

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

The Safeguarding Children Partnerships in Brighton & Hove, West Sussex, and East Sussex meet quarterly as the Pan-Sussex Procedures Group.

This group steers the development and publication of the procedural guidance for safeguarding in all areas. Meetings usually involve updating and reviewing the [Pan-Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures](#) regularly to ensure that they comply with Government guidelines, are accurate, and work for practitioners. The Group last met on 10 July 2020.

### Historical Abuse Allegations

Organisational responses to allegations by an adult of abuse experienced as a child must be of as high a standard as a response to current abuse because:

- There is a significant likelihood that a person who abused a child(ren) in the past will have continued and may still be doing so;
- Criminal prosecution remains a possibility if sufficient evidence can be carefully collated.



This procedure has been updated to reflect the change from Safeguarding Investigation Unit to Sussex Police control room and now includes Sussex Police action if the location of the crime is not in Sussex.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority Claims for Looked After Children

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is a government-funded scheme intended to compensate blameless victims of violent crimes. In June 2019 the government abolished the 'same roof' rule, which blocked victims of violent crime from receiving compensation if the attacker was a family member they were living with at the time of the incident. The pan-Sussex procedure has been updated.

The Pan-Sussex Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures will now be written using gender-neutral language.



The following procedures have been added:

[Restrictive Physical Intervention](#)  
[Pregnancy of a child](#)  
[Reasonable punishment and smacking](#)

The following sections have been added to existing procedures:

['Begging' to Exploitation](#)  
['Babysitting' to Children left unaccompanied by parents/carers](#)

[Surrogacy](#) The Pan-Sussex Surrogacy policy has been reviewed and updated to reflect Department of Health guidance. The Policy provides advice on telling the child they were born through surrogacy, legal considerations, the parental order process and the surrogacy agreement.

### Unexplained Injuries to Young Children

Physical injuries in young children may be life-threatening or cause permanent neurological damage. Reviews highlight the fact children under 1-year-old are especially vulnerable. Any suspicious injury in a pre or non-mobile and/or pre or non-verbal child must be regarded with extreme concern. The Unexplained Injuries to Young Children procedure has been refreshed.

