



**Suffolk Safeguarding  
Children Board**

## **Annual Report 2016/17**

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## 1. Introduction - Independent Chair

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I am pleased to introduce my third annual report as the Chair of the Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), setting out our progress over the last year and our priorities for 2017-18.

A full account of the progress and priority actions is contained in the report but I would like to highlight some key issues here.

The Learning and Improvement subgroup has continued to ensure robust analysis of performance through a detailed and effective programme of audit and scrutiny and it has been pleasing this year to see a significant improvement in the quality of data analysis provided to the Board by most partners as this was one of the Board's Ofsted areas for improvement.

The Board has seen continuing improvement in a number of areas. The consistent attendance of all agencies at child protection conferences has improved and feedback from Board members' observations on the quality of conferences is positive.

The level of S47 enquiries have reduced to be more in line with statistical neighbours, giving further assurance that thresholds for intervention are appropriate. The re-referral rate remains stable, although it would be good to see this reducing still further, as does the overlap number of children on a child protection plan which is now lower than statistical neighbours and the England average. Child protection plans lasting two years or more are at a very low level and the percentage of children becoming subject to a plan for the second or subsequent time has reduced. Audit has shown that the number of assessments rated as good or excellent is improving.

This combination of indicators gives assurance that the child protection system is effective. Further work is needed by all partners to reduce unnecessary contacts to the MASH which have risen this year, and ensure children and families are directed more quickly to those services that are appropriate for their needs. In addition, partners still need to ensure the timely sharing of conference reports with parents and carers.

It is particularly important, in the changing context of Suffolk schools, that all schools are fully engaged in multi-agency work with children and young people and that every school has effective safeguarding systems and training.

The operational response to identifying children at risk of exploitation continues to be strong and there has been significant improvement in ensuring effective return home interviews take place where children and young people are missing, which has risen from 25% to 75% this year. There is effective multi-agency planning in place for those young people with the most concerning missing history. There has also been improved analysis of the missing incidents which, together with the research currently being undertaken using the County Lines approach, will assist in providing a more strategic view of the challenges in Suffolk and enable more targeted geographical interventions. Further work needs to be done with Children's Homes to identify what additional support can be offered to reduce the missing incidents of children looked after.

This year the Board received the reports of three external inspections. The HMIC PEEL Effective Inspection of Suffolk Constabulary was published in November 2016. The Constabulary received a rating of 'Good' in respect of its effectiveness at keeping people safe and reducing crime. It is good at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm, and supporting victims. It responds well to the immediate and longer-term needs and it works with a variety of different organisations to protect those who are vulnerable. Suffolk Police will be reviewing its current use of preventative legislation, to ensure it is making effective use of these powers to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.

The Board received the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Community Health Services for children, young people and families' quality report. It was pleasing to see the very positive inspection outcome and the high quality of services provided with a clear focus on improving outcomes for children and young people. No significant improvements were required but some minor work is required to ensure policies and procedures are up to date.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection of the work of the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company identified that significant improvement is required to bring their work up to an acceptable standard. It is of particular concern to the Board that the quality of work to safeguard children was judged to be insufficient across both organisations. Senior managers have developed an improvement action plan which will be carefully monitored by the Board over the coming year.

The Board has completed one Serious Case Review this year and the main findings of this is that there needs to be improvement in the way neglect is identified and more effective interventions. New LSCB policy and practice guidance has been agreed and promoted and a full programme of training on this is underway. Further audit of the understanding and use of the practice guidance is planned for 2017/8. In addition, the Early Help service has developed an impressive and comprehensive action plan which is being monitored by the Learning and Improvement subgroup.

There has been significant progress in ensuring a more joined up agenda across the strategic partnerships in Suffolk and a quarterly meeting of the chairs of the LSCB/SAB, the Suffolk Strong and Safe Communities Group and the Corporate Parenting Board has ensured that the leadership of the joint agenda is clear and work is better aligned.

I would like to thank partners for their commitment to the work of the Board over the last year which has been evidenced in the achievements outlined in the report. Recruitment and retention has been an issue in several areas over the last year including social workers, health visitors and school nurses and all partners have faced budget constraints. With the pressures and resource constraints faced by partner agencies, and the need to focus on operational delivery, it has been difficult to sustain regular consistent attendance at all the subgroups throughout the year. To assist in this the subgroups have been reviewed and streamlined to reduce the time commitment of key staff and so I would ask partners to ensure that these fewer groups are consistently attended going forward as this is where the detailed work of the Board takes place.

The Children and Social Work Act came into force in April 2017 and we are expecting detailed guidance in the autumn of 2017 on the future requirements for new safeguarding partnerships which will replace LSCB's. Suffolk will need to publish its proposed new arrangements by the end of 2018 and implement them from April 2019. Over the coming year, we will be developing a new partnership structure and plan to ensure that that we make the most of new opportunities. I make no apology for repeating what I said in the last report which is that as Suffolk make these new plans it must hold on to the things which are key to successful strategic safeguarding work; committed partners, analysis and scrutiny, challenge and support, clear priorities and a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to pay tribute to and thank the frontline practitioners in all agencies who work so hard to safeguard children and young people in Suffolk. It is a difficult, challenging and complex task, often made harder by the staffing pressures faced, and we need to acknowledge the skills, dedication and commitment of those who choose to work in this area, without whom children and young people would not be protected.

Sue Hadley  
Independent Chair  
Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board

## 1.1 LSCB Lay Persons' Report

The LSCB are fortunate to have two committed Lay members sitting on the Board. Our Lay members provide scrutiny and challenge from a community based perspective.

They bring additional scrutiny by attending the Learning and Improvement subgroup for the review of the annual performance reports. A report from the Lay members on progress is below:

*The work of the Board has evolved over the last 12 months, it has been focused on thematic issues and continues to be effective in engaging with partners and encouraging them to work together in a common cause and overcome inter-agency challenges. The Board provides a forum for partners to have their say and hear what others are saying about the diverse range of challenges they each face when providing effective Safeguarding. The documentation submitted to the Board has improved in clarity and succinctness, the challenge is for us to work out the next level of enquiry.*

*There has been a change in personnel within the Board management function and this will take time to fully impact upon the character and operation of the Board as it transitions to meet the changing role of LSCB's and indeed whether they continue in their current form.*

*The Suffolk LSCB is well placed and served to meet these challenges with a dedicated team of committed individuals enjoying the support of the partners recognising that the Board provides a place to share problems and develop solutions.*

## 2. The Suffolk Context

Suffolk is a large rural county and has borders with Norfolk to the North, Cambridgeshire to the west and Essex to the South, covering approximately 1,466 square miles. The Suffolk economy is characterised by stable employment and growth rates, but lower than average productivity and wages. It is reasonably affluent overall, but has significant pockets of rural and urban deprivation.

There are three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) one of which covers outside the Suffolk Boundary into Norfolk. According to data from the 2011 Census, the population of Suffolk has risen by 8.9% since 2001, which makes it the fifth fastest growing shire county in England. By comparison, the population of England has only grown by 7.9% since the 2001 Census.

Suffolk County has a total population of 741,895 (ONS 2015 mid-year population estimate) made up of 366,043 males and 375,852 females.

Children in Suffolk	Number	% of people of all ages
0-17 years	151,290	20.4%

The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation for children living in income deprived households in Suffolk is 19,980 (aged 0-15).

The number of Young People who are NEET (Not in employment, education or training) as follows:

	Number NEET	%NEET	%Not Known
End 2014	580	3.70%	4.30%
End 2015	540	3.50%	4.70%
End* 2016	575	3.71%	4.18%

\*End is an average across the period of November, December and January. The DfE will add Suffolk's NEET % and Unknown % together to give us an overall figure. They assume Suffolk's unknowns are all NEET.

Approximately 5% of the children and young people who live in Suffolk have a disability.

Projections suggest there will be little change in numbers of children of primary school age over the next 20-year period (e.g. 102,402 aged 5-16 in 2017, 105,879 in 2027, 104,085 in 2037), but an increase in the number of older children, particularly those aged between 10 and 19 years (e.g. 81,178 in 2017, 88,461 in 2027 and 87,220 in 2037). This will be an important consideration in respect of service provision and demand for services.

The Suffolk School Census data from January 2017 indicates that 15.1% of school children in Suffolk are recorded as being of a non-White British ethnic group (where the ethnic group of children was recorded).

## 2.1 Summary of Child Protection Statistics in Suffolk

The LSCB reviews an extensive range of performance data through its Learning and Improvement sub group. This is a snapshot of some of the key data.

	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016	Aug 2016	Sept 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2106	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	March 2017	Rate per 10,000 March 2017
<b>Number of Children on Child Protection Plans</b>	469	483	478	423	446	440	433	419	409	407	420	438	29.0

The number of children on a child protection plan has decreased over the past 12 months. This is positive and indicates that effective early help has resulted in less children needing intensive interventions. The LSCB will continue to monitor the figures through its regular performance reports. The Suffolk rate per 10,000 of the population is lower than regional and statistical neighbours.

	March 2017	March 2016	March 2015
<b>Number of S47 enquiries started in past 12 months</b>	1686	2597	2363
Rate per 10,000 of Suffolk child population	111.4	171.8	156.3

There has been a significant reduction in the rate of S.47 enquiries over the past last 12 months. Suffolk now has a rate which is in line with our statistical neighbours at March 2017. This has been achieved through the careful and considered application of thresholds by staff both in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and in fieldwork teams. For families, this means less unnecessary interventions and a better relationship with Social Care.

	March 2017	March 2016
<b>% of re-referrals to Social Care in the past 12 months</b>	23%	22%

The volume of re-referrals to Social Care has fallen every year since 2014 and over the past year has remained stable. This indicates that interventions are effective and needs are not re-escalating. This had been previously of concern and was on the LSCB Risk Register. We will continue to monitor the figures through half yearly performance reporting. Suffolk's rate of re-referrals is similar to other East of England authorities and England, but still higher than our statistical neighbours.

### 3. What We Have Achieved in the Past 12 Months

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#### 3.1 Progress Against Priorities for 2016/17

##### Improved Integration

- **Further develop the multi-agency data set and improve measures to understand the quality of practice, improve analysis and identify risks.**

The LSCB multi-agency performance dataset was reviewed during the past 12 months and now includes detailed analysis of each of the 8 agreed outcomes, provided by a lead partner. This in-depth analysis identifies risks and areas for further investigation or a thematic audit.

The outcome has been that the LSCB has greater depth of analysis and understanding of the performance data and the levels of risk. This has led to the Learning and Improvement subgroup being able to more efficiently target and commission their audit activity and inform inter-agency training.

Here are some examples of how the data has improved our level of scrutiny.

The LSCB was concerned about the increasing numbers of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and conducted in depth analysis with Constabulary colleagues resulting in recommendations and a streamlining of the referral process. Further work was commissioned with the SafeLives project to work within the MASH environment to look at how domestic abuse, MASH and MARAC work together in a co-ordinated way to ensure referrals are dealt with in the most effective way. The LSCB is monitoring this work through its Learning and Improvement subgroup.

The Performance data highlighted an increase in S47 discussions. An audit and review by CYP colleagues of the thresholds for S47 cases resulted in positive outcomes as the numbers of S47 are now decreasing and a reassurance that the thresholds are appropriate.

- **Improve integration across strategic partnerships in addressing Hidden Harm.**

The strategic governance arrangements for Domestic Abuse in Suffolk have now been clarified. The Strong and Safe Communities Group (SSCG) are responsible for governance for Domestic Abuse, reporting into the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). Regular meetings of the chairs of the LSCB, HWB, Safeguarding Adults Board and the County Domestic Abuse Senior Officer ensure collaborative and strategic oversight. The LSCB continues to hold the SSCG to account for delivering the strategy.

Strategic support is given to the local District and Borough Domestic Abuse Forums which provide a platform for organisations and practitioners to coordinate local action plans, share information and best practice. These local forums, supported by SCC and Suffolk Domestic Abuse Partnership, are a good example of how local people and organisations are coming together to tackle local issues and to support and safeguard those most vulnerable and at risk in their communities.

There has also been significant progress with the Domestic Abuse strategy and action plan led by the lead for Domestic Abuse. Sharing the action plan with the LSCB has improved joint working and enables the LSCB to target resources more effectively.

Suffolk County Council, working with partners, has been successful in securing £516,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government to provide specialist satellite refuge accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse who are unable to access current provision due to mental health issues, substance misuse or having no recourse to public funds. The two-year fund will see 23 bed spaces provided for vulnerable victims across Suffolk ensuring they are supported with specialist Domestic Abuse and Housing advice.

A free programme of multi-agency domestic abuse training for frontline staff is offered which includes workshops on Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Modern Day Slavery. Suffolk County Council are currently developing a multiagency training/campaign package similar to the Domestic Abuse training for the wider Suffolk system. This raises awareness of the wider Domestic Abuse agenda across the partnership.

Working alongside the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and the Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups, Suffolk County Council has submitted a bid for funds to the Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund. If successful £800,000 will be invested to help us to develop a Co-ordination Centre for Domestic Abuse referrals and case work.

A Suffolk VAWG Steering Group has been established to co-ordinate the workstreams around Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Modern-Day Slavery. The Steering Group is in response to the Government's VAWG Strategy which outlines the expectations of such local steering groups. The Steering Group will sit underneath the Suffolk Strong and Safe Communities Group in terms of governance.

All the work above demonstrates a more co-ordinated, countywide approach to Domestic Abuse. The LSCB have identified this as a priority for 2017-18.

- **Build on the multi-agency NEGLECT Strategy to tackle neglect, to identify prevalence and enable an evaluation of effectiveness.**

The LSCB has undertaken several serious case reviews in the last few years where neglect was a feature of the case. To improve practitioner understanding and effectiveness in intervening in cases of neglect, the LSCB committed to a refresh, relaunch and promotion of the Neglect Strategy and associated training.

Before doing this, the LSCB undertook a survey to gauge practitioners use and understanding of the original LSCB neglect strategy and associated risk assessment tools to identify neglect. This showed that the strategy and tools were not widely utilised, which was a concern.

To mitigate this, LSCB re-issued the LSCB strategy document entitled 'Actions for Preventing and Intervening Early in Neglect' with an embedded action plan. These were agreed by the Board in January.

The action plan aims to improve frontline practice when dealing with neglect cases. It incorporates the learning from the 'Baby E' Serious Case Review (published in February 2017) and the implementation of the Graded Care Profile tool for practitioners. Graded Care Profile is an evidence based assessment tool for evaluating levels of parental care. It identifies strengths and weaknesses in physical and emotional care, targets aspects of neglect and helps practitioners provide evidence that can inform intervention plans.

To ensure the Neglect plans have been effective, the LSCB will:

- Lead on a thematic audit of neglect cases with partnership colleagues in Autumn 2017, report to full Board within 3 months.
- Reissue the survey regarding the new Neglect strategy and tools to practitioners in Autumn 2017.

## **Scrutiny and Challenge**

- **Oversee the implementation of the post OFSTED Action Plans, both for the LSCB and the Local Authority.**

The SCC Ofsted Action Plan was closely monitored and reported to full Board meetings in 2016. The LSCB were informed of the improvements resulting from the action plan, including:

**Ofsted Action -** *Ensure that the Board continues to improve its understanding of the scale and prevalence of Child Exploitation (CE) across the county.*

- CYPS appointed a Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator with a countywide remit, providing focus consistency and linking directly into the CE Strategic Group and action plan.
- A CE toolkit was developed to help practitioners identify the signs and symptoms of CSE. This was also incorporated into referral forms and contact logging systems in the MASH.

This co-ordinated approach to Child Exploitation, alongside improved performance data, enables the LSCB to further understand its scale and prevalence in Suffolk.

**Ofsted Action -** *Board to introduce mechanisms that will identify whether relevant training is reaching all parts of the workforce.*

Additional training questions were added to the Section 11 statutory safeguarding audit to enable the LSCB to gauge if sufficient, quality training is being delivered by its partners.

Alongside this, detailed annual reports from Workforce Development and Schools Choice provide details of the range of safeguarding courses they deliver and assurances regarding the sufficiency and quality.

The multi-agency training quality and sufficiency sub group will continue to regularly monitor Safeguarding training sufficiency across the LSCB at its quarterly meetings.

**Ofsted Action -** *Board to revisit the threshold guidance and service pathways to ensure that greater clarity and confidence develop across the children's workforce and encourage application of consistent thresholds.*

Numerous practice audits both in the MASH and CYP have provided assurance that thresholds are being applied correctly. This has been backed up by levels of S47 cases reducing following an audit of thresholds.

Training on thresholds is built into the advanced 'Working Together to safeguard children' multi-agency training which is endorsed by the LSCB and under constant review by the LSCB Training Quality and Sufficiency group.

**Ofsted Action -** *Improve the offer, take-up and timeliness of return interviews for children missing from home.*

The CYPS Missing Children Co-ordinator ensures that all missing children are now offered a return interview enabling the services to understand the reason for the missing episode. In February 2016 only 25% of return interviews were taking place following an episode of missing. In March 2017, this figure stood at 75% showing a 50% increase.

- **Continue to focus on the scrutiny of key statutory safeguarding responsibilities and assess the quality of frontline practice across key partnerships.**

This is achieved primarily through the Section 11 audit process with 100% of partners completing these during 2016. The audits inform the LSCB Risk Register, identify training needs and capture good practice.

There is excellent engagement of partners in the S11 audit process with all seeing it as an opportunity to review their safeguarding practice and get a level of external scrutiny and quality assurance.

We continue to improve the Section 11 Audit based on the findings of the previous year's audits and the findings from serious case reviews.

The focus continues to be on:

- Partners' understanding of the LSCB Professional Disputes Guidance – embedding the learning from previous serious case reviews.
- Ensuring that partners' commissioned services e.g. Sports facilities safeguarding arrangements, continue to be as robust as their own with regular reporting.
- That the views of children and young people influence safeguarding provision wherever possible – (in response to feedback from the Ofsted report).

### **Identifying and Mitigating Risk**

- **Ensure that the Board continues to improve its understanding of the scale and prevalence of Child Exploitation, including online safety, across the County.**

The Child Exploitation (CE) Strategic Group is a subgroup of the LSCB and meets quarterly. It is responsible for delivery of the Child Exploitation Strategy and action plan. There is now a CE Co-ordinator who works closely with the CYPS Missing Children Co-ordinator, Child Exploitation Strategic Group, MASH and Make a Change Team. This gives the LSCB a sense of clarity and co-ordination.

Other developments overseen by the LSCB include:

- Development of five CaRE (Children at Risk of Exploitation) groups across the county. These multi-agency groups brought together intelligence and concerns to a central point in each locality to improve understanding of the scale of concern across the county. They are now incorporated into the quarterly Area Safeguarding Network Group meetings providing a more strategic, joined up approach in localities.
- Ongoing development of the Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group based in the MASH focussing on Missing Children allowing improved multi-agency assessment of some of our most vulnerable children.
- Ongoing work on raising awareness by means of group training and work with District and Borough Licencing teams and taxi drivers. For example, in West Suffolk they have:
  - Successfully adopted mandatory training for new taxi drivers to undertake a 3-day course which has the same modules as a BTEC City and Guilds.
  - Existing drivers are required to undertake a mandatory 3-hour safeguarding refresher which also covers CSE. West Suffolk College are also delivering this but at a cost to West Suffolk councils, but we have also had a financial contribution from the Police Community Safety Partnership.

This give the LSCB confidence that taxi drivers, who transport some of our most vulnerable children are aware of the signs and symptoms of child exploitation and know what to do if they have a concern.

Information regarding child exploitation for hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation will be a focus for the next twelve months, working closely with District and Borough Council colleagues. An action plan will be monitored by the Child Exploitation Strategic group.

Public Health, in consultation with the LSCB, have commissioned a piece of research around Youth Gangs and Violence. The research will be undertaken by the University of Suffolk in 3 geographical phases 1) Ipswich 2) West Suffolk 3) East Suffolk. Phase 1 will be completed and the findings expected in June 2017. The purpose of the research is to:

- Identify and assess the nature and extent of the problem and impact on safeguarding and wider service delivery.
- Describe and assess existing interventions and service provision and, where relevant, highlight gaps and anomalies.
- Produce evidence led recommendations that will inform a countywide, multi-agency response which will cover the areas of prevention, intervention and enforcement.

It focussed on the recent gang activity in Ipswich and the associated safeguarding concerns.

Initial findings from the study identified:

- An increased risk of sexual exploitation to females involved in the gang activity.
- An increase in the number of violent crimes committed.
- Estimated number of core members of the gangs are between 10 and 40.
- The need for a more co-ordinated approach across partners.

The next phase of the findings will be presented in July 2017.

There will be a further 20 Child Sexual Exploitation thematic case audits and the findings will be reported back to the LSCB in Summer 2017.

- **Ensure risks in multi-agency working are evaluated and mitigated.**

The LSCB maintains a multi-agency Risk Register which is monitored monthly through the Learning and Improvement subgroup and reported quarterly to Board. Risks are identified and captured via partner audits, performance data or through practitioner groups such as Area Safeguarding Network Group meetings.

Some of the key risks identified to the LSCB over the past 12 months and the actions to mitigate are detailed below.

**Provision of reports for Child Protection Conferences within timescales.**

The LSCB requested and received detailed reports highlighting which partners and areas were not providing reports within timescales and raised the issue with the lead officers resulting in an improvement in the production of reports within timescale and more effective conferences.

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) processes were not always being followed by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary following injuries to young people as a result of restraint.**

Meetings between CYPS and Constabulary colleagues in Norfolk and Suffolk resulted in clarification of the procedures and a reduction in the reported number of cases where procedures were not being followed.

**Lack of clarity of protocols across partners when dealing with for 16-17yr olds reporting as homeless.**

An LSCB multi-agency thematic audit resulted in a revised protocol shared across relevant partners and a clearer understanding of the processes when dealing with 16-17yr olds presenting as homeless. The levels of disputes in these cases has fallen considerably in the past twelve months.

## **Consolidate confidence in the MASH, shared approaches to risk assessment, interagency communication and clarification of agency process and procedures for referrals.**

The MASH continues to provide a range of performance and audit data to the LSCB, including levels of referrals and numbers of contacts. The LSCB is concerned about the increasing numbers of contacts and is supporting the ongoing work across the partnership to improve this. This will continue to be a focus for 2017. The levels of calls to the MASH Professional Consultation Line has steadily increased over the past 12 months.

### **Listening and Learning**

- **Ensure that lessons from Case Reviews and the Child Death Overview Panel are implemented and evaluate what changes as a result.**

The Child Death Overview Panel was well supported by partners and continues to meet monthly. 34 cases were reviewed in the past 12 months and the learning used to inform practice and training. A key area of learning included Safer Sleeping. This was also a feature of the 'Baby D' Serious Case Review published by Suffolk in 2016.

The LSCB provided improved information and guidance on Safer Sleeping on its website and supported practitioner events across the county alongside Health colleagues. This increased awareness of Safe Sleeping for practitioners and assisted them with the advice they give to parents.

- **Monitor the impact of the Suffolk Emotional Wellbeing Strategy in improving children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health.**

The LSCB continues to monitor the impact of the Suffolk Emotional Wellbeing Strategy in improving children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health. Partners were concerned about the pace of implementation of the Single Point of Access, funding sources, pathways to support and the speed at which it will improve outcomes for young people.

In January 2017, the Board received a detailed update on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan. The Board was told that the delivery team have revisited the 10 priorities and five big ideas as set out initially with partners, stakeholders, parents/carers and young people. The Needs Assessment underpinning the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Plan had also been reviewed. The aim of the Emotional Wellbeing Hub (Single Point of Access) is that no child, young person or their family/carer will be turned away without being offered appropriate help, information or advice. This was implemented in Summer 2017. A separate work stream is looking at the pathway for those who do not require a specialist mental health service and the existing cross-over with other services including Early Help, Early Years, Wellbeing and third sector provision.

The Board will receive a further progress report on the action plan to deliver the strategy in October 2017. This has been highlighted as a priority for the Board this year.

- **Improve the systems for the LSCB to hear the views and experiences of children and young people and practitioners.**

Listening to the views of children and young people is a priority for the LSCB in 2017. We continue to monitor partners' work in gathering their views and how they influence services via the Section 11 audit process. A young people's interview panel played a key role in the recruitment of the new LSCB Business Manager in January 2017.

This is an area for further development with an action plan in place which includes closer working with the Child in Care Council, existing young people's forums, Youth Parliament and further consultation work with Health and Social Care students in local colleges. We will incorporate a Young People's section on our new website and ensure that it is relevant and reflects local needs.

In September 2016, Suffolk Constabulary invited partner agencies working in safeguarding, to participate in a specially designed interactive survey at University of Essex iLab facility. It explored what is working well and where improvements can be made to working practices. Four focus groups with representation from across a broad spectrum of safeguarding roles including Probation Service, Offender Management, MASH, SARC, Suffolk County Council Adult Services and Protection teams, Housing, Suffolk Police, Anglia Care Trust and NHS, were held over two days facilitated by experts from the University.

Some of the key findings were that Suffolk Constabulary is good at investigating crime and managing offenders. The force identifies and monitors those who pose the greatest risk to the community very well and it prepares thoroughly to manage the behaviour of dangerous offenders and sex offenders. The Constabulary has made some progress in ensuring it complies with the obligations to victims set out in the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. Staff across the organisation have a good understanding of vulnerability and what they need to do to protect vulnerable people. An action plan has identified areas for improvement.

### **3.2 Other key agenda items discussed at the quarterly Safeguarding Children's Board Meeting over the past 12 months – (not included in previous sections).**

#### **3.2.1 The Prevent Duty and People Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) in Suffolk**

The Board received reports on progress following a recent visit to Suffolk from the Home Office.

They acknowledged Suffolk's work with partner agencies and noted that the MASH referral form is the best they've seen across the country. The way the information is collated and shared, is best practice and will be shared with other local authorities. The Board noted that one of the common themes from referrals was the prevalence of autism/ADHD. It was agreed that further work between CYPS and Health would be completed to investigate if there was any evidence to support this in Suffolk.

#### **Channel Panel Home Office feedback:**

*'I greatly enjoyed seeing how well you have got buy-in from a broad range of partner agencies, and your focus on welfare and safeguarding is exactly how Channel should operate. I think your new MASH referral form is the best I have seen across the country and I really like the way partner information is collated in advance and shared in an easy-to-use manner at the meeting.'*

The Board also noted that there has been excellent take up of Prevent training across agencies and schools in Suffolk. We will continue to monitor the Prevent and VTR agendas through regular reports to the Board.

#### **3.2.2 Missing Children Annual Report**

The missing children report to the LSCB showed that the number of missing children continues to rise, which is a concern. However, some of this is due to children who would have previously been categorised as absent are now recorded as missing. This is supported by the high numbers of missing children being missing for under five hours.

53% of children who go missing, go missing from care the majority are aged 16-17. There is now a more streamlined approach for reporting children missing from supported lodgings and those accommodated by the local authority. This will explain the increase in the number of reports of missing Children in Care, as protocols for reporting incidents are more rigorously followed.

Children and Young People's Services now employ a Missing Children Co-ordinator which means all missing children are consistently monitored to ensure the correct response is provided including return interviews being offered. The return interviews help us to understand the reasons for going missing and try to prevent it happening again. In February 2016 only 25% of return interviews were

taking place following an episode of missing. In March 2017, this figure stood at 75% showing a 50% increase.

Further work to improve return interviews is led by the Missing Children Co-ordinator, who is now part of the Child Exploitation Strategic Group with discreet workstream for missing children in the action plan. This ensures that the LSCB have a strategic oversight of Missing Children and it is part of the wider Child Exploitation agenda.

In 2016, a concern was raised by the Independent Chair regarding the categorisation of young people missing or absent. Twice as many boys were reported as absent than girls which indicated they may be more readily categorised as absent and the risk deemed lower than girls. It was agreed this was an area of practice that needs to be challenged and it was subsequently raised with the Corporate Parenting Board. The 2017 figures show a more equal balance.

### **3.2.3 Private Fostering Annual Report**

The report showed that during 2016-2017 the Private Fostering team supported 39 young people in private fostering arrangements. There are fewer children in private fostering arrangements this year, this is largely due to a significant reduction in the number of Education Guardianship placements.

A Private Fostering Task and Finish Group is being convened to create a forum for service improvement. Its remit will be to review and update all existing documents related to Private Fostering and explore ways of increasing notifications and improving practice.

Private fostering continues to be a dedicated service within CYP and key staff have developed significant expertise which has been recognised nationally and by recent Ofsted inspections.

Private Fostering is everyone's responsibility and the support and scrutiny of the local authority and LSCB's quality assurance processes will ensure that these arrangements continue to safeguard these vulnerable children who are not living with their parents or anyone else with parental responsibility.

The LSCB will work more closely with the Private Fostering team this year. By providing additional support, particularly during Private Fostering Week in July, we aim to increase awareness across the partnership, identify more privately fostered children and increase practitioner's knowledge of the support available for these children.

### **3.2.4 Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report**

The annual report showed that an additional 116 LADO referrals were received in the year 2016/17 which represents an increase of 16.3%. (An increase in the number of LADO referrals was reported across the Eastern Region for this period). Nearly 50% of referrals came from the Education Sector.

256 referrals were received that did not meet the LADO threshold. This does not indicate that these referrals were inappropriate, in many cases the LADO was able to offer valuable advice to the employer. It is positive that employers know how to make referrals and had the confidence to do so.

The LADO service has continued to develop over the past 12 months with 2 full time LADOs, a single point of contact and referral and updated policies and procedures. Strong and positive relationships have developed both internally and with other external organisations such as Independent Schools. There is a good working relationship with the LSCB.

The LADOs undertook an audit of a sample of referrals to check if there is any appreciable difference in the way in which similar concerns are managed and whether they met threshold. The audit did not highlight any concerns with LADO's decision making on threshold but constructive discussions were held on learning from the process and helped identify areas for improvement. The LADOs will further develop this QA process by undertaking audits of cases on a 6-monthly basis.

Areas for development have been identified including, independent organisations' lack of awareness of safeguarding processes and lack of training and knowledge in transport providers. The transition of schools to Academies and Free Schools is an area of focus to ensure that they continue to follow agreed LADO procedures. The LADO has ongoing dialogue with the Strategic Support and Education Team and any issues will be flagged with the Lead Standards and Excellence Team.

The LSCB will continue to work closely with the LADOs and support on these areas of development.

### **3.2.5 HMIC Inspection of Suffolk Constabulary**

The Board received the report - HMIC PEEL Effective Inspection of Suffolk Constabulary November 2016.

Suffolk Constabulary has been assessed as 'Good' in respect of its effectiveness at keeping people safe and reducing crime. The Constabulary has made progress against the areas identified in the previous year's inspection and has plans in place to make further improvements in the services it provides to the public during 2017.

It is good at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm and supporting victims, it responds well to the immediate and longer-term needs and it works with a variety of different organisations to protect those who are vulnerable. Officers and staff in the control room are effective at identifying risk and they deploy resources appropriately to incidents that involve people who are vulnerable.

The force should review its current use of preventative legislation, to ensure it is making effective use of these powers to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.

### **3.2.6 CQC Inspection of Community Health services for children, young people and families' quality report**

On 7th March 2017 SCC CYPS Health Services were inspected by the CQC. The service was not given a rating under a revised approach by the CQC for small to medium providers. The content of the report was very positive, in particular, the quality of the practice of staff. The CQC acknowledged staffing issues and yet were impressed with the effectiveness, and responsiveness of the service delivered and a caring attitude of staff. There were some areas for improvement and these are included in the action plan which was shared with the Board and will be monitored by the Learning and Improvement subgroup.

### **3.2.7 HMIP Inspection of Probation Services**

The Board received the report, Quality & Impact inspection - the effectiveness of Probation work in Suffolk, published in June 2017. The Board were very concerned that the report highlighted many shortfalls in the levels of safeguarding of children, particularly in cases of domestic abuse, across both the Community Rehabilitation Company and Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Service. The level of risk assessment and quality of assessments were below required standard. The Board requested an action plan in all four areas highlighted in the report, to be sent to the Learning and Improvement subgroup in September and a further report to full Board in October 2017 and again in January 2018.

### **3.2.8 Suffolk Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)**

The LSCB commissioned two serious case reviews in the past 12 months.

#### **Baby 'E' Serious Case Review – Published in February 2017**

Following Baby E's death, a formal referral was made in January 2016 to the LSCB who commissioned a serious case review. The review was undertaken by an Independent Lead reviewer. She was supported by a multi-agency review panel with an independent chair.

Following the completion of the learning report, Suffolk LSCB convened an Extraordinary Board meeting in November 2016 to consider the report and endorse the recommendations. An LSCB action plan and single agency action plans were compiled and monitored through the LSCB Learning and Improvement subgroup.

The learning from the case was:

#### **Early help systems, processes and tools**

- As part of their assessment, practitioners should consider the question – What is life like for this child?
- They should take the ‘whole family’ approach, not see the child in isolation.
- There should be clear understanding of the role of the Lead Professional in Early Help cases.

#### **Working with neglect, the management of risk and understanding parenting capacity**

- Practitioners need access to tools which enable them to effectively assess risk of neglect – (Graded Care Profile being rolled out in 2017).
- They need to be able to confidently balance and assess risk and the family’s capacity to adapt to change and understand plans.

#### **Threshold conversations, professional respect, repeat referrals and assertive escalation and working with a case that is not progressing.**

- There needs to be effective supervision and management oversight of cases with repeat referrals.
- Practitioners should have confidence in using the LSCB Escalation Policy if they are not happy that a case is progressing as it should.

#### **Understanding Epilepsy (and other illnesses) and their impact on family life.**

- Work with Health professionals to understand the impact of chronic illnesses on a family's life and ensuring that plans are effective and understood.
- How can we support parents, particularly those with additional needs?

#### **Working with adults with additional needs**

- Understand and use of the ACCORD Policy i.e. closer working with Adult Services, especially if the adults have allocated Social Workers.
- Adopt a ‘whole family’ approach – clear pathways across services to support the adults and children in the family.

#### **Assertive confident practice with challenging parents**

- Don't lose sight of the child, don't be distracted by challenging or avoidant adults or family members, even if there is a complaint.
- Escalate where necessary.

The following learning events were put in place as a result of this case:

- Training for relevant CYP frontline staff by Practice Managers in December-February.
- Nine x 3-hour training sessions for Community Health staff advertised on CPD online starting in March.
- Slides developed with the key lessons promoted via LSCB March newsletter and shared with partners in February.
- Workforce Development including the learning in all level 2 and 3 safeguarding courses from February.

CYPS have developed a detailed action plan for this case, which is being monitored through the Learning and Improvement group and reported regularly to the Board.

A second serious case review is underway and a report will be completed in Autumn 2017.

The Suffolk SCR reports and LSCB responses can be viewed on the LSCB website: <http://suffolkscb.org.uk/procedures/serious-case-reviews/>

## **4. Subgroup Highlights – How subgroups have supported outcomes in 2016/17 and will deliver priorities for 2017/18**

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A significant amount of the LSCB's work is channelled through its subgroups who ensure that the full range of work is undertaken. These subgroups each report to the full Board twice a year.

### **4.1 Child Exploitation (CE) Subgroup**

The strategic oversight of child exploitation is led by the CE Strategic Group which reports directly to Suffolk LSCB. The strategic group has developed a Child Exploitation Strategy and meets quarterly to oversee progress against the priorities set out in its CE Action Plan. The connection between CE and issues including children missing from home and care, gang activity and substance misuse, is fully recognised.

The link-up between the Police CSE and Missing Person Coordinators and the two corresponding roles within CYPS will now ensure enhanced dynamic information sharing and case management. An early example of the benefit of this join-up is the work that has been carried out to strengthen the return home processes and ensure the two-way flow of information.

There has been continued focus on raising awareness of CE. The Licensing representative on the CE Strategic group worked with the LSCB Manager to refine and customise material that can be provided to all taxi drivers. There is growing support for this to be a mandatory requirement for holding a taxi license. This is now being implemented across most District and Borough councils in Suffolk.

The MASH operates a Professional Consultation Line available to staff in all partner agencies, and the public. This is supported by a Consultant Social Worker specialising in child exploitation working within the MASH, who will evaluate the presenting risk and offer advice as to the actions to take.

A revised child exploitation toolkit has been developed by CYP colleagues following a review of the original version in early 2017. This new tool is easier to use and gives practitioners confidence and consistency when using the tool to identify signs and symptoms of exploitation.

The CE group has recently agreed a revised action plan broken down into workstreams. This ensures that the work of the group is focussed and the group has become smaller and more fit for purpose. It will allow reporting on the plan to the LSCB to be more effective.

### **4.2 Learning and Improvement (LIG) Subgroup**

The multi-agency LIG subgroup meets monthly. This group was described by Ofsted as 'the fulcrum' of the Board, where the practice and performance are effectively scrutinised. Its focus is cross-partnership audit, scrutiny and the monitoring of an extensive range of performance information.

These include annual reports covering:

- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) activity.
- Private Fostering.
- Missing Children.
- Workforce Development Safeguarding Training.
- Schools Choice Designated Lead and Governor training.
- Private Fostering.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – Schools safeguarding.
- Child Death Overview Panel.
- Prevent and Vulnerable to Radicalisation.
- Online Safety.

### **Statutory Partners Section 11 (Children Act 2004) - Safeguarding Audits**

All twelve statutory partners completed Section 11 audits during the year. These were reviewed by the LIG subgroup with ten given a RAG rating of 'green' and two rated as 'amber'. Suffolk County Council's full audit resulted in their RAG rating changed from amber to green.

There were concerns from two Section 11 audits regarding the lack of a comprehensive safeguarding policy, this is being addressed with the individual agencies. Several partners were required to further develop their awareness and understanding of the MASH processes and with recommendations that they visit the MASH. Recommendations were given to several partners regarding they ensure the views of children and young people inform their safeguarding practice.

Statutory partners' commitment to these audits allows the group to gain a cross partnership view of Safeguarding and to be able to focus its thematic audits and inform future training.

### **Some of the key areas of work covered by the Learning and Improvement Subgroup in the past 12 months**

#### **Monitoring and Attendance at Child Protection Conferences**

There was a concern that the attendance at Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups was decreasing and this was having an impact on the decision making. The attendance was monitored by the group through six monthly audit and reporting by SCC Children and Young People's Services. A steady improvement in attendance from all agencies, with minor exceptions, has been evidenced in the last six months.

#### **Agency Reports to Child Protection Conferences**

LIG continue to monitor that partners provide reports to conferences in good time to ensure that the conferences are as effective as they can be. Some issues have been identified with partners not providing reports within agreed timescales. This is being reported to the relevant agency Lead Officer and we will continue to monitor this every six months as performance is still not at a satisfactory level.

#### **LSCB Members Observations of Child Protection (CP) Case Conferences**

LSCB members have been observing CP conferences across the county. Most of the feedback has been very positive with constructive feedback given to the conference chairs about improvements to the process and the importance of partners providing reports within timescales. Board members will continue to observe both initial and review conferences over the next twelve months. This has increased visibility of Board partners and increased their awareness of the challenges faced in providing effective conferences.

### **16-17-Year-Old Homeless Protocol**

After considerable multi-agency work and a thematic audit, the group were pleased to note that the protocol has been completed and signed off by all partners. The outcome is that there is greater understanding of the legislative position regarding 16-17-year olds reporting as homeless and an improved multi-agency response to finding the best solution for each individual case. Partnership working between Housing and CYPS colleagues has improved.

### **Electively Home Educated Children**

There are an increasing number of electively home educated children in Suffolk and LIG were concerned by the increase in numbers of children being home educated and potentially not being safeguarded, especially those already receiving a service from Social Care. The outcome of this work is the development of an action plan by the Education Lead Officer to increase awareness and understanding of home education and the support provided for families. This will be shared and promoted across the LSCB partnership. The ongoing monitoring by LIG has led to work with the Home Education Service to undertake a thematic audit of twenty cases in Summer 2017.

### **Home Office Draft Concordat on Secure Accommodation for Young People Held in Custody**

A report was submitted by the Joint Head of Suffolk Youth Offending Service. This set out the legislative and practice requirements for the Police and Local Authority to ensure that children and young people who have been charged and denied bail are not detained in police custody but are transferred to local authority accommodation pending their attendance at court. LIG were concerned about the lack of secure accommodation for young people who have been arrested, charged and denied bail. It has been an ongoing concern for Suffolk over the past 12 months.

An audit was undertaken to ascertain the scope of the problem and the issues for children. The outcome of this piece of work by Youth Offending Service is a recommendation for a robust improvement plan to be devised and for the Board to monitor the ongoing work to increase available accommodation over the next 6 months. A report is due back to LIG with the outcomes by the end of 2017.

### **CYP Ofsted Action Plan**

The CYP Ofsted Action Plan was reported to and reviewed by LIG who noted significant progress made in addressing the areas for improvement from the report.

### **Children Subject to Police Protection**

Concerns were raised by a partner agency as to whether Police Protection Orders (PPOs) were appropriately used. LIG instigated an audit to determine the nature of the support for these children. The audit and report found that the Police support and action was proportionate and appropriate and that CYP and Police are working effectively together to safeguard children.

### **MASH Annual Report**

The Annual Report on the Suffolk MASH provided a thematic, qualitative summary of the work and impact of the MASH within the last twelve months. The information was set against the outcomes framework to demonstrate improvements since the implementation of the MASH. Also, to set out the future strategic and operational priorities for the coming year.

## **Audits commissioned and reviewed by the Learning and Improvement Subgroup**

LIG has commissioned and reviewed several audits this year. Some of the audits are still ongoing and are due to report to LIG later in 2017. We have detailed some of the findings from audits this year.

### **Multi-Agency Audit of Out of County Child in Care (CiC) Placements**

The audit focused on 12 cases from the past 12 months: six CiC placed in Suffolk from another authority and six CiC placed in another authority by Suffolk. The objective of the audit was to ascertain if government guidance was followed in relation to children placed out of county and out of county children placed in Suffolk.

The audit provided some assurance that notification of CiC is taking place when children are placed outside and inside local authority boundaries. Many formal notifications were found to be timely and information sharing was working well. There is good evidence to demonstrate that where children were identified as CiC that their needs were being met in a timely and appropriate manner.

However, the audit found that systematic improvements can be made to the notification process which would improve both the planning and support for CiC wherever they are placed in either a care, health, or education facility.

The ten recommended improvements identified as part of the audit will be going to the CYP Quality, Engagement and Performance Board (QEP), Head of Corporate Parenting and the Quality Assurance Team. A progress update of the action plan will be presented to the Learning and Improvement subgroup in Summer 2017.

### **A report on placing Young People in Alternative Education provision where the Ofsted grade is Inadequate**

The LSCB were worried about children being placed in inadequate alternative provision and asked for reassurances. The report endorsed that children are safe in their alternative provision and no child is placed until all safeguarding issues have been addressed and confirmed by the School Improvement Board, the leadership of the provision and the Education Standards and Excellence Team.

Where safeguarding is a key issue in the inadequate grading, the Local Authority will commission an external safeguarding review to investigate and assess the details of all safeguarding practices and procedures. It was confirmed that out of county provisions are not used if inadequate and children will be removed if appropriate.

### **Missing Children Return Interview Audit**

The return interview audit looked at 20 random cases to review quality and effectiveness of return interviews. The audit found that overall social work analysis of risks, ascertaining where the child had been whilst missing and effective use of multi-agency planning was evidenced. The main area of work requiring improvement was safety planning for the child to prevent them from being reported missing again or increase their safety if missing again. This area will be a focus over the next year and will be improved through further training at team meetings and practitioner workshops and the sharing good practice and exemplars to aid practitioner learning. Quarterly audits will take place to monitor progress and ensure outcomes are being achieved.

## **4.3 Policy, Planning and Engagement (PPE) Subgroup**

The PPE subgroup has met twice during the past twelve months and reviewed many policies and procedures. These include Missing Children Procedures, Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked, Managing Organised and Complex Abuse Policy, Multi-Agency Guidance on FGM, Safeguarding Children and Young People at Risk of Gang Involvement, amongst others.

Attendance at this group has been poor and was part of the overall review of subgroups. It has been agreed to join this group with the LSCB Training Quality and Sufficiency subgroup from June 2017.

This will mean that the new joint group will review new and revised policies and procedures whilst ensuring that they are built into safeguarding training across the partnership.

#### **4.4 Child Death Overview (CDOP) Panel**

Suffolk CDOP relies on information provided by each single agency involved in the life of a child to understand what led to the death and what should be done to prevent similar cases in future. The panel met 5 times and reviewed 33 cases over the past twelve months, this compared to 37 in the previous 12 months.

During 2016-2017, Suffolk CDOP wrote letters of commendation to colleagues at EACH for the services and support they gave to bereaved families. End of Life Care Plan is an area CDOP plans to further develop over the next twelve months.

The CDOP panel has supported several Safer Sleeping events held following recommendations from a previous serious case review. The Safer Sleeping Suffolk strategy with 6 key campaign messages are still ongoing and it is intended to provide consistent, simple, straight forward, evidence informed advice as a starting point for discussion with parents.

CDOP continues to monitor the trends in child deaths in Suffolk over the past 12 months including child suicides.

#### **4.5 Case Review Panel Report**

The Case Review Panel have met 10 times in the past year to discuss individual cases referred by partners both as potential serious case reviews or multi agency review or capturing good practice. The panel explores these cases in detail to look at learning and any improvements required to practice.

A number of cases raised concerns around practice and whilst not meeting the criteria for serious case review, letters requesting further information and clarification were sent to agency leads and Regional LSCB Chairs. Two cases are due for further consideration once further details have been received.

The panel scrutinises the action plans from previous Suffolk serious case reviews to ensure these are being effectively implemented.

The Case Review Panel has now been incorporated into a joint meeting with the Executive Group as there was correlation across the membership of both groups.

#### **4.6 Area Safeguarding Network Groups (ASNGs)**

The three Area Safeguarding Network Groups have developed considerably over the past 12 months. It was agreed to use a countywide set agenda with a focus on strategic LSCB developments and the local area agenda. Although each of the meetings has a different feel, all of them continue to provide a forum for local scrutiny, challenge and a supportive framework for shared problem solving.

A recent evaluation of these area meetings identified the areas that are working well. This included: having a joint agenda with the LSCB continues to provide both structure and focus and reflects local commitment to safeguarding. The meetings build connections and raise awareness of each other's agendas and priorities. There is successful and constructive challenge and when shared, case examples provoke constructive discussion.

There are some areas for improvement, this includes: there can be variable attendance across the three locality areas. It can prove difficult to evaluate and record the impact of the meetings. There is limited use of case examples within the meetings to disseminate learning and good practice.

These meetings have now been evaluated and combined with the Child at Risk of Exploitation (CaRE) Groups. This will improve the attendance as more practitioners will attend the CaRE group and enable more effective joint planning.

#### **4.7 Online Safety Subgroup**

This group is chaired by Cllr. Gordon Jones, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.

The LSCB contributed £2k to the annual online safety cyber survey, in 2016 and were pleased to receive the report with many positive outcomes, summarised below:

3142 young people in mainstream education and further education responded to the survey. The sample is 48% male, 46% female, while 6% of respondents chose 'prefer not to say'. The largest cohort were 12 years old with two other large groups aged 11 and 13 years.

See Appendix 9.7 for the key findings from the 2016 Cyber Survey.

#### **4.8 Health Operational Subgroup**

The group has met and discussed a range of safeguarding related issues including National and Regional work continuing with asylum seeking children, working on a draft multi-agency policy which is going to the LSCB for approval. Reviewed progress and findings from the two Suffolk serious case reviews Young Person F and Baby E. An ongoing review of Governance arrangements and a review of the Marks on Non-Mobile Infants policy.

## 5. What We Plan to Do – Priorities for 2017/18

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The LSCB will continue our **core business** which is:

1. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding provision across the LSCB partnership through a range of performance reports and audits.
2. Ensure that learning from case reviews and the Child Death Overview Panel is effectively shared, monitored and embedded in practice
3. Monitor the impact of austerity and financial constraints on partners' safeguarding provision.
4. Effective working across the key strategic Boards, in particular the Safeguarding Adults Board, Corporate Parenting Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Alliance Boards and Strong and Safe Communities group.
5. Ensure that partners are well placed to deliver their strategic safeguarding arrangements in line with the expected government guidance and changes to legislation.

Our **specific priorities** are:

- Lead the delivery of the Child Exploitation Action Plan across Suffolk. This will recognise the impact of the multi-agency response to the County Lines and Gangs and Groups in Suffolk.
- Monitor the effectiveness of a Graded Care Profile framework to enable practitioners across the tiers of support to assess the risk of neglect and audit to measure its effectiveness.
- Ensure that the views of young people and families influence safeguarding provision across Suffolk.
- Ensure that the effect of Domestic Abuse on children is appropriately identified and addressed through the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Monitor the impact of the delivery of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **5.1 Other areas of focus and challenge for the forthcoming year**

The LSCB will develop a detailed Business Plan incorporating the key priorities for the next twelve months.

#### **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) – The impact of the work of the SafeLives project of referrals to MARAC**

The LSCB performance data and feedback from network meetings continues to raise concerns about the number of cases being referred to MARAC and the impact on partner resources. Also, questions are raised about the thresholds for referrals and the reliance on professional judgment. The Learning and Improvement subgroup will monitor the work of the SafeLives project, working with the MASH to review the processes for referrals to MARAC by receiving regular reports on progress.

#### **The number of children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE) and School Exclusions**

Early in 2017 a concern was raised by Education colleagues about the continuing increase in the numbers of EHE children and the support we can provide to them if they are not in mainstream schools, particularly those known to Social Care. A further report is required from Education on the current situation in Summer 2017 and we will conduct a thematic audit of a select number of EHE children alongside Education colleagues. The LSCB will also continue to monitor the levels of school exclusions which were subject to further scrutiny as part of the July 2017 Performance report.

### **Redevelopment of the LSCB website**

The LSCB website will be redeveloped in 2017 to make it more accessible to non-professionals and easier to navigate. New development on the site aims to retain visitors by displaying the information in an engaging way – better layout, easier navigation, embedded video, a more mobile-friendly format.

We will make sure that the policies on the site are up to date and give partners the confidence to use it.

### **Government legislation affecting the LSCB and the Children and Social Work Act**

The Board has received regular updates on the progress of the Children and Social Work Act.

The Executive subgroup met in November 2016 and recommended that any future structural changes should keep the key elements of the current arrangements whilst taking into account any local safeguarding priorities.

New government guidance is expected in Autumn 2017 and further discussion will take place to deliver the new arrangements.

## 6. Safeguarding Training in Suffolk

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Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to ensure that appropriate safeguarding training is provided in Suffolk and that it meets local needs. Working Together 2015 sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004. Working Together states that LSCBs should *'monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'*.

### **LSCB Online training for Introduction to Safeguarding**

The LSCB purchase an online system for introduction to Safeguarding from an external provider, ME Learning. This system has been used by over **2000 users** in the past 2 years. It provides easy to use access to basic safeguarding training across the multi-agency partnership.

This system has ensured that many people who are unable or unwilling to access face to face training have been able to complete the basic introduction to safeguarding.

### **Single Agency Safeguarding Training - Level 2 Introduction**

Most partners deliver their own single agency Introduction to Safeguarding training and this is monitored in two ways:

- Through the Section 11 safeguarding audit with the individual agencies. We are pleased to note that there were no issues with training in terms of quality and sufficiency over the past 12 months.
- By the quarterly Training Quality and Sufficiency subgroup, attended by a range of partners. This group discuss partnership training quality and sufficiency, share good practice and ensure that the latest national and local learning from Serious Case Reviews is incorporated in training.

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training - Level 3 Working Together**

Suffolk LSCB does not deliver the multi-agency Level 3 Safeguarding training. This is now the responsibility of the Suffolk Workforce Development Team. They provide a report annually to the Learning and Improvement subgroup which details the number of courses run in the past 12 months and any issues highlighted during the training.

The LSCB quality assures this training and works closely with workforce development and other partner agencies to ensure it includes the most recent learning and legislation. This enables us to check that the training is relevant and up to date.

### **Suffolk Trainers Forum**

Meets quarterly and the LSCB influences the content of the training, to ensure that the learning from serious case rReviews are incorporated. The learning from the Baby E serious case review was incorporated into training from January 2017.

### **Improvements to Safeguarding training in the past 12 months.**

There are now more safeguarding training courses on offer than ever before, which is increasing practitioner's knowledge of key safeguarding agendas. Training is more focussed and includes specific subjects such as Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse and Prevent. Training also includes the learning from three Suffolk serious case reviews in the past 2 years with a focus on Safer Sleeping, Neglect and Professional Disputes. – (See Appendix 9.6 for the detailed list).

We will continue to work closely with practitioners through Area Network meetings, Trainers Forums and the Training Quality and Sufficiency subgroup to ensure that safeguarding training in Suffolk is relevant and up to date.

## **7. Board Structure and Governance**

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### **7.1 The Structure of Suffolk LSCB and its partnerships**

There is a four-part structure to the Suffolk Board. The main Board, providing a clear strategic lead, and an Executive group that meets 8 times a year [pre-and post-Board meetings] and drives forward the business and operation of the LSCB. The Executive group develops and agrees the agenda for Board meetings, commissions work required for meetings and ensures that before items are taken to the Board clear solutions and/or proposals have been formulated.

A series of subgroups report to the main Board. (See the subgroup structure chart in Appendix 9.1)

For further, more detailed information on structure and governance:

- Board levels of membership – See Appendix 9.3
- List of Board Members – See Appendix 9.4

### **7.2 Agency attendance and the Board's response to challenges**

Attendance at full Board has been generally good over the past twelve months – (see Appendix 9.5 for the detailed list of member's attendances).

Subgroup attendance had been steadily declining and was raised as a risk by the Independent Chair. The Executive Group considered the reasons for this and identified the need to review and streamline the subgroups due to partners' capacity and overlap in attendance.

The Area Safeguarding Network Groups and Children at Risk of Exploitation (CaRE) Groups were combined, as were the Executive Group and Case Review Panel and also the PPE and Training, Quality and Assurance subgroups. The aim is better attended meetings with joint, more focussed agendas.

The impact of the changes to the subgroups will be monitored and evaluated during 2017 and reported back to Board at the end of the year.

## 8. LSCB Budget and Expenditure

### Year-end position as at 31 March 2017

The LSCB received a total of £211,049 **income from partners** for the financial year 2016/17 as detailed below:

<b>2016/17 Partner contributions to LSCB Budget:</b>	<b>£</b>
Babergh District Council	5,000
CAFCASS	550
Forest Heath District Council	5,000
Ipswich Borough Council	5,000
Mid Suffolk District Council	5,000
Suffolk CCGs	47,000
St Edmundsbury Borough C	5,000
Suffolk Coastal District Council	5,000
Suffolk Constabulary	23,500
Norfolk & Suffolk CRC	2,500
Norfolk & Suffolk Probation	2,100
Waveney District Council	5,000
Suffolk County Council	100,399
<b>Total</b>	<b>£211,049</b>
Additionally, the LSCB Executive group agreed a further £30,000 to be drawn from reserves if needed for: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Case Reviews</li> <li>• LSCB project development</li> </ul>	

The LSCB **expenditure for the year** to 1 April 2017 is detailed below:

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Total Estimated Yearly spend 2016-2017</b>
<b>Salaries:</b>	153,671
<b>Transport Related Expenses:</b>	935
<b>Supplies and Services:</b>	
- Professional Services – LSCB Chair	21,876
- Printing	2,667
- Room Hire and catering	2,962
- Development - (Website)	1,200
- Serious Case Reviews	27,014
- Grants to Organisations - AILC	1,500
- Training	450
- Contributions to Projects - (CYP Cyber survey)	2,000
- Misc. charges	608
- Staff Advertising	1,129
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£216,012</b>
<b>Less total income</b>	<b>£211,049</b>
<b>Balance to draw from reserves</b>	<b>£4,963</b>

The expenditure was in line with the budget predictions for the year.

### **LSCB Reserves at 31 March 2017**

£170,657	Carried forward as at 31 March 2016
£4,963	Used for 2016-17 shortfall
<b>£165,694</b>	Carried forward at 31 March 2017.

### **LSCB Contributions for 2017-18 Financial year**

The LSCB are expected to receive the same amounts as last year, therefore the following contributions for the financial year 2017/18 as outlined below:

<b>2017/18 Partner contributions to LSCB Budget:</b>	<b>£</b>
CAFCASS	550
West Suffolk District Council	10,000
Ipswich Borough Council	5,000
Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Council	10,000
Suffolk CCGs	47,000
East Coast District Council	10,000
Suffolk Constabulary	23,500
Norfolk & Suffolk CRC	2,500
Norfolk & Suffolk Probation	2,100
Suffolk County Council	100,399
<b>Total</b>	<b>£211,049</b>

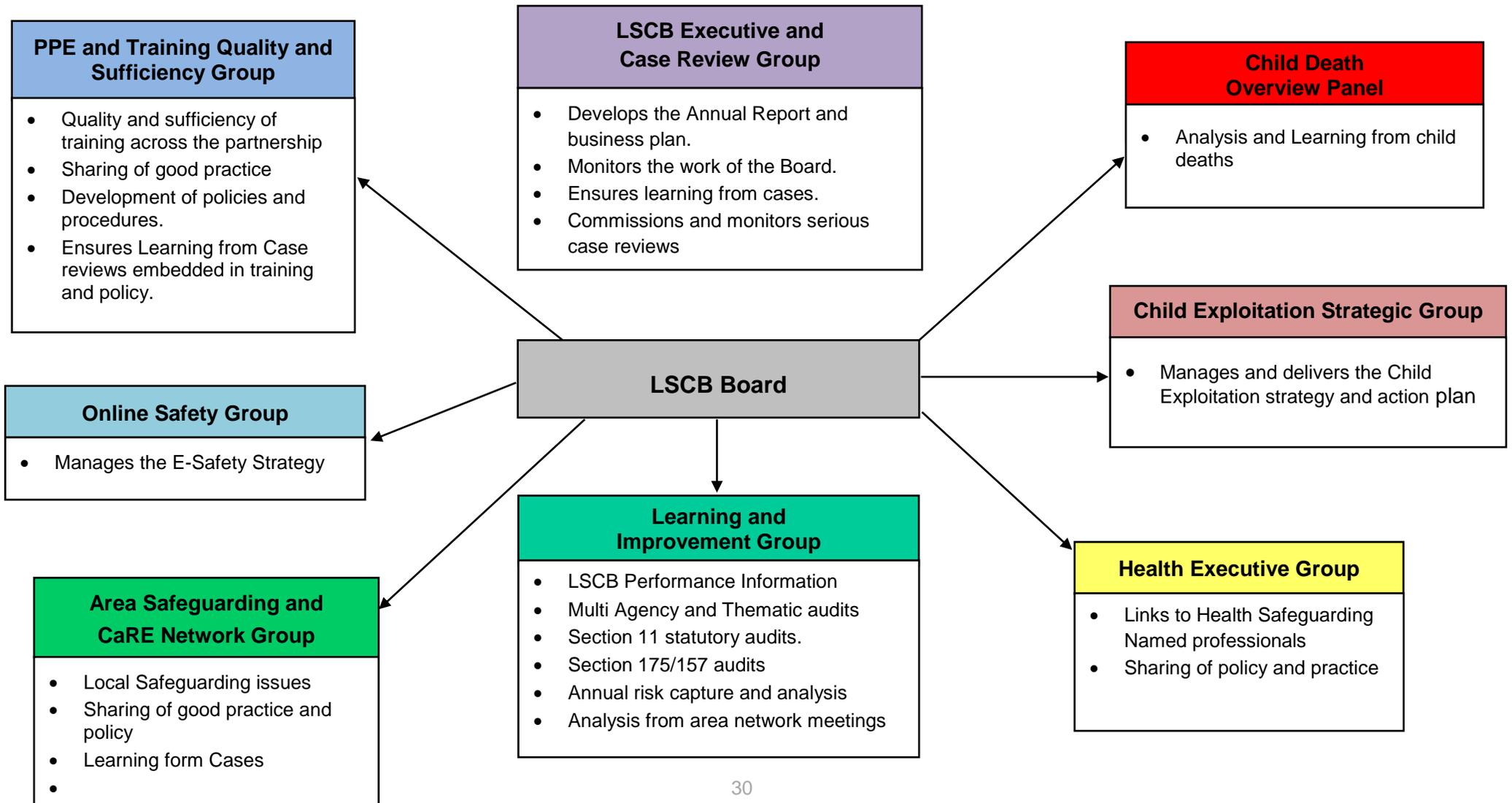
<b>Estimated Expenditure for 2017/18</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Salaries:</b>	163,000
<b>Transport Related Expenses:</b>	1,000
<b>Supplies and Services:</b>	
- Professional Services – LSCB Chair	24,000
- Printing	3,500
- Room Hire	2,000
- Website Development	5,000
- Serious Case Reviews	28,000
- Grants to Organisation - AILC	1,500
- ME Learning License	6,500
- MACIE development	2,000
- Awareness raising, training and workforce development resulting from programmes o Cyber Survey o County Lines o YP consultation/development	10,000
▪ Internal Charges:	100
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>246,600</b>
<b>Less Income</b>	<b>211,049</b>
<b>Draw from reserves</b>	<b>35,551</b>

### **LSCB Reserves at 31 March 2018**

£165,976	Carried forward as at 31 March 2017
£35,551	Used for 2017-18 shortfall
<b>£130,425</b>	Estimated carry forward at 31 March 2018.

## 9. Appendices

### Appendix 9.1 - Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board – Subgroup Structure



## **Appendix 9.2 - Statutory and Legislative Context for Safeguarding Children Boards**

The functions of the Board are set out in primary legislation (Sections 14 and 14(a) of the Children Act 2004) and statutory regulations (Local Safeguarding Children Regulations 2006). The work of the Board during the period covered in this report was governed by the statutory guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children issued in March 2015.

All local authorities are legally obliged to have a Children's Safeguarding Board which has two statutory objectives and functions:

- 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.

### **Working Together to Safeguard Children - March 2015 states that:**

The chair must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should be published in relation to the preceding financial year and should fit with local agencies' planning, commissioning and budget cycles.

The report should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the chair of the Health and Well-being Board.

The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action.

The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

## **Appendix 9.3 - Levels of Membership of Suffolk LSCB**

There are four levels of membership for Suffolk LSCB as agreed within the constitution:

### **Full Members**

Partners with a statutory duty to co-operate or where the Board considers membership to be essential:

- Independent Chair
- Director of Children's Services SCC
- NHS Commissioning Board, Trust Hospitals and clinical commissioning groups
- Chief Officer of Police – Suffolk Constabulary
- NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts (including Ambulance Service)
- Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Trust
- Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Trust
- District and Borough Councils [1 representative]
- Senior Officer, Adult Social Care, SCC

### **Standing Members**

Will include representatives of agencies which do not have an obligation under statute, but are full members and expected to attend all meetings. They will include:

- Representatives from education (including Independent schools)
- Lay members
- Representative from the voluntary sector
- Fire Service

### **Associate Members**

Not full Board Members with 'voting rights', but would receive all papers and can request items to be included on the agenda or attendance at a particular Board meeting by arrangement through the LSCB Manager. Associate members can become a member of any subgroup other than Executive group and are expected to attend at least one meeting per year and update the Board on their agency/organisation.

### **Professional Advisors**

Partners providing a range of professional or technical advice on a fixed or periodic basis: The LSCB should be able to draw on appropriate expertise and advice from the relevant sectors. This includes a designated doctor and nurse.

## Appendix 9.4 - List of Board Members

### Suffolk Board Membership as at April 2017

Sue Hadley	LSCB Independent Chair
Paul Nicholls	LSCB Manager
Tracy Murphy	LSCB Professional Advisor
Rachel Roshier	LSCB Business Support Co-ordinator [Minute Taker]

### Suffolk County Council - Children's and Adult's Services

Sue Cook	Corporate Director for Children and Adults	Full Member
Cllr Gordon Jones	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Participating Observer
Allan Cadzow	Service Director for Children and Young People	Full Member
Julie Bateman	Assistant Director, Personalisation, Safeguarding and Quality	Full Member
Tina Wilson	Head of Safeguarding and Reviewing Officer Service	Full Member
Janice Lee	Strategic Manager Learning & Improvement	Standing Member
Tim Sykes	Manager Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board	Standing Member
Richard Selwyn	Assistant Director Commissioning	Associate Member

### Suffolk County Council - Other Departments

Dr Mash Maidrag	Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Public Health	Full Member
Ian Bowell	Area Commander, Suffolk Fire and Rescue	Standing Member
Sharon Jarrett	Head of CYP Health Improvement and Sexual Health, Public Health	Associate Member

### Countywide Health Services

Barbara McLean	CCG Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient Safety and Clinical Quality, Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG	Full Member
Cindie Dunkling	Designated Nurse Suffolk, Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG and West Suffolk CCG	Full Member
Rowan Procter	Executive Chief Nurse, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	Full Member
Rebecca Hulme	Chief Nurse, HealthEast (Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG)	Full Member
Mavis Spencer	Deputy Director of Nursing, NHS England East	Full Member
Lisa Nobes	Director of Nursing and Quality, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	Full Member
Dr Jane Sayer	Director of Nursing, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	Full Member

Glenn Young	Senior Locality Manager (West Suffolk), East of England Ambulance NHS Trust	Full Member
Julia Hunt	Director of Nursing, James Paget University Hospital	Associate Member
Jonathan Williams	Director of Quality and Assurance, East Coast Community Healthcare	Associate Member

### **Education**

Amanda Childs	Head Teacher, Ipswich Preparatory School, representing Independent Schools	Standing Member
Alison Bowman	Governor representing Suffolk Governor's Forum	Standing Member
Danielle Clarke	Head teacher, St Joseph's College, representing Independent Schools	Standing Member
Jacqui Frost	Primary Board Member representing Suffolk Primary Head teachers	Standing Member
Nikos Savvas	Principal, West Suffolk College representing Higher Education	Standing Member
Richard Thomas	SASH Executive Officer representing Suffolk Association of Secondary Headteachers	Standing Member

### **Suffolk District & Borough Councils**

Mike Evans	Strategic Director, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together	Standing Member
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### **Agencies linked to Criminal Justice**

Eammon Bridger	Detective Superintendent, Protecting Vulnerable People, Suffolk Constabulary	Full Member
Pete Mangan	Director, Norfolk & Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd	Full Member
Judith Roby Blackman	Assistant Director, National Probation Service	Full Member
Vincent Callaghan	Senior Service Manager, Norfolk & Suffolk CAFCASS	Full Member
Tim Passmore	Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary	Associate Member

### **Voluntary Sector**

Christine Abraham	Director of Services, Community Action Suffolk representing Voluntary CYPS Sector in Suffolk	Standing Member
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### **Lay Members**

Sara Benstead	Community Lay Person	Standing Member
Andrew Peck	Community Lay Person	Standing Member

## Appendix 9.5 - Members attendance over the past twelve months

Organisation	Meeting Dates				
	Apr-16	Jul-16	Oct-16	Jan-17	Apr-17
Assistant Director, Personalisation, Safeguarding & Quality, Adult Community Services, Suffolk County Council	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Service Director for Children and Young People's Services, Suffolk County Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corporate Director, Children and Adults, Suffolk County Council	No	No	Yes	No	No
Senior Locality Manager (West Suffolk), East of England Ambulance NHS Trust	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Detective Superintendent, Protecting Vulnerable People, Suffolk Constabulary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Executive Chief Nurse, West Suffolk Hospital Foundation Trust	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Designated Nurse Suffolk, West Suffolk (CCG): Ipswich & East (CCG)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Director of Patient Safety & Clinical Quality, NHS Suffolk, West Suffolk, Ipswich & East Suffolk (CCG's)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Director of Commissioning, Quality & Safety, Health East (Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chief Executive Officer, Norfolk & Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consultant Public Health, Public Health, Suffolk County Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Patient Experience Manager, NHS England (East Anglia Area Team)	No	No	No	No	No
Designated Doctor, Suffolk, West Suffolk CCG & Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG	Yes	Yes	Post Vacant	Post Vacant	Post Vacant
Director of Nursing, Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Director of Nursing & Quality, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Head of Safeguarding & Reviewing Officer Service, CYPS, Suffolk County Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Assistant Director, National Probation Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senior Service Manager, Norfolk & Suffolk CAFCASS	No	No	Yes	No	No
LSCB Independent Chair	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LSCB Board Manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LSCB Professional Advisor	Yes	Yes	Post Vacant	Yes	Yes

Full

Deputy

## Appendix 9.6

### Safeguarding courses delivered by CYP Workforce Development in the past 12 months

Course Title	No. of courses	Total number of delegates
Safeguarding Children Introduction	17	404
Safeguarding Children Introduction for early years (venue based and in-setting)	34	663
Safeguarding Vulnerable groups briefing – for CMT	1	8
Safeguarding and e-safety (for foster carers, SGs, adopters)	3	23
Safeguarding Children train the trainer	2	21
Safeguarding Children (level 2) trainer support forum	4	53
Safer Recruitment in Early Years and childcare settings	3	28
Safeguarding: Roles and Responsibilities (early years)	10	192
Assessment Referral and Thresholds (ART) - (previously known as CAF)	6	98
Using the Suffolk Signs of safety Framework for Assessment and Referral	2	26
CAF e-learning	1	110
Working Together to Safeguard Children (Levels 3 and 4)	15	296
Graded Care Profile 2 train the trainer	1	19
Graded care profile 2- for practitioners	4	74
Infant Neglect Serious Case review [MASH STAFF ONLY]	1	13
Serious Case Review (Baby E) Evaluation/Feedback (for CYP Health only)	12	All health and early help teams
What you need to know about Child Sexual Exploitation-train the trainer	2	16
Missing children	4	47
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Awareness & Safeguarding Training	2	81
Hidden Harm- the impact of parental mental illness	1	20
Hidden Harm workshop	1	45
Childhood Sexual Abuse – Dispelling Myth, Improving Practice.	1	21
Understanding Risk with all Families	3	25
Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)	14	261
Achieving Best Evidence	2	13
Strategy Discussions and S47 Enquiries	2	33
Sex offenders all the same? Understanding sexual offending Conference	1	96

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>No. of courses</b>	<b>Total number of delegates</b>
Assessing Sexual Abuse/Offending risk, to inform Safeguarding	1	17
Meet the Mash sessions	3	29
Newly Registered Professionals (NRP) programme	1	49
Foundation in Solution Focused Practice (CYP Practice Leads only)	1	37
Communicating with Children and Young People affected by early trauma	5	75
First Aid (for Residential Childcare workers)	5	46
First Aid (for foster carers, SGs, adopters)	6	44
BehaviourSafe Personal Safety (CYP and ACS staff)	12	165
BehaviourSafe- Theory, practical skills& re-accreditation (for Residential Childcare workers)	10	119
BehaviourSafe - Creating safety plans, de-escalating behaviour (for foster carers, SGs, kinship)	3	27

## Appendix 9.7 - Key findings from the 2016 cybersurvey

- 83% of 10-11 year olds in Suffolk now have access to either a smartphone or tablet.
- But only 58% of 10-year olds say they have been taught to stay safe online by a parent or carer.
- Schools in Suffolk are delivering online safety education to fewer young people declining from 93% to 80% over four years.
- Posting photos or videos rises sharply in one year from 39% of 11-year olds to half of 12 year olds and two thirds of 15 year olds.
- 14-year olds are the group most likely to say they have experienced threats to harm, homophobic bullying/aggression.
- 64% of 11-year olds learnt about online safety from parents and carers - by age 15 this drops to 44%.
- Young people are using the internet to relax after school (78%), and taking part in a range of creative and fun activities; almost two thirds say the internet made it possible for them to do exciting things; 43% believe it helped them make friends.
- Children and young people are supporting each other if problems occur; 62% of our respondents said they have often been able to look after themselves online, and a further 25% have done so once or twice.

There has been progress in a number of areas:

- 4% reduction in cyberbullying.
- 9% reduction in those spending 5 or more hours online each day.
- 21% reduction in false solicitation (encounters with people who do not turn out to be who they said they were).
- 37% reduction in content seen encouraging self-harm or suicide.
- Sexting rates remain the same as 2015, at 4% of survey respondents.

This year's results continue to reflect a link between emotional health and online behaviour, a trend first picked up in 2014's cyber survey and backed up by national research. Feelings of depression can double the risk of engaging in harmful behaviour online. The survey found that depression can lead someone to be:

- Twice as likely to meet up with someone only known online.
- Three times as likely to use the internet to find new friends or talk to new people.
- Twice as likely to visit websites encouraging anorexia.
- More than twice as likely to spend more than 5 hours a day online.