

ESCB Executive key messages 2021-22

March 2022

Return of face-to-face Child Protection (CP) Conferences

The last two years have either been virtual or hybrid meetings, which are likely to continue post-pandemic. The Child Protection Co-ordinators will review this regularly, but it is the aim to return face-to-face child protection conferences and core group meetings from April 2022. Face-to-face meetings bring many benefits to ensure easier relationship building with families.

Online exploitation – The methods of exploitation have adapted in response to Covid restrictions; online, within residential addresses and within newly formed gangs territory. Child exploitation has not reduced, it has just changed. There are plans to tackle these issues, particularly around online exploitation. This work will include a review of the online safety campaign to ensure that it is still effective in raising awareness of exploitation.

Integrated Care Systems (ICS) – As Integrated Care Systems move closer to going live, it is important to ensure consistency and understand the risks, gaps and what's in place to ensure an effective transition. As such, the six safeguarding workstreams will continue to consider how duplication can be avoided and safeguarding policies will be aligned to Working Together and SET policies.

Liberty Protection Safeguards - The 16 week consultation has now gone live, with an emphasis on children as well as adults. Anyone who has an opportunity to read the consultation can comment. [Changes to the MCA Code of Practice and implementation of the LPS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-mca-code-of-practice-and-implementation-of-the-lps)

December 2021

Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex County Council

Essex statutory partners have agreed the [latest version](#) of threshold document 'Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex'. It includes updates such as how to request support through the online portal and risk in the community, and will be launched on the 11 January 2021. It can be accessed via the concerns about a child page on the [ESCB website](#).

Impact of Covid and national child deaths

The Board discussed and agreed the importance of partnership working throughout Covid to mitigate risks from reduced contact with families. Vulnerable children and families will always be prioritised and seen face to face.

Support for the children's workforce

Frontline workers are facing increased pressures and fatigue from two years of Covid pressures and media scrutiny on child protection and safeguarding work following recent national child deaths. It is important for teams to talk about this, in order to further support staff in their work with vulnerable children, young people and their families.

September 2021

Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex

Essex statutory partners are responsible for producing a threshold document called Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex, as stated in Working Together 2018. The latest version is to be published on the [ESCB website](#) by the end of 2021 and will include updates such as how to request support through the online portal and risk in the community.

Private Fostering

The Private Fostering Annual Report found that notifications had increased on previous years, but it's likely to still be under reported, which is reflected across the country. Some points to note due to Covid restrictions were:

- Students from boarding schools unable to go home due to restrictions in travel.
- Language students unable to travel (however, there will be an influx next year).

Awareness raising activities were adapted due to Covid, going from face to face, to virtual, with partners helping to disseminate information. Awareness raising is being targeted at housing partners and the police this year due to these areas of the workforce being likely to come across private fostering arrangements. A Private Fostering app has recently been launched.

TASP webinars

Essex are members of The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP) and therefore partners have the opportunity to sign up to webinars free of charge via their [website](#).

June 2021

Ofsted Thematic Review

The [Ofsted Thematic Review](#) was triggered by the Everyone's Invited website which had anonymous testimonials of allegations of sexual abuse/ peer on peer abuse in schools and colleges. The review concluded there must be a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment in education settings and it must be assumed this abuse is happening. Schools and colleges must have a whole school approach to dealing with the issue. There is work being done locally to further improve engagement with all schools, including training and strengthening of the RHSE curriculum.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH) Strategic Board

The EWMH Strategic Board continues to identify collective ongoing priorities around EWMH for children, young people and families. The Board is actively involved in developing better working partnerships across the whole system. This includes:

- Supporting health and education partners with the roll out of both the mental health support teams and link programmes to support schools.
- Collaborating with education, health and social care to support the recovery and return to education settings suite of resources in response to Covid-19.
- Roll out of Trauma Perceptive Practice Programme to all Education Settings in Essex. (Edited training packages are also being offered to Essex County Council workforce and partners)

Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VU)

The VU strategic goal is to reduce the volume of serious violence in Essex. The Violence and Vulnerability Partnership has developed its understanding of where it is better placed to directly deliver / intervene, and where it is more appropriate to inform broader mainstream delivery. Activity has included supporting community and voluntary sector organisations to provide activities and interventions across communities in Essex, as well as more targeted Interventions taking place in identified locations, at 'reachable moments'.

Domestic Abuse Act

The approach to domestic abuse is changing and must be thought about in relation to the service users/customers/ patients. Organisations must also have an approach for the way their workforce thinks about domestic abuse. Organisations should have policies and access to training and information for their workforce. In Essex, there is a range of resources through the [Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board](#). All agencies must look at how they implement the definitions for themselves.