



Essex Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan 2015 – 2017

Statutory duties

The ESCB focuses on carrying out its statutory duties as set out in Working Together 2013 in order to safeguard children and young people.

In addition to its statutory duties, the Board will also implement and embed key improvement priorities for the next two years. These will form the basis of the work of the Board and its sub committees for the period 2015 – 2017.

Key Improvement Priorities

Improvement priority: 1	Essex has effective arrangements for delivering and monitoring strategies for tackling Domestic Abuse, FGM, adult mental health and substance misuse			
Lead group	Domestic Abuse: PPC Strategic Group, Mental Health and Substance Misuse: HWBB/ESAB FGM – Public Health			
What difference do we want to make?	To reduce the impact of these issues on safeguarding children and young people			
How will we measure our success?	Dataset, case studies, training evaluations, feedback from young people			
The actions we will undertake in order to realise this priority are...				
Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Develop and agree joint working protocol and activities between Boards	ESCB working with appropriate Board – led by ESCB Business Manager	Board members as required	October 2015	
Attend appropriate meetings/boards to identify joint areas of work and actions	ESCB representative (Business Manager/Independent Chair or other nominated representative) at appropriate Board		Ongoing depending on meeting dates	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Review and revise protocols and procedures as appropriate	ESCB Policies, Procedures & Practice Development sub-committee		At each meeting as appropriate	
Develop and deliver an ESCB core multi agency training and development programme - this to include evaluation of effectiveness of the training	Learning Development sub-committee (ESCB)	Training representatives who are not included in the Learning Development sub-committee	From May 2015	
Monitor impact on children and young people using evaluation methods in the improvement framework	ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee		Ongoing	

Improvement priority: 2	Robust partnership arrangements are in place to support the prevention and management of risk to young people. To include gangs, sexual exploitation, missing children, self-harm online safety and radicalisation			
Lead group	ESCB in partnership with the Children's Partnership Board & SET CSE Strategic Group ESCB Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing sub committee			
What difference do we want to make?	To raise awareness amongst professionals, the community and young people about the impact of risk taking activities and how to effectively deal with them.			
How will we measure our success?	Have a better understanding of the scope and prevalence, through training evaluation, ongoing assessment and case audits			
The actions we will undertake in order to realise this priority are...				
<i>Key action</i>	<i>Lead officer/group</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Progress update and impact</i>
Develop an effective SET strategy on CSE and missing children ensuring there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation, based on a robust, thorough risk assessment of the extent and nature of child sexual exploitation locally	SET Strategic CSE Group via the ESCB Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Sub committee		September 2015	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
CSE action plan to be in place to include: cross authority working, establishing and monitoring prevalence, training and development, impact monitoring of responses to tackling CSE, raising awareness and communications	ESCB Child Sexual Exploitation sub committee	Supported by relevant other committees depending on work area	April 2015	
To ensure that the 'Prevent' programme is promoted across the partnership via training	Learning and development sub committee	Supported by communications sub committee to promote any programmes or campaigns	From April 2016	
Continue to promote the youth suicide prevention toolkit	ESCB Communications Officer	Education safeguarding officer, agency safeguarding leads, partnership leads, stay safe groups	From April 2015	

Promote and embed the ESCB e safety policy	ESCB Communications Officer	Education safeguarding officer, agency safeguarding leads, partnership leads, stay safe groups	From April 2015	
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Improvement priority: 3	Effective arrangements are in place to respond to early signs of need including neglect.			
Lead group	ESCB			
What difference do we want to make?	Reduce the prevalence of neglect by raising awareness amongst the community, young people and professionals			
How will we measure our success?	Impact of awareness training, data monitoring, case audits, feedback from young people			
The actions we will undertake in order to realise this priority are...				
Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Annual ESCB conference based on theme of neglect to raise awareness amongst professionals	ESCB Business Manager with working group reps from Learning Development and Communications sub-committees		Delivery of conference November 2015	
Training and learning events including lessons from Serious case reviews	Learning and Development sub-committee		September 2015	
Revise ESCB Neglect strategy to tackle neglect informed by learning from research, serious case reviews and OFSTED thematic reviews	ESCB Policies, Procedures & Practice Development sub-committee		October 2015	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Monitoring of data and cases to assess the impact of interventions to respond to neglect	ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee		Ongoing from May 2015	
Review pre-birth assessment protocols and practices to incorporate lessons learned from SCRs	ESCB Policies, Procedures & Practice Development sub-committee		From June 2015	
Embed the use and awareness of the ESCB Early Support document	All agency representatives across the ESCB Monitored via ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee		Ongoing from April 2015	

Improvement priority: 4	ESCB is visible and influential through effective engagement with other agencies, partnerships, practitioners, voluntary and community sector, children , young people and their families and the wider community			
Lead group	ESCB Communications sub-committee ESCB Learning Development sub-committee			
What difference do we want to make?	Raise awareness of safeguarding amongst practitioners and the wider community to reduce impact of risk to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people			
How will we measure our success?	Impact of awareness training, data monitoring, case audits, feedback from children and young people their families and carers			
The actions we will undertake in order to realise this priority are...				
Key action	Lead officer	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Development and implementation of updated website	ESCB Communications Officer	Communications sub-committee	May 2015	
Training and awareness raising events – planned as part of the ESCB training programme and evaluated appropriately	ESCB Practice Development Manager	Learning Development sub-committee in partnership with relevant partner organisations including the voluntary sector	May 2015 for core ESCB training programme, updated during the year as needs arise	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Identification of and implementation of appropriate communications activity during the year such as monthly bulletins so that the LSCB provides information to children, young people, parents/carers, professionals, agencies and organisations that work with children and young people as well as the local community	ESCB Communications Officer	Communications sub-committee working with appropriate agency leads	Ongoing	
Delivery of ESCB annual conference	ESCB Business Manager	Supported by ESCB Practice Development Manager, Communications Officer and Learning Development sub-committee	November 2015	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
<p>Local priorities and commissioning activity is underpinned by comprehensive needs assessment i.e.:</p> <p>(1) The JSNA comprehensively addresses the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and</p> <p>2) Partner agencies address child safeguarding in strategic plans/commissioning activity (monitored via S11 audit).</p>	<p>ESCB presence on JSNA group via the ESCB Business Manager</p> <p>ESCB Performance Analyst to lead analysis of S11 audit supported by ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee</p>	<p>Agencies to complete section 11 audits and ensure commissioning arrangements include safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people</p>	<p>April 2015 onwards</p>	
<p>The needs of children and young people are addressed in strategic plans/priorities – include YP in the monitoring and further development of ESCB work</p>	<p>ESCB Business Manager</p> <p>ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee (for monitoring activity)</p>	<p>Participation team and other sub committees as required</p>	<p>April 2015 onwards</p>	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Frontline practitioners and their managers inform and influence work of LSCB via channels such as case audits, training audits and practitioner forums as outlined in the ESCB learning and improvement framework	ESCB Business Manager ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee (for monitoring activity)	Partnership leads, Practice Development Manager and Learning Development sub-committee (the latter specifically around the evaluation of training activities).	Ongoing	
Premises Licences granted under the Licensing Act 2003 which serves alcohol promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.	ECC Lead for Safeguarding Children in partnership with the District Council Licencing Officers		Ongoing	

Improvement priority: 5	Essex has an effective LSCB which meets its statutory responsibilities and promotes a culture of challenge, accountability and shared learning			
Lead group:	ESCB			
What difference do we want to make?	To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children and to ensure the effectiveness of that work.			
How will we measure our success?	Monitor the work of the Board to ensure all statutory processes and procedures are followed such as for CDOP and SCR and that there is a focus on challenging practice and continual improvement and learning			
The actions we will undertake in order to realise this priority are...				
<i>Key action</i>	<i>Lead officer</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Progress update and impact</i>
Review and revise the constitution including the TOR of the Board and its sub committees to ensure that governance arrangements enable LSCB partners to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. Also to reinforce the role of the lay member.	ESCB Business Manager and Safeguarding Service Manager	All agency representatives on the ESCB, Independent Chair, ESCB legal representative, lay members	June 2015	
Annual appraisal of LSCB Chairperson	Independent Chair to meet with ECC Chief Executive		Annually	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
Maintain a risk register and areas of action and challenge to ensure that the ESCB is aware of issues to address and that updates are provided to the ESCB.	ECC Lead for Safeguarding Children	Supported by ESCB Business Manager and monitored via ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee	May 2015 onwards	
Ensure all agencies have escalation policies and whistleblowing processes in place and that all understand the role of referral to the LADO.	All agency representatives		April 2015 onwards	
Ensure that the methods in the ESCB learning and improvement framework are and utilised in measuring impact of the work of the Board including progress against actions of the Business Plan.	ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee		April 2015 onwards with standing item at ESCB Board meetings for reporting progress against priorities	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
The LSCB effectively prioritises its work taking into account local and emerging national issues with Board development days held to identify and review LSCB priorities and agree how these will be delivered.	ESCB Independent Chair supported by ESCB Business Manager	All agencies to attend	April 2015 onwards – development days 6 monthly	
The ESCB ensures robust policies and procedures are in place and that those policies and procedures are monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness and impact and revised where improvements can be made. This includes clear strategies around effective information sharing across agencies.	ESCB Policies, Procedures & Practice Development sub-committee monitored via ESCB Performance, Audit & Quality Assurance sub-committee			
Through its annual report, the LSCB provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services and the ESCB	ESCB Business Manager	Reports from sub committees. Supported by ESCB Business support unit. ESCB Independent Chair	June 2015 and annually thereafter	

Key action	Lead officer/group	Other resources	Timescale	Progress update and impact
CDOP and SCR sub-committees to carry out their duties to ensure that they are meeting statutory requirements	Chairs of CDOP and SCR sub-committees supported by SCR and CDOP Manager	Supported by ESCB Business Manager and ESCB Business support unit	April 2015 onwards	
To develop and implement a robust and proportionate SCR process across Essex	SCR sub-committee, ESCB SCR Manager	Supported by ESCB Business Manager and ESCB Business support unit	April 2015	
All member agencies to ensure key messages from the Board and lessons and actions from SCRs are disseminated and implemented across their agencies.	Board members		Ongoing	
Production of a Business Plan setting out key priorities for the work of the Board and its sub groups	ESCB Business Manager	Input and support from Board members	April 2015	

Business Plan Principles

Development of the Plan

The improvement priorities in this plan have been identified as a result of:

- Areas of concern in Essex
- Themes from serious case reviews and other reviews,
- National and regional priorities
- Practice issues identified from cases and those involved in working with children young people and their families.
- Issues raised by families, children and young people.

All agencies have contributed to the priorities identified for inclusion in this plan.

Our partner agencies include:

- Social Care
- Health
- Police
- Probation
- District and Borough Councils
- Voluntary Sector
- Education
- Prison Service
- Adult services

Involvement of other Boards

This Plan does not exist in isolation and the ESCB is committed to working with its partners to support effective safeguarding practice. The ESCB will therefore work with other Boards as appropriate to ensure that joint initiatives are implemented to support children, young people and their families.

Flexibility

The Business Plan will also be flexible to respond to additional and emerging themes and requirements over the 2 year period – this may include additional or amended objectives depending on circumstances.

Monitoring and evaluation

Progress against the Business Plan will be reviewed 6 monthly with all sub group chairs being responsible for ensuring their sub group actions are being actively addressed as part of work plans for their group. Feedback on progress will be requested from sub groups on a quarterly basis.

Underpinning the business plan evaluation will be the principle of involving young people in the assessment of impact and development of initiatives – this will be achieved via a variety of means including consultation, problem solving and focus groups.

Learning and Improvement

The focus of the Business Plan will be on learning and improvement of multi agency working to safeguard children and young people. All agencies therefore participate in the sub groups as active members and ensure that actions arising from the Business Plan are implemented in their agencies.