

To: Members of the Boards of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships for Brighton and Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex and other local stakeholders

Implementation in Sussex of partnership arrangements required by the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

We are writing to you in our capacity as Lead Strategic Partners for the respective local authority areas within Sussex to let you know about new partnership arrangements we have agreed on a Sussex-wide basis to discharge our statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance published by the Government last year, which we will refer to as WT23. The new arrangements will be implemented from 1 September 2024.

We are very grateful to everyone who has been involved in discussions about these arrangements, in particular the Independent Chair and Scrutineer and Business Managers for the three partnerships who have all generously shared their expertise and wisdom to help shape future arrangements.

For many years there have been common formal child protection procedures across Sussex and colleagues within each of the three partnerships have shared information and insight on an informal basis and developed some strong common processes and protocols, most recently in response to child suicides over the last two years. We are committed to working ever more closely together to develop the strongest possible arrangements which ensure consistency in strategic approach while continuing to engage local partners, including partners in education.

As a next step in our development, we have agreed a partnership structure with the following components:

- (i) A single Sussex Safeguarding Children Executive (SSCE) responsible for determining multi-agency safeguarding strategy and agreeing models for multi-agency working (for example through Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs) to safeguard children and young people.
- (ii) Three Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) which each reflect the role of the SSCE while exercising separate responsibility for decision making about individual cases of serious incidents, rapid reviews and local practice reviews, through Case Review Committees and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), reporting annually to the Sussex LSPs meeting together as a group to review the effectiveness of arrangements across Sussex. The statutory guidance is clear that safeguarding partnerships can no longer be chaired by Independent Chairs; the Directors of Children's Services will be the formal Partnership Chairs. However, all

partnerships continue to be required to establish arrangements for independent scrutiny of the operation of their partnership arrangements.

- (iii) Three local Safeguarding Engagement Groups (SEGs) which support the work of each LSCP, chaired by the relevant Director of Children's Services. These groups will replace the current Boards and any steering/planning groups currently reporting to them. The broad membership of the SEGs will be consistent across Sussex comprising representatives of local statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. The engagement of education partners in each area will be strengthened building on existing local arrangements.

The arrangements are set out in the attached document. We are not consulting formally on them at this stage given the discussions which have already taken place across Sussex. We welcome observations however, and will seek to evolve them as necessary, on a consistent basis across the county. There will be a review of the arrangements after 12 months in which all stakeholders will be engaged.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please contact in the first instance any of the following Delegated Safeguarding Partners:

Detective Chief Superintendent Richard McDonagh, Head of Public Protection Sussex Police Service Richard.Mcdonagh@sussex.police.uk

Naomi Ellis, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer NHS Sussex ICB naomi.ellis1@nhs.net

Deb Austin, Corporate Director, Families, Children & Learning, Brighton & Hove City Council deb.austin@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Lucy Butler, Director of Children, Young People and Learning, West Sussex County Council lucy.butler@westsussex.gov.uk

Carolyn Fair, Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council Carolyn.fair@eastsussex.gov.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication and commitment to safeguarding children and young people in Sussex and everything you do to give them the best possible start to their lives.

Kind regards,

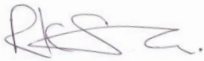
Sussex Lead Strategic Partners (LSPs)



Jo Shiner, Chief Constable, Sussex Police



Adam Doyle, Chief Executive, NHS Sussex



Becky Shaw, Chief Executive, East Sussex and West Sussex County Councils






Jessica Gibbons, Chief Executive, Brighton and Hove City Council



Appendix

Sussex Safeguarding Partnerships Structure

 Pan-Sussex
  By local authority area
*SSCE & *SEG– see proposal for full details

