Early Help in West Sussex

This document describes the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH) offer service by service, proving a snapshot of the interventions our staff deliver as part of a system of early help.

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IPEH: A comprehensive Early Help Offer

Key Features of the Offer

1. An Integrated Workforce
2. Place Based – 6 Local Hubs across West Sussex
3. Graduated Offer depending on needs - Pre-Birth to Adulthood
4. Whole Family
5. Evidence Based

- **Level 1:** Universal Services
  
  Purpose: To improve Public Health through prevention, early identification of need and early resolution

- **Level 2:** For Families in need of some support that can’t be addressed in the community for universal services
  
  Purpose: Resolve issues to stop them escalating

- **Level 3:** Targeted evidence base interventions for families such as ‘key working’
  
  Purpose: Families to change their trajectory of a worsening situation and poor outcomes
Early Help in West Sussex

- **Level 4**: Specific Service offer that delivers community-based services to support CSC priorities.

- Community Resilience

Purpose: Knowing and understanding the local area to coordinate and draw upon these resources and relationships to support families

https://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/professionals/working-together/west-sussex-continuum-of-need-threshold-guidance/

**What does Early Help do?**

Early help provides support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child’s life, from birth to up to 25 years.

**What is delivered?**

**Level 1 – Advice, Guidance and Public Health Programmes Offer to:**

Improve outcomes, build resilience, encourage early identification and resolution of problems including:

- Delivery of Public Health outcomes from pre-conception onwards, public health interventions and “5 to Thrive”.
- Information, advice and guidance through the Family Information Service, Your Space, SEND offer, Family Assist, CLAWBA and managing the Childcare and early years sector and supporting settings.
- A number of buildings that host services delivered to families by other services including midwifery clinics and young people counselling services.
Early Help in West Sussex

**Level 2 – Enabling Families Service Offer that:**

Develops and mobilises a whole system approach for early identification and intervention. This includes family group work Offer and YES (Youth Emotional Support) Bitesize, providing consultancy to partner organisations working with children, termly conversations with schools to identify families who may need targeted support and forums to have multi agency discussion about escalating complexity in families.

**Level 3 – Think Family Service Offer that:**

Targeted key working and family interventions to stop issues escalating, in the most vulnerable children, families and young people and so preventing the need for a statutory service.

Other targeted interventions for Children and Young People on the cusp of level 4 include, YES (Youth Emotional Support), Adolescent Services and Community Domestic Abuse Services.

**Level 4 – Specialist Services Offer**

A specific service offer to support and add capacity to CSC and other tier 4 service providers to deliver their statutory activities. These community based services are:

- PAUSE
- Better Change – including support for birth parents
- Supervised Contact
- Homeless Prevention
- Leaving Care Service
- Young Carers
- Support for ‘Complex High Risk Adolescents’
- Voice and Participation

**Where is it delivered?**

Delivered through 43 designated children and family centres, 14 youth buildings – organised into 6 geographically placed hubs. Supported by Holistix – a secure web based case management system accessible to all partners

**How to access the offer?**

Access is open to all communities via the CFCs and FIO Centres. Each Hub has a telephone helpline. Central access is through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Domestic Abuse Hub shared with Children’s Social Care.
Early Help in West Sussex

**Who delivers the offer?**

Early Help is delivered through and with a network of partner organisations including schools, NHS etc.

The county council employs a team of staff who work from Hubs. The staff employed are integrated forming one team in each Hub. Other agencies also base themselves at the hubs including Primary Mental Health workers and Career Advisors.

More information can be found on or website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/earlyhelp](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/earlyhelp)
1. One Vision
To create a safe, connected and affordable system of prevention and Early Help that:
- makes sense to children, young people and families
- builds on what works well and makes a bigger impact than ‘the best of what we have done before’
- Everyone understands – ‘it’s my job’

2. Two ambitions
- “It is our job to make sure every child in West Sussex reaches their potential”
- “We will be there for every child and young person to give them the confidence they need to reach the goals they want to achieve”

WSCC Corporate Plan 2022

3. Three Objectives
- Prevention: For the majority, family life will meet children’s needs with local ‘universal’ services and community networks
- Earliest Intervention: Identifying and taking action to respond to problems before they escalate and are more difficult to reverse
- Targeted and Specialist services: To respond, prevent and reduce so that demand on higher cost services, such as Children’s Social Care is reduced

4. Four areas of focus

1. A flying start
   - Pre-birth to 5 years old
   - 1001 Critical Days & young parent Pathways
   - Early parenting support from pre-birth
   - Healthy Child Programme including 2-5 year old health and development reviews
   - Take up of free early education and childcare

2. In school ready to learn
   - “Enabling Families” including Termly conversations with schools
   - Early Years Consultation and expertise
   - Early support for vulnerable learners
   - Working together to increase the percentage of children assessed at a good level of development at the end of Reception
   - Improving school attendance
   - School nurse and health

3. YourSpace Youth
   - Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services
   - Building / Restoring Family & network Connections
   - Young People in Care & Care Leavers
   - Increase the proportion of post-16 year olds in EET
   - Young Carers, Youth Cabinet and UKYP

4. Skills for Life
   - Parenting courses and group work e.g. Triple P and Solihull
   - Worth DV services
   - Debt and Homelessness support
   - Family Assist: Online IA&G
   - PALISE: Supporting parents recovery after children are removed
   - Services for Young Carers
   - Supervised Contact

5. Five to Thrive
   ‘Take the best of what we do... and do it better’
   Center on the Developing Child - Harvard University

6. Six local Hubs
   - one in each District and Borough. Together we know every child and that we have accessible and purposeful buildings, a local offer and a local focus

Access
   Countywide central access shared with CSC via MASH and DA HUB.
   Local conversations in every hub.

What our workforce stands for:
7. How we behave
   Connected
   Consistent
   Innovative
   Respectful
   Actively listen
   Family Centered
   Professional

8. The way we work
   Accountable
   Seek the disengaged
   Ask questions
   Build resilience
   Change lives
   Collaborate
   Plan ahead
   Integrated

9. Performance
   Key areas of impact that focus our energy and resources:
   Bellwethers

10. Early Help is everyone’s business
   1. Assessments that lead to actions that improve outcomes which are set out in a plan, with clear responsibilities shared.
   2. Early Help Plans that identify strengths as well as concerns and demonstrate that children, young people and their families have been involved.
   3. Reduce or end involvement in order to maintain a family’s independence, once sustained change has been evidenced.
   4. Lead practitioners making sure the plan works - working with others to review the plan and record outcomes.
   5. Engage in ‘tough conversations’ with peers when things aren’t working for families. Support for children and their families at this crucial stage of life when the foundations for future health and wellbeing are needed. Universal services provide an invaluable opportunity to identify families in need of additional support and children at risk of poor outcomes. Interventions delivered all end up with children being ready for school and able to learn.
   6. Never doing nothing – at the very least, talking to another practitioner to help find a way forward.
   7. Working with children and their families in a way that demonstrates an understanding of their needs and of our Early Help approach.
   8. Identifying children and families who are risk or experiencing poor outcomes and acting at the earliest point, before the situation or the problem becomes worse.
   9. Ensuring families can approach anyone working with them who will listen, understand their needs, respond and start conversations with the right people to ensure help is provided. Ensuring Think Family/Early Help is part of the ‘day job’
   10. Having conversations safely with clear sharing information protocols between organisations that work well for families.

10 things to know about Integrated Prevention & Earliest Help
A whole system partnership, not a service - 2018
Healthy Child Programme

Who will be delivering?

This is an integrated offer delivered through Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT) and includes a pre-birth to 5 and school age offer

Funding

Public Health funded delivered through IPEH.

The Offer

Universal offer - promoting and protecting health including health checks and early identification of support (e.g. breastfeeding, healthy weight, peri-natal mental health, anti-natal checks, 6-8 week checks, new baby review, 1 year assessments, 2.5 year review).

Universal plus - working with families to deliver expert support e.g. sexual health, emotional wellbeing.

Universal plus plus - working with families with complex needs.

SCFT demonstrated improvement through recent formal improvement process.

Level 1

Family life can meet children’s needs with support from universal provision. May need additional support from universal settings to prevent escalation.

The role of our Children and Family Centres

The Legislation

Legislation about children’s centres is contained in the Childcare Act 2006. This guidance refers to the following sections of the Act.

Expected Outcome:

Children’s centres are to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities, particularly for those families in greatest need of support.

A children’s centre should make available universal and targeted early childhood services.
What is 1001 Critical Days?

West Sussex signed up to the 1001 Critical Days Manifesto in March 2017

Neglect

![CT scan of a healthy three-year-old with an average head size](image1.png)

![CT scan of a three-year-old child suffering from severe sensory-deprivation neglect](image2.png)

Perry and Pollard. 1997

The CT scan on the left is an image from a healthy three-year-old with an average head size. The image on the right is from a three-year-old child suffering from severe sensory-deprivation neglect. In children who suffer from abuse the brain is far smaller with blurry structures clearly visible. This child’s brain is significantly smaller than average and has enlarged ventricles and cortical atrophy. This means the child will suffer developmental delays and problems with memory.

Please note: the information about sessions in this booklet are based on the Crawley area. Please visit our website for your area [www.westsussex.gov.uk/CFC](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/CFC)

Child Health Clinics

Child Health Clinics are open access clinics where parents can talk to health visitors about any concerns you have. You can also weigh your baby/child during this time, the health visitors will advise at what age it is recommended to do this. These sessions can be found below:

- **Pound Hill C&FC**
  - Monday
  - 1.30pm-3pm

- **Bewbush C&FC**
  - Tuesday
  - 1.30pm-3.30pm

- **Broadfield C&FC**
  - Wednesday
  - 9.30am-11.30am

- **Langley Green C&FC**
  - Friday
  - 9.30am-11am

- **Northgate C&FC**
  - Wednesday
  - 9.30am-11am

- **Maidenbower C&FC**
  - Thursday
  - 9.30am-11am

- **Southgate C&FC**
  - Thursday
  - 10am-11.45am
Breastfeeding Support

For mothers who need support and advice about breastfeeding, we have drop in sessions offering a wide range of support to mums and their families who want to start and continue to breastfeed. This is also a chance to share experiences with other mums and ask any questions to the health visitor.

Sessions currently available are:

- Langley Green & Ifield C&FC - Fridays - 11am-1pm
- Maidenbower C&FC – Wednesdays - 1pm-2.30pm

Sessions available at our Children and Family Centres – Universal access for children and families with a range of needs

Please note this is an example timetable please visit the website for up to date information www.westsussex.gov.uk/CFC

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<td><strong>Speech and Language Appointments</strong> <strong>Physiotherapy Appointments</strong> Sensory Room 9.30am to 10.00am Developmental Reviews Appointments only</td>
<td><strong>Children’s Health Clinic</strong> 9.30am to 11.30am <strong>Children’s Drop In 1.00pm to 2.30pm</strong> <strong>Sensory Room</strong> 10.00am to 11.00am <strong>Sensory Room</strong> 9.30am to 10.00am</td>
<td><strong>Midwife Appointments Only</strong> <strong>Sensory Room</strong> 10.00am to 11.00am <strong>Developmental Reviews Appointments Only</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Immunisation Appointments only</strong> <strong>Developmental Reviews Appointments only</strong> <strong>Discover Baby</strong> 10.00am to 11.00am</td>
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Five to Thrive

Your child’s body grows better when you give your child good food. Your child’s brain develops better when you do the following five key things every day with them - five to thrive:

- respond
- cuddle
- relax
- play
- talk.

What happens to your baby shapes their brain, and the most important thing that happens to your baby is you!

For more information visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fivetothrive

Sensory Rooms

Relaxing sensory environments focusing on particular sense such as touch, sound and sight.

Available at:
- Langley Green & Ifield Children & Family Centre - £1 charge - 01293 651747
- Broadfield Children & Family Centre – Donation - 01293 651777
- Bewbush Children & Family Centre – Donation - 01293 651760
Magic Carpet

This is a specialist piece of sensory equipment that will interact with children via sound, lights and movement. With 100s of different templates, each with 3 levels, it is suited to children of all developmental stages and abilities.

Available at Bewbush Children & Family Centre

- Monday – 9.30am – 1pm
- Tuesday & Wednesday – 9.30am – 12 noon
- Thursday – 9.30am – 3pm

Toy Library

Our Toy Library allows you to borrow up to 3 toys for up to 3 weeks. Toy library is available to any families who are registered with our centres. **Ask at reception for more information.** We have sensory toys to support children with disabilities at Langley Green Children and Family Centre.

Available at:

- Langley Green & Ifield C&FC
- Broadfield C&FC
- Bewbush C&FC

Please come into the centres or libraries to see what is available to borrow.
A session for children aged 0-5 years old, to come and play together. Information will be lead through weekly themes surrounding development stages, healthy living, play ideas and more.

Available at:
- Bewbush Children & Family Centre - Every Thursday - 10am-11.30am
- Northgate Children & Family Centre - Every Tuesday - 1pm-2.30pm

**Information and Play**

This is a drop in playtime for you to spend quality time with your children using our resources and toys. Ask at reception of your Children and Family Centre for one of our programmes to see all of the sessions.

Available at:
- Broadfield C&FC – Monday - 1-2.30pm – Wednesday - 10-11.30am
- Bewbush C&FC - Monday & Tuesday - 10-11.30am
- Pound Hill C&FC – Friday - 10-11.30am
- Langley Green & Ifield C&FC – Monday - 9.30-11am
- Maidenbower C&FC – Wednesday - 10-11.30am
- Southgate C&FC – Tuesday - 10-11.30am

**Play & Learn Plus**

Play and Learn Plus is a friendly session for children under 5 years of age with additional needs, who would benefit from play in a small group, with opportunities for parents to talk to an Early Years Advisor.

For children with disabilities & additional needs.

Available at:
- Langley Green & Ifield Children & Family Centre - Every Thursday 10am-11.30am
**0-1s Offer**

- 12 week rolling programme
- Joint delivery:
  - HCP and FSA staff
- Integrated working

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**Discover Baby**

Discover Baby is a fun relaxed group for parents/carers of babies from 0-12 months old. It is a chance to make new friends, access information advice and guidance, or to share experiences/ideas/tips on parenthood.

**Young Parents Group**

This is a group for parents who are aged 19 and under, and their children. There will be various themes in the group which will be focused around explorative play, development stages, parenting tips and more. There are friendly staff and parents who are supportive and open to new members of the group.

Available at:

- Langley Green & Ifield Children & Family Centre - Every Monday - 1.00pm - 2.30pm
Better Change

This is a focused programme that will improve the way we work together, improve the impact and efficiency of support for vulnerable families from pre-birth to 5 years old, and achieve the following ambitions:

We will do everything we can to help a vulnerable family stay together.

If infants need to be removed from their parent’s we approach this in a way that keeps children safe;

- from pre-birth where possible
- improve the health and outcomes for children and parents
- and helps prepare parents for their recovery journey as much as possible.

We will meet our statutory duties in a way that reflects these ambitions and provides a connected pathway of support across agencies in West Sussex that makes sense to families from pre-birth to 5 years old.
Healthy Start Vitamins

Pregnant women, women with a child under 12 months and children aged from six months to four years who are receiving Healthy Start vouchers are entitled to free Healthy Start vitamins.

Every eight weeks, beneficiaries are sent a green vitamin voucher, which they can swap for either Healthy Start women’s vitamin tablets or Healthy Start children’s drops locally.

They are distributed via children and Family Centres to facilitate greater access. Promotion of Healthy Start is included in the Health for Families (H4F) Programme and the ordering process is centralised.

Pre-Birth Safeguarding Partnerships

All 4 NHS Midwifery Providers fully engaged and operational with Young Parent Pathway (YPP) across the county. Improvement in the sharing of information between midwifery and IPEH, ensuring prevention work is coordinated and escalation to CSC is appropriate.

Midwifery have an improved understanding of the YPP, and when recommending Early Help for young parents they can do this with confidence. Increasing the take up of the offer. Local relationships are good with examples such as joint visits to young parents, IPEH staff attending Maple clinic and joining appointments to discuss Early Help, IPEH staff being part of hospital tours.

Family Assist

Family Assist is an information portal aiming to support families across West Sussex during pregnancy, birth and throughout the life of their child. Some of the benefits include: Information relevant to the stage of pregnancy or age of your child delivered directly to your email inbox; up to date accurate information written by local midwives, health visitors and early years professionals; ability to invite family and friends to share in your journey and receive the same information as you; ask a question facility when you can’t find what you’re looking for with an answer in two working days.

Family Assist was nominated for two awards (Best Customer Experience and Best Digital Solution) at the Public Sector Paperless Award, which recognise government digital transformation excellence, and won Best Customer Experience.
Children’s Learning and Wellbeing Audit (CLAWBA)

CLAWBA - toolkit is used in Early Years settings that participate in free entitlement to identify vulnerable children at the earliest opportunity to ensure that all children are school ready. The toolkit encourages practitioners to identify trends and patterns and to deliver interventions to children and parents. This can be found on our website under ‘Supporting families in your childcare setting’.

www.westsussex.gov.uk

Free Entitlement Funding for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds

30 hours free childcare

Criteria:

- Parent(s) earn equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the 3 coming months
- Parent(s) do not earn more than £100,000 pa
- Where one parent meets the criteria and the other is unable to work due to a disability, caring responsibilities

Some 2 year olds can access funding if the family meet certain eligibility criteria.

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare through universal Free Entitlement. Parents will need to meet eligibility criteria for the additional 15 hours free

Find out if you’re entitled at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/freechildcare - Call: 01243 777807
Early Help in West Sussex

Early Years SEND

Provision for children and young people who have SEND in their early years is very effective. There is strong and established partnership working between education, health and care professionals that work with children between birth and when they start school. Consequently, early identification, particularly for those with complex needs, is effective. Families also experience a joined-up approach and do not have to tell their story repeatedly when dealing with professionals.

Families with a child with SEND

IPEH is highly effective at delivering improved outcomes for many children and young people who have SEND. This model of working is successfully promoting a single point of access for families and joined up working across partner agencies with a streamlined approach to identification of need, assessment and referral pathways. Several front-line professionals describe the service as highly effective and improving the timeliness of support for families and vulnerable children and young people. Many families who have used the service share this view.

Find it Out Centres

A centre with specialist support, advice and guidance for families and young people ages 13-25 (11-12 if accompanied by an adult). You can talk to staff in confidence about any issues or queries you may have. Visit www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk for more information and locations of our centres.

Help and advice is available on many topics including:

- Housing
- Sexual Health
- Jobs
- Health
- Advice and Guidance
- And much more
Level 2
Child/young person has additional needs that can be met by support from one or two agencies working with the family. Early Help Plans used to co-ordinate support.

Enabling Families
IPEH has a particular focus to reduce the demand on CSC through our Enabling Families programme. This provides professionals with guidance on children they are worried about:

- A regular multi-disciplinary Forum meeting
- A dedicated team, that provides consultation, information and guidance (Process Team) Termly Conversations with schools, further education colleges and early years settings
- Family Group Work Programmes

A Dedicated Team – In the Hubs
Each hub operates a Duty System, available to professionals. Duty operates in most areas between 3 and 4 days a week for 6 hours a day (some local variation), and is accessible via telephone or Hub GCSX email. All enquiries will be overseen and a response will be provided within 48 hours (excluding weekends). This team offers robust support, advice and consultancy to
professionals in relation to Early Help and specifically families that they are worried about.

Enabling Families face to face consultation for parents. These sessions are delivered by specialist workers in locations across the hub area. This offers brief interventions and a solutions focussed approach to resolve identified needs that are likely to escalate if not managed well.

### IPEH Forum

**Purpose**

Fortnightly multi-agency meeting providing a platform for complex case discussion determining both a threshold decision and the most appropriate lead worker.

Representation from the HCP (healthy child programme), CMHLS (Community mental health liaison service), Voluntary Sector, Police and other local support agencies.

### Termly Conversations

Termly conversations are a part of our integrated offer to support early identification of vulnerable children in partnership with schools, further education colleges and early years settings. Termly Conversations form part of our strategy to safely reduce the demand on Children’s Social Care by providing a clear route for professionals to raise early help concerns and receive advice. Termly conversation aims to:

- Build relationships and foster regular discussion between IPEH and schools/colleges/settings.
- Share key messages and developments in IPEH and the locality Hub.
- Discuss children and young people with an open EHP (Early Help Plan) who schools/colleges/settings are concerned about with a view to identifying the right support as early as possible.
- Help with Holistix support/navigation and management of Early Help Plans.
- Support settings to feel confident in using the Children’s Learning And Wellbeing Audit (CLAWBA).
- Discuss open Early Help plan, worries and how to progress
- Provide information on how to access help from IPEH through the Process Team while developing understanding of thresholds and pathways for support i.e. when to contact IPEH Process Team or MASH.
- Share information on the local menu of support for children, young people and families.
**Family Group Work Offer**

A range of group work is offered to children and parents (0 - 11 years). These group work sessions include evidence based parenting programmes.

Intelligence regarding local need is used to design and deliver all group work. Note that these groups involve parents, carers, children and young people across a spectrum of need including tier 4 families.

**Youth Emotional Support (YES)**

Youth Emotional Support (YES) Service is commissioned by the West Sussex CCG’s until 2020. It provides one to one (T3 intensive and T2/cusp T3 bitesize) intervention and group work for 11-18 year olds. Referrals can be made via GPs, School Nurse, CAMHS and self-referral.

It is an Award winning service and has positive partnership links with primary care, CAMHS and YMCA (Counselling).

The Service is to be expanded to test school YES offer in Jan 19 funded by NHS England.

**YES Bitesize**

Emotional wellbeing and mental health support for 11-18 year olds (Tier 2/3) delivered in groups or 1-2-1 (up to 6 sessions).

This offer is a voluntary service for young people aged 11-18 years that helps them to identify, acknowledge and work through difficulties they may be facing that are having a negative impact on their emotional wellbeing.

**Level 3**

Children in families with increasing levels of multiple and complex problems. Families require a co-ordinated, whole family approach led by a lead worker or key worker enabling the family to meet the children’s needs. Early Help Plans should be used.

**Families on the boundary of Children's Social Care - Think Family**

All direct family work at level 3 and level 3+ is delivering the Troubled Families initiative key working to the national model.
Families engaged in this area of work are complex with entrenched intergenerational issues and are most likely to require a higher level of intervention and will have a long history of service interventions. Whole family working means leading a team around the family, developing delivery plans to meet planned and agreed outcomes for all family members. The distance a family travels is measured by a DTT (Distance Travelled Tool).

This tool measures impact by setting a minimum standard which in this case is:

- A minimum increase of 2 points
- Achieving an overall score of above 7 points.

Families on average scored a 4.9 on distance travelled tool.

All of this case work is subject to internal audit and external verification. Most recent MHCLG audit took place November 2018.
West Sussex Early Help (Think Family) Outcomes Framework

Detailed Eligibility priorities for each factor

- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Parents and children involved in crime and ASB

- Parents and children with a range of health problems
- Children who need help
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse

---------- aligned to national ‘Troubled Families’ criteria, (but including agreed local concerns):

**High Level Worry** – A robust delivery & support plan is an immediate priority

**Medium Level Worry** – Delivery & support plan takes shape and is actioned

**Low Level Worry** – Initial results of the support are starting to take shape

**Working Well** – Changes are evidenced by multiple factors, family able to manage with minimum support

DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS & TARGET SCENARIOS ACROSS THESE RANGES

A scoring system, embedded within the case management database, giving practitioners a sound method of measuring progress across relevant factors from a baseline, using a Distance Travelled Tool, and demonstrating outcome sustainability

Link to relevant County Council strategic ‘Ambition for the future’: e.g. ‘Children who are confident, secure and happy are ready for school’ - ‘Children who have resources, skills and ambition to realise their potential’
Impact of Think Family

IPEH - Think Family Phase Two

- 2469 families cases turned around
- 2267 families identified with one or more of toxic trio
- 5187 children

- 532 families cases have re-opened to Early Help
- 245 cases identified with one or more of ‘toxic trio’

- 162 family cases re-opened to Children Social Care
  - 93 Child Protection Plans
  - 398 assessed for Child in Need Plan

- 1,768 Families
  - 72% NOT re-opened between Sept 2014 and Sept 2018 the 4 year period

Cases held at Early Help

More costly interventions £

September 2014 to September 2018
Transition from CSC – Step Across

CSC are able to step across children to IPEH in a number of ways, via Forum, direct to the process team and through a process we have jointly developed called ‘Transition Meetings’.

Transition Meetings are attended by an Advanced Practitioner and IPEH Team Manager who screen children and families to ensure the right children are stepped across for IPEH support at the right level.

The process aims to:

- Reduce the number of children on a Child In Need (CIN) plan and the time they spend on it.
- Safely reduce demand into CSC.
- Referring the right families to CSC.
- Improve the journey of the child between CSC & IPEH
- Transition target groups are children:
  - in need of level 3 support
  - under 2 years of age
  - who have been on multiple CIN plans (3 or more)
  - on a CIN plan for over 2 years
Specialist Services – Level 4

Accumulation of unmet and complex needs/evidence that a child is at risk of harm. Assessment by a specialist agency e.g. Children’s Social Care is required. Multi-agency support in partnership with the family network is required to build a safety plan that manages risk, protects the child/children and meets complex needs.

Adolescent Services

Support provided to a targeted group of young people and families through a variety of one to one work and group work, it is led by and takes places in Hubs;

- T4T (Target 4 teens) – Information, advice and guidance 13-18yrs
- DARP (Domestic Abuse Recovery Programme) – for young people who have experienced domestic abuse within their family
- Jellyfish arts / music – young people to explore emotions, feelings and worries through creative arts
- Real Love Rocks – Relationships and how teenagers can keep safe
- Staff trained to identify and reduce the risk of CSE
- Young Carers Groups – Targeted program to enable Young Carers to have a break from caring
- Break for Change – Support parents/carers and young people in building healthy relationships
- T4T junior - Information, advice and guidance 10-12yrs
- M8’s (support for SEND) – Focuses work with young people who have special educational needs or physical disabilities from 13 – 25yrs, Level 2 - 4.

Community Domestic Abuse

West Sussex County Council delivers a Domestic Abuse Service through the Community Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and the Domestic Abuse Hub. Together they provide a service for high risk victims of Domestic Abuse. Their role is to provide specialist support and advice to victims to reduce the risk and keep the victims and children safe.

IPEH is a beacon authority and has recently launched Connect. This is 3 year partnership project working with medium risk DA clients, their families and perpetrators where couples want to stay together. Connect will enable new and creative ways of working to reduce the risk.

The Crime Survey publishes the proportion of the population who experience partner abuse in England and Wales 2016/17 this is an estimate that 35,400 females experiencing partner abuse every year with 60% would be considered medium risk.
This would imply approximately 12,000 children are living in high and medium risk households and many more will be living in standard risk homes and we know these children can still be severely harmed, particularly psychologically.

**MARAC and Domestic Abuse Training**

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a single meeting that combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim’s needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence case: victim, children and perpetrator.

Domestic Abuse training is multi agency training delivered by community domestic abuse services and the domestic abuse hub. 4 courses delivered - Domestic Abuse Awareness, The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children, Partners Against Sexual Abuse, MARAC and DASH.

**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

Dedicated Early Help team integrated in the MASH.

Benefits;

Developing an effective interface between CSC and IPEH ensuring that children who need help are swiftly placed in the right part of the system

Providing consultation that improves decision making in the MASH.

Leading the partnership input into the MASH so that each part of the system plays its part. Improving consistency of threshold decision making.

Robust decision making through the following:

- MASH Triage team made up of Child and Family workers, Health, Adolescent lead, Police, Drug and Alcohol Services, Child Disability Team and Probation
- SCARF Triage team made up of Police, DA worker and Senior Social Worker
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Hub also located in the MASH
PAUSE

PAUSE is a national programme which works with women who have experienced – or are at risk of – repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care.

The programme gives women the chance to ‘pause’ and take control over their lives, breaking a destructive cycle that causes both them and their children deep trauma.

PAUSE West Sussex is a 3 year pilot which went live in September 2017 with the aim of supporting 40 women over two 18 month cohorts (20 women per cohort).

PAUSE West Sussex is currently working with 22 women, however there are another 66 women identified who currently meet the criteria for the programme that we do not have capacity to support.

Of the 22 women currently involved in the programme, 9 (41%) experienced a CSC intervention as a child and of these, 5 (23%) spent a period of time in care themselves.

Almost all of these women have experienced domestic abuse (21/22), mental health (19/22) and substance misuse (15/22).

It is estimated that there would have been 14 babies born from the current cohort without PAUSE intervention – this represents cashable savings of between £500k and £700k and a significant reduction on demand to Children’s Social Care.

Supervised Contact

On behalf of CSC, IPEH organises and delivers Supervised Contact. This enables parents or other family members to have safe access to a child who is in care, and professionals to assess the ability of the parents or carers to look after the child.

The contact sessions mostly take place in IPEH buildings and are delivered by Hub staff and Specialist Sessional workers.

Reports are provided to the case-holding Social Worker for use in court by the person supervising the contact. Supervisions provide critical evidence of the suitability or not of an adult to have contact with or care of a child in the future.
Since delivering Supervised Contact within IPEH we have seen demand increase by 20.5% with an average of 200 contact sessions taking place per week – this demand increase reflects an increase in care proceedings.

Cancellations, due to no supervisor or no venue, have reduced significantly to less than 1% which is enabling Social Workers to carry out agreed care plans in place for children.

**Youth Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Team**

**Youth Homeless Prevention Service**

Established to discharge the authority's statutory duties to homeless or potentially homeless 16 / 17 year olds under the Southwark Judgement. Specialist staff use family mediation to prevent homelessness, support whole families to maintain accommodation and if required plan a pathway for a young person to enter appropriate alternative accommodation, either with wider family network, privately rented or supported housing as appropriate.

**Accommodation Team**

Initially established to mitigate spend and provide planned pathways to independence for households accommodated by Social Care under Care Act 2014 Duties. Expanded into a preventative role since 2017 to work with District & Borough housing services to stop families from becoming homeless and entering unsuitable temporary accommodation and thereby providing better outcomes for the children of those families affected. Service includes families made intentionally homeless for whom CSC would otherwise have a duty to accommodate.

No Recourse to Public Funds families. Part of the Service's remit is to source suitable temporary accommodation for households who by virtue of their immigration status can not access public funds or support under the homelessness legislation and are assessed by Social Care as being unable to return to their country of origin.

**Leaving Care Service**

The Leaving Care service provides statutory support via 27 Personal Advisors, who work with 532 young people aged 16 to 25.

- 167 are 16-17 year olds
- 308 are 18-21 year olds
- 46 are 21 year olds

For 16 and 17 year olds the team of Personal Advisors work alongside Children’s Social workers to ease the transition into adulthood. More information can be found on www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk
Young Carers

The Young Carers Team undertakes statutory assessments and provides support for young carers and their families.

One third of the families are referred from Children’s Social Care and the service provided is part of the package of measures in place for Child in Need and Child Protection cases.

Queens Golden Jubilee Award presented to Young Carers in October 2018 for the volunteer service.

Contribution to the Complex High Risk Adolescents Project

YES Health and Justice Workers

- To provide “sticky support” and emotional wellbeing interventions to young people stepping down from secure or inpatient mental health services
- Led and delivered through High Risk Adolescent Service
- Funded until 2021 by NHS England (£105k per annum)
- Small cohort of young people
- Impact - positive mental health outcomes, fewer admissions into secure units, improved criminal justice outcomes

Return Home Interviews

RHIs are required to meet the Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care, and specifically the requirement to provide an independent return interview to any child returning to their home or care setting. There interviews are carried out by IPEH staff.

Voice and Participation

There is a statutory requirement for WSCC to engage with young people who are in care and to ensure they have a mechanism to have their voice heard. In West Sussex there is a Children in Care Council (CiCC).

“Treat Me the Same” project is an initiative to embed YP voice at the heart of care planning.
This project was launched as a direct response to feedback from children in care.

EPIC awards - Exceptional People In Care - recognises the achievements of young people in the care of West Sussex County Council for whom we are the corporate parents, and the professionals that support them.

Mind of My Own is an on-line consultation tool designed specifically with and for children & young people who are supported by Children’s Social Care. It can be easily downloaded onto mobile or home-based devices with internet access. Children & young people with their own Mind of My Own account can choose to use it when & where they want.

We also run the West Sussex Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament where young people are elected (via an official elections process with schools) to roles for their local area. They work on campaigns that are voted for by the national Make Your Mark Ballot from the British Youth Council. These campaigns over the years have involved a Curriculum for Life (changing PSHE lessons in schools and getting First Aid delivered as a subject), Votes at 16 (reducing the voting age both locally and nationally) and issues currently such as tackling knife crime.

“Free Your Mind” is an award winning group that enables young people’s view about mental health to be heard. They have run conferences, launched “Let’s Talk About It” video and developed resources for professionals. This group works out of the Youth Cabinet.

For more information contact familyvoice@westsussex.gov.uk