

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

The Pan-Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Group met on 14 October 2024.

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

[Agency Roles and Responsibilities](#)

Agency roles and responsibilities have been updated following the publication of [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#). Please ensure you are familiar with your agency's specific responsibilities.

[Working with children and families who move across Safeguarding Children Partnership Boundaries](#)

This policy has been significantly revised to provide clear guidance for professionals supporting children and families who move between local authority areas. It outlines the steps statutory agencies should take when concerns exist about a child's well-being, ensuring that such movements do not compromise the child's safety or delay access to support services.

Key elements of the procedure include:

- Addressing temporary or permanent moves across local authority boundaries.
- Ensuring best practices are followed when concerns for a child's welfare are identified.
- Emphasising that, in the absence of concerns, standard processes apply to establish universal services.

While the procedures cannot anticipate every scenario, they prioritise the child's best interests and stress the importance of avoiding delays caused by jurisdictional disagreements. This approach seeks to maintain seamless support and safeguard children effectively.

[Elective Home Education](#)

This policy has been reviewed following the release of the revised [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#). While no significant changes have been made, the policy provides guidance to professionals on the legal framework for home education and outlines the local authority's duty to ensure that children receiving home education are provided with a suitable education.

Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

This policy has been reviewed for clarity. This policy's objectives are to:

- Ensure the safe and effective management of behaviour to safeguard and protect children and young people.
 - Encourage the development of positive relationships and interpersonal skills, with a strong focus on de-escalation techniques to minimise the need for restrictive physical intervention.
 - Limit the use of restrictive physical intervention to situations where it is absolutely necessary, such as preventing injury to the child, others, or significant damage to property.
 - Establish clear expectations for agencies and staff to create a consistent and safe environment for both young people and staff.
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Understanding Sexual Behaviour in Children

Previously titled the *Sexually Active Children Policy*, the *Understanding Sexual Behaviour in Children Policy* has been reviewed by a multidisciplinary working group. This group included professionals from across the county, such as those from the Partners in Change Hub, clinical psychology, and integrated sexual health services. The updated policy now includes additional guidance to support professionals in their work.

Safeguarding Looked After Children (children in care)

This policy has been reviewed as part of its regular update cycle, with no significant changes made. It provides guidance on several key areas, including: Section 47 enquiries, reviews, care planning, and conferences, discontinuing child protection plans, promoting well-being and positive identity, pre-birth planning for care leavers and preventing the criminalisation of looked-after children.

Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP)

The safeguarding partners for Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, and West Sussex work together to coordinate services, provide strategic leadership, and implement learning from serious child safeguarding incidents. The role and purpose of the SCP have been updated following the publication of [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#).

Please contact mia.bryden@brighton-hove.gov.uk about any aspect of this briefing.