



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

The Pan-Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Group met on 2 February 2026.

This briefing provides an update on changes made to the [Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures Resource](#)

NEW Policy: Responding to a Group of Children and Young People Aged Under 18 Who Are at Risk of or Engaging in Self-harm Behaviour Together

This new policy sets out how safeguarding partners should identify, assess, and respond to situations where groups of children are at risk of, or engaging in, self-harm together, including where links are unclear or emerging. It establishes a time critical, multi-agency framework for information sharing, risk management, and coordinated strategic and operational responses to reduce harm, prevent contagion, and support affected children.



Safeguarding Young Carers



Information on Transition Assessments has been added to this policy.

Local authorities have a statutory requirement under the Care Act 2014 to provide a transition assessment for young carers before they turn 18, aiming to support their move into adulthood and address the potential impacts of their caring role on their wellbeing and future aspirations.

The assessment should consider the young carer's current and anticipated needs for support, their willingness and ability to continue caring, and their desired outcomes for life after 18, including education, training, and employment.



Elective Home Education

Following learning from an East Sussex Safeguarding Child Practice Review this policy has been updated to make clear that a core group or family support meeting should be triggered when a child, who is open to children's social care, is off-rolled from school to be electively home educated. The child's previous school should always be invited to attend.

This policy will be further reviewed when the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill receives Royal Assent.

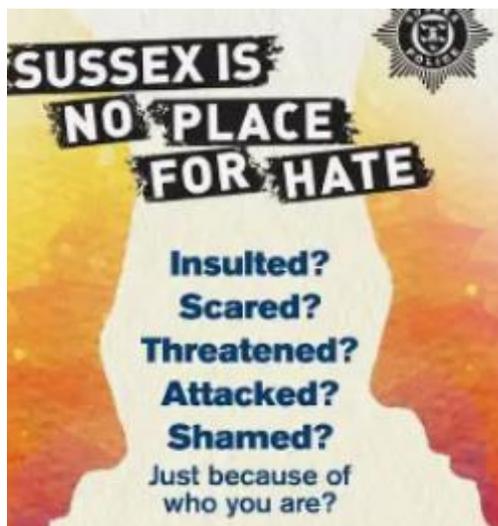


Recognition of Abuse and Neglect

This policy has been updated to clarify that high-conflict parental separation can expose children to ongoing emotional stress and trauma, which may constitute emotional harm, particularly where children are drawn into adult disputes. Prolonged, complex or adversarial private law proceedings can exacerbate this impact, affecting children's emotional well-being, sense of stability, and development.

Supporting Families Experiencing Hate Incidents, Crimes and Harassment

This Policy has been refreshed and updated throughout.



It sets out how agencies should recognise, record and respond to hate incidents, hate crimes and harassment affecting children and families, including those occurring online, with a focus on safeguarding and preventing emotional and psychological harm.

It has been updated to better define nationally monitored hate strands, highlight the disproportionate impact on minoritised and intersecting identities, and more clearly outline expectations for an effective multi-agency response.

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