

2014-15



October 2014 to September 20 15

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Key

Evidence of impact of LSCB activity in highlighted in **GREEN**

Areas of Challenge or for development are highlighted in **YELLOW**

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Introduction from the LSCB Chair

I am very pleased to introduce the 2014-15 annual report for Southend on Sea LSCB.

The Board has continued to develop its breadth of understanding of safeguarding across the partnership, with a specific theme this year of looking at how well partners listen to the voice of the child and embed this in their operational activities. The Board's performance management arrangements and learning and improvement framework have matured to enable a broad overview of safeguarding in Southend to be taken, as well as delivering detailed investigations of specific areas of practice.

During the year the Board has been assured in many areas of activity that practice quality continues to improve, partnerships are strong, and progress has been made in many aspects of safeguarding. There have been strong preventive strands of work in CSE and Domestic Abuse (using the "Prince Charming" workshops) and E-Safety (using "Walk on Line") ensuring that young people are aware of risks and are able to protect themselves, and each other, using this knowledge.

The partnership can be seen to continue using the Early Help and Early Intervention models to address risk and potential neglect, supporting young people through their families and using the team around the child model. This has been bolstered by Southend's successful Big Lottery bid which has brought to the Borough additional capacity for family support and intervention through the Better Start initiative.

At the statutory end of safeguarding the service continues to perform well and a recent Peer Review has confirmed this and indicated areas for further development and improvement. Strengthening the input of children into their own conferences and plans and more strongly hearing the voice of the child in safeguarding are key aspirations in this area of practice.

In terms of areas of future development, the interface with Essex Police remains a key challenge, especially around Domestic Abuse. The revised MARAC arrangements introduced during the year, which include a triage process, have reduced but not eliminated delays for

conferencing high risk cases, and this area of work remains a concern. A Southend solution will now be sought and implemented by the end of the 2015-16 financial year should this matter not be otherwise resolved. The provision of information by Essex Police on Domestic Abuse incidents involving children, which should be part of the Southend JDAAT function, has also been difficult due to problems retrieving data from the new police data management system, Athena. Going forward, the Southend Partnership, led by the Local Authority, will be seeking an urgent solution to redress this issue.

In terms of work on CSE, the SET Strategic CSE Group was reviewed and its governance clarified and refined to fit the wider pan -Essex system. There is a clear CSE strategy in place and very good working arrangements in Southend, which includes a vibrant and well supported CSE Champions group.

With the governance of such areas of work becoming more complex, due the cross cutting nature of the work in terms of relationships to both Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Community Safety Partnership, I am grateful for the support of Rob Tinlin the Chief Executive of Southend Borough Council, in setting up an internal co-ordination process to ensure that each of these bodies has clear and compatible plans in any cross cutting area of work.

Finally in terms of further areas of service development, there remains the challenge of ensuring services for victims of CSE, including counselling and specialist support, are provided. Also this year, data provided to the LSCB has identified a concerning trend of increase in self harm amongst young people. Whilst the data requires more investigation, this apparent trend is supported anecdotally, by the views of head teachers for example, and the LSCB will be further investigating and responding to this issue during the coming year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all partners for their continuing support and input to the LSCB, including those colleagues who attend or chair sub groups. Attendance at, and contribution to, both the Board itself and its sub groups continues to be of an excellent quality and commitment, without which the LSCB could not achieve its comprehensive work programme.

Role of the Board

The LSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. It is responsible for challenging all relevant organisations on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe and are free from abuse in Southend. Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

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

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out that the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives under section 14 of the Children Act 2004, are as follows:

1(a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:

- (i) the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 - (ii) training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - (iii) recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - (iv) investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - (v) safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - (vi) cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- (b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;

(c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;

(d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and

(e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5(3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

In order to fulfil its statutory functions under regulation 5 a LSCB should:

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

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

Governance and Accountability

Although the LSCB is an independent statutory body the Chief Executive and the Lead of Southend Borough Council hold the Chair to account for the effective working of the LSCB. The Chair of the LSCB meets with the Chief Executive and Leader of Southend Borough

Council to present the LSCB Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Southend following its approval by the LSCB's Board in November annually.

Strategic Links to Other Boards and Partnerships

The Chair of the LSCB is invited to attend the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) annually to present the LSCB's annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding children in Southend. The HWB ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner is present at this meeting.

The LSCB seeks to gain assurance that the HWB is effectively considering children's safeguarding in the decisions it makes. The HWB in turn uses the LSCB as a 'critical friend' in safeguarding children considerations and decisions, including the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy; the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; key Commissioning Strategies; and service re-design.

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

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

For a number of years an LSCB Scrutiny Panel, consisting of elected members of Southend Borough Council, has scrutinized and contributed to the work of the LSCB. The Panel has been recognized by Ofsted as a model of good practice.

The Chief Executive of Southend Borough Council has, over the last year, been further developing the strategic oversight and coordination of safeguarding and community safety priorities through quarterly meetings attended by the chairs and business managers of the strategic boards, and commissioners from statutory agencies, including the local authority's children and adult services, Essex Police and Southend CCG.

SECTION 2 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Southend Partnership has continued to work in a co-ordinated and affective way to improve the quality of services and the effectiveness of Safeguarding during 2014-15. There has been good progress made on most of the LSCB's objectives for the year.

The level of safeguarding training of professionals in Southend remains very high across the partnership. During this year significant improvements have been made in terms identifying children who are missing from education (and who therefore may be at risk, including from CSE).

Areas of challenge continue to be the provision of data about Domestic Abuse where the Police data requires improvement, and the operation of the MARAC, where there continue to be delays despite a strategic review which introduced a triage process designed to avoid backlogs. These two areas remain a concern as they mean that information about children who might be affected by domestic abuse, and the formulation of plans to reduce risk in such families, are not securely in place at the present time. These therefore continue to be priority areas for the LSCB, which have continued to be taken forward in discussion with Essex Police and others, with the active support and intervention of the Southend Council, including its Chief Executive. A deadline of March 2016 has been set for a Southend specific resolution of the MARAC process concerns

Other areas of work include reduction of co-sleeping risks. There were no deaths this year in Southend involving co-sleeping. The overall number of deaths of children has also fallen.

In terms of Early Help (Stages 1 to 3 of the tiered approach) there were more children supported at levels 1 and 2 this year than the previous year, which indicates a more preventive approach. The LSCB has concluded from this picture that the Early Help offer continues to be generally working well. Southend received a very substantial Big Lottery grant which is being targeted in areas of higher deprivation to support families and improve parenting capacity.

Looked After Children are kept under strong review by the LSCB and this year there continued to be improvements in the stability of placements for Looked After Children, with 78% of placements being stable. It was an LSCB objective to ensure that Looked After Children report feeling safe, and this is detailed in the Voice for All report. There was a further increase in the number of Private Fostering cases identified, which allows the Local Authority to make checks to ensure the placements are suitable and of a good standard.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains a very high priority for the LSCB and its partners, and during this year further improvements in identifying young people at risk were made, with a total of 45 high risk individuals being identified as at September 2015. At present it is regarded as good to see such an increase due to the high levels of presumed under reporting in this area of work. Once young people are identified as being at risk, it is possible to begin to commence working with them and their families to understand and reduce risk, and prevent CSE taking place. A substantial number of CSE “Champions” have been trained and are supported across the partnership, making sure that all agencies have the capacity and skills to know how to approach work in the challenging area. **There continue to be number of challenges in taking this work forward, including improving the mapping of intelligence about where CSE threats are focussed in Southend , and also in terms of the Police triage process which is meant to assess and co-ordinate strands of information about perpetrators and victims, but which is not fully in place at present . There are also gaps in services for victims of CSE in terms of counselling services and support for past and current victims and this has been flagged up to the Health and Wellbeing Board as a service development need. The Police and Crime Commissioner has recently commissioned specialist support services for victims of sexual assault of all genders and ages from March 2016**

In terms of statutory safeguarding (Stage 4 of the tiered approach) there has been an increase in the number of children and young people on a child protection plan (186 in June 2015 as opposed to 161 the previous year). Nevertheless the child protection system has continued to operate to good timescales, secured high levels of attendance of professionals, and good feedback from participants, as 90% of those attending felt the conference was of a good quality. **Improvements have been identified, including the better preparation of families before conference and more timely distribution of reports allowing participants to be better prepared.**

In terms of the prevention of safeguarding risk, and the building of resilience in young people in Southend, there have been a number of strong areas of activity this year. These include a very comprehensive programme of CSE awareness, a Diversity and Equality initiative which includes a strong anti-bullying aspect, and a programme of E- safety which assists young people to be safe in online activity. In addition there continues to be a reduction in serious road traffic accidents, and there have been no preventable deaths in Southend this year from fire.

One area of increased concern is the rate of self-harm admissions of children and young people to the Southend University Hospital. Over the last three years these have risen significantly, from 49 in 2012-13 to 98 this year. The LSCB is concerned that there appear to be significant pressures on young people which may be leading to this increase, and this is flagged up as an area for priority attention in the coming year. More analysis will be

needed to establish the drivers for this trend, and what actions can be put in place to mitigate their effect.

In conclusion, there are some priority areas for joint work, especially with Essex Police, which focus largely on Public Protection, and which are cross cutting in terms of the Southend governance, including for example work undertaken under the Community Safety Partnership. To promote the effectiveness of plans in Southend, and to ensure they are seamless, the work of the various strategic groups is being better co-ordinated with the support of the Chief Executive, which will enable both the internal relationships between groups, and the external interface, especially with the Police, to be supported and areas of concern to be addressed.

Progress Against LSCB’s 2014-15 Business Plan Priorities

The Board identified the following priorities and projected outcomes and impact measurements in its Business Plan for 2015-18. Quantitative and qualitative measures were identified, against which the Board was able to monitor progress

	Priority	Projected Outcome/Impact Measurement	Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data
A	Developing a culture of communication between all stakeholders to safeguard children	LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework evidences that information is shared appropriately to safeguard children	Percentage attendance and/or information sharing at case conferences for each partner agency School Nurse 72%; Health Visitor 66%; Hospital 38%; School 78%; Police 90%; Probation 17%	An LSCB audit evidences an appropriate level of information sharing to safeguard children
B	Reduce the number of children and young people who have experienced bullying including	Baseline data established evidencing children’s experience of bullying with on-going data collection	Percentage of children reporting they have experienced bullying is 32%	On the whole questionnaire and other feedback provided by children, including those who are looked after, evidences that if

	Priority	Projected Outcome/Impact Measurement	Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data
	face to face, text or internet	evidencing that children's experience improves		they are bullied that this is dealt with appropriately by the relevant agency
C	Ensure that the Domestic Abuse Strategy is effectively implemented to reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young peoples' life chances	Reduction in the number of children recorded by Essex Police as present during domestic abuse incidents.	Number of children witnessing domestic abuse incidents – data is currently not available from Essex Police due to change in data system	The LSCB will be monitoring qualitative data in the future from prevention and perpetrator schemes to evidence any improvement in perception of impact of domestic abuse on victims
D	Support families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating	<p>Qualitative data from children and families receiving an early help offer evidences an improvement in their perception of the presenting issues at time of referral.</p> <p>Quantitative data evidences a reduction in children supported at stage 4.</p>	<p>Percentage of children and their families supported at each level of intervention indicates increase in those supported at stages 1 and 2.</p> <p>July 2015: Acute/Stage 4 = 10.9% (8% previous quarter); Complex/Stage 3 = 32.8% (45.8% previous quarter); Vulnerable/Stage 2 = 41.3% (35.3% previous quarter); Universal/Stage 1 = 15% (10.8% previous quarter).</p>	<p>Qualitative data from children and families receiving an early help offer which was scrutinized by the LSCB evidences an improvement in their perception of the presenting issues at time of referral</p> <p>LSCB audits completed evidence that children and families are supported appropriately</p>

	Priority	Projected Outcome/Impact Measurement	Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data
			Number of children with a child protection plan. 186 at end of June 2015 compared to 161 at end of June 2014	
E	Reduce the number of children killed, seriously and slightly injured in road traffic collisions	Quantitative data evidences a decrease in the number of children killed, seriously and slightly injured in road traffic collisions	Number of children killed and seriously or slightly injured in road traffic accidents has remained static at 6. Overall trend is downwards since 2011	None
F	Identify and provide early support to children at risk of sexual exploitation, to prevent harm and reduce the impact on their life chances	Qualitative and quantitative data evidences that children identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation are provided with support that is appropriate to their needs	Number of child sexual exploitation (CSE) information reports received by Essex Police regarding potential CSE in Southend or involving children from Southend. Data not currently available Number of children identified as at high risk of CSE by the CSE & Missing Group as at end of September 2015 was 45	LSCB CSE & Missing Group identified children at high risk of CSE and ensured they are appropriately supported
G	Ensure that looked after children are safeguarded effectively	Qualitative and quantitative data evidences that looked after	Number of looked after children who report feeling safe in the Voice for All	Completed LSCB multi agency audits and feedback from children evidences

	Priority	Projected Outcome/Impact Measurement	Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data
		children are safeguarded effectively	report – data not currently available	that looked after children are being safeguarded effectively
H	Identify and provide support to vulnerable adolescents to ensure they are safeguarded effectively	Qualitative and quantitative data evidences that vulnerable adolescents are supported and safeguarded effectively	Number of adolescents admitted to hospital as a result of intentional self-injury/harm has increased Reduction in number of young people known to IYSS who re-offend	Audit of support to young people known to Children’s Services completed by the LSCB evidences that they are supported appropriately

Key Successes

- Identification of children and young people at high risk of CSE
- Over 800 children and young people participated in the Prince Charming Project (*an interactive play providing an opportunity for young people to explore domestic abuse within teenage relationships*) and had an impact on their understanding and perception of healthy relationships
- Over a thousand primary and secondary school children and young people participated in an Equality and Diversity programme partly focusing on anti-bullying.
- Over 4000 children and young people attended the Walk On Line roadshow in summer 2015 (*providing advice on E Safety*). Those who attended were more conscious of basic protection strategies such as checking privacy settings in social media profiles and editing lists of contacts to exclude individuals not known off-line; and were aware of reporting mechanisms for handling nuisance contact requests and abusive posting in public forums.
- Child Death Reviews completed in the period identified that there were no deaths of babies as a result of co-sleeping

- Coroner reports are now shared with paediatricians in order that they can support bereaved parents to understand the findings
- High levels of safeguarding children training of professionals and volunteers
- Core Groups are being held on time and effectively monitoring the Child Protection Plan in more than 90% of cases monitored.
- Over 90% of Child Protection Conference participants who responded said that they felt able to express their views; that clear decisions were made, and the chairing of the meeting was good or very good; and that the length of the meeting was OK.
- Improvement in the general stability of placements for looked after children (long term stability 74%)
- Increase in number of private fostering arrangements known to the local authority
- Effective systems are in place to monitor, identify and locate children that are either at risk of, or have become missing from education

SECTION 3 – CONTEXT

Demographics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates the total population for Southend on Sea as at mid-2014 is 177,900. Southend's population is projected to grow to 185,000 by 2020. (Source: ONS - 2013 Mid-Year Estimates).

29.9% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Southend are classified as falling within the 30% most deprived areas in the country, using ONS population figures this equates to just over 56,000 residents. Southend also has 8.4% of LSOA's (just over 16,200 residents) that fall within the 10% most deprived in the country. (Source: Communities and Local Government - 2010 Indices Multiple Deprivation).

Children and young people under the age of 20 years make up 23.8% of the population of Southend-on-Sea. 21.7% of school children are from a minority ethnic group. The health and wellbeing of children in Southend-on-Sea is mixed compared with the England average. Infant and child mortality rates are similar to the England average. The level of child poverty is worse than the England average with 21.7% of children under 16 years of age living in poverty. The rate of family homelessness is better than the England average.

In 2013/14 there were 37869 young people under the age of 18 in Southend. This is estimated to rise to 38452 in 2014/15 and to 39511 in 2017. Of the 2013/14 figures;

- 11391 were under the age of 5, a rise of 12 from 2012/13;
- 12240 were aged 5-10 years a rise of 436;
- 9848 were aged 11-15 years a decrease of 334, with
- 4390 aged 16+ a decrease of 138.

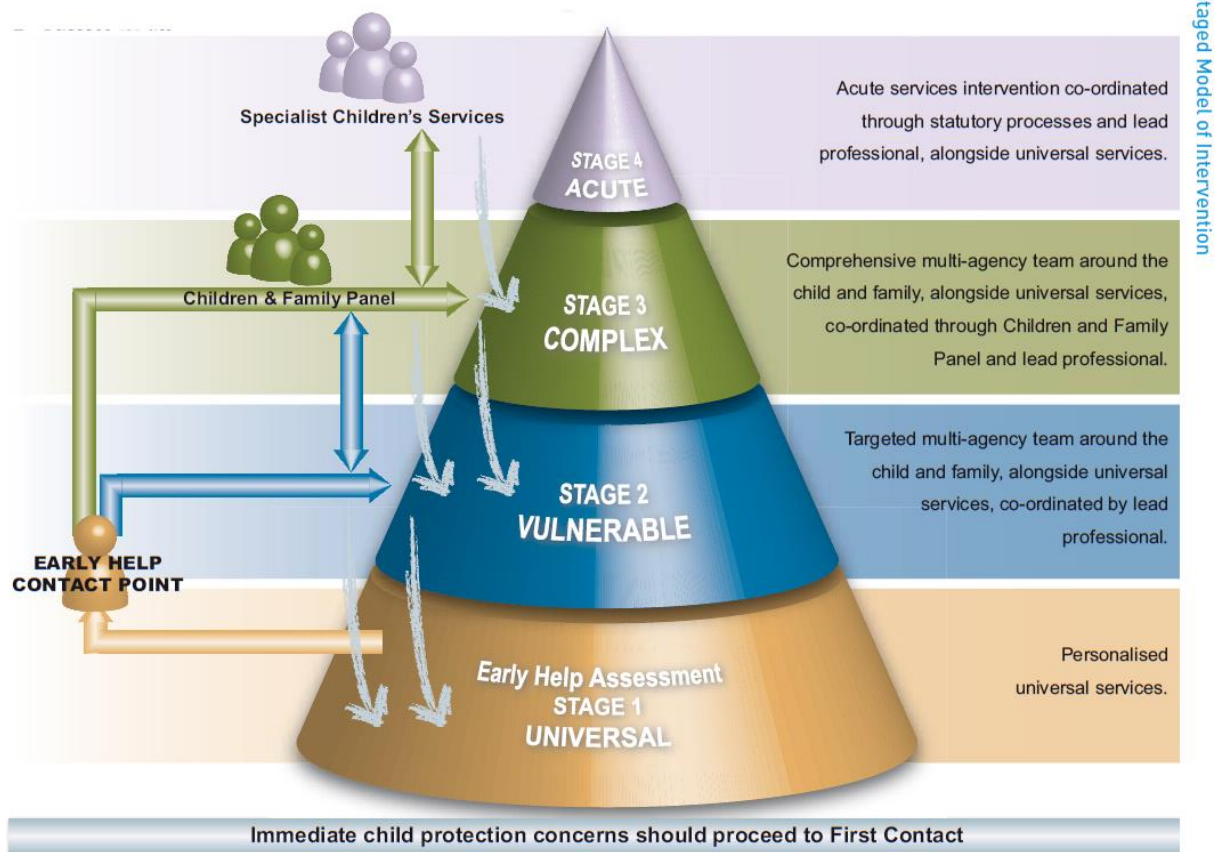
It is estimated that by 2017;

- 12864 will be aged under 5 years;
- 13516 will be aged 5-10 years;
- 9317 will be aged 11-15 years and

- 3814 will be aged 16+.

Integrated Approach to Safeguarding Children

Southend’s integrated staged approach to intervention ensures a partnership approach to identifying and meeting children’s needs as soon as possible (see diagram below). Southend has developed and implemented an Early Help Assessment, replacing the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), and uses a well embedded Team Around the Child/Family approach to improve outcomes for children and young people and provide them and their families with early support to prevent escalation of risk to children.



The LSCB's Learning and Improvement Framework

The LSCB has a well established Learning and Improvement Framework. Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2015) requires all LSCBs to establish and maintain a Learning and Improvement Framework which “enables organizations to be clear about their responsibilities, to learn from experience, and improve services as a result”. The focus in Working Together is on the use of reviews and audits to inform the learning and improvement framework. Southend LSCB has identified additional areas for obtaining learning to improve practice, to develop an integrated framework which builds on its culture of learning and improvement. The following elements form the basis of the LSCB's Learning and Improvement Framework:

Element	Activity	Expected Outcome/Impact of the Activity
Serious Case Reviews	Identification and implementation of learning	Learning from SCRs and improvement actions will be informed by the views of families and practitioners. The LSCB expects to see a measurable impact on the level of confidence and satisfaction expressed by families and practitioners on the current arrangements and processes in terms of improving children's welfare and safety
Child Death Reviews	Identification and implementation of learning	The LSCB expects to see that actions taken in response to findings from CDRs reduce the number of child deaths with modifiable factors

Element	Activity	Expected Outcome/Impact of the Activity
Other Case Reviews	Identification and implementation of learning	The LSCB expects to see that learning from reviews and improvement actions are informed by the views of families and practitioners. The LSCB Expects to see a measurable impact on the level of confidence and satisfaction expressed by families and practitioners on the current arrangements and processes in terms of improving children's welfare and safety
Single & Multi Agency Audits and Audits of Board Effectiveness	Reporting of single agency audits	The LSCB expects to see that partner agencies evidence effectiveness of safeguarding practice and identify areas for improvement
	Programme of LSCB audits	The LSCB expects to see that the audit programme evidences the effectiveness of safeguarding services throughout the journey of the child
	Audit of Board effectiveness conducted by identified LSCB team.	The LSCB expects to be able to evidence its effectiveness in monitoring and coordinating

Element	Activity	Expected Outcome/Impact of the Activity
		the safeguarding of children and promoting their welfare
Qualitative Information from Children, Young People and their Families (including compliments and complaints)	Analysis of information obtained to quality assure the effectiveness of safeguarding across the tiers of intervention	The LSCB expects to see that the development and improvement of safeguarding services is informed by the views and experience of children, young people and families
Qualitative Information from Practitioners	Analysis of information to identify risks to safeguarding practice and learning	The LSCB expects to see that risks to the effectiveness of safeguarding children services are identified early and addressed in a timely way and that practitioners report in follow up evaluations that they are aware of key development areas and good practice, with a positive impact on their safeguarding children practice and increase in confidence
Single Agency Performance Information	Analysis of quantitative data from partner organizations	The LSCB expects to see evidence of improvement in identified key areas of safeguarding practice.

Element	Activity	Expected Outcome/Impact of the Activity
Section 11 Audits	Reporting of qualitative and quantitative data by LSCB partner agencies	The LSCB expects to see that partner agency self-assessments of safeguarding efficacy are robust
Annual Reports from Strategic Partners (e.g. Corporate Parenting) and LSCB Members	Needs analysis and monitoring of safeguarding effectiveness	The LSCB expects to see that evidence of the effectiveness of safeguarding practice throughout the journey of the child
Strategic & Themed Work (e.g. domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation)	Mapping of issues and development of overarching strategies	The LSCB expects to see that it and its strategic partners identify any risk and/or need and implement improvements to address these

SECTION 4 – THE JOURNEY OF THE CHILD

Prevention and Early Help – Stage 1

Prevention and Early Help is undertaken at stage 1 of the integrated staged approach to intervention in Southend. There is a strong and developing prevention and early help offer in Southend which reduces the escalation of risk to children and young people. Support to children and families, at stage 1, is provided by personalised universal services. At the end of June 2015 10.8% of children with an Early Help Assessment were supported by personalised universal services.

In July 2014 the Local Authority, Pre-school Learning Alliance, and its partners were awarded £40m from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Fulfilling Lives: A Better Start' initiative. The award supports partners to work with the local community in six key wards over the next ten years (Kursaal, Milton, Westborough, Victoria, Shoeburyness and West Shoebury) to shape and redesign services during pregnancy and early childhood and help parents to give their children a better start in life. The plan which underpins this; 'Our Children, Our Community, Our Future', has been developed with local parents, the community and professionals, to put prevention at the heart of the way services are delivered.

The Integrated Locality Toolkit reflects the 'Early Help' offer and includes the new early help assessment; single social work assessment, and education health care plan.

Southend Information Point (SHIP) encourages service users and practitioners to access the earliest help independently through a universal website, with an average of 18,000 unique page requests per month, with peak months usually around school holiday periods rising to 21,760. Service users can access information, advice and guidance on childcare, activities, clubs and community events, voluntary and targeted services, health needs, education and finances, and a comprehensive Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability

The most popular search terms are childcare followed by parenting, children's activities and child and family counselling

A restructuring of Early Help and Early Intervention is currently being undertaken within the integrated staged approach.

Activities and Impact

Approximately 800 young people from Southend schools, including one based in a children's home, participated in the 'Prince Charming' project, an interactive play providing an opportunity for young people to explore domestic abuse within teenage relationships. The Soroptomists supported the project by providing additional information for young people about domestic abuse.

Feedback from young people about the project has been very positive and evidences an impact on their understanding and perception of healthy relationships

Prince Charming is an interactive drama performance where children and young people in the audience can intervene and stop the performance to discuss the events and choices the characters are making in their relationships.

Additionally, Public Health are providing sex and relationship education (SRE) programmes for all primary and secondary schools in Southend with implementation support. This will ensure a consistent content and approach to SRE across all Southend schools.

Over a thousand primary and secondary school children and young people participated in an Equality and Diversity programme partly funded by the LSCB, focusing on anti-bullying.

Submissions from participating schools evidence the positive impact of the programme

Throughout June and July of 2015 the LSCB commissioned and organised a series of 20 Walk On Line Roadshow events at several schools in the borough and a local Theatre. 44 schools within the borough were invited to attend the roadshow, including comprehensive, selective, faith, and special primary and secondary schools. A total of 4,024 individual pupils participated.

Walk On Line presents advice and guidance on how children and young people can better protect themselves whilst engaging in online activities, particularly social media services such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc.

Essex University provided grant funding to undertake follow up research measuring the impact of the roadshow. The research indicates that Walk On Line was experienced as valuable by the children and young people, who were more conscious of basic protection strategies such as checking privacy settings in social media profiles and editing lists of contacts to exclude individuals not known off-line. There was also evidence that the programme raised awareness of reporting mechanisms for handling nuisance contact requests and abusive posting in public forums.

The LSCB has prioritised a reduction in the number of children who are killed or seriously in road traffic collisions for the last 4 years. Death and serious injury to children caused by road traffic collisions presents the biggest risk to the safety of children. There were 6 children killed or serious injured in road traffic collisions between October 2014 and September 2015, consistent with the number for the previous year. The trend overall continues to be downwards

All secondary schools, statutory agencies, GPs, children's homes, fostering agencies as well as a number of private and community organisations, some primary schools, have trained Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Champions. CSE Champions raise awareness of indicators of CSE within their organisations to support the early identification and support of children and young people at risk of CSE. Children and young people identified as being at risk of CSE are supported within the integrated staged approach to prevent escalation of risk. A CSE Champions Forum has been established to provide on-going support and professional development for Champions. 385 CSE Champions and key practitioners have been identified and successfully completed training. A further 555 have undertaken online training

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) undertake Home Fire Safety Checks and educational visits to schools. **In the financial year 2014-15 there were no preventable fire deaths in Southend.**

Southend LSCB, Health Visitors and other partners have been promoting the Safer Sleeping for Babies message since 2010. On their first visit to new parents Health Visitors use an LSCB Safe Asleep leaflet to explain the risks of co-sleeping, and the baby's sleeping environment. **The LSCB's Child Death Review process has found that there were no deaths as a result of co-sleeping in 2014-15.**

In partnership with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency the LSCB has produced and distributed a leaflet about the Safe Use of Mudflats locally as well as regionally to schools in response to safety issues identified by the LSCB.

Child Death Reviews from the wider Essex area and the LSCB Scrutiny Panel have identified risks associated with Water Safety around private pools. A water safety awareness campaign was undertaken by Southend LSCB in summer 2015.

An awareness raising campaign was undertaken with schools to help identify and support children at risk of forced marriage or female genital mutilation (FGM).

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have been re-commissioned during the period, with a new provider offering a restructured Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) from November 2015. **There continues to be an increase in the number of children and young people admitted to hospital as a result of unintentional or deliberate injuries to 98 from Oct 2014 to Sept 2015, (compared to 49 in 2012/13 and 78 in 2013/14). 54 admissions had a diagnosis of intentional self-harm, an increase from 37 in 2013-**

14. Anecdotal evidence links the increase to possible exam pressure and stress experienced by young people and online bullying

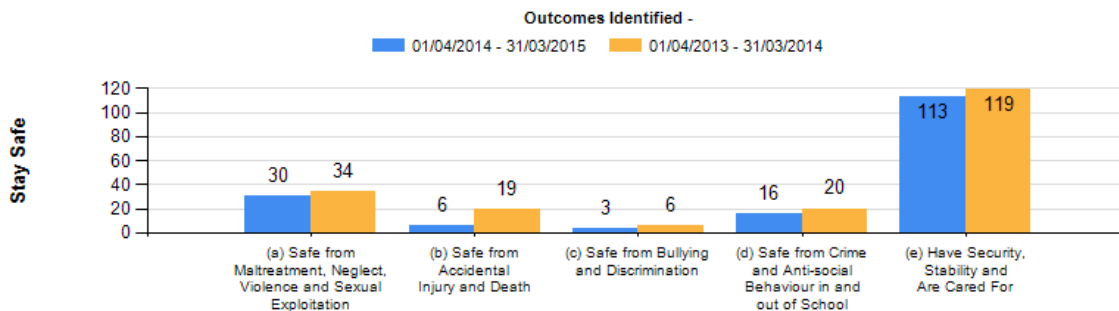
The LSCB is currently undertaking further investigation of data and other information to identify the causes of self-harm among young people; target activity; and monitor the impact of preventative programmes delivered through the new EWMHS on reducing self-harm among young people

Early Intervention and Children in Need – Stage 2 & 3

Early Intervention takes place at stages 2 and 3 of the integrated staged approach, where children and their families require additional, coordinated support to that provided by universal services alone. A single point of contact for early intervention has been established in each of the three localities across the Borough. This contact point is serviced by early intervention screening officers, supported by a multi-agency team

At Stage 2, a Team Around the Child, coordinated by a lead professional and working with universal services, provides targeted support to vulnerable children and their families. At Stage 3 support to children and their families with complex needs is coordinated by Child and Family Panels with a comprehensive Team Around the Child and a lead professional. The Streets Ahead Team now forms part of the Stage 3 services as well as working at stage 4.

At the end of June 2015 81.1% of children and young people with an Early Help Assessment were supported at Stage 2 (Early Intervention) or Stage 3 (Child in Need). Over 40% of Early Help Assessments are undertaken by schools. There has been a significant rise in assessments completed by the Southend Borough Council Integrated Youth Support Service due to the work by Streets Ahead, Southend's Troubled Families service, who work within stages 3 and 4 of the integrated model. The table below shows the 'Stay Safe' outcomes of Early Help Assessments completed between April 2014 and March 2015:



The implementation of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on 1 July placed a duty on local authorities and other public bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”, as part of the Prevent Duty. To support partner agencies the LSCB, in partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership, with Essex Police, have provided a number of Home Office accredited training sessions. All educational establishments now have a trained Prevent lead to cascade training to other practitioners. A Channel Panel, to coordinate support for those identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation, has also been established

There were 10 private fostering arrangements known to the local authority in September 2015. There was one private fostering arrangement in the period which was prohibited following assessment by Southend Borough Council Children’s Services. In this case the private fostering arrangement was assessed as being unsuitable

Child Protection and Acute Services – Stage 4

Child protection concerns requiring a statutory response are dealt with at stage 4 of the staged model of intervention by Southend Borough Council Children’s Services in partnership with Essex Police and other agencies.

There are high levels of safeguarding children training of professionals and volunteers:

Southend Hospital – 72.7% (Feb 15); Essex Community Rehabilitation Company – 100% (Sept 15); SEPT – 99% (April 15); ECFRS – 80% (April 15); GPs– 100% at level 3 (Sept 15); Southend CCG – 94.3% (Sept 15); Essex Police – 66.9% levels 1&2 (April 15); South Essex Homes – 99% (March 215); Early Years 96% (Sept 15)

High levels of training means that professionals and volunteers have a good understanding of thresholds for making safeguarding children referrals and identify children at risk of significant harm, resulting in a good conversion rate from referral to Single Social Work Assessment of 94.9% in May.

The number of children with a child protection plan continues to increase, with 186 in June 2015 compared to 161 in June 2014. Whilst the number of new Child Protection Plans for first quarter of 2015/16 were lower than the average for the previous two years, so was the rate of discontinuation of Plans. The LSCB is assured through its learning and improvement framework activity and comprehensive review by Southend Borough Children's Services that the increased numbers of children with a Child Protection Plan are largely as result of changes in practice following the most recent revision of the Public Law Outline in April 2014, which continues to provide good outcomes for children.

The LSCB is assured that Core Groups are being held on time and effectively monitoring the Child Protection Plan in more than 90% of cases monitored. Over 90% of Child Protection Conference participants who responded said that they felt able to express their views; that clear decisions were made, and the chairing of the meeting was good or very good; and that the length of the meeting was OK.

The LSCB has identified as a priority the provision of reports for Child Protection Conferences in advance of meetings to enable families and professionals to participate fully in the process. In the period around 20 % of participants said they did not have time to consider reports. The LSCB has received action plans from all partner agencies detailing the actions to be taken to improve practice in this area, and will continue to monitor performance

Safeguarding of Looked After Children and Young People Leaving Care

Looked After Children are made up of several distinct groups, although they have overlapping as well as specific needs. They include:

- Babies and younger children particularly 0-4yrs (45.8%)
- 16-18yr olds (10.3%)
- Disabled children - Eight looked after children have severe and complex disabilities.
- Young People who are parents
- Young people preparing to leave care
- Care leavers from 18-25 yrs - There are a total of 87 care leavers 18-25. They are supported by the Southend Borough Council Care Management 16+Team

The Pledge for Looked After Children includes the following safeguarding assurances:

- We know that we are all different in terms of where we grew up and we know that we all need different things to feel happy and safe. We want you to feel safe with other people, at school and where you live. If you ever feel unsafe we will make sure you know where to go for help.
- We will make sure your foster carers know how to keep you happy and healthy.
- If you are happy where you are living we won't move you, unless there is a problem. We will also try and keep you with the same social worker for as long as possible,
- If you do have to move, we will give you all the information we can about your new home and your new carers.

The LSCB has noted the following outcomes for Looked After Children and young people leaving care as reported by the Corporate Parenting Group:

- Improvements in the general stability of placements (long term stability 74%)
- Placing children with relatives and friends
- The proportion of looked after children placed locally with Southend foster carers (57.2%)

- An increase in the numbers of children with permanent placements through Special Guardianship Orders or Adoption
- A improvement in timescales for children between entering care and being placed with an adoptive family
- An increase in the number of young people with a permanency plan in place by the second review
- More children with up to date health assessments and dental checks
- Improvements in school attendance and a reduction in permanent exclusions
Improvements in attainment at Key Stages 2 & 4
- An increase in the proportion of carer leavers who are in suitable accommodation
- An increase in the proportion of care leavers in education, training employment and at University.

The Voice of Children and Young People

Southend Borough Council Children's Services held workshops for social workers in November 2014 and February 2015, to share the findings from questionnaires sent to children; the 'Are we Keeping our Pledge' survey sent to Looked After Children; outcomes from audits relating to the voice of the child; and learning from complaints and comments

The Children's Plans & Reviews Team arranges and provides independent chairs for all Child Protection Conferences and Review Meetings for Looked after Children in Southend. As part of their statutory responsibilities under the Care Planning, Placement and Review Regulations (Section 25B, CA 1989), Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) have a duty to monitor performance and to identify any patterns of poor practice and alert senior local authority managers to these concerns, as well as identify good practice by social workers.

IROs identified that although fewer children are choosing to attend review meetings, children are consistently consulted prior to their review.

Care Plans presented to Reviews were of good quality with 97% of care plans covering all key elements required in 2014/15, and written care plans are being presented to Review meetings more consistently.

The quality of social work reports presented to reviews is of good quality and continues to improve.

There has been some improvement in sharing reports with parents prior to review meetings, however this remains an area of challenge and has been identified as a priority for the coming year

Parental attendance at LAC reviews varies, and on average parents attended 48% of LAC Reviews, which is a slight fall from last year. Approximately 42% fathers and 58% of mothers attended LAC reviews for their children, which are both increased from last year 99% of children (aged 4 and over) participated in their reviews during 2014/15. An average of 55% attended their reviews in person, which is a slight increase on last year. The remaining 44% contributed to their meeting either by completing a consultation form or by giving their views to the IRO, their advocate, or other person they identify to speak on their behalf.

80% of children said they get to speak to their IRO alone.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

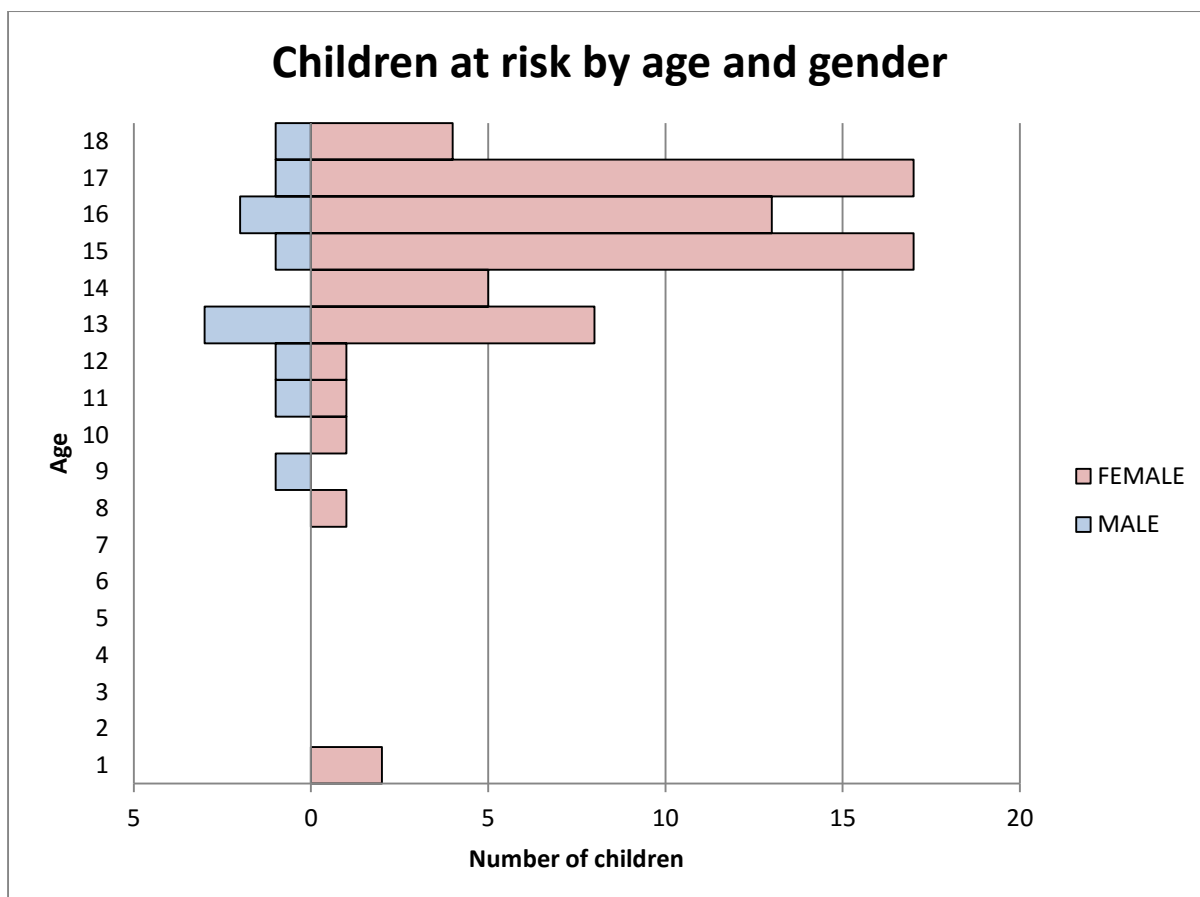
Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and its impact on children and young people, is a priority of the LSCB and its partner agencies. A peer review conducted in September 2015 found a strong commitment by Southend Borough Council to collectively tackling CSE and the Council has committed resources to tackling CSE in the borough, including the creation of Service Manager CSE and CSE data analyst posts. "Strategic leadership across children services is informed and thoughtful", with an "ambitious, admirable, and intense CSE strategic and operational focus", reflected in the revised CSE Action Plan 2015 – 2016. The plan is based on four key borough wide priorities; prevention, protection, prosecution, overcome and support. The implementation of the CSE action plan, strategically owned by the LSCB and its members and Southend Borough Council, together with the Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board, provides an opportunity to move forward and improve the approach to CSE. The LSCB, working together with the Community Safety Partnership and

Health and Wellbeing Board will ensure that sexual, mental and public health provision and crime prevention and prosecution are all able to respond to or incorporate the requirements of the child sexual exploitation action plan.

Much of the initial focus of the LSCB and its partners has been the 'prevention' and 'protection' priorities. 385 CSE Champions and key practitioners have been trained, and a further 555 practitioners and volunteers have completed an E learning course. Awareness raising sessions have also been undertaken with key groups, and CSE has been integrated into the training programmes of all partner agencies. The Prince Charming project delivered to over 800 school pupils regarding teenage relationships, and the provision of sex and relationship education resources reinforces 'prevention' activities.

'Protection' activity is monitored by the LSCB's CSE and Missing Children Group, which ensures that all children and young people identified as being a high risk of CSE are being appropriately protected and supported within the Integrated Staged approach to intervention. The Group has been supported in its analysis of CSE by Southend Borough Council Children's Services. Since December 2014, 84 young people have been identified and discussed by the CSE & Missing Children Group. In September 2015 36 cases were classified currently at risk and 43 were classified as historic. Below is a chart showing the age and gender breakdown of children who have been identified as at high risk of CSE. It is clear that significantly more young women were identified as at risk of CSE. Young men account for only 14% of the dataset.

Recent research by UCL in partnership with Barnado's (2014) suggests up to a third of CSE victims are male, in contrast to previous research (OCC 2012) that suggested 9% of victims are male (with 72% female and 19% not recorded). This implies young men at risk could be underreported in Southend.



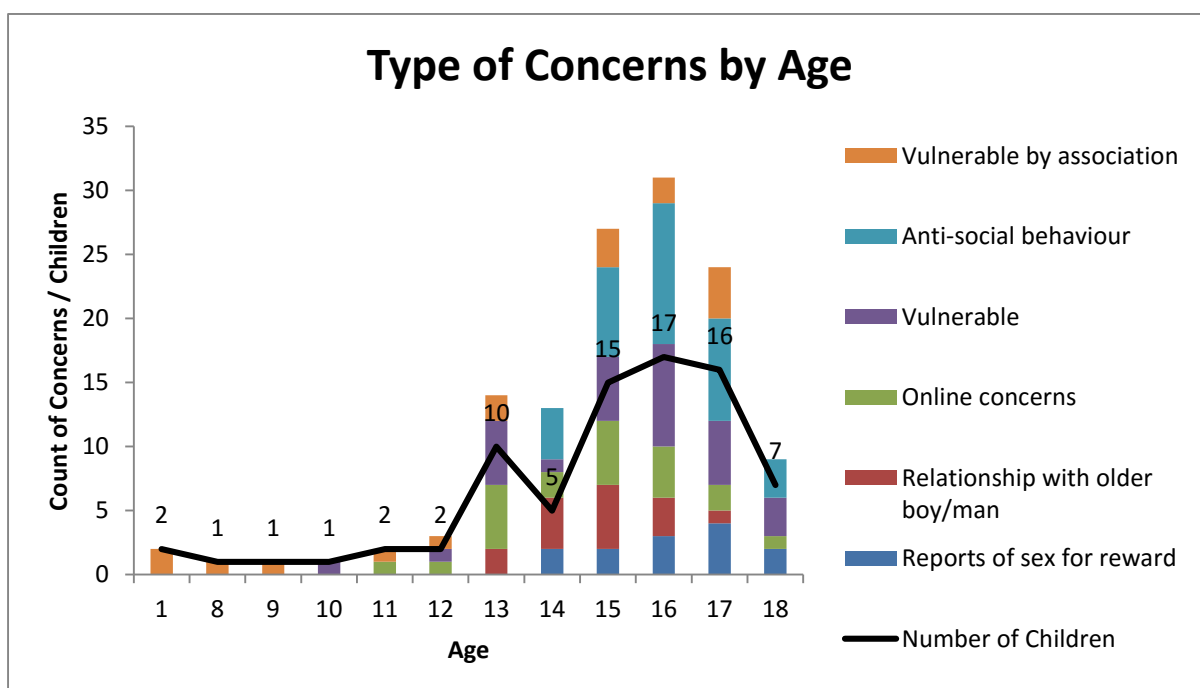
41% of identified children had either statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a lower level of SEN support, supporting the view that vulnerable children are more likely to be targeted and fall victim to CSE. Looked after children are significantly overrepresented; 39% of all children identified as at risk of CSE are looked after. This is consistent with the view that this group of children are more vulnerable and as a result they may be targeted by perpetrators.

6.4% of all current looked after children to Southend have a CSE risk identified. This compares to 1.8% of children on a child protection plan

33% of all young people identified as at risk of CSE had one or more missing episode in the last 12 months (01/10/2014-30/09/2015). When historic cases are removed, this rises to 50%. This would suggest historic cases are ceasing to go missing.

Combinations of identified concerns are shown in the table below. Where the corresponding concerns for a single cell match, the cell number refers to the amount of cases where the specified factor was the only concern.

CSE concern	Reports of sex for a reward	Relationship with older boy/man	Online concerns	Anti-social behaviour	Vulnerable	Vulnerable by association
Reports of sex for a reward	0					
Relationship with older boy/man	4	1				
Online concerns	4	2	7			
Anti-social Behaviour	8	9	3	12		
Vulnerable	3	5	10	4	10	
Vulnerable by association	0	1	0	5	3	10



The analysis of intelligence by Essex Police and mapping of the prevalence of CSE in the area continues to be an area of challenge for the LSCB

Prosecution activity - In November 2014 two men were successfully prosecuted for sexually exploiting girls in Southend. Partner agencies worked well together to support the girls involved in the case, particularly following a due to administrative difficulties with the Court proceedings. The LSCB is working with Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service to ensure there are no similar delays in any future prosecutions.

‘Overcome and Support’ activity - Commissioning of young people centred support services in respect of CSE is underdeveloped across the partnership. There is a recognised need for a more coherent approach to commissioning CSE victim support services, particularly in statutory services. The Police and Crime Commissioner has recently commissioned specialist support services in Southend for victims of sexual assault for all genders and ages from March 2016

Missing Children

When a child is reported missing to the Police, the local authority is notified and an investigation starts to find out where the child is located. When a child is found and returned home the Police conduct a ‘Safe and Well check’ which just establishes that the child is home and unharmed. When the local authority is notified that the child has returned an independent ‘Return Home Interview’ is undertaken to explore with the young person why they went missing and if there are any outstanding issues such as CSE or related problems that need addressing.

For the year April 2014 to March 2015 the tables, graphs, and diagrams below provide an insight into children who are going missing, why, for how long, as well as the demographics of the missing population.

Found Children	Missing Episodes	Return Visits	Episodes with Visit	% Return visits	Completed in 2 working days
101	186	143	173	93.0%	36.60%

Reason for Episode	Age		
	Under 12	12 to 15	16+
Contact with peers	3	41	33
Issues at home (not evidence of harm)	1	19	3
Contact with friends	1	8	7
Unknown - no visit	2	7	4
Other	1	7	4
Contact with family	1	7	3
Contact with other adults	0	6	4
Issues in placement (not evidence of harm)	1	4	4
Issues at home	0	4	0
Evidence of harm at home	0	3	0
Substance Misuse	0	1	2
Unknown - Visit unable to take place	0	2	0
Bullying	0	1	0
Not recorded	0	0	1
Offending Behaviour	0	1	0
Total	10	111	65

The majority of children (70) only went missing once which suggests that the intervention process and Return to Home Interviews are on the whole successful in that they identify causes for running away and support is provided

Children Missing Education

The term 'children missing education' (CME) it is generally used to mean those children who are not receiving a suitable full time education. 'Suitable' is defined as full-time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have. A child missing education may be enrolled at school and not attending well enough; not enrolled at school or alternative provision; or occasionally receiving home education that does not meet their needs. They may also be receiving education, but only for a few hours.

What do we know about children missing education?

- 'Identifying children not receiving education is a key part of discharging the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.' (Roger Singleton 2009)
- 'Children and young people who are not being educated quickly become at risk of failing academically and socially' (Ofsted survey report 2010)
- 'Children who are missing from home, school or care are at greater risk of sexual exploitation.' (Ofsted survey report 2014)
- 'A similar correlation has been found between a child missing education and becoming a victim of forced marriage' (NCB, referring to a House of Commons Home Affairs Committee report, 2011)

A review of Southend's children missing education (or at risk of) was undertaken for the LSCB CSE and Missing Group, which crossed over six different key service areas:

- Looked after Children (Virtual School HT),
- Persistent Absence (CFEIT),
- Alternative Education (Learning and Skills Advisor & HT Seabrook College)
- Exclusion (HT Seabrook College),
- Elective Home Education (Virtual School HT),
- Teenage Expectant mothers/Teen Parents (Teenage Pregnancy PA)
- Children Not on a School Roll/Missing from School (School Admissions Service).

From the information provided it was apparent that there are areas of strength, where Southend had very tight systems to monitor, identify and locate children that were either at risk of, or had become missing from education with good examples of children being found and returned to education. However, there were other areas where systems needed tighter, evidence based, monitoring to ensure children didn't fall under the radar and their absence from education didn't go unnoticed.

The priority areas identified for further development were:

- Ensuring urgent and effective action is taken to protect children when they go missing from school

- The Local Authority monitoring all in-year and transition point admissions through an agreed protocol with schools.
- Ensuring there are clear processes with set timescales to place children on a school roll
- Evidence of impact/improving picture regarding children that are hard to place in school and fit the Fair Access Protocol.
- Evidence of impact/improving picture regarding children receiving education otherwise than at school (elective home education)
- Children and young people who do not attend school have access to good quality registered alternative provision, receiving at least 25 hours per week.
- Evidence of impact/improving picture regarding children receiving alternative provision
- Evidence of impact/improving picture regarding children receiving alternative provision through the Local Authorities alternative pupil referral unit provision
- Reducing numbers of fixed term and permanent exclusions with evidence identifying the impact upon the child/young person (including LAC) and arrangements to support their return to school or suitable alternative provision
- Urgent and effective action is taken to protect children where their attendance noticeably reduces
- All those involved in the care of children – for example schools, the virtual head, social workers and services – are effective in working together to help children and young people return to or remain in suitable education
- A review of the use of reduced school timetables for statutory school aged children that exceed a half term in length and to promote schools' responsibilities and raise awareness of the potential vulnerabilities for children that are regularly missing from education

SECTION 5 – MANAGEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures (2015) detail the process that is required to be followed when there is an allegation that a person who works with children, in any connection with her/his employment, voluntary activity or in any personal capacity has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child, or children, in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children (amended by *Working Together*, 2013)

In *Working Together* (2015) it is identified that Local Authorities should have designated a particular Officer, or team of Officers, to be involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people who work with children. Local Authorities are required to:

- provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations;
- liaise with the Police and other agencies;
- monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

In Southend, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), and the person who undertakes the above role, is the Child Protection and Safeguarding Co-ordinator

In the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 there were a total of 29 allegations in respect of adults working with children in a variety of capacities in Southend, which is broadly consistent with, the figures for the previous year. In the main, referrals/allegations are received from the Police, Social Care and Education, however, they relate to a range of employment sectors including education, early years, fostering and the private and voluntary sector

The LADO also gives advice in relation to allegations against staff that did not meet the threshold for LADO involvement. During the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 advice

of this nature was given in 152 cases, which is an increase of approximately 50% on the previous year, when advice was given in 105 cases. This increase is consistent with that reported by LADOs nationally and is thought to be related to the heightened awareness of abuse by adults working with children, as well as the profile of the LADO being raised. In particular there has been a significant increase in historic allegations reported to the Police which are brought to the attention of the LADO.

28 cases were resolved during the period with 50% (14 cases) substantiated and 46% (13 cases) unsubstantiated. A further case was unfounded; there was evidence to disprove the allegation. These figures are broadly comparable with the data from 2013/14; unsubstantiated 51%, substantiated 49%.

A range of actions were taken in relation to substantiated cases from support and training through to dismissal and referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service. The LADO identified that the vast majority of employers understood their roles and responsibilities in managing allegations and any areas of difficulties were addressed.

An evaluation questionnaire is sent to participants following the concluding meeting for each allegation case. In the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, 10 questionnaires were been returned. In relation to the impact of the process, 100% of respondents identified this as positive. In relation to satisfaction regarding the outcome of the process, 98% of respondents graded this as 5 (1 being poor and 5 being outstanding); one case was graded as 4.

SECTION 6 - LSCB CHALLENGE TO PARTNER AGENCIES AND STRATEGIC BODIES

The LSCB monitors its challenges to partner agencies and strategic bodies and progress in resolving these. The following challenges were made by the LSCB in the period October 2014 to September 2015 and outcomes or resolutions recorded:

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
Commissioning process and structure of counselling pathways for the Sexual Abuse Resource Centre (SARC)	Further update to report required detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for Essex Area Team • Clarity on the on-going commissioning intentions by NHS England; • Whether the pathways mentioned cover all ages; • NHS England LAT to recognise the challenges re out of hours provision (& continuing challenge for young people accessing services); 	NHS England LAT	The counselling pathway for the SARC was defined by Southend CCG which has assured the LSCB that all stages are now resourced and commissioned effectively

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability of the SASP Strategic Board; • Clarity on governance, i.e. with South Essex Strategic Commissioning Group • Equity of access to pathways; • Clarity on responsibility for pathways (need ideal pathway); • A patient journey as an Appendix to the document. 		
<p>Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) lack of consultation on implementation of joint adult and children safeguarding efficacy returns to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with ESCB to ensure Southend and Thurrock are consulted in the development of an enhanced online version of the joint 	LSCB	<p>Consultation was completed and separate children and adults safeguarding standards developed and implemented.</p>

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
the LSCB from partners, replacing the section 11 audit used previously by all the SET LSCBs	safeguarding efficacy tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Corporate Director for People to raise and re-state the principle of cooperation and consultation between the SET areas at senior level 	SBC Department for People	
Timeliness of completion of initial and core assessments by Southend Borough Council (SBC) Children's Services	SBC to report on actions taken to improve performance	SBC Department for People	Report received. Performance improved for completion of initial and core assessments
Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy as a modifiable factor in deaths of babies as identified in the Child Death Review Annual Report	Public Health to implement distribution of Vitamin D supplements at Children's Centres	SBC Public Health	Vitamin D supplements now distributed via children's centres and other venues

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
Development and implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy	Southend Community Safety Partnership to present the new Domestic Abuse Strategy to the Board and local implementation action plan	Southend Community Safety Partnership	New Domestic Abuse Strategy presented to Board with local implementation plan. Board will continue to monitor implementation of the strategy
Delays in the consideration of high risk domestic abuse cases at MARAC	SET Domestic Abuse Strategic Group to address the effectiveness of the functioning of MARAC as part of its review of the Domestic Abuse Strategy	Southend Community Safety Partnership	Review of MARAC undertaken by SET Domestic Abuse Strategic Group. Revised arrangements in place to triage high risk cases has reduced number going to MARAC meetings and reduced delays. Some delays still experienced by Southend MARAC so additional meetings being held while alternative solutions are explored,

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
			including further development of the scope of the Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team. A Southend specific resolution to delays in the MARAC process will be in place by March 2016
Lack of police attendance at initial child protection conferences	Essex Police to ensure attendance at initial child protection conferences and review conferences where appropriate	Essex Police	Attendance by Essex Police at initial child protection conferences is now good
Lack of suitable Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Suites	Essex Police to procure suitable equipment for the refurbishment of ABE Suites	Essex Police	ABE suites have been refurbished
Variable quality of Child in Need Plans and their implementation identified through	SBC Children's Services to identify actions to improve quality of Child in Need Plans	SBC Children's Services	Post identified by SBC Children's Services to coordinate improvement in Child in Need plans and core group processes.

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
LSCB audit programme			Quality of Child In Need Plans has improved
Reduction in School Nursing Provision	Public Health to report on provision of school nursing	SBC Public Health	Board assured that safeguarding is being prioritised by school nursing above other duties and that recruitment has taken place to fill vacancies
Increase in number of children with a Child Protection Plan	Children's Services to raise at regional level and to report to be considered at next Board meeting	SBC Children's Services	Board is assured that the increase in number of children with a Child Protection Plan is largely as a result of changes in process regarding Public Law Outline
Timescale and resourcing of implementation of ACPO Missing Children Guidance by Essex Police	LSCB Executive has formally requested clarification from Essex Police regarding the timescales and resourcing of the implementation of the	Essex Police	ACPO Missing Children Guidance now being implemented by Essex Police

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
	Missing Children Guidance		
Engagement of strategic partners in discussions regarding a potential MASH model	SBC Children's Services to arrange a meeting of strategic partners to discuss	SBC Children's Services	Agreement reached to extend current Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team arrangements
Provision of performance information regarding the impact of domestic abuse on children	LSCB Business Manager to send request to Essex Police to provide performance information	Essex Police	Due to issues with Essex Police's new data recording system, Athena, Southend specific performance information regarding domestic abuse remains unavailable. Issue escalated to chief officers
A number of procedural issues have been identified regarding the implementation of the CSE Strategy by Essex Police	Essex Police to address the recommended actions detailed in the CSE Review Report	Essex Police	A restructuring of the Essex Police dedicated team for CSE has improved some procedural issues, however, analysis of intelligence provided

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
			to Essex Police by practitioners across the partnership regarding CSE has not yet been completed
Sharing and explanation of coroner reports on child deaths with parents and relevant partners	Meeting with the coroner to be arranged to agree a process for supporting parents to understand coroner reports and for findings relevant to child protection processes to be shared with relevant partners	SBC Head of Children's Services	Coroner has agreed that reports will be shared with paediatricians in order that they can support bereaved parents to understand the findings. Findings relevant to child protection processes will be shared with relevant partners
Concerns regarding the future sustainability around the provision of support to victims and specialist support services. The	Funding and sustainability of specialist support services and victim needs be raised with relevant agencies and partnership groups including Health and Wellbeing Board and	LSCB Chair	Issue to be raised with Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure mainstreaming of funding for essential specialist support services for victims of domestic abuse and

Details of Challenge	Action Required (<i>inc. any interim arrangements</i>)	Agency Responsible	Outcome
<p>concerns related to the ad-hoc nature of the funding, e.g. comes from a variety of sources and was not secured funding</p>	<p>Community Safety Partnership</p>		<p>sexual abuse and exploitation Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned specialist support services for all victims of sexual assault from March 2016</p>
<p>NHS England advised that they would not be able to regularly attend meetings of the LSCB and SAB due to organisational change and reduced resources. Board AGREED that the proposed arrangement was not acceptable</p>	<p>Response to NHS England setting out the Board's concerns about NHS England attendance at the LSCB</p>	<p>LSCB Chair</p>	<p>Board has raised the issue with the chief executive of NHS England. National Association of LSCB Chairs and Association of Directors of Children's Services also raising issue of NHS England non-compliance with statutory responsibilities. NHS England have now committed to attendance at the LSCB Executive</p>

SECTION 7 – PARTNER AGENCY ANNUAL STATEMENTS

The following are LSCB partner agency self-reports on the effectiveness of their safeguarding children practice over the year

Southend Borough Council

Southend Borough Council (SBC) Children's Services, which delivers the statutory safeguarding children activity, produces an annual safeguarding children report which is presented to the chief executive and leader of the council in November 2015 and Council Cabinet in January 2016, at which time it will be appended to this report.

In addition to the discharge of its statutory role there is a wider corporate commitment to safeguarding children. SBC Adult Services ensures that its front line staff working with adults with additional care and support needs receive safeguarding children training and Housing Services are in the process of ensuring that all their staff undertake safeguarding children awareness training.

Public Health supports the Council and LSCB's strategic approach to safeguarding through initiatives such as the Prince Charming drama productions which promote healthy relationships and prevention of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation; a successful Equality and Diversity Programme for schools; road safety awareness activity; and establishing a consistent approach to sex and relationships education.

The Department for Place has also worked to ensure its public protection strategy is linked to the safeguarding children priorities and to support the implementation of the PREVENT strategy locally and establishment of a Channel Panel to support those at risk of radicalization, together with the Department for People

SBC has identified additional resource to secure the appointment of a CSE Strategic Lead and a Data Analyst to assist the work of the local authority and the LSCB in identifying and supporting victims of CSE and disrupting perpetrators. Council departments have identified and trained CSE Champions and an awareness raising campaign and 'call to action' is in the final stages of development for roll out to all staff. Regulatory Services have raised

awareness of CSE with their own staff and are supporting the LSCB to raise awareness of CSE and human trafficking with taxi drivers and licensed premises in the town.

Essex Police

Essex Police is committed to improving Child Abuse Investigation and the wider safeguarding agenda. Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation feature in the National Strategic Policing Requirement for the first time as national threats and are the top priorities in the Essex Police control strategy.

The demand within the Police Child Abuse Investigation Teams has been steadily increasing over the last two years. Child abuse offences across the force have increased by 18.0% (121 more offences) between April and August 2015 versus the same period April to August 2014. This increase has been mainly in neglect and sexual offences. Offences dealt with by the Child Abuse Investigation Teams have increased by 28.5% (156 more offences) to September 2015. Rape offences have increased by 29.9% (23 more offences) overall. The South hub, which covers Southend, has dealt with 179 offences between April and September 2015.

The Child Sexual Exploitation Triage Team (CSETT) services the whole county and receives concerns regarding children at risk of CSE from internal and external partners. The team have increased threefold in size since its inception in 2013 which is indicative of the rise in incidents of CSE. The link between CSE and missing is well known and missing person coordinators are firmly embedded in this team. Over the last year the CSETT has been reviewed and its processes adjusted to provide robust gate-keeping to ensure those at risk are properly identified and prioritised. Operation Dartford led to the first successful prosecution for offences linked to Child Sexual Exploitation and has provided valuable lessons to improve the outcomes for these young people. This work continues to be coordinated through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Strategic CSE group chaired by the Police.

The police on line investigation team are responsible for dealing with offenders who commit offences against children in the digital world through use of the internet, social media sites and other mediums. This team currently have 248 live investigations County wide.

In November 2014 Operation Maple was launched and is led by the Deputy Chief Constable to look at Essex Police response to allegations of child abuse. This followed proactive internal scrutiny of investigative quality and timeliness which uncovered some issues, mainly in the North of the county. As a result Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and the College of Policing visited the force early in 2015 to understand the scope of the issue and provide oversight and peer review support to Operation Maple. This attracted media interest and shows the commitment and openness of senior leaders to deliver a service that is robust and provides the best outcomes for children and young people. A change of leadership, improved training and a robust performance framework evidence areas of the improvement plan that have already been embedded. Other areas of work include the development of a tasking process whereby threat, risk and harm is considered and priorities set for the command's resources.

The Strategic Change Management Team is tasked with finding financial savings across the force in line with the Government's Current Spending Review under the "Evolve" Programme. The Public Protection project aims to design and deliver a Public Protection function fit for the future which is lean, efficient and provides the resources necessary to deliver what is recognised as a priority for the force. It is anticipated that this may be an area which sees growth rather than savings.

The new IT system "Athena" went live on 1st April 2015 and Essex Police are the first of seven forces to implement this new system which brings together investigation, intelligence, custody, and case management. With the advent of such a large project, teething issues have been identified and are being worked through to ensure the quality of this information sharing remains high. The extraction of management data has proved challenging and is a priority for the force as this has mainly affected the sharing of domestic abuse incidents involving children with partners.

Over the last year the Crime and Public Protection Command has developed a three day Public Protection Course to ensure front line officers and staff have an awareness of the thirteen strands of public protection to sufficiently enable them to recognise and tackle hidden harms. This programme began in August 2015 and will be rolled out over the next two years.

Essex Police have officers firmly embedded in the Southend Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team and are participating in discussions to support a wider partnership hub. Essex Police have continued their commitment to the LSCB and supported the new CSE structures providing a solid basis to drive and improve better outcomes for Southend's children.

Essex Community Rehabilitation Company

In June 2014, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) was established following the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme. CRCs are providers of probation services, comprising the offender management of low and medium risk of serious harm offenders, and the provision of interventions to both offenders allocated to the CRC and those retained by the National Probation Service. Essex CRC remained in public ownership until February 2015, when the contract was awarded to Sodexo. The CRC is currently moving to a new organizational structure, estates profile and operating model, which will not be fully complete until Spring 2016. Stakeholder events to update partners about these changes were held in September 2014 and September 2015.

Essex CRC's commitment to safeguarding and public protection remains and is evidenced for October 2014 - September 2015 in the following ways:

- Participation in the safeguarding children and adults boards.
- Completion of Section 11 audits.
- Referrals to local authorities where children or adults are considered at risk or abuse and neglect, or in need of care and support.
- Participation in case conferences, core groups and reviews, where we have a relevant case.
- Deployment to all staff of the 2015 children and adult SET procedures, and the 2015 revised working together
- Provision of child protection training - level 1 for all staff; level 1&2 for all practitioners.

In addition, the following extract from Essex CRC's Safeguarding Policy Statement highlights the principles of our safeguarding work:

"Essex CRC will safeguard children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect by being vigilant, through contact with adults, where children may be at risk or have unmet need, and will make the appropriate referral for early help, children in need services or child protection services. We will contribute to multi-agency work to address this need or risk; engage with a 'whole family' approach; deliver sentence plans and interventions to address harmful behaviours; work with others to ensure that victims of abuse are protected and supported so that risk factors can be identified and safety plans put in place; and we will identify adult social care needs and make appropriate referrals for mainstream provision as well as referring for specialist services where applicable."

NHS England

NHS England has dual safeguarding responsibilities with regards to both our directly commissioned health services (such as GPs, dentists, opticians, prison health care, secure mental health treatment, sexual assault referral centres, screening and immunisation services) and safeguarding responsibilities across the wider health economy. NHS England's safeguarding roles and responsibilities have been formally set out in the "Accountability and Assurance Framework" which was published in June 2015 and supports the existing close working relationships with the designated teams of the CCGs in our area. NHS England attends all the Health Executive groups within our area, which ensures we are sighted on all aspects of the safeguarding agenda and areas of LSCB work relevant to health and the local economy.

NHS England host the Safeguarding Children Forums which bring together safeguarding leads from health organisations and commissioning parties across both East Anglia and Essex. As part of the group formal continuous professional development occurs and the forum also shares learning from Serious Case Reviews and Serious Incidents (extending beyond the Essex locality). The forum provides a means of clinical supervision and support

and has a work plan which ensures clear outcomes and maximises the benefit of bringing together this group of professionals. Current areas of work include improving health professionals' contributions to case conferences, and production of specific resource packs for health professionals.

In terms of the challenges we face, it is difficult to apply local initiatives and recommendations when we are part of a national organisation. This is a particular issue when, for example, a serious case review highlights recommendations for General Practices. A further challenge is within the complexity of commissioning for certain areas of health provision such as Sexual Assault Referral Centres, and for areas that are in transition from health to local authority commissioning (such as health visiting). Raising concerns through multi-agency platforms such as the LSCB and Quality Surveillance Meetings is a way we work to ensure that ownership is taken over quality concerns.

South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT)

Highlight report of key issues arising during 2014/15 addressing the priorities

1. Prevention / raising awareness

A series of awareness raising initiatives have taken place within SEPT and in partnership with Southend LSCB. These have included

- Briefing sessions on the outcomes of Serious Case reviews and Domestic Homicide reviews
- Reviewing the Trust response for Domestic Abuse
- Signing up to the National FGM data set for the NHS
- Updating policies and training programmes in line with LSCB and national directives

- Ensuring smooth transition of services (school nursing provision) whilst maintaining robust partnership working.

2. Workforce development and Training

The Trust compliance for safeguarding remains consistently good as demonstrated below.

The Trust has introduced an enhanced programme on Domestic abuse which is mandatory for all clinicians

Core Practice Courses	South East Essex		
	Total Target	Trained	
		No	%
Red <90% Green >=90%			
Safeguarding Level 1	734	667	91%
Safeguarding Level 2	555	498	90%
Safeguarding Children Level 3	140	126	90%
Safeguarding Adults Level 3	21	21	100%
Safeguarding Children Levels 4/5/6	6	6	100%

3. Quality Assurance

3.1 The outcome of the section 11 audit was presented to the LSCB in March 2015 and provided substantial assurance that the Trust has robust safeguarding processes. This

included that service user feedback was positive and many, particularly Looked After Children valued the support, health advice and expertise given.

3.2 The Trust Safeguarding group includes the LSCB minutes as a standard agenda item together with the strategic priorities the LSCB sets. The action log of this group includes recommendations from SCR, DHR and any LSCB initiatives. This is monitored monthly for compliance and to ensure any progress is maintained

3.3 The Trust Learning Lessons Oversight Committee meets monthly and regularly includes safeguarding children cases. Learning is cascaded throughout the Trust and discussed at team meetings etc.

4. Partnership Working

The Trust is represented at Board, Executive and all relevant sub groups by experienced specialist staff who have been able to support and develop the LSCB agenda.

Southend Hospital

The past year has seen a 50% increase in contacts with the safeguarding team. The development of electronic patient records across the Trust has allowed for all safeguarding records to be stored electronically and viewed by Clinicians instantly.

The safeguarding team has been enhanced by the appointment of a Clinical Midwifery Specialist who works closely with the Maternity service.

CSE and FGM Champions have been appointed to increase awareness of services within the Trust. Policies have been embedded and training sessions provided to ensure staff are aware of patient pathways and processes relating to these key areas of practice. To support this work further Link Nurses are being developed within the Paediatric, Maternity and A&E departments.

Level 1 & 2 training are now delivered via E learning to all staff, comprehensive face to face Level 3 training is delivered to all relevant staff groups.

The Named Doctor provides supervision and peer review for all medical staff within the Trust. Medical support to the SARC has continued and is now provided seven days per week

East of England Ambulance Service

How the East of England Ambulance Service Trust has ensured an effective safeguarding response for Children during the period October 2014 to September 2015

To have in place policies, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding across the organisation. This is to include the training for staff in what to do in the event of a child death.

To communicate information relating to safeguarding to all relevant parties within the Trust.
To include any relevant legislation relating to children and young people.

To ensure that training in safeguarding is accurate and appropriate to the relevant staff groups. We have added Female Genital Mutilation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Honour Based Violence, forced marriage and Spirit possession to our training slides.

To work with other clinicians to improve referrals and to strengthen safeguarding in the Trust. We are actively seeking feedback from referrals to pass back down to our crews. This reinforces the excellent work that is taking place.

To provide appropriate safeguarding advice, taking into account national guidance, to key Trust committees. This is reported to our Bi monthly meeting internally.

To carry out and quality assure safeguarding audits within the Trust.

To ensure all statutory requirements are met and partnership working remains effective both regionally and nationally.

Monitoring of the safeguarding referral line has remained consistent over the last year; this work ensures the quality of data leaving the Trust and the pathway choices regarding a GP referral and/or Local Authority concern. These referrals are evaluated by the safeguarding

team no more than 3 days after the referral is made. This is to ensure patient concerns are received and managed by the correct agency.

East of England Ambulance Service Trust Safeguarding team has completed a re structure. On 01st September 2015 the new Named Professional for Safeguarding was appointed and on 01st October 2015 the new Head of Safeguarding was appointed.

Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS)

Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) is a Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), a local infrastructure organisation for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, and carries out five core functions which are; Services and Support, Liaison, Representation, Development Work and Strategic Partnerships. SAVS also have a sixth strand of volunteering and hosts the Turning Tides projects.

The main work carried out at SAVS is to support voluntary and community sector organisations in Southend and as such SAVS has no direct contact with children and young people, however when giving advice to groups this will include safeguarding and child protection when relevant. The Turning Tides project does work with children and young people so will be considered separately in this report. All roles within SAVS are risk assessed and those involving work with children and young people are subject to a DBS check in line with SAVS Child Protection Policy. SAVS Child Protection Policy was last reviewed by the Board in February 2015 (all Policies are reviewed bi-annually).

SAVS is a membership organisation and since April 2010 prospective members are asked if they have the correct safeguarding policies in place. They are then signposted to the LSCB and Safe Network websites or to SAVS for further information and support if required.

SAVS Funding Development Officer gives advice to organisations to enable the organisation to apply for funding. This support can be for organisations setting up, for those wishing to

expand and those reviewing good practice. Training programmes are run by SAVS through SACC and the LSCB; this training is open to volunteers and paid staff working for VCS groups.

In addition a Children & Young People's Thematic Group is held quarterly to bring together organisations working in this field. The Group encourages partnership development to enable collaborative working and share good practice amongst peers. A speaker is invited to each of the four Thematic Group meetings to share information about relevant topics of interest.

The Volunteer Centre brokers and markets volunteering, promotes good practice, develops volunteering opportunities and strategic development of volunteering. On registration an organisation is given good practice advice and when a volunteer is referred assurances are required that the organisation will comply with current good practice.

SAVS also has a database of VCS organisations in Southend and can put partners in touch using a number of routes. We have a Newsletter which is sent out at least 4 times a year, regular emails to members and mail can be targeted to a particular area such as organisations working with children or young people. Special events could also be arranged in partnership to get a particular message across.

The Turning Tides project runs youth activities through the Triple T initiative. These are held through two youth clubs for children aged 8 upwards in two of the most deprived areas of Southend. Volunteers are recruited and trained to run the clubs alongside the two paid members of staff. The project was funded by Children in Need until March 2014 who have stringent Child Protection guidelines that must be followed. We continue to work to these guidelines

CAFCASS

- *Introduction*

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The role of Cafcass within the family courts is: to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; provide advice to the court; make

provision for children to be represented; and provide information and support to children and their families.

Cafcass' statutory function, as set out in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, is to "safeguard and promote the welfare of children". Safeguarding is therefore a priority in all of the work we undertake within the family courts and the training and guidance we provide to staff reflects this.

- *Effectiveness of Safeguarding Arrangements*

A key focus during 2014/15 was continued improvement following our "good" Ofsted judgement in April 2014. Ofsted summarised that Cafcass consistently worked well with families to ensure children are safe and that the court makes decisions that are in the children's best interests. The report also highlighted areas where Cafcass should make improvements, and these areas formed a dedicated action plan which we implemented throughout the remainder of the year. An audit in November 2014 assessed that all of the following actions had been met:

- To improve the minority of safeguarding letters which are not yet fit for purpose: this has been met;
- Improve effectiveness of efforts to contact parties. Where sufficient efforts have been made these should be better recorded: this has been met;
- Ensure that in all private law work casework begins as early as possible once a Family Court Adviser (FCA) has been allocated: this has been met;
- Improve the percentage of "good" work in private law work after first hearing (WAFH) in London: this has been met;
- Improve further the analysis in the report to the court and ensure that all relevant information is pulled through in to the report based on research: this has been met.

We are continuing efforts with one further action, to eliminate poor grammar and typographical errors; the percentage of "good" and "met" work in this respect has improved considerably, and we aim to increase this.

Cafcass has a robust programme of internal audits to assure the effectiveness of safeguarding in both public and private law. We provide tools for practitioners to use in self-assessment in order to benchmark the quality of their own work, and these tools are also used by managers

and auditors as an evidence base for assessment. Throughout all the tools there is a consistent focus on assessing risk and whether appropriate actions have been taken after the assessment of risk.

Practitioners are supported extensively and scrutinised routinely to ensure the effectiveness of their safeguarding practices. FCAs are encouraged to take responsibility for their own performance, and are provided with the resources to do so via MyWork, an online platform containing performance and workload data. Learning and assessments are consolidated in quarterly Performance Learning Reviews (PLRs), allowing FCAs, with their line managers, to formally assess safeguarding practice and evidence whether service objectives have been met along with effective adherence to policies.

Reports to court are routinely quality assured and practice observations are undertaken, as set out in our Quality Improvement and Assurance Framework. Managers are further assisted by the Performance Management System by strengthening their ability to identify areas requiring improvement, as well as helping to meet the development needs of staff. Actions by practitioners and managers are further scrutinised by senior operational managers via a monthly sample of closed files and the observation of one PLR per manager, per annum.

Further assurance is provided through yearly national audits and our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). A national audit of practice was undertaken in November 2014 with the objective of providing a snapshot assessment of the standard of casework. The audit measured the progress of work since the audit in September 2013 and the Ofsted inspection of April 2014. The conclusions were positive, reporting the percentage of work graded as “good” at 65%. This represents a significant improvement of 16% from the previous year’s audit.

Our KPIs, set by our sponsor department the Ministry of Justice, measure the proportion of open public law care cases allocated to an appointed children’s guardian, and private law cases allocated to an FCA. Other KPIs measure the timeliness of allocation in care applications and the proportion of private law Section 7 reports that meet their agreed filing times. All of our KPIs are consistently met.

We will undertake three thematic audits in 2015/16, focusing on further improvements required. These will look at the extent of the improvement in the joint working between the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and the Guardian; the Guardian's involvement and agreement to any position statement filed in proceedings; and evidence in WAFH of the improvement in analysis of assessment and increased use of research and tools.

Alongside our internal methods of quality assurance, we record and disseminate learning identified within service user correspondence, including correspondence received from children and young people. The learning points are fed back to the National Improvement Service (NIS) which maintains a national learning log, updated and disseminated throughout the organisation on a quarterly basis. The learning log sets out clear action plans designed to improve safeguarding practice and systems across the organisation.

Further scrutiny is given to our safeguarding practice and processes by the Family Justice Young People's Board (FJYPB) comprising young people with direct experience of the family court. The FJYPB contribute to our publications, review our resources for direct work with children, and are involved in the recruitment of frontline staff. Board members also review the complaints we receive from children and young people.

Number of serious incidents involving children and young people and outcomes from reviewing them

Cafcass has contributed to 26 Individual Management Reviews (IMRs), requiring a variety of methodological approaches. Of all the child deaths Cafcass has been made aware of from April 2014 – March 2015, in 52% of cases, maltreatment was suspected. This information is collated and managed nationally.

The learning from IMRs is collated and reported in an annual paper, which is disseminated nationally within Cafcass. We also publish externally a redacted version of the report, with a focus on wider learning points within the family justice system.

- Responding to emerging issues

We continue to respond to, and facilitate, developments within the family justice system and in particular the move, in private law towards supporting parents, where possible, to make safe decisions outside of court proceedings. We are currently piloting a programme

announced by the MoJ, to provide advice and to encourage out of court pathways for separating parents, where it is safe to do so. The 'supporting separating parents in dispute' (SSPID) helpline was launched in November 2014. Callers are put through to a Cafcass practitioner who can talk through the difficulties of separation, offering support, guidance, and information. We also ran a six month pilot of a safeguarding advisory support service for mediators, aimed at providing support in cases featuring child protection concerns.

Cafcass is also working on the Parents in Dispute pilot, in partnership with the Tavistock Centre for Couple Counselling. The chief aim of the project is to support separating parents involved in high conflict disputes in the family courts. FCAs in London have been able to recommend that separating parents attend the course in order to help parents to reconsider their behaviour in order to better focus on their children and create positive outcomes for them.

A significant emerging issue in recent years has been child sexual exploitation (CSE), We are implementing a CSE strategy which involves consolidating systems to capture data on CSE in cases known to us; providing mandatory training on CSE to our staff, running workshops to increase awareness; reviewing policy guidance to staff; creating dedicated management time to support the delivery of the strategy at a national level; and creating CSE ambassadors within each service area.

- *Partnership working*

Cafcass is committed to joint working, as demonstrated in some of our work recorded above. We continue to work with partners such as the Association of Directors Children's Services (ADCS), the FYJPB and the National Family Justice Board. With ADCS in particular we will continue to work in partnership to identify and share good practice.

Cafcass also plays a strong leadership role at a local level, actively participating in Local Family Justice Boards. Cafcass chairs 10 out of 42 local Family Justice Boards and has a strong leadership role on all others.

- *Workforce Development*

The work of our FCAs in family proceedings is challenging, and the family justice system rightly has a high expectation of our staff. This is supported by a robust recruitment process. All FCAs

have a minimum of three years post qualifying experience, although most of our staff have many more. FCAs must also maintain their HCPC registration as a condition of employment. When recruiting staff we look for social workers with proven experience in safeguarding, child engagement, inter-agency working, case analysis, planning and recording.

To ensure that our staff are able to safeguard children as best as possible, Cafcass has an extensive workforce development strategy. To begin with, new practitioners attend a core training induction programme comprising four separate days that require completion prior to confirmation in post. This four modules are: the legal basis of Cafcass' work and court skills; casework skills such as planning, recording, assessing and reporting, interview skills when working with conflict and talking to children; and risk and harm in Cafcass.

Thereafter training is delivered by NIS, which is also responsible for supporting operational services through audits and commissioned activities such as 1:1 coaching and mentoring. The national training programme is approved annually by the Corporate Management Team, and senior operational managers can commission from NIS specific training or coaching to meet local need in their service areas.

All staff have access to an online learning environment (MySkills) which hosts information and skills-based courses (core and optional) as appropriate to their roles and identified needs. MySkills is both a source of all training materials and a database for monitoring the take up of training across Cafcass.

Workforce development is also assisted by several other mechanisms. Cafcass commissions at least four pieces of research a year as part of its research programme, as well as subscribing to Research in Practice. The findings from this are disseminated throughout the organisation and incorporated into training. Staff also make extensive use of our in-house Library, with 5722 items provided to staff in 2014/15, and all operational staff can access the professional network as part of our corporate membership of the College of Social Work.

South Essex College

The key strengths of the College are identified as:

1. A robust review of Safeguarding via the annual Section 11 Audit was received favourably by the LSCB as being honest and rigorous with a clear action plan written and is monitored regularly.
2. The development of the Safeguarding sections on the new College Intranet have allowed for the policies and procedures related to safeguarding to be more widely shared.
3. Proactive approach to the Prevent Duty by implementing strategies, procedure (Notice, Check, Share), external liaison, action plans and risk assessments including key staff being WRAP trained. All staff are currently working on an E-Learning package around the Channel Support Process as are members of the College's Corporation Board. A meeting with the FE/HE Regional Prevent Coordinator and Essex Police evidenced that as a College we are making excellent progress and engaging well with the Duty. Our strategies and action plan clearly show our direction, what we are doing, by when and who is responsible as well as providing the opportunity to ensure evidence collection.
4. Through the coaching and mentoring of Senior Leadership, Management Teams, Academic staff there has been an improvement of safeguarding management across the College. Staff are confident to raise any concerns regarding peers and Managers feel confident to deal with these concerns with a strong awareness of when to escalate.
5. A strong internal training package is available to staff which is continually developing based on changes in legislation and regulations along with staff needs.
6. Safeguarding concerns raised in relation to students are dealt with in a prompt and timely manner to minimize risk to the individual concerned, other students and staff. Where appropriate referrals are made to external agencies same day with acknowledgement and referral pick-up on average within 2-3 days.

7. The Safeguarding Team has a strong working relationship with LSCBs, LADOs, Essex Police and external agencies. These relationships have led to the College being part of a national pilot for the Young Carers Standard and being the only FE institution to feed into this project. Relationships with external agencies allow for students to access regular drop in services for support with sexual health, crime and safety, pastoral support and health services on a weekly basis at all campuses as well as regular events. These links also enable the team to access to a range of CPD sessions so members are up to date on services and referral mechanisms.

The following are areas identified as priorities for the College over the next 12-18 months:

1. To continue to provide training and educate staff and students on a range of safeguarding related topics with the priority subjects being:
 - a. CSE
 - b. Prevent
 - c. Bullying & Harassment
 - d. E-Safety
2. Strengthen the Ready, Respectful and Safe ethos with all students during induction and through events during the academic year.
3. Embedding of the Prevent Agenda within safeguarding practices across the College including the delivery of WRAP training and the process for the booking of Guest Speakers.
4. Improvement of communication with Heads of Department re. 'At Risk' students and appropriate planning to support most vulnerable students to achieve.
5. Education of all staff in identifying the differences in child protection, safeguarding and pastoral needs within students and their roles in providing support.
6. Collection of feedback and outcomes for students known to the Safeguarding Team to influence future service provision.
7. Continual building of strong links with appropriate external agencies.

8. Recruitment methods are undergoing a full review as each post arises to ensure we are appropriately vetting and assessing applicants' suitability to work within an Education environment.

SECTION 8 – IMPLEMENTING LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

Serious Case Reviews

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

Southend LSCB completed one serious case review during the period October 2014 to September 2015. The LSCB Board and Chair agreed with the recommendation of the LSCB Case Review Panel that the review should not be published. The LSCB Chair consulted the independent National Serious Case Review Panel, set up by the government, which agreed that to protect the wellbeing of surviving family members, and in light of the fact that there was limited learning from the review regarding how agencies could have worked better together, the review, its findings, and recommendations should not be published.

The LSCB is assured that all of the recommendations identified in the independent overview report for this review have been implemented, and recommendations from agencies' individual management reviews of the case are being implemented appropriately or have already been implemented.

Child Death Reviews

Seven notifications of deaths of children resident in the Southend area were received during the year April 2014 to March 2015 compared to 9 deaths in 2013-14. This is the lowest number since 2010/11 (13 deaths) and continues a decrease in numbers over the past five years. Six of these deaths were in children under one year of age. Deaths of children under the age of one in the Asian or Asian British group are overrepresented. There were three unexpected deaths during the period in the Southend area. Unexpected deaths usually require a Rapid Response. There has been a change in the way that Rapid Response process is undertaken with a new county wide Health Rapid Response Service becoming operational from March 2015. The new service works with the Designated

Doctors, paediatricians and health professionals and in partnership with the Police, Social Care and other partners. The service provides support to families, including bereavement counselling; and is a single point of contact for the Rapid Response process across the county. The LSCB has liaised with the Coroner in order that bereaved parents are now able to meet with a paediatrician who will go through and explain the Coroner's report or post mortem with them.

Nine child death reviews were completed for Southend cases in the period. Not all reviews are completed in the year of the notification received, especially when there was an Inquest or criminal proceedings. Five reviewed deaths were found to have modifiable factors, including one due to deliberate injury, abuse or neglect (serious case review undertaken); one due to a chronic medical condition; and three due to infection. Four were found to be not preventable, including two due to chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities; and two due to infection. No reviews identified co-sleeping as a modifiable factor.

Other Reviews

No other reviews were completed during the period October 2014 to September 2015. The Case Review Panel did undertake a thematic review of Neglect cases, learning from which has been identified earlier in this report.

The Panel is undertaking one review which did not meet the criteria for undertaking a serious case review, and this is due to be completed in 2016. Learning from this review is being implemented as it emerges

SECTION 9 – FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 2014 TO MARCH 2015

The LSCB uses the funding formula below to ensure it has adequate resources to undertake its business effectively

Agency	% Contribution	Actual Contributions in 2014/15
Southend Borough Council	49.5%	£42672
Essex Police and Crime Commissioner	16.5%	£14224
CCG/Local Commissioning Board	26.0%	£22414
National Probation Service	7.2%	£6207
CAFCASS (+ reserves)	0.7%	£550
	0.1%	/£140
Total	100%	£86207

The Board received additional income from a grant of £10,000 from the Schools Forum; training and other charges, and interest. The Board carried forward £77,435 for 2014-15

Funding and staffing of the Southend LSCB is relatively low level, compared to other Boards regionally and nationally. The LSCB shares a business manager and administrative assistant with the Safeguarding Adults Board (0.5fte for each role and Board). There is also a considerable ‘in kind’ contribution of partners to both the Board and sub groups, a major resource which is difficult to quantify, but is critical to the effective functioning of the LSCB.

For the year 2014-15 the LSCB's expenditure was as follows:

Description	Expenditure (£)
Total Employees	58,016
Total Supplies And Services (includes chair remuneration and meeting/training costs)	37,562
Total Contribution To Equality & Diversity in Schools Programme	5,000
Total Transport	150
Total	100,728

For the financial year 2014/15 the LSCB carried forward £79,334.96 in reserves.

SECTION 10 – BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Representative	November 2014	March 2015	June 2015	September 2015
Independent Chair	√	√	√	√
Vice Chair - Corporate Director for People	√	√	√	√
Councillor Anne Jones, lead Member	√	√	√	√
Essex Community Rehabilitation Company	√	√	Apologies Substitute attended	√
South Essex College	√	√	√	√
Essex Police – Southend District	√	√	Apologies	√
Youth Lay Member	√	√	√	
Independent Schools Rep	√	Apologies	Apologies	-
Department for People, Chair LSCB Executive	√	√	√	√
Southend CCG	√	Apologies Substitute attended	√	Apologies Substitute attended
Essex Police	√	√	√	√
Community Lay Member		√	Apologies	√
Public Health	Apologies	√	√	Apologies

Representative	November 2014	March 2015	June 2015	September 2015
Department for People – Children’s Services	√	√	√	√
Special Schools Heads Rep	√	Apologies	√	Apologies
CAFCASS	-	Apologies	√	√
Primary Heads Rep	Apologies	√	√	Apologies
National Probation Service , South & South Eastern Division (from June 2014)	Apologies Substitute attended	Apologies Substitute attended	Apologies Substitute attended	Apologies
Southend Hospital	√	√	√	√
Secondary Schools Rep	√	√	√	√
Voluntary Sector - SAVS	√	√	√	√
NHS England LAT	√	Apologies	-	-
Designated Doctor	√	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
LSCB Legal Advisor	√	√	√	√
SEPT	√	√	Apologies Substitute attended	√
East of England Ambulance Service	-	Apologies	√	√

SECTION 11 – CONCLUSIONS AND AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Key Areas for Development and Challenge 2015-16

Monitoring this year has shown the following areas of development need to be addressed in the coming year:

- An increase in the number of children and young people admitted to hospital as a result of unintentional or deliberate injuries to 98 (*compared to 49 in 2012/13 and 78 in 2013/14*). 54 admissions had a diagnosis of intentional self-harm, an increase from 37 in 2013-14. Work is required to address the issues of self-harm and mental health, including more exploration and triangulation of the relevant data, and a better understanding of the prevalence and the underlying causes.
- The provision of reports for Child Protection Conferences in advance of meetings to enable families and professionals to participate fully in the process. There need to be improvements in the timeliness and of the reports being provided to the family.
- The analysis of intelligence by Essex Police and mapping of the prevalence of CSE in Southend needs attention in order to build up a richer picture of where the risks are to be found and hence what type of prevention/disruption/investigative activity is required to address these.
- Commissioning of young people centred support services in respect of CSE is underdeveloped across the partnership. If this was addressed the LSCB view is that there would be a greater capacity to both respond to historic CSE with suitable counselling services, and it may encourage more victims, both current and past, to come forward particularly if there was a third sector "front door". The reason for this is firstly that some CSE victims do not initially see themselves as victims of CSE, and secondly some may be wary of approaching a statutory service in the first instance.
- Mainstreaming of funding for specialist support services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual abuse and exploitation is needed, in order to ensure a secure on-going contract for these services.

- The quality of information shared by Essex Police regarding domestic abuse incidents requires considerable improvement. Children and unborn babies are not always identified by the Police and the flow of information into Children's Social Care has not been reliable. This forms part of the Essex Police improvement plan
- Delays in the consideration of high risk domestic abuse cases at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). These have continued despite the new pan Essex arrangements for triage and as a matter of urgency Southend will now seek a local solution to these on-going delays, to be put in place by the end of March 2016 at the latest.

In addition, the LSCB has identified the following areas as a priority:

- To continue to develop a comprehensive range of services in response to Child Sexual Exploitation, in line with the developing local strategy
- To continue to exercise oversight of the child protection process ensuring its on-going effectiveness and improvement
- To ensure that the early help model is fully integrated with the multi-agency sharing of information and child protection processes, making one unified and comprehensive system to ensure all children and safeguarded and professionals know how and where to get the right help.
- To ensure that the Voice of the Child is increasingly embedded in the way that services are delivered, and that achieving specific outcomes for children are increasingly driving the work of professionals.
- To continue to address and improve the governance of the LSCB in terms of its relationships with other boards and processes in Southend , especially to ensure that cross cutting areas of work such as CSE do get looked at holistically across the partnership, and that potential gaps and overlaps are identified addressed effectively.
- To respond to the Violence and Against Women and girls agenda, including FGM EFM etc. Providing a comprehensive programme of work

- To hold the corporate parent to account in its work with Looked After Children and Care Leavers.