

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership

Business Plan 2023-2026





Introduction

Our vision and values

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.
- To create safe, inclusive and supporting environments and challenge racism; we are committed to tackling institutional and interpersonal racism in all its forms.

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.
- We commit to listening, monitoring and continually evaluating our practice because we recognise that good anti-racist practice for the Partnership leads to better outcomes for our children in our city.

Our Business Priorities & Strategic Objectives

The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) Business Plan 2023-2026 set out the strategic intent of the BHSCP in making our vision a reality. The Business Plan and Partnership Workplans underpin the statutory objectives of the BHSCP to coordinate agencies, practice, and approach to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the city of Brighton & Hove.

Priority 2	Safeguarding children from violence and exploitation
Priority 3	Reducing neglect, recognising the impact of poverty and disadvantage
Priority 4	Mental health, emotional health and wellbeing

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 BHSCP Dashboard.
- Learning through Subgroup activity and professional challenge.



How we will Deliver our Priorities

Our priorities will be delivered through our Subgroup activity. Each Subgroup will report to the Statutory Lead Partners, the Steering Group, and Partnership Board every quarter.

BHSCP will work collaboratively with other Partnerships and Boards in Brighton and Hove to co-ordinate services, whilst collectively focussing on safeguarding the children and young people in our city.

Our partner agencies will coordinate audit and evaluation to effectively monitor the effectiveness of services and improve outcomes for local children, young people, and families.

We will work with our Pan-Sussex Partners to provide cross county professional challenge, shared learning, and a shared approach to safeguarding practice.

Business Plan 2023 – 2026 – Priority 1: Partnership Engagement and Accountability

Over the last three years the Partnership arrangements have provided strategic leadership to fully embed the principles of multi-agency safeguarding across all aspects of our work, and that children, young people and their families, the local community, and professionals assist in shaping the work of BHSCP. The Partnership demonstrates effectiveness in delivering against statutory functions, leads the safeguarding agenda in Brighton and Hove, challenges the safeguarding work of partner agencies and organisations, and the Partnership has committed to an approach that learns lessons and embeds good practice. Public safeguarding awareness has improved, enabling our community to act as the eyes and ears and understand how, when, and where to seek help should they witness, or suspect abuse or neglect is happening. This was especially important during the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns of 2020-21.

During the last 3 years BHSCP has strengthened the governance between the BHSCP and other key strategic forums including the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), Community Safety Partnership, Pan-Sussex Strategic Leaders Group, the Association of Safeguarding Partners (tASP), Pan-Sussex Policies and Procedures Group, and the Health & Well-being Board. The Partnership has also developed and maintained robust relationships with community and voluntary organisations in training, challenge, and consultation.

BHSCP has involved and consulted children and young people in the process of helping to keep them safe. The Partnership has adopted anti-racist working to identify where people are discriminated against because of race or membership of global majority communities, and to take active steps to address the systems, privileges and everyday practices that maintain this unequal treatment, whether they be intentional or unintentional.

Pan-Sussex and multi-agency assurance activity tests compliance and effectiveness of local safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures; and the Partnership is confident it can swiftly identify and respond to risks and issues that impact the Partnership. The Partnership continues to use learning from audit, local and national practice reviews, and feedback to improve safeguarding practice in Brighton and Hove.

The transformation phase from the Local Child Safeguarding Board (LCSB) to the Partnership in its current form as BHSCP has concluded. Therefore, whilst engagement and accountability continue to be part of the foundations and daily business of the Partnership; the Business Plan 2023 – 2026 will focus on the Priorities 2,3 and 4 for the next 3 years.

The Partnership business objectives will be reviewed after year 1 and year 2 to ensure they continue to reflect current safeguarding trends, concerns, and developments in Brighton and Hove and nationally.

Priority 2: Safeguarding Children and Young People from Violence and Exploitation

Lead Agency: Sussex Police

Strategic Objectives:

2.1 Develop a profile analysis for each of the elements of complex safeguarding to target interventions.

2.2 Organisations and agencies have the skills and knowledge to recognise and undertake high quality assessments regarding exploitation delivering interventions for children, young people, and families at all levels of need.

2.3 Target intervention where children and young people are deemed to be at risk of extra-familial harm.

Prevent the exploitation of children through raising awareness, building young people's resilience, providing appropriate diversionary activities, and upskilling practitioners across the partnership.

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

Strategic Objectives:

- 3.1** Strengthen and maintain the governance of partnership arrangements to further support a co-ordinated and multi-agency response to neglect. Review and refresh our multi-agency neglect strategy to underpin this work, highlighting the importance of poverty aware practice. Strengthen strategic links through the engagement of the wider partnership, including those services that do not predominantly work with children.
- 3.2** BHSCP in partnership with the Voluntary, Community Sector to ensure the roll out and use of neglect tools and strategies to ensure early prevention and detection of neglect.
- 3.3** The Partnership is assured that an effective whole family approach to assessing neglect, as well as planning and monitoring interventions is embedded city wide across agencies and organisations.
- 3.4** The Partnership is assured that all agencies are equipped to tackle the impact of neglect, to recognise the impact of child poverty and disadvantage, and the importance of poverty aware practice.

Priority 4: Supporting Mental Health, Emotional Health and Well-being

Lead Agency: NHS Sussex ICB

Strategic Objectives:

- 4.1** Evaluate the availability and impact of services and resources on the safety of young people experiencing emotional and mental health issues, and contribute to future service developments, particularly where gaps are identified.
- 4.2** Strengthen the governance interface between the BHSCP, NHS Sussex ICB and Public Health on the local suicide prevention strategy and action plan.
- 4.3** BHSCP in partnership with the Voluntary, Community Sector to ensure roll out and use of Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) in Schools tools and strategies to ensure early detection and prevention of HSB in schools.

Useful Resources

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership - BHSCP](#)
- [Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership - East Sussex SCP](#)
- [West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership - West Sussex SCP](#)

