



Essex Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2017 – 2018

Introduction

Our vision is that “*children and young people in Essex are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together.*”

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) Business Plan sets out the strategic intent of the ESCB in making this vision a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the ESCB to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements with priorities set for 2017/18 being updated following discussions with its partners.

Our Principles

- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.
- At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to understand the quality of a child’s experience of local services
- To learn from individual experiences and have a positive impact upon young lives
- To champion and protect the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and young people
- Our work is characterised by an attitude of constructive professional challenge
- To foster a culture of continuous review and learning with evidence based practice
- To foster a single child-centred culture, focussed on the needs of children, young people and their families
- To capitalise on the unique opportunities presented of being the 2nd largest board in the country.

Our Priorities

The ESCB Business Plan 2017-2018 is intentionally brief and focused on strategic priorities that form the basis of the work of the Board over the year. These priorities support the statutory functions of the ESCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare. They are;

Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context

Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention

Priority 3: Emotional Health & Well-being

Priority 4: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership

Annually, the ESCB will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the specific work plans of the Board’s sub groups and working groups.

Strategic Priority 1: The Local Safeguarding Context		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
<p>The ESCB and partner agencies prioritise improvement in areas and on issues of greatest risk and concern to safeguarding.</p> <p>Children and young people at risk of specific vulnerabilities in Essex are seen, heard and helped. They are effectively protected from harm by robust and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.</p>	<p>To work with partners to tackle the identified safeguarding priorities of Essex evaluating their impact on children and young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the impact of Domestic Abuse by: Completing the 2016-17 DA multi-agency audit ensuring the implementation of any actions for improvement • Raising the profile of Neglect by: Improving the awareness of professionals on neglect, the issues surrounding it and practical approaches for dealing with it. • Evaluating the approach to Preventing Radicalisation by: Discussing the current risk and response to radicalisation in Essex, making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate • Evaluating partners approach to internet safety by: Discussing the response of agencies to internet safety, making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate • Evaluating partners approach to youth offending and gangs by: Evaluating the approach of agencies and partnerships to youth crime and the threat of gangs • Leading Child Sexual Exploitation Initiatives by: Continuing to lead and co-ordinate the development of approaches to CSE across Essex (working with SET colleagues) through the implementation of the CSE Strategy and its action plan. 	<p>Community Rehabilitation Company</p> <p>Essex County Council Family Operations</p> <p>Essex County Council Family Operations</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Office of the Police Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Essex Police</p>

Strategic Priority 2: Early Help & Early Intervention		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
Children and young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.	<p>To evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements and impact by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-19 services: Evaluate the impact of the new 0-19 contract on partnership working following its implementation in April 2017 • Thresholds: Assess the impact of threshold decisions on those children who are not stepped up to higher levels of intervention • Children moving into Essex: Evaluate the safeguarding of children and young people and instigate appropriate work with other Safeguarding Boards to support agencies addressing those risks 	<p>Virgin Care</p> <p>Education</p> <p>City, District and Borough Council</p>

Strategic Priority 3: Emotional health and well-being		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
Children and young people are safe through having access to appropriate services and support for their emotional health and well-being,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with partners in evaluating the impact of services and resources on the safety of young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues: <p>Receiving assurance from the appropriate bodies that strategies, implementation and monitoring plans are in place, that risks are being addressed and making recommendations to agencies and partnerships as appropriate to address any issues of concern.</p> <p>This work will look at services being provided at all levels of need.</p>	Health

Strategic Priority 4: Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership		
Outcome	Actions	Lead agency
<p>The ESCB leads the safeguarding agenda, challenges the safeguarding work of partner organisations, and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Making the Invisible Visible: ALL children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESCB and partners successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for the ESCB and its sub groups / working groups by: ESCB Executive regularly scrutinising progress on the Business Plan 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to strengthen the governance interface between the ESCB and other key strategic forums by: Any changes in governance and structure decided at ESCB on 1st March 2017 being revisited after 1 year to ensure that they remain appropriate in light of the outcomes of the Wood review 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and develop key ESCB functions by: ESCB Executive routinely scrutinising the performance of the partnership on the following functions: performance management, audit, training and development, the coordination of how the voice of the child is listened to by agencies and the partnership 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities by: Continuing to develop and utilise the website and associated communications media to ensure safeguarding messages are promoted. This should include campaigns such as safer sleeping. 	ESCB chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consistently promote the importance of effective and swift information sharing, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information by: 	ESCB chair

children are safeguarded.	Ensuring that actions around information sharing in case reviews are effectively implemented across agencies and that the monitoring of information sharing is included in any audit activity.	
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