensuring the safety of individual children is the paramount consideration in resolving any professional disagreement.

As professionals, we should always be curious about why decisions are made and question if we do not feel this is right. Whatever agency we are from, we should feel confident and able to challenge decision-making. We have a professional responsibility to promote the best multi-agency safeguarding practice and therefore raising such concerns is an entirely legitimate activity.

If we are on the receiving end of a professional challenge, we should see this as an opportunity to reflect on our decision making.

### **Click on the following documents for more information**

- [!\[\]\(0f48f43ebd21f231a458c96216dbf4d1\_img.jpg\) Pan Sussex Resolving Professional Differences Policy](#)
- [!\[\]\(ba0878532603d6e0b20c60ffb7475d12\_img.jpg\) Pan Sussex Escalation Policy \(including escalation flow chart with timescales\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(0a70dbd9915c9ea99c6f238a2c711f53\_img.jpg\) Escalation Policy Template](#)
- [!\[\]\(76511d025e9c8b0592325ddba91331d4\_img.jpg\) Pan Sussex Escalation Slides \(including explanation of WSSCP slides\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(4ecf357067dff2cd4f65e9b71acfab07\_img.jpg\) Professional Curiosity training - dates on the WSSCP Training Calendar](#)





Welcome to the final of five bulletins to support WSSCP Safeguarding Week. We hope you have found the information each day to be useful in supporting your work with children and families. Please share across your organisations. These comms will be available on the WSSCP website once Safeguarding Week has finished.

## **Day Five**

### **Youth Violence**

Youth violence refers to violence that occurs among individuals aged 10–29 years who are unrelated and who may or may not know each other. It generally takes place outside of the home, and includes a range of acts from bullying, both offline and online, and physical fighting, to more severe sexual and physical assault, gang-related violence or homicide.

Youth violence results in deaths, injuries, disability and long-term health consequences including mental health problems and increased health-risk behaviours, which can lead to chronic diseases.

It is further associated with higher rates of school-dropouts, negative impacts on cognitive development and opportunities to contribute to their communities.

Taken from the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) website

#### **Risk factors within the individual**

- ✚ attention deficit, hyperactivity, conduct disorder, or other behavioural disorders
- ✚ early involvement with alcohol, drugs and tobacco

- ✚ low intelligence and educational achievement
- ✚ low commitment to school and school failure
- ✚ involvement in crime
- ✚ unemployment
- ✚ exposure to violence in the family.

### **Risk factors within close relationships (family, friends, intimate partners and peers)**

- ✚ poor monitoring and supervision of children by parents
- ✚ harsh, lax or inconsistent parental disciplinary practices
- ✚ a low level of attachment between parents and children
- ✚ low parental involvement in children's activities
- ✚ parental substance abuse or criminality
- ✚ parental depression
- ✚ low family income
- ✚ unemployment in the family
- ✚ associating with delinquent peers and/or gang membership.

### **Risk factors within the community and wider society**

- ✚ access to and misuse of alcohol
- ✚ access to and misuse of firearms
- ✚ gangs and a local supply of illicit drugs
- ✚ high income inequality
- ✚ poverty
- ✚ the quality of a country's governance (its laws and the extent to which they are enforced, as well as policies for education and social protection).

## **Youth Violence and West Sussex**

The Knife Intervention Project (KIP) is a Violence Reduction Programme (VRP) funded initiated which began in April 2023.

It is offered to children and young people who are identified as being at risk of carrying knives and involvement in serious violence. Also, can be flexible and provide detached outreach support in places and spaces that are assessed as presenting heightened risk.

The aim is to provide targeted and community-based support to prevent incidents of serious violence and reduce risks. It is designed to complement and enhance the existing plans and safeguarding activity already in place. The programme mobilised in July 2023 and has been developing since. To date the project have worked with 38 children, and the numbers are increasing.

The referral routes into KIP are via:

- ✚ Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE)
- ✚ Habitual Knife Carriers Matrix
- ✚ Multi-agency/Partnership meetings and referrals.

The project is overseen by Nichola Povey who the Serious Violence Coordinator and works within the Community Safety and Wellbeing Team.

For more information, please contact Nichola, or Sue Neilson using the email addresses below.

- Suzanne Neilson (Serious Violence Lead Officer)  
[Suzanne.Neilson@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Neilson@westsussex.gov.uk)
- Nichola Povey (Serious Violence Coordinator)  
[Nichola.Povey@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Nichola.Povey@westsussex.gov.uk)

### **Resources to find out more about youth violence –**

- ✚ [Serious Youth Violence Research programme](#)
- ✚ [World Health Organisation Youth Violence](#)
- ✚ [Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner - Partnership Projects](#)
- ✚ [West Sussex County Council - Youth Offending Service](#)