



Isle of Wight  
**Safeguarding  
Children  
Partnership**

# Business Plan 2024/25

# Cross cutting themes in strategic priorities and business as usual

Voice of the child  
and family

“Cost of living crisis”  
and the impact of this

Diversity and  
Inclusion considerations

Domestic abuse and  
parent-oriented issues

Emotional wellbeing  
and mental health

Capability and capacity  
of the workforce

Safeguarding lens and  
the educational  
experience of vulnerable  
children

Engagement with  
services, getting it  
right first time

Children with additional  
needs/disabilities

Relational, assertive  
safeguarding (inc. early  
help) practice with  
families and with  
each other

Cumulative impact  
of harm and extra  
familial harm

Neglect

# 1. Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education.

## 1.1 Emphasis on relational safeguarding practice, confident engagement (IOW Approach, Children's Services).

- a) Agree and promote shared values across the multi-agency workforce (using IOW approach)

## 1.2 Expanding the scrutiny of key education data relevant to safeguarding children.

- a) Request that Early Help yearly assurance report includes commentary on the effectiveness of our early help arrangements in promoting school attendance and/or educational engagement
- b) Annual assurance report from the Virtual School with reference to children with a social worker Ever 6 and looked after children.
- c) Expand IOWSCP dataset to include agreed data points relating to children's educational engagement: (in addition to suspensions and exclusions) reduced hours provision, EHE, Children missing education, children not on school roll, and children without an educational provision.
- d) Insight - education subgroup to engage in analysis of the data regarding children with vulnerabilities and educational engagement

# 1. Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education.

## 1.3 Expanding the neglect toolkit to consider parent-oriented issues.

- a) Update Day in my life tools to include parent-oriented issues.
- b) Updating the 'Neglect prompts' in the toolkit to include parental-orientated issues.

## 1.4 Gain assurance around the safeguarding workforce development needs of pastoral staff employed by schools and settings including roles involved in supporting attendance/engagement in education.

- a) Include this area within the section 157/175 self assessment.
- b) Education subgroup to provide analysis of the 157/175 Safeguarding in Education audit report.

## 1.5 Gain assurance of (and support) guidance to define the multi-agency roles and responsibilities supporting children and families to ensure educational engagement/attendance.

- a) Gaining assurance of the safeguarding elements through the implementation of Working Together to promote School Attendance, as it becomes Statutory.
- b) Gain assurance of that the multi-agency roles and responsibilities in relation to the statutory guidance referenced above.
- c) Creation and promotion of IOWSCP 'Safeguarding children and engagement in education' course.

# 1. Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education.

## 1.6 Ensure agencies working with children and families fully understand the universal and early help offer to children and families and can confidently/assertively support access for those that need it, including priority groups.

- a) Promote the Early Help training offer through IOWSCP comms
- b) Request multi-agency data is included in Early Help annual report to PQA – such as data relating to EH training; who is undertaking the Lead Professional role; successful outcomes (including educational engagement) and where Early Help plan has closed because the professional or family have disengaged
- c) Promote Early Help, through the IOWSCP newsletter
- d) For the IOWSCP to promote ‘Supporting families’ programme to encourage appropriate referrals
- e) ‘Family Hubs’ website signposted on the parents and carers and professionals’ pages of the new IOWSCP website
- f) Gain assurance from the Early Years Service regarding “school readiness” and engagement of the sector in Early Help.

## 2. Promoting a multi-agency, whole-system approach to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, focused on preventing neglect and cumulative harm.

### 2.1 Emphasis on relational safeguarding practice, confident practice promoting engagement. (IOW approach, Children's Services).

As 1.1

### 2.2 Ensure agencies working with children and families fully understand the universal and early help offer to children and families.

As 1.2

### 2.3 Continuing to develop consistent understanding of the child's lived experience/ the voice of the child – through webinars, resources.

- a) Consider existing frameworks including the police health, home, happiness approach to provide practice guidance for understanding the lived experience of the child, both in referrals and when working with a child and family
- b) Updated versions of 'Day in my life' tools promoted through webinars
- c) Updated versions of 'Day in my life' tools to go across all toolkits
- d) Comms and development group to support promotion of updated 'Day in my life' tools
- e) Development of resources to support practitioner understanding of the lived experience of children with additional needs.

## 2. Promoting a multi-agency, whole-system approach to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, focused on preventing neglect and cumulative harm.

### 2.4 Being aware of connected adults and knowing their relationship with the child.

- a) Update to unidentified adults HSCP/IOWSCP toolkit

### 2.5 Ensure multi agency colleagues know and use risk assessment/referral tools effectively; doing the basics well:

- **Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework**
- **Inter Agency Referral Form**
- **Day in the life tools**
- **Signs and Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse**
- **Police Public Protection Notices**

- a) Exemplars of good quality IARFs to be developed and added to the IOWSCP websites and linked on the IARF page if possible
- b) How to complete a 'good' IARF video created and added to the IOWSCP websites.
- c) Promotion of risk assessment/referral tools at HSCP/IOWSCP Designated Safeguarding Leads conference
- d) Embed CERAF guidance video onto the updated IOWSCP website
- e) Quality Assurance of CERAFs Child Exploitation subgroup.
- f) IOWSCP to be sighted on quality assurance processes relating to PPN 1s and relevant themes arising
- g) Progress recommendations from IOWSCP Thematic Audits of Vulnerable children persistently and severely absent and Child Sexual Abuse

## 2. Promoting a multi-agency, whole-system approach to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, focused on preventing neglect and cumulative harm.

### 2.6 Promote professional challenge and escalation and practice a relational approach with colleagues through a restorative approach to casework with children and families, where multi-agency disagreement is emerging/continuing around safeguarding concerns.

- a) Comms and Development group to support promotion of the revised HIPS Protocol for the Escalation and Resolution of Professional Disagreement
- b) Promotion of the revised HIPS Protocol for the Escalation and Resolution of Professional Disagreement
- c) Workforce Development Group to trial methodologies for front line practitioners to explore and practice professional challenge, escalation and resolution.

### 2.7 Workforce development webinars and practice guidance, raising awareness of the cumulative impact of harm and the normalisation of neglect

- a) Promotion of new course 'Understanding cumulative harm and preventing the normalisation of neglect'
- b) Develop resources to support practitioner understanding and identifying cumulative harm.
- c) Provide practice resources and workforce development to strengthen understanding of the risks of the normalisation of neglect. This will be included in the refreshed Neglect strategy 24-26.

### 2.8 Utilise a version of the day in the life tools in all toolkits to understand better the child's daily lived experience.

See 2.3



# 3. Embedding the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

## 3.1 Emphasis on relational safeguarding practice, confident practice promoting engagement with parents and carers, children and young people and each other. (Practice principles for working with parents/carers and multi-agency practice principles, multi agency child protection standards)

- a) Promote and embed the values of the IOW approach across the multi-agency workforce.
- b) Consider half day conference focusing on the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children, including principles, expectations, standards, information sharing– multi agency perspective, new arrangements and role of education and childcare settings/VCSE

## 3.2 Review IOWSCP partnership arrangements:

- Identifying lead safeguarding partners, delegated safeguarding partners, partnership chair and independent scrutiny role
- clarifying the role of schools and settings and the VCSE

- a) New partnership arrangement to be agreed, updated and shared across the partnership – including identification of Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs), partnership chair and role of independent scrutineer.
- b) Consider the role of education within the partnership arrangements to ensure education representatives are engaged in strategic decision making at the highest level.
- c) Induction pack to be updated to include the new partnership arrangements

## 3. Embedding the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

### 3.3 Promote information sharing to enable all children to achieve best outcomes.

- a) eLearning on Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners, when published.

### 3.4 Focus on independent scrutiny arrangements of the partnership, defining, testing.

- a) Development of independent scrutineer work plan Year 1- agreed by Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) with inclusion of the voice of children and families
- b) Research and testing of effective methods of independent scrutiny including the voice of children and families

### 3.5 Ensuring the multi-agency workforce are kept informed of changes to key services and agencies and ways of working

- a) Encourage Executive and Board members to keep partners informed of significant partnership changes.

### 3.6 Maintain a sharp focus on assurance of multi-agency safeguarding practice, during times of multi-agency change and transition.

- a) Safeguarding practice audits through PQA
- b) Working Together to Safeguard Children benchmarking exercise (QTR 2024/25)

## 4. Embedding and refining the work of the partnership.

### 4.1 Comms and development group operational.

- IOWSCP resources for practitioners remain current and up to date
- maximise two-way communication with frontline practitioners across agencies – working to embed learning and effective practice

a) Comms and Development workplan

### 4.2 Evaluation, development and refinement of partnership resources.

- Continued increased use; accessibility; informed by frontline practitioners

a) Comms and Development workplan

b) Development of induction package on partnership website, including an introduction to the work of the IOWSCP which can be used by agencies

### 4.3 Introduction of Safeguarding Practice Weeks, focused on workstreams underway – in order to embed learning.

### 4.4 Development of induction landing page on partnership websites.