



Business Plan 2017-19



Safeguarding the children of West Sussex

WSSCB Business Plan 2017-19

This plan has been agreed in order to ensure the WSSCB is able to deliver its core business as identified in Working Together 2015.

- (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.

In carrying out this work the WSSCB has agreed the following core business objectives:

- To optimise the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and protect children and young people
- To ensure clear governance arrangements are in place for safeguarding children and young people
- To oversee serious case reviews (SCRs) and child death review (CDOP) processes and ensure learning and actions are implemented as a result
- To ensure that single-agency and multi-agency training is effective and contributes to a safe workforce.
- To raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the WSSCB and promote agency and community roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

In addition to the delivery of its core business WSSCB has agreed three additional areas of improvement which require greater scrutiny based on audit findings, partner's reports to the board, evolving statutory guidance and inspection outcomes. The WSSCB Business Plan sets out the scrutiny and coordination activity the partnership intends to undertake across three priority areas:

- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse, Children Missing and High risk adolescents
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

All work by the Board will reflect the Board's commitment to scrutinising effectiveness in keeping children safe across the journey of the child. **Therefore the scrutiny of each priority area will include a focus on Early Help, Children In Need, Child Protection and Children Looked After.**

The WSSCB is particularly interested in the new service models being rolled out across West Sussex, and intends to monitor **the effectiveness of Early Help** for children, young people and families who do not meet the thresholds for statutory intervention and support by Children's Social Care. This will include maintaining a specific oversight of MASH.

The [Learning and Improvement Framework](#) published by the WSSCB contains more detailed information of how partners' improvement activities inform future priorities and is a statutory responsibility in WT 2015.

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Neglect

Outcomes	Activity and timescale	Group responsible & mechanism
<p>The WSSCB actively monitors promotes , coordinates and evaluates the work of its statutory partners and stakeholders that help and protect children at risk of neglect</p>	<p>Through the implementation of the WSSCB neglect strategy the WSSCB will seek to improve multi-agency practice in relation to tackling neglect, in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Howe’s four principles across the partnership • Effectiveness and use of tools to identify and address neglect • Provision of neglect training and practice development activities • Dissemination of key messages across those whose work brings them into regular contact with families, such as housing officers 	<p>Improving practice grp</p> <p>IPg coordination Practitioner workshops Practitioner surveys Training delivery WSSCB communications</p>
<p>Children experiencing neglect are identified, supported and have improved outcomes</p>	<p>The WSSCB will review the impact of its work to deliver the neglect strategy on children’s outcomes</p>	<p>Quality Assurance grp</p> <p>Data analysis Multi-agency audit Main Board scrutiny Single agency reporting</p>
<p>Partnership Leaders understand the experiences of children living with neglect who live in West Sussex and take effective action t to ensure help and support is available to them.</p>	<p>The WSSCB will promote the implementation of a Signs of Safety approach across the partnership in order to further the uptake and use of the tool across statutory and early help services</p>	<p>Improving Practice grp</p> <p>IPg coordination Scrutiny calendar Training delivery WSSCB communications</p>
<p>Related action plans: WSSCB Neglect Strategy action plan, Signs of Safety implementation plan (WSSCB), Impact information: CHAT tool</p>		

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Child Sexual Abuse

Outcomes	Activity	Group responsible & mechanism
Children are prevented from experiencing Child Sexual abuse / going missing and we are identifying those that are at risk	The WSSCB will scrutinise the implementation of the WSSCB Exploitation strategy, including reviewing the impact of the Child Sexual Exploitation and children missing strands on children's outcomes	Exploitation Group Exp grp coordination Data analysis Multi-agency audit Main Board scrutiny Single agency reporting
The workforce have the knowledge, skills, confidence and competence to recognise and intervene in cases of Child Sexual Abuse.	The WSSCB will ensure that the multi-agency workforce have access to high quality guidance and training on the recognition and management of child sexual abuse, and scrutinise the impact of this on practice	Improving Practice grp IPg coordination Training delivery Training needs analysis Case Audits Practitioner surveys
Practitioners are confident to challenge each other and escalate concerns	The WSSCB will scrutinise the use of pathways for children who have experienced sexual abuse	Quality Assurance grp Multi-agency auditing
	The WSSCB will ensure that staff are aware of their duty to escalate concerns when they consider that decisions made in relation to a child are not in the child's best interest	Improving Practice grp IPg coordination Training delivery WSSCB Communications
Related action plans: CSE and missing strategy action plan, WSSCB Ofsted action plan, WSSCB SCR Key action plan		
Impact information: CSE and missing dataset /CHAT tool / Escalation reporting		

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Emotional wellbeing & mental health

Outcomes	Activity	Group responsible & mechanism
Work to improve children & Young people's mental health & emotional wellbeing across the partnership, in particular children looked after, is making a positive difference	The WSSCB will review the impact of commissioning work streams intended to improve children's emotional wellbeing & mental health	Quality Assurance grp Main Board scrutiny Single agency reporting
	The WSSCB will scrutinise the effectiveness of agency and practitioner responses in relation self-harm	Multi-agency audit Training needs analysis
	The WSSCB will scrutinise the arrangements for, and effectiveness of, efforts to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of Children Looked After	Quality Assurance grp Multi-agency auditing Data analysis Main Board scrutiny Single agency reporting
	Work with Pan-Sussex partners to raise awareness of the trends and factors related to suicides in young people across Sussex	Case Review group WSSCB communications Training delivery Working group reporting
<p>Related action plans: Local Transformation plan – emotional wellbeing and mental health Impact information: Local Transformation Plan reporting</p>		