

# 2016-17

## Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children in Southend



Southend Borough Council

1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017

# Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children in Southend

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# SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Foreword – by Independent Chair, Liz Chidgey

I am very pleased to be introducing the Annual report covering my first year as Independent Chair for the Southend on Sea Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) and I welcome the opportunity to publish information on the work of the board and its sub groups. It is vital that we communicate with the public to both raise awareness on safeguarding issues but also to provide information on the work that has been undertaken and what it has achieved.

2016/17 was a busy year for the board with considerable work being completed in support of our vision to:

- keep children safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation;
- ensure they are secure, stable and cared for, and
- help reduce the likelihood of them suffering from accidental death and injury, bullying and discrimination, and crime and anti-social behavior.

We have a very strong and committed board and I am grateful for the ongoing support of the partnership. I believe this report is both a testament to all we have achieved as a board in the past year, as well as the achievements of the participating partners.

This report contains details of how safeguarding has been promoted and developed in Southend, through the work of the board and its sub groups, which are populated by senior representatives from our statutory partners – the Local Authority, Essex Police and the Southend Clinical Commissioning Group – and a wide range of other agencies including representatives from the local education system, and the voluntary and community sector.

The report also highlights the programme of work the Board has undertaken over the past twelve months, and demonstrates how partners have worked together to implement the Board's Strategic Plan 2016-19 and begun to formulate a response to the national Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Details of the work and outcomes that have been achieved across the safeguarding system over the last 12 months are provided in this report and it is essential that this work is recognised and celebrated.

Finally, the report provides a commentary on the prospects and challenges for 2017/18 and aims to demonstrate the ongoing commitment of the Safeguarding Children Board in recognition of our responsibilities to the children and young people of Southend on Sea and their right to expect effective and timely support.

It is my responsibility to support and encourage partners and agencies in Southend to work collaboratively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and bring about continual improvement to the local safeguarding system. It is also part of my role to hold those partners and agencies to account, ensuring that individually, they do what they say they are going to do, and that collectively, agencies are working together to safeguard children and young people effectively.

As the chair, I am satisfied that the agencies that are represented at the board and its sub-groups continue to demonstrate their high level of commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. I am very mindful of pressures on partners in terms of resources and time and grateful to all those who have engaged in the work of the SSCB.

I hope that you find this report interesting and that it provides reassurance that the board remains active in driving improvements through the local safeguarding system. There is a lot of detail in this annual report about which I will not comment further here. Importantly however, regardless of whatever concerns might be triggered in the minds of readers, the assurance offered by me is that Safeguarding Children Board members, and the organisations they represent, know and are open about the reality of the challenges they face and remain willing to work collaboratively and contribute to thinking ahead about responsibilities, risks, ambitions and priorities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the commitment of all our partners, who once again have delivered a great deal in the past 12 months, and who continue to contribute to improving the way we all work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the many professionals from the public, voluntary, community and private sectors who contribute to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our local children.

I very much look forward to continuing to work with the partnership to drive forward the vision of the LSCB and ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding system in keeping local children safe from abuse and neglect.



**Liz Chidgey**  
**Independent Chair of Southend Local Safeguarding Children Board**

**December 2017**

## 1.2 Introduction

This annual report is for the period 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017 and its production is a statutory duty of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. It reports on the effectiveness of the child safeguarding system in Southend-on-Sea and provides evidence the LSCB has fulfilled all its statutory responsibilities.

The LSCB has agreed this reporting cycle in order that the findings of the annual report and the identified priorities for the coming year can be considered and built into the strategies and delivery plans of other partnership boards and commissioners, including the Chief Executive and Leader of Southend Borough Council; the Health and Wellbeing Board; the Children's Partnership Board (Success For All Children Group in Southend); and the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner.

This Annual Report:

- a) details progress toward achieving our priorities and the LSCB Strategic Plan for 2016-2019;
- b) provides an overview of LSCB activities and achievements during 2016–2017; and
- c) summarises the effectiveness of safeguarding activity in Southend including the work of individual member agencies.

The report will be submitted to the Local Authority Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, Essex Police, the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board and Southend Community Safety Partnership.

## 1.3 Role of the Southend Safeguarding Adults Board

The LSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- (a) *to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and*
- (b) *to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.*

### 1.3.1 Vision

The Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) aims to ensure its members work together effectively to:

- keep children safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation;
- ensure they are secure, stable and cared for, and
- help reduce the likelihood of them suffering from accidental death and injury, bullying and discrimination, and crime and anti-social behavior.

### 1.3.2 Statutory Duties

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives are as follows:

- 1(a) *developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:*
  - (i) *the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;*
  - (ii) *training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;*
  - (iii) *recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;*
  - (iv) *investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;*
  - (iv) *safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;*
  - (vi) *cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;*
- (b) *communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;*
- (c) *monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;*
- (d) *participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and*
- (e) *undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.*

*An LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.*

*In order to fulfil its statutory functions an LSCB should:*

- *assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;*
- *assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations*
- *quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and*
- *monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*

More information about the statutory role and function of the Safeguarding Children Board can be found at [www.safeguardingsouthend.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingsouthend.co.uk).

### 1.4 The Safeguarding Principles

Effective arrangements for safeguarding children should be underpinned by two key principles:

- **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:** for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and

- **a child-centred approach:** for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

## 1.5 Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

The current Strategic Plan is being reviewed at the time of writing this report and the reader is advised to refer to the updated plan which will be available on the LSCB website upon completion.

## 1.6 Governance

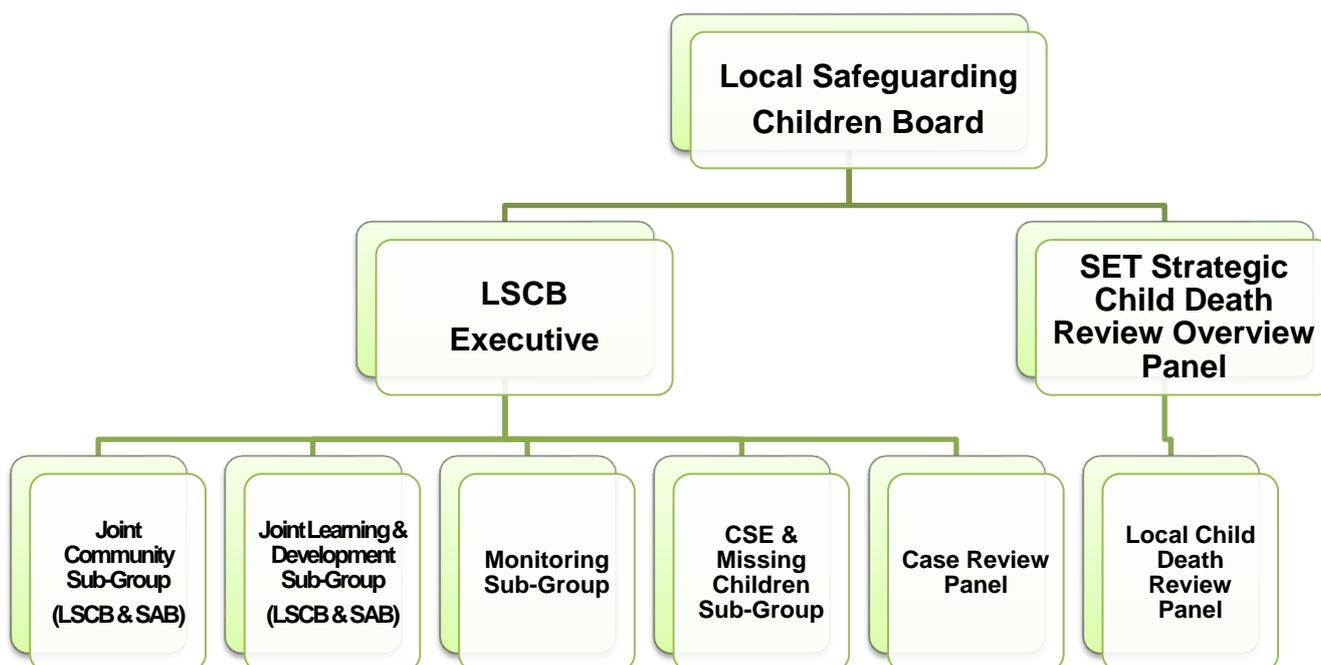
Southend Safeguarding Adults Board is chaired by Independent Chair, Elizabeth Chidgey, and meets four times a year bringing partners together from: Southend Council, Southend Clinical Commissioning Group, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Services, East of England Ambulance Trust, Health Trusts, Probation Services, the voluntary sector and lay members, representing health, care and support providers and the people who use those services across Southend.

The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the local authority in chairing the LSCB and overseeing its work programme. However, she is accountable only to the Board for the decisions she takes in that role. The role of Vice-Chair is undertaken by the Corporate Director – People, Southend Borough Council.

The Board is attended by representatives from the partner agencies with a high level of engagement. Information about Board attendance can be found in Section 6.

The LSCB has six sub-groups chaired by middle and senior managers from across the partner agencies. We report on the business of each of the sub-groups operating during 2016-17 in this report and the structure below reflects the shape of the Board.

## 1.7 Board Structure 2016/17



A review of the structure of the LSCB board was initiated during 2016-2017 and changes agreed as a result will be initiated in 2018.

## **1.8 Strategic Links to other Boards and Partnerships**

The Chair of the LSCB is also the Chair of the local Safeguarding Adults Board. She is a member of the Southend Health and Well-Being Board (HWB). She meets regularly with the Local Authority Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, the Lead Member for adult safeguarding and the Leader of the Council and meets regularly with the Council's Scrutiny Committee. Links are also maintained through representation on the Community Safety Partnership, Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Boards.

**Health and Well-being Board:** As a member of the HWB, the LSCB Chair ensures the HWB is effectively considering children's safeguarding in the decisions it makes. The HWB uses the LSCB as a 'critical friend' in safeguarding children considerations and decisions, including the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy; the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; key Commissioning Strategies; and service re-design. The Chair presents the LSCB's annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Southend to the HWB each January and the HWB ensures that the Police and Crime Commissioner is present at this meeting.

**Success for all Children Group & the Corporate Parenting Group:** The LSCB has a direct relationship with the Success for all Children Group (SACG) and the Corporate Parenting Group (CPG). The SACG and CPG report to the HWB and have responsibility for shaping and delivering the health and wellbeing agenda for children and young people, and looked after children. The LSCB holds the SACG and CPG to account for ensuring the safeguarding of children and looked after children are considered in the decisions they make and their strategic priorities. The LSCB considers the annual reports from the SACG and CPG and their priorities for safeguarding children and looked after children.

**Community Safety Partnership:** The LSCB also has a direct relationship with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The LSCB seeks assurance that the CSP is appropriately considering children's safeguarding in the decisions it makes. The LSCB specifically seeks assurance regarding the development and implementation of the local Domestic Abuse Strategy and the implementation of lessons learned from domestic homicide reviews.

**Joint LSCB & SAB Scrutiny Panel:** For a number of years an LSCB Scrutiny Panel, consisting of elected members of Southend Borough Council, has scrutinized and contributed to the work of the LSCB. The Panel has been recognized by Ofsted as a model of good practice. Since September 2016, the Panel has also scrutinized the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB).

**Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET)** work in partnership to provide a common approach to safeguarding children across the county through the SET Safeguarding & Child Protection Procedures. The procedures set out the system and process organisations should use to raise safeguarding concerns. This includes a framework for confidentiality and information sharing across agencies.

## **1.9 Funding**

The work of the Board is financed by contributions from partner agencies, of which currently over 45% comes from the council. In addition to financial contributions, partner agencies contribute significant amounts of staff time to support the delivery of the board's work programme, and to support training delivery. Full budget information can be found in **Appendix 2**.

## **SECTION 2 - ASPIRATIONS FOR 2016-17**

(Taken from the LSCB Strategic Plan 2016-19 and 2015-16 Annual Report)

In the 2015-2016 Annual Report the Board identified the following key areas for development:

1. Work is required to ensure children and young people who self-harm, or have other mental health issues, access services in a timely way and through the most appropriate routes. This will include more analysis of the issues and the development of a multi-agency action plan;
2. The analysis of intelligence from all partners, including the public, to identify, disrupt and prosecute those who exploit children and young people;
3. Mainstreaming of funding and development of timely specialist support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and exploitation is required by commissioning agencies;
4. Mainstreaming of funding and development of timely specialist support services for perpetrators of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and exploitation is required by commissioning agencies;
5. To continue to exercise oversight of, and analyse, the child protection process and application of thresholds by children's social care, and review the conferencing system to ensure partners maximise its effectiveness and impact on families;
6. To ensure the early help model is fully integrated with child protection processes, making one unified and comprehensive system to ensure all children are safeguarded and professionals know how and where to get the right help. Early Help services will be tested by the LSCB in 2017-18 to ensure hard to reach groups have the right access to those services;
7. To ensure the Voice of the Child is increasingly embedded in the way that services are delivered, and that achieving specific outcomes for children are increasingly driving the work of professionals;
8. To continue to address and improve the governance of the Safeguarding Partnership (currently the LSCB) in light of the Wood Review of LSCBs, to ensure that cross cutting areas of work are approached holistically across the partnership, and that potential gaps and overlaps are identified and addressed effectively;

The 2016 -19 Strategic Plan further identified the following key strategic priorities:

9. Reduce incidents of self-harm among children and young people;
10. Reduce the number of children and young people who have experienced bullying including face to face, text or internet;
11. Ensure that the Violence Against Women and Girls, Modern Slavery and Domestic Abuse Strategies are effectively resourced and implemented to reduce the impact of Violence, Modern Slavery, and Domestic Abuse on children and young peoples' life chances;
12. Support families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and ensure early help (including that for young adults) is fully integrated with the multi-agency sharing of information and child protection processes;

13. Partners and strategic boards work together to identify, resource, and provide support to children and young people at risk of, or victims of, exploitation (including child sexual exploitation and radicalization), to prevent harm and reduce the impact on their life chances; and to identify and disrupt perpetrators; and
14. Ensure that looked after children are safeguarded effectively.

## SECTION 3 - ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016/17 - HIGHLIGHTS

This year the LSCB undertook significant work to ensure that it fulfilled its statutory responsibilities, and in January 2017, the Board welcomed new Independent Chair, Liz Chidgey, following the retirement of Chris Doorly.

The LSCB Chair meets regularly with senior board members from the Southend Clinical Commissioning Group, Essex Police and Children's Services and is a member of the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the Children's Services Improvement Board. The LSCB continues to work closely with the Southend Safeguarding Adults Board.

### 3.1 Safeguarding Children Board

- Formulated a local direction of travel in response to the Woods Review into Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and further to previous work undertaken to better coordinate public protection functions that cut across several strategic Boards operating in Southend.
- Following the Jay report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, meetings chairs and business managers from the HWB, LSCB and CSP - chaired by the Chief Executive of Southend Council - were initiated to examine the effectiveness of working in cross cutting areas such as CSE.
- Commissioned and commenced a review of the Board's priorities and the development of a performance and risk management framework to support the Board's ambitions.
- The new Independent Chair presented the 2015-16 LSCB Annual Report to Southend HWB, outlining performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year. This provided the opportunity for the HWB to take on issues raised by the LSCB.
- The LSCB held:
  - a **challenge event** with Board members to consider Ofsted, HMIC and CQC Inspection reports for Children's services, Essex Police and the NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group and to identify and agree opportunities for collaborative working, which is informing strategic planning across the system.
  - a one day **Neglect workshop** for practitioners from across the safeguarding system on working with the lived experience of neglectful families. The workshop was led by Emeritus Professor of Child Welfare, Jan Horwarth, and explored the challenges of taking a child centered approach in cases of neglect and how understanding lived experiences of family members can be utilized to achieve child-focused outcomes; and
  - hosted a **FGM learning seminar** - delivered by the National FGM Centre - for

practitioners across the safeguarding system in order to share learning, improve partnership working and provide practitioners with the opportunity to build their understanding and confidence in tackling, FGM.

- **SET Joint Working:** The LSCB has continued to work with the Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Boards to ensure a consistent approach is taken to safeguarding across the three local authority areas. Projects this year include:
  - Updating the SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures, including updates to the Child Sexual Exploitation Chapter to ensure the Procedures reflect current good practice and the government's new definition of CSE;
  - Updating and broadening the SET suicide toolkit for practitioners to include self-harm, (for launch in late 2017);
  - The launch of a new CSE risk assessment tool and associated training platform. This tool was developed with the NWG, a charitable organisation seen as a leading organisation for CSE in the UK.

The sub-groups identified in Section 1 support the work of the Board and the delivery of its strategic plans. The sub-groups benefit from multi-agency representation, with staff from statutory and non-statutory agencies attending and contributing to the work. The sub-groups review a range of information, including performance reports from member agencies, report to the LSCB Executive on their progress and make recommendations where additional work is needed to assure the Board or improve existing practice, policy, procedure and training.

Activity within the sub-groups for 2016/17 included:

- The development and implementation of the CSE & Missing Sub-Group workplan and significant developments including the introduction of a CSE risk assessment tool.
- The embedding of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel process..
- Pilot project with SoS Rape Crisis to provide therapeutic interventions for young people where there have been concerns about sexual exploitation.
- SCR action plan monitoring and learning from cases reviews.
- Basic safeguarding e-learning updated for 2016 and available to all partners via Virtual College.
- Increased understanding of the LeDeR programme

### **3.2 Board Partners' Achievements in improving Safeguarding Children 2016-17**

The LSCB has been involved in partnership activity throughout the 2016/17 period. The following organisations regularly report into the LSCB and have all provided an Annual Statement (available on request), summarised below.

### **Essex Police – highlights from annual statement**

- Southend Community Policing Team are the first district in the county to appoint a CSE coordinator as a dedicated link to Children’s Social Care.
- Essex Police have developed the use of a co-located MARAT over the last year and are now looking at the option of a multi-agency First Contact team.
- Reviewed and republished our joint working protocol in relation to police protection powers with a view to minimising the time vulnerable children are with the police.

### **Southend Borough Council Children’s Services**

- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team is now established within Southend Police Station.
- Introduction of new missing children procedures.
- A joint audit with SUHFT and the CCG to assess the quality of referrals to Children’s Services from the health sector.

### **Southend Clinical Commissioning Group – highlights from annual statement**

- Harmonised minimum key performance indicators and data sets for safeguarding children training to ensure standardised expectations across the health economy.
- Raised awareness within health organisations of the changes in legislation and data reporting requirements for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Agreed an approach to commence the implementation of a Child Protection Information Sharing Project in Essex.
- Worked with primary care to improve their recognition of, and response to, safeguarding children.
- Contributed to the development of the Prevent agenda and Channel Panels
- Worked with partners to improve the multi-agency response to victims of Honour Based Abuse.
- Supported and advised the re-procurement of the Sexual Assault Referral Service.

### **Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - highlights from annual statement**

- Undertook a range of audits including audits of antenatal information sharing; effectiveness and impact of child safeguarding supervision; maternity case load sheets.
- Provided additional support and strategy development to ensure that multi-agency working is robust, that challenge and the escalation processes are considered and any newly developed safeguarding processes are not compromised.
- Collaborative working with the SUHFT Adult Safeguarding Team on FGM, Prevent, Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking.

### 3.3 Training

The CCG has delivered Level 3 training for GPs within their Time to Learn programme.

Southend GPs	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Level 3	100%	94%	100%	88%
Southend CCG				
Level 2	89%	93%	82%	77%
Level 4	100%	100%	100%	100%
Level 5	100%	100%	100%	100%
Governing Body	100%	100%	100%	100%

Children's Services continued to roll out of mandatory training for decision makers and practitioners on decision making, assessment and domestic abuse and support this with learning sets and practice workshops throughout the year led by a dedicated Practice Lead.

Essex Police have continued to roll out vulnerability training to their staff as part of a wider campaign to raise awareness of vulnerability under their continuous improvement programme. The training is complimented by a three day Public Protection Awareness Course which has been delivered to over 2000 of their staff to date.

Additional training to Essex Police staff on identifying children affected by domestic abuse incidents, with an emphasis on S47 training to domestic abuse investigation teams.

Joint training has taken place with partners to better enable staff to identify modern slavery issues.

SUHFT developed Level 1 and Level 2 refresher quiz and training resources to aid compliance with training.

EFRS introduced new e-learning safeguarding training as well as PREVENT training and information sessions for all staff.

SEH provided safeguarding training to resident representatives and community sports coaches who work with residents on youth projects.

SAVS and the LSCB have continued to work in partnership to provide training in all aspects of safeguarding including Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent (countering radicalization) and Human Trafficking.

### **3.4 Key Successes and improvements in practice**

#### **Essex Police identify their key success within safeguarding children for 2016 – 2017 as:**

- The embedding missing person Liaison officers and Child and Young Person Officers into the community safety hub and the CAIT teams in Southend.
- The success of the MARAT with partners has also been a highlight and has prompted the review of further co-location with the First Contact Team.
- One of the county's first complex and organised CSE investigations, Operation Cobham led to the successful conviction of 2 males in December 2016 who ran Girls4you from Shoebury. One was given a four year sentence for controlling child prostitution, controlling activities of a person in prostitution for gain, possession of indecent images of children, distribution of indecent images of a child and being concerned in the supply of Mephedrone, and the second male two-and-a-half years for arranging or facilitating child prostitution, controlling prostitution for gain and being concerned in the supply of Mephedrone.

#### **Children's Services identify their key success within safeguarding children for 2016 – 2017 as:**

- Improvements in the proportion of decisions made in relation to new referrals within 24 hours; the timeliness of child protection investigations; and statutory visits to children on child protection plans / in care
- Significant increase of initial child protection to case conference in 15 days
- Improving decision making processes
- Co-location of a multi-agency – LA, Police and Health - team at the Front Door to Children's Services, enabling strategy meetings to be held within 24 hours.
- The LA restorative practice approach training has been extended to partners

#### **SUHFT identifies their key success within safeguarding children for 2016 – 2017 as:**

- The introduction of an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Role.
- Information leaflet for new staff to re-enforce safeguarding practice for bank staff and volunteers.
- Improved quality of safeguarding referrals to children's social care.
- Introduction of a Quick Reference Guide for staff which clarifies the issue of consent for treatment in respect of Looked After Children.

## **Essex County Fire & Rescue Services identify their key success within safeguarding children for 2016–2017 as:**

- Collaborative working with Essex Police to deliver lessons at 42 of Southend's 56 schools: seeing 18,562 children. Lessons included:
  - Year 3: Home Safety
  - Year 6: Cyber Safety
  - Year 7: Road safety  
Heat of the moment (involving arson and hoax)
  - Year 8: Home Safety (revisited)
  - Year 9: Healthy relationships
- Delivery of the Firebreak Programme:
  - **Fire Fit:** Healthy lifestyles
  - **Fire Inspire:** Building confidence, self-esteem and team working skills.
  - **Fire Respect:** Delivers the traditional Firebreak framework but can be tailored to the needs of the participants to also cover safe sex and teenage pregnancy, young offending and anti-social behavior, alcohol and drugs abuse, domestic violence, the importance of worthwhile and fulfilling relationships, community engagement, and bullying and cyber safety.
  - **Fire Empower:** Preparing for employment.

### **3.5 Key risks and challenges identified by partners**

#### **3.5.1 Cross cutting risks and challenges**

- Identifying, engaging and affecting change with vulnerable young people at risk from multiple types of exploitation including CSE, exploitation linked to drugs, radicalisation and other criminality, and those for whom there may be emerging concerns.
- Ensuring there is clear governance in relation to the oversight of young people at risk of exploitation and work with potential perpetrators.
- Developing system wide solutions to safeguarding challenges within healthcare under the Success Regime.
- On-going financial and capacity issues across the health economy will challenge both commissioning and provider health organisations.

### **3.6 Key areas for development identified by partners**

- Expansion of collaborative working arrangements within the safeguarding system, to include the First Contact Team.
- To continue seeking improvements in the use and response to police protection;

the quality of investigations involving children affected by domestic abuse; and the management of dangerous offenders.

- To develop the capability of non-warranted police staff, further integrating them into one investigative team – building on the results of the restructure of the Crime and Public Protection Command.
- Move towards a competency-based approach to safeguarding training for primary care which is flexible to the needs of individuals.
- Commission hospital-based Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors for 3 acute NHS Trusts and support the services already established in other Trusts.
- Provide an equitable delivery of services for all Looked After Children in South East Essex.
- Support health professionals to enhance their skills, enabling them to explore issues with patients in order to identify risk to children and young people.
- Work with adult safeguarding leads to develop pathways and guidance relating to gangs. This is an issue of local concern.
- Review and refresh Best Practice Guidelines for Practitioners working with Families/Pregnant Women when domestic abuse is an issue and develop training to support the changes in maternity records and practice.
- Develop, review and update Child Protection Policy in line with local and national guidance including Working Together 2015, Intercollegiate Document 2014 and findings from local and other SCRs.
- Further develop the process to capture and report to commissioners on the Trust's compliance with training and supervision.
- Continue to monitor service level uptake of training via the Safeguarding Children Committee with a commitment to maintain uptake of >90% among clinical staff through a targeted comprehensive training programme.
- Refresh and maintain staff information pages on the SUHFT intranet, including the safeguarding newsletter on the Staffnet and Communications pages, and ensure SUHFT staff are aware of national concerns for “challenges” relating to social media i.e. “Blue Whale”.
- Monitor the rates of self-harm/attempted suicide for children/young adults, noting trends and share information accordingly with the LSCB.
- Support and action the findings and recommendations made from Serious Case Reviews and Partnership Learning Reviews ensuring work streams are embedded in practice and reflected in hospital policies and guidance.

- SUHFT safeguarding team, adult safeguarding leads and SUHFT Human Resources will develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for referral processes and information sharing specific to contact with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) regarding allegations made against staff working with children/vulnerable adults.
- SEH will continue working in partnership with Southend on Sea Domestic Abuse Projects (SOSDAP) to provide support to victims of domestic abuse across refuge and move-on accommodation for victims of domestic abuse.
- Expand on the existing support services currently offered by Temporary Accommodation Officers and Community Development Officers in order to tackle social isolation; prevent homelessness; support residents who are victims or perpetrators of anti-social behavior; and support vulnerable parents.
- NHS England East will continue to improve safeguarding practices for both adult and children & young people across the East DCO area through their safeguarding forums work programme.
- The Essex Community Rehabilitation Company will work with colleagues in Essex Police and the National Probation Service, to develop a new information sharing agreement regarding domestic abuse histories of their allocated service users.
- There is a need for the LSCB – through the CSE & Missing Sub-Group – to establish effective strategic working arrangements with the Community Safety Partnership in order to avoid duplication of effort in tackling CSE and to secure the assurance the LSCB requires that CSE is being addressed through the CSP-linked MACE process.
- In order to better prevent CSE, members of the CSE & Missing Sub-group will explore and develop methodologies for identifying young people and children where risk of CSE is an emerging concern.

## **SECTION 4 - LEARNING FROM SERIOUS CASE AND OTHER REVIEWS IN 2016-17**

### **Serious Case Reviews**

Serious Case Reviews are undertaken by LSCBs where a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect are known or suspected to be a factor in the death. Their purpose is to identify and implement learning to improve how services work together to safeguard children and they are a statutory requirement.

The LSCB commenced one Serious Case Review during the 12 month period covered by this report. This was the continuation of a review which was originally started in 2015/16 and then 'paused' pending court proceedings. The review re-commenced in March 2017 and is ongoing. It is due to be concluded early in 2018 and will therefore be addressed in the next LSCB Annual Report. Learning from the review continues to drive changes in practice as it emerges.

### **Child Death Reviews**

Child Death Reviews for children resident in Southend are undertaken by a multi-agency Child Death Review Panel (CDRP) covering South East Essex. The Panel is chaired by a representative from Public Health and is overseen by a multi-agency Strategic Child Death Overview Panel (SCDOP) for the County. During the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 the CDRP received eight notifications of deaths of children resident in the Southend area and completed 12 child death reviews for Southend cases. (Not all reviews are completed in the year the notification was received: especially when an Inquest or criminal proceedings have been involved.)

Of the 12 deaths reviewed, four were found to have one or more modifiable factors, including co-sleeping, parental smoking, alcohol/substance misuse and poor parenting/supervision.

Due to a previous increase in numbers of sudden unexplained deaths in infancy, the SCDOP continues to increase awareness of the risks associated with co-sleeping and to highlight safer sleeping information. In December 2016 a questionnaire was circulated to professionals working with families to gather information on what, when and to whom, advice is being given and the data was used to revise the safer sleeping campaign for 2017, and in January 2017 a 'Thunderclap' social media message was successfully launched. 135 agencies and individuals signed up to support the campaign which had a social reach of 489,024.

### **Essex LSCB Partnership Learning Review**

This was an Essex led review of a family who had had contact with Southend-based agencies as a result of moving between Essex and Southend authority. Therefore links between the Essex review panel and the Southend Case Review Panel have been established and maintained in order to identify and utilize learning to drive improvements through the safeguarding system in Southend.

# SECTION 5 - HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Using a range of data, this section provides a summary analysis of volume, nature and outcomes of safeguarding activity over the year and key demographic information for context.

## 5.1 Statistical context

Southend is an exceptionally diverse and fast-changing borough and a range of available statistics provide us with the ability to track these changes over time in order to ensure the safeguarding system remains fit for purpose.

The following snapshot provides the statistical context surrounding the ongoing activity to safeguard children and promote their welfare:

Measure	Southend
Population	179,800
Aged 0-17 (inclusive)	38,729
School age BME population	6,616
Births per year	2,292

Source: 2016 Office for National Statistics estimates

**Deprivation:** Around 43.2% of those age 0-17 (16,723) live in the areas of the borough classified as falling within the 30% most deprived areas in the country. For contextual purposes it should be noted only 30% of the total population live in these same areas.

**Poverty:** 21.6% of 0-19 year-olds are living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credits whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income, or in receipt of Income Support or (Income-Based) Job Seekers Allowance.

**Entitlement to free school meals:** The proportion of children entitled to free schools meals:

- a. Primary: 13.6% compared to 14.1% on average nationally
- b. Secondary: 8.2% compared to 12.9% on average nationally

Source: 2017 Schools Census

## 5.2 Safeguarding Activity 2016-17

Southend Borough Council has produced an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children. The full report is available on request and highlights from the report are detailed below.

## 5.3 Safeguarding concerns

Where there are concerns, assessments of children are undertaken in accordance with a local assessment protocol based on Department for Education statutory guidance,

Working Together 2015. The assessment seeks to establish the level and nature of any risk and harm so appropriate support services can be provided to improve the outcomes for the child. The assessment will ascertain if:

- The child/sibling group are a child/children in need (s17 Children Act 1989)
- There is reasonable cause to suspect the child/children are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm (s47 Children Act 1989)
- The child/children are in need of, or requesting, accommodation (s20 or s31 Children Act 1989)

## **5.4 What the statistics are telling us**

The safeguarding system collects a wide range of information about activity to safeguard children in Southend, so we know how well they are being safeguarded. This information helps the Southend LSCB decide what their next steps should be.

Data in relation to all safeguarding issues is monitored both locally and nationally. All safeguarding concerns and enquiries are recorded and co-ordinated by Southend Council. Progress from initial concern through to conclusion is monitored for timeliness and quality across a wide variety of measures including the nature and location of harm, service user groups, outcomes, age, gender, ethnicity, etc. This information is scrutinised by the LSCB sub-groups who report key issues and trends to the Board via the LSCB Executive group.

Southend Council also submits annual data returns to the Department for Education (DfE) who collate these with the annual data from the other authorities in England for the purpose of comparison. The following sections are based on the most recent annual data return, which provides figures for the 12 months ending 31 March 2017.

In the period 1.4.16 to 31.3.17, there were 2,229 referrals, of which 16.3% (363) had been made within 12 months of a previous referral. The number of assessment completed was 2,012 and the median number of days taken to complete the assessment was 38 days, compared to a median number of days for the East of England of 30 days.

686 Section 47 enquiries were undertaken in the 12 months ending 31.3.17, followed by 321 initial child protection conferences. The median number of days between the start of the Section 47 enquiry and an initial child protection conference was 16 days, which compares to a median of 13 days for the Eastern Region as a whole.

Activity within Local Authority Children's services has decreased in some areas during 2017 but remains higher than in 2015 in relation to looked after children. Some of the increase in numbers of looked after children relates to changes in children's status when they are cared for by family members.

### **5.4.1 Abuse location**

Abuse can happen anywhere; in someone's own home, in a public place, in hospital, in a care home for example. It can happen when someone lives alone or with others. It

is important to understand the circumstances of abuse, including the wider context such as whether others may be at risk of abuse, whether others have witnessed abuse and the role of family members and paid staff or professionals.

### 5.4.2 Age

The population aged 0 to 17 (age at mid 2016) based on Office of National Statistics projection data is estimated at 38,700.

Age range	Estimated population 2016
0-4	11,449
5-9	11,395
10-14	9,853
15-17	6,003

### 5.4.3 Ethnicity

**Minority ethnic population:** The percentage of school age children from a minority ethnic group is 25.3% compared to 30.7% nationally and ethnic diversity continues to increase within the 0-19 population compared with the boroughs population as a whole.

Source: 2017 Schools Census

**English as a second language:** The proportion of children with English as a second language:

- a. Primary: 13.8% compared to 20.6% on average nationally
- b. Secondary: 13.8% compared to 16.2% on average nationally

Source: 2017 Schools Census

### 5.4.4 Primary needs

As at 31.3.17 there were 1,387 children in need episodes recorded of which the majority (1,201) had a primary need at assessment of neglect or abuse. By the end of the assessments the following factors had been identified:

Identified factor	No.
Domestic violence	753
Mental health	578
Drug misuse	307
Neglect	304
Emotional abuse	300
Alcohol misuse	248
Learning disability	234
Physical abuse	187
Socially unacceptable behaviour	137
Physical disability or illness	112
Going/being missing	83
Sexual abuse	76
Self-harm	57

Child sexual exploitation	51
Young carer	31
Gangs	17
Female Genital Mutilation	0
Abuse linked to faith or belief	0
Privately fostered	X
Unaccompanied asylum seeker	X
Trafficking	X

'X' is used where numbers are small and confidentiality needs to be preserved.

#### 5.4.5 Abuse type

Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31.3.17 by initial type of abuse:

Neglect	128
Emotional Abuse	63
Multiple <sup>1</sup>	20
Physical Abuse	X
Sexual Abuse	X

<sup>1</sup> Cases where more than one category of abuse is relevant to the child's current protection plan.

'X' is used where numbers are small and confidentiality needs to be preserved.

#### 5.4.6 Referral source

Number of referrals completed by Children's Services in the year ending 31.3.17 by source of referral

Police	680
Schools	456
LA services (Referrals from social care, other internal local authority services and external local authority services)	275
Health services (Referrals from GPs, health visitors, school nurses, other primary health services, A&E and other health services)	248
Other	215
Individual (referrals from family members, relatives, carers, acquaintances and self-referrals)	210
Other legal agency	59
Anonymous	40
Housing	31
Education services	9
Unknown	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,229</b>

**Note:** If a child had more than one referral in the period then each referral will be counted.

## **5.5 Safeguarding Outcomes**

An improvement in performance in relation to statutory visits to looked after children and children subject to child protection plans. Visits to children subject to child protection plans stood at 88.5% in mid-November (provisional data) and for looked after children at 84.9% at the end of October 2017 (validated data). The LA has not yet met its target, however this is an area of significant and sustained progress.

An improvement of 35.7% in the timeliness of child protection investigations in the twelve months to September 2017 and improvements in the proportion of decisions made in relation to new referrals within 24 hours of the referral being received following revisions to process and changes in management oversight.

## **SECTION 6 - CONCLUSIONS AND WHAT THE BOARD WILL BE WORKING ON IN 2017-2018**

The Annual Report evidences strong ongoing commitment across the partnership to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children living in Southend. The LSCB will continue to strengthen its impact on the local safeguarding system through effective oversight and coordination of the system, robust monitoring and challenge of performance and progress among partner agencies and the work of other local strategic bodies.

To ensure the progress made by the Board over the last year continues, the following areas for development have been identified for the next 18 months. (During the production of this Annual Report it has been agreed that the next Annual report should cover the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2019, to align with the Boards financial cycle and partners operating years).

The Board is aware of the ever-changing nature of the environment in which safeguarding services operate, and will direct their attention and efforts taking a dynamic and proactive approach, reviewing priorities on a regular basis. The Board has also identified individual themes that will be focused on throughout the year and these will be identified in the Board's Forward Plan and the work programmes of the sub-groups.

- Conclude and implement the Strategic review of the LSCB and its sub-group priorities and activities, and ensure the views of children and young people inform future Board activity through better engagement.
- Continue to build on the Southend response to the Alan Wood review of LSCB's further to the publication of the Department for Education consultation on significant revisions to the statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (following the introduction of legislative changes through the Children and Social Work Act 2017) and new 'child death review' guidance.
- Support the development of multi-agency responses to neglect and assurances that there is a shared understanding of neglect that promotes the safety, well-being and development of children with consistency of support
- Understanding and assessing the impact on safeguarding of system changes and commissioning plans e.g. Sustainable Transformation Partnerships, the Transforming Care Programme and actively supporting the change programme system wide including workforce delivery issues
- Implement a new performance and risk framework to support the Board in delivering its statutory responsibilities – including understanding the impact of local resource commitment to safeguarding and funding plans.
- Develop and implement induction training and an ongoing development programme for Board members and recruit lay-members to replace recent

resignations.

- Develop a revised audit programme to be overseen by the LSCB based on increased targeted audit activity and analysis that includes Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR), Thresholds, Child Sexual Exploitation, self-harm and suicide prevention.
- Conduct a review of safeguarding training and agree the Board's safeguarding training offer.
- Improve Board communication, review the Southend LSCB website and fully engage with social media.
- Improve understanding of the local response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to identify improvements needed.
- Work collaboratively with both Thurrock and Essex Councils on any initiatives arising from our new relationship with the Essex Police & Crime Commissioner.

## **SECTION 7 - APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 1** Board membership and attendance October 2016 – end September 2017

**APPENDIX 2** Financial Report April 2016 to March 2017

# APPENDIX 1 - Board membership and attendance October 2016 – end September 2017

- ✓ = Attended by nominated representative or substitute.  
 Apologies = Formal apology received.  
 '-' = No formal apology received and did not attend.  
 Vacant = Position vacant following resignation from the Board  
 Not appointed = Post was vacant following resignation from the member agency/or postholder was not a member of the Board at the time of the meeting.

Agency/Role	Nov 2016	Feb 2017	Jun 2017	Sept 2017
Board Independent Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vice Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay member	✓	Apologies	Vacant	Vacant
Lay member	✓	✓	Vacant	Vacant
Community lay member	Apologies	Apologies	-	Apologies
LSCB Executive Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Probation Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
CAFCASS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Essex CRC	✓	✓	✓	✓
SBC – Children’s Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
SBC – Learning Services	Not appointed	✓	✓	Apologies
SAVS	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Essex PCC	Not appointed	✓	✓	Apologies
Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
Essex Fire & Rescue	✓	✓	✓	-
Ambulance Trust	-	-	Apologies	-
Southend CCG	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southend Hospital	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legal advisor	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
SEPT (now EPUT)	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
NELFT	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Better Start Southend	Apologies	-	-	✓
NHS England	Apologies	-	-	-
South Essex College	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓
Schools: Secondary	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
Schools: Special Schools	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies
Public Health	-	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Executive Councillor	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies

## APPENDIX 2 - Financial Report April 2016 to March 2017

Agency	Percentage Contribution	Contribution
Southend Borough Council	49.5%	£43,065
Clinical Commissioning Group	26.0%	£22,620
Police & Crime Commissioner	16.5%	£14,355
National Probation Service	3.6%	£3,132
Essex Rehabilitation Company	3.6%	£3,132
CAFCASS	0.8%	£696
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£87,000</b>

The LSCB shared a business manager and part-time administrative staff with the Safeguarding Children Board and there is a considerable 'in kind' contribution from partners to the Board, Executive and sub-groups - a major resource which is difficult to quantify, but is critical to the effective functioning of the LSCB.

For the year 2016-17 the LSCB's expenditure was as follows:

Description	Expenditure (£)
Total employees	£66,743.99
Total supplies and services (includes chairs remuneration and meeting/training costs)	£55,358.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>£122,102.70</b>

During the year £34,000 was drawn down from reserves and reserves carried forward were £10,900.