**Key Messages 2019/20**

**September 2019**

**The implementation of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)**

A document outlining Essex’s new arrangements was published at the end of June 2019 and will be fully implemented by 29th September 2019.  ESCB will be retaining its name, brand and logo, and the main changes will be in governance.  Responsibility for leading the safeguarding partnership will now sit with the three key partners namely – Health (Clinical Commissioning Groups), Local Authority and Police.

Serious Case Reviews will be known as Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. There will be [updated referral forms and guidance](https://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/) to explain how the new arrangements will affect these reviews.

Members of the Executive Board spent the meeting discussing how elements of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements would work, including:

**Scrutiny:** Working Together 2018 states that there must be some form of scrutiny in place to ensure the multi-agency partnership is working effectively - members discussed how this might be carried out.

**Ensuring the voice of the child is at the heart of our MASA:**The Executive considered how the work of the ESCB helps to keep children and young people safe and how they could encourage young people to positively engage with the Board.

**Funding:** The Executive considered if the budget is set at the right level currently and what options there might be for the future.

**December 2019**

**Southend, Essex and Thurrock Exploitation and Missing Strategies:**Both strategies were presented to the Board for endorsement. Completed by Safeguarding Leads for both the adults and children workforce, the strategies will be signed off by every Safeguarding Board across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Champion role:**The current CSE Champion role began in 2017, but to improve the quality of the role, it was considered appropriate to review this. Current CSE champions across SET were consulted, and the majority felt that the role should be updated. The proposal is that the role will be widened to include other forms of exploitation. It was confirmed this will remain a non-statutory role.

**Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit:** The work programme of the Violence and Vulnerability Unit was discussed. This included training, the different workstreams and also conference planning. The work is in the early stages however the Government is looking to fund this work for a further three years and so it is likely this work will continue.

**June 2019**

**Essex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements**

Essex’s Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) have now been published on the ESCB website and can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.escb.co.uk/media/2038/essex-masa-plan-2019-20-updated-280619-v1b.pdf>

The new arrangements will be fully implemented from 29th September 2019 and responsibility will transfer to three local statutory safeguarding partners (chief officer of police, the local authority and clinical commissioning groups in Essex) for key decision making and ensuring that relevant agencies work together in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the area.

**Violence and Vulnerability Unit**

The Violence and Vulnerability Unit within Essex Police is Essex’s response to the Government’s Serious Violence Strategy released in 2018.

This has resulted in new boards being set up within Essex Police - the Southend Essex Thurrock (SET) Violence and Vulnerability Leadership Board and SET Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board.

The unit is in the process of developing its plans and a further update on progress will be discussed at future ESCB meetings.

**Vulnerable families being placed in Essex**

It is recognised that a number of London Boroughs are placing growing numbers of vulnerable families in Essex. It has therefore been agreed that leaders of borough and district councils within Essex (specifically Basildon, Harlow, Epping and Tendring) will meet with representatives from London Boroughs to discuss issues arising from this.

Issues considered at the ESCB include suitability of housing, provision of education and other services. Work will continue locally to understand the impact of families moving into Essex and how services can be provided.

**Parents, Did You Know? Events**

The *'Parents, Did You Know?'* campaign is running a number of events across Essex over the coming months aimed at parents and carers. The events are run by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board in partnership with Barnardo’s and The Children’s Society and will feature the topics criminal exploitation, gangs, sexual exploitation, missing children, trafficking & online exploitation. The events provide an opportunity for parents to have direct conversations with a range of services, including Essex Police, Essex Children’s Social Care, The Children’s Society, Barnardo’s, and other partner organisations. So far, these events have proved to be very beneficial to those attending.

The number of attendees however, are fairly low and therefore all agencies are requested that they promote these events to the families, children and young people they work with.

**Details of the events including leaflets and the locations/venues can be found at the following link:**[www.escb.co.uk/exploitation](http://www.escb.co.uk/exploitation)