

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

The Pan-Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Group met on 28 July 2025. This briefing provides updates on changes to the [Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures Resource](#)

NEW POLICY - [Response to an Unexpected Death of a Care Leaver](#)

This new procedure should be initiated when there is an unexpected death of a Former Relevant care leaver or other qualifying care leaver currently accessing support from the Care Leaver Service (including all those who are care experienced) aged 18 up to 25 (18-24 inclusive). This includes response to a suspected suicide.

This new procedure should be referred in addition to and not in any way replace those outlined in [Multi-Agency Guidance for Responding and Reviewing Child Deaths](#).

[Forced Marriage of a Child](#)

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so. It is also when anything is done to make someone marry before they turn 18, even if there is no pressure or abuse. It is recognised in the UK as a form of domestic or child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

This policy has undergone a review and now includes clearer indicators and risk factors to support you to identify the warning signs that a child or young person might be at risk of forced marriage or may have been forced to marry. It now also lists the information to obtain from the child to support your response.

Child Protection Conferences – Chapter 5

Colleagues have undertaken part 1 of an extensive review of this chapter. Changes have been made to the following policies:

[Pre-Birth Conference](#) The Reviewing Officer should be consulted about any proposed restrictions affecting attendance or information shared. The Reviewing Officer should be updated by the Social Worker between the Initial Child Protection Conference and birth of any significant changes that may affect the timing of or approach to review conference. It is crucial for midwives, health visitors and social workers to engage in meaningful conversations with parents and carers of babies

and infants about safer sleep practices. Advice about safer sleep practices should be a standard part of the guidance provided by the maternity ward and practitioners prior to discharge from hospital, and supported within [Child in Need](#) and Child Protection Plans for babies.

Actions and Decisions of the Conference The policy now sets out what the Chair must ensure if a child has a Child Protection Plan, including, but not limited to; that a Lead Social Worker is identified, and if this is not possible that a first line manager from Children's Social Care is identified to act in that role in the interim and ensure safety plans are in place, including what the agreed action is should circumstances change; for example, if a caregiver fails to achieve what has been agreed, a court application is not successful or a [parent](#) removes the child from a place of safety. The full list can be read at [If a Child has a Child Protection Plan](#)

Sussex Police Protocol Allegations of Child Abuse against a Police Officer or Police Staff Member

This protocol is intended to ensure that allegations made against any member of Sussex Police including all Police Officers, Specials, Police Staff, Volunteers and Contractors are dealt with promptly and transparently in accordance with statutory guidance.

No significant updates have been made in the latest review.

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