

# Pan-Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Group - Briefing for staff

The Pan-Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Group met on 22 April 2024.

This briefing provides updates on changes to the [Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual](#).

## Underlying Policy, Principles and Values

Nothing is more important than children's welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other's roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.



This policy has been reviewed following the publication of [Working together to safeguard children, 2023](#). It sets out the underlying policy, principles and values underpinning safeguarding and child protection activity across Sussex.

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## Children's Social Care National Framework

New statutory guidance on the purpose, principles for practice and expected outcomes of children's social care was published in December 2023. This has now been added to the Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. The National Framework brings together the purpose of local authority children's social care, the principles by which children, young people and families should be supported, the enablers that should be in place so the system is effective, and the outcomes that should be achieved so that children and young people can grow up to thrive. The National Framework puts the voices of children, young people and families at the heart of practice, so they can have a say in how they are supported.

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## Supervision and Management of Staff

This policy has been revised to align with the guidelines outlined in "Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023," which mandates specific criteria for lead practitioners. Lead practitioners must have access to high quality supervision. Effective supervision is essential for maintaining a focus on a child's well-being and assisting practitioners in critically assessing how their decisions affect the child and their family. Additionally, all lead practitioners must continue to receive suitable supervision and support for ongoing professional development and to uphold professional registration, where applicable, under their current line management structure.

## Arrangements for Training Staff

This policy has been revised to align with the guidelines outlined in "Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023. The revisions consist of minor adjustments to wording without altering the substance significantly. Employers are responsible for ensuring their staff are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.



## NEW Contextual Safeguarding of children and young people

This is a new policy. The conventional approach to safeguarding children has mainly centred on risks within the household, overlooking the influences and dangers children and young people face beyond their family environment. Contextual Safeguarding broadens this perspective by considering not only familial dynamics but also the impact of peer relationships, school environments, and community settings on young people's safety and well-being.

The policy outlines; Areas of Risk, Definitions, General Principles, Contextual Safeguarding and the Child Protection System, Response, the Domains of Contextual Safeguarding, Contextual Safeguarding Strategy Meeting and Initiating a Complex Contextual Safeguarding Response.



## **Chapter 6: Response to Child Protection Referrals**

Minor clarifying amendments have been made the Chapter 6:

- [Action on Receipt of Referrals](#)
- [Flow chart 1: Action taken when a child is referred to local authority children's social care services](#)
- [Family Assessments \(Child and Family or Strengthening Families Assessments\)](#)
- [Flow chart 2: Immediate protection](#)
- [Flow chart 3: Action taken for an assessment of a child under the Children Act 1989](#)
- [Strategy Discussions](#)
- [Flowchart 4: Action following a strategy discussion](#)
- [Section 47 Enquiries](#)

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