

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership



Yearly Report 2023-24

Independent Chair and Scrutineer Foreword and Overview of the year



This has been my first full year of being the Independent Chair and Scrutineer. It is a role and responsibility that I am passionate about. I have had the opportunity to meet regularly with the safeguarding partners including the chief executives/officers. This has enabled good oversight of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and how they function.

It has been a busy year for the partnership and throughout this yearly report you will hear more details of the work undertaken, through the multi-agency auditing and assurance, learning from serious safeguarding cases, safeguarding practice development and responding to our 2023/24 strategic priorities.

The partnership has undertaken two thematic audits of multi-agency safeguarding practice relating to the strategic priorities; the recommendations arising from this work are underway and we share knowledge of effective

practice in a variety of ways. Learning from serious safeguarding cases is an important function of the partnership, and it is equally important we are assured the learning from this is embedded in practice. The safeguarding partners have continued to seek evidence of the completion of any multi-agency recommendations/actions that come from this work, and where the same learning is repeated consider evidence provided and seek further assurance, as necessary.

The Isle of Wight (IOW) safeguarding partners continue to focus on their leadership of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the partnership reflects that, with senior leaders representing the safeguarding partners and education leading the workstreams, and with shared accountability for the progress and outcomes.

This year has seen the development of a number of resources and toolkits, some aimed at multi-agency practitioners, some at parents and carers. While it is not the intention to necessarily promote the partnership website to parents and carers, it is intended that practitioners will be able to use the resources with parents and carers, children and young people, having confidence in the resources.



Use of partnership resources is monitored, although 2023/24 saw a brief interruption to the collation of the figures due to a change in analytical providers.

My role has provided support and challenge to the partnership. This is an important function and one that I take very seriously. I provide independent oversight of all the work of the partnership. This provides assurance to the safeguarding partners of an independent lens being applied to safeguarding practice, analysis and any resultant recommendations. A critical part of my role, alongside the safeguarding partners is maintaining a “critical friend” overview of organisational changes and inspections. This has been significant in this reporting year with the OFSTED inspection of the Local Authority Children’s Services’ and the ending of the strategic partnership between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Children’s Services. The ending of the strategic partnership after 10 years was an important decision and one which the partnership engaged with, providing a collective view and seeking assurances. The new leadership team of the Isle of Wight Children’s Services was securely in place during this reporting period, and I look forward to maintaining and building on the strengths of previous arrangements. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary also reorganised during this period and assurance was sought of their continued focus on embedding the Child Centred Policing Strategy.

It is helpful for the Island that I work across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. This supports connectivity across areas for the benefit of children and young people and prevents the duplication of workstreams for partners and allows me to share good practice with and from the Island.

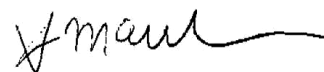
2023-24 has been a busy year and none more so for the services and agencies that are part of the Isle of Wight’s multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. There are many strengths in the mature partnership arrangements on the Isle of Wight, including the focus on learning and the support for and openness to

professional challenge. This demonstrates a collective drive to continue to improve outcomes for children and families on the Island.

AREAS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP TO FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD

- ➔ Maintaining a focus on assurance of safeguarding practice, acknowledging the challenging context for children and families and for organisations. We must ensure our practitioners are supported to do their best for children and their families.
- ➔ Expanding the voice and influence of children and young people within our arrangements and the voice of critical partners such as schools and settings.
- ➔ Maintaining the effective partnership culture through the changes in response to Working Together to Safeguard Children, continuing to focus on the shared responsibilities and accountabilities of the safeguarding partners.

2024/25 will see the partnership continuing to respond to the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children published in 2023, by strengthening my role as independent scrutineer. I look forward to being part of those developments with the safeguarding partners.



Scott MacKechnie

Independent Chair and Scrutineer

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP)

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Our children



There are **24,905** children on the Isle of Wight

0-5 years old: 6,718

12-16 years old: 7,158

6-11 years old: 8,311

17-18 years old: 2,718



17,799 children attend IOW schools

614 children are Electively Home Educated (EHE)²



% of children (5-16 year olds) who are EHE Isle of Wight **3.8%** National **1.1%**

16,386 children: Primary & Secondary schools

39 children: Island Learning Centre

395 children: Special schools

979 children: Independent schools



48 Early Years settings

Children with English as an additional language³

4.1% of primary school children

4% of secondary school children



6% of pupils have SEND or EHCPs on the IOW compared to the England average of 4.3%³

Children with free school meal entitlement³



24.7% of primary school children

22.8% of secondary school children

The IOW was ranked **96** in Local Authorities areas on the indices of multiple deprivation³

12 areas on the IOW are among the 20% most deprived in the country⁴



² Figure for 23/24 autumn & spring term ³ (2023 data) [local authority interactive tool \(LAIT\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/local-authority-interactive-tool) ⁴ [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)

FRONT DOOR DATA

CONTACTS/REFERRALS/ASSESSMENTS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total number of contacts to the Children's Reception Team (CRT)	14,167	16,309	17,496
% contacts progressed to referrals	43.47%	42.6%	41.4%
Number of child in need referrals	3365	3870	4378
% of re-referrals to CRT MASH	39%	41.6%	45.6%
Child & family assessments completed within timescales	96%	89.4%	95%
% of closed early help plans where improvements were seen	43%	61%	71%
Total number of children open to Children's Social Care during the year	1,407	1,434	1,525

CHILD PROTECTION (CP) PLANS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of children with a CP Plan	161	216	184
Number of unborn babies with a CP plan	26	24	14

MAIN CATEGORY OF RISK/HARM: (CHILD PROTECTION PLANS)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Neglect	63.4%	80.6%	66.3%
Emotional Abuse	22.4%	10.2%	26.1%
Sexual Abuse	5.6%	7.9%	6.5%
Physical	8.7%	1.4%	1.1%

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total number of looked after children	274	288	279
Number of children in care per 10,000 during the year	116	122	115
% of looked after children reviews completed in time frames	93.9%	91.7%	97.4%
% of health reviews completed in time frames	84%	92%	70.4%
% of care leavers 18+ in suitable accommodation at year end	85.7%	79.3%	78.7%
% of care leavers 18+ in employment, education, or training at year end	74.3%	75.7%	58.9%

YOUNG CARERS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total number of children who are identified as young carers	336	390	444



EDUCATION DATA

IOW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DURING THE YEAR	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Primary	94.2%	93.7%	93.9%*
Secondary	90%	89.9%	89.8%*

COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE FOR 2023/24 AUTUMN AND SPRING TERM	IOW	NATIONAL
Primary	93.9%*	94.3%
Secondary	89.8%*	91.0%

CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION (CME) DURING THE YEAR	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Primary	18	103	29*
Secondary	18	69	27*

CHILDREN SUSPENDED OR EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Primary children suspended from school (Fixed Term) during the year	176	220	205*
Secondary children suspended from school (Fixed Term) during the year	961	1401	1528*
Children excluded from school (Permanent) during the year (Primary)	0	0	0*
Children excluded from school (Permanent) during the year (Secondary)	8	17	18*

**Indicative data for Autumn and Spring terms 2023-24.*

ADDITIONAL DATA

CHILDREN AT RISK OF, OR IN, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Children at risk of, or in, the criminal justice system during the year who the Youth Offending Team (YOT) worked with	225	259	315

CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING NEEDS	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total number of children referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at year end	907	773	750
Total number of children open to CAMHS at year end	528	513	531

Introducing our Safeguarding Children Partnership

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The IOWSCP [local safeguarding arrangements](#) provide detail about how safeguarding services are arranged and supported to meet the needs of the Island's children and families. Relevant agencies listed in the arrangements (as specified in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018) support the implementation of local and national learning including learning from serious safeguarding incidents.

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership local arrangements will be updated in 2024-25 to fully reflect the updated Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance.



OUR SHARED PARTNERSHIP VISION

The IOWSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer, safeguarding partners and partnership members are committed to:

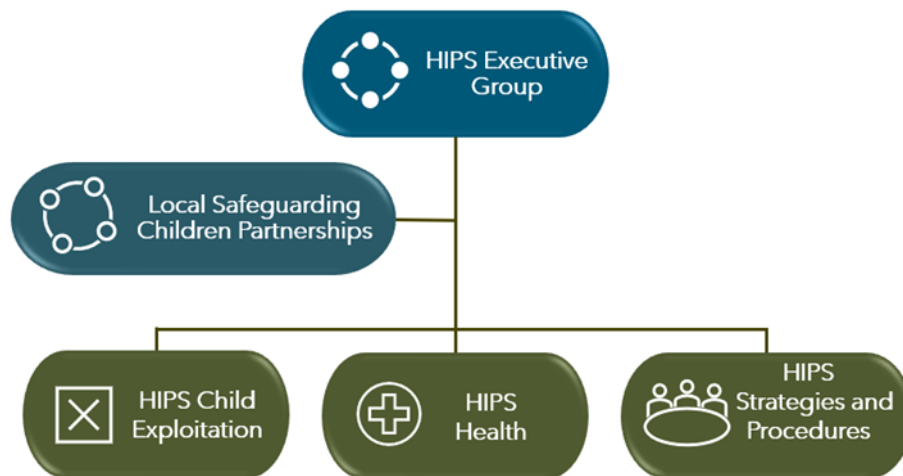
- ➔ Child focused leadership which is effective and ambitious across the partnership
- ➔ Ensuring agencies understand their roles and responsibilities through active engagement in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- ➔ Ensuring an environment in which multi-agency safeguarding practice can continuously improve
- ➔ Supporting effective information sharing in systems which ensures professionals are confident and knowledgeable about vulnerable children
- ➔ Facilitating and delivering high support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency safeguarding system
- ➔ Creating a culture of continuous learning and development

HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON (HIPS) ARRANGEMENTS

The IOWSCP works collaboratively with Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships and this collective is known as HIPS. The HIPS arrangement provides opportunities for working together across borders on strategic issues and common themes. This arrangement supports each Safeguarding Children Partnership area to retain a focus on local priorities.

The HIPS Executive Group consists of the delegated safeguarding partners from each Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) area and is chaired by Scott MacKechnie, as Independent Chair and Scrutineer. The HIPS Executive Group works to ensure:

- ★ **Co-ordination, in particular for agencies that work across the local authority borders within the HIPS region**
- ★ **Reduction in duplication of effort**
- ★ **Shared learning regarding effective practice**
- ★ **Shared learning arising from reviews of serious safeguarding cases**



The HIPS Executive group has three standing subgroups:

HIPS Health Group : This group co-ordinates safeguarding business across the HIPS wide integrated care system. The group leads on the promotion and implementation of effective practice and learning, including revision to protocols and procedures from the perspective of the HIPS health economy.

HIPS Strategic Child Exploitation Group : This group leads on the development and shared implementation of the HIPS Child Exploitation and Extra-Familial Harm Strategy 2023-26, working to develop a shared understanding of the exploitation risks and responses to children, which may include organised exploitation.

HIPS Strategies and Procedures Group : This group also develops and reviews all HIPS wide multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures that inform single agency policy and procedure across the HIPS areas. This is maintained via a shared HIPS Procedures website. This group also has oversight of the implementation of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and for updating the associated toolkit.

LINKS TO OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

The IOWSCP has formal links with other IOW and Pan-Hampshire strategic partnerships. IOWSCP Partnership Board members bring information to IOWSCP meetings from other partnerships, enhancing information sharing and planning and maximising opportunities for shared work. Examples include:

Health and Wellbeing Board and Corporate Parenting Board - protocols are in place to ensure shared commitments in strategies and business plans between the Boards and the IOWSCP

Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) - work on shared projects and joint

workforce development opportunities

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

PREVENT Board - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) - violence reduction work around criminal exploitation and knife crime

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) - creating joint toolkits, resources and sharing learning and development opportunities

Community Safety Partnership - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SHARING

The [IOWSCP website](#) contains safeguarding guidance and information for professionals, parents/carers, children, and a newly created volunteer/ community page. The newly updated website signposts to local and national resources; contains key documents and forms; provides quick links to inter agency referral forms and supporting tools; toolkits and HIPS safeguarding procedures; and has a training page detailing the IOWSCP's comprehensive learning and development programme.

The [Communications and Engagement Strategy](#) ensures effective communication with the multi-agency workforce. Following each IOWSCP Partnership Board meeting, a newsletter is produced with information about decisions made, presentations, practice developments and links/signposts to key documents and articles. The Education subgroup also provides a newsletter for all education colleagues following each meeting, highlighting key decisions and developments. The [induction pack](#) for new Partnership Board and subgroup members continues to be an extremely useful document and is always well received. New for 2024-25 is a joint HSCP and IOWSCP [communications forward plan](#).

FINANCE

The three safeguarding partners agree levels of funding for the IOWSCP with an additional contribution from the National Probation Service. Wider partners generously give their staff time for learning and development delivery, subgroup and task and finish group attendance and activity, and multi-agency auditing. Funding arrangements are regularly reviewed at the Executive Group and reported to the Partnership Board. In light of Working Together to Safeguard Children, the safeguarding partners plan to move toward more equitable funding from 2024-25.

The IOWSCP wider partner agencies have expressed their commitment to cross-agency support and continue to demonstrate a shared responsibility for supporting safeguarding activity during 2023/24 ensuring that the IOW's robust partnership is sustained.

FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS 2023-24	
Isle of Wight Council	£123,471*
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board	£42,585
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary	£14,290
National Probation Service	£830
Total partner contributions for 2023-24	£181,176

*Included within this figure is £9,574 towards the Isle of Wight Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) contribution

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

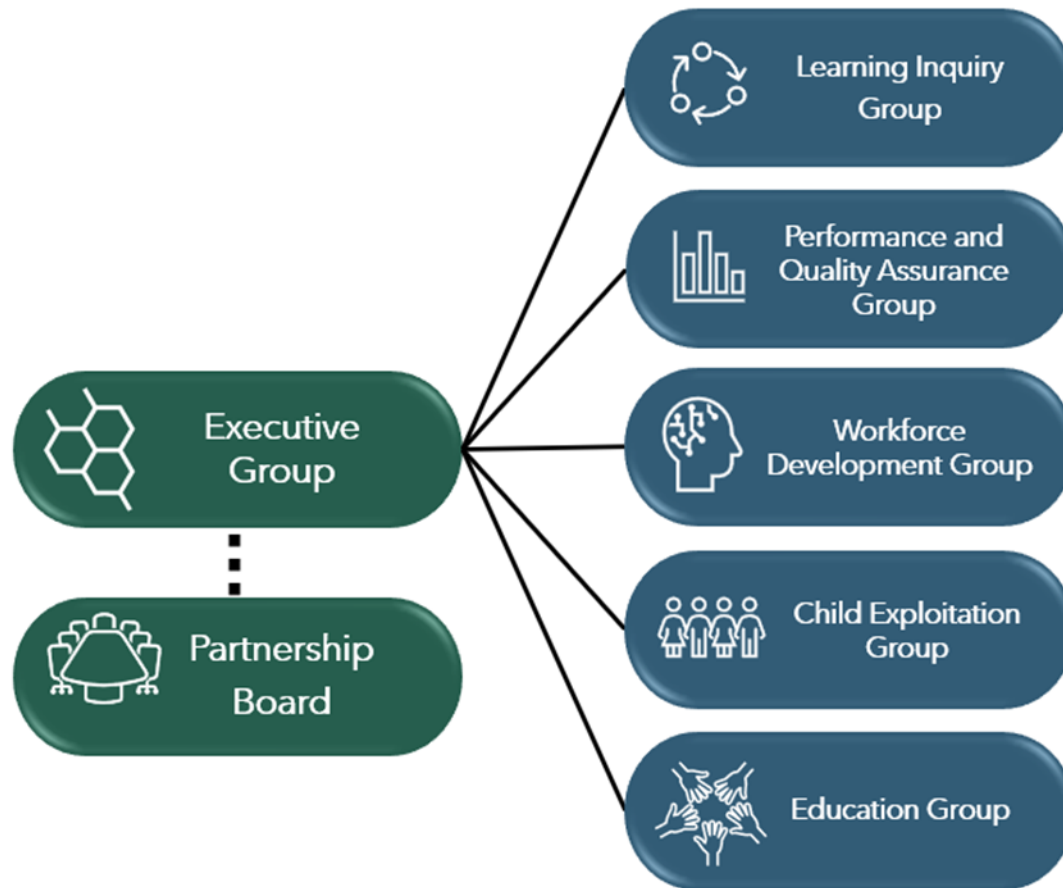
Education is essential for children's progress, wellbeing and wider development. Being in school is often a protective factor against wider harm, including exploitation. As education and childcare settings have such frequent contact with most children and families, we know that they are uniquely placed to identify concerns and, with partners as appropriate, address those concerns as early as possible. As such, we recognise that schools, early years settings, colleges and other educational providers play a pivotal role in safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare.

All schools (including independent, academies and free schools), colleges and educational providers are recognised as Relevant Agencies in our safeguarding arrangements. Their voice and influence is embedded within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The IOWSCP partnership arrangements include a strong, well-established education subgroup, chaired by the Service Director for Education, Inclusion & Access. It has representatives from early years; primary, secondary and special schools; independent schools and colleges; chair of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) network and representatives from the Headteachers Forum and Headteacher Executive. The chair of the education subgroup is also a member of the IOWSCP Executive group and is an IOWSCP Partnership Board member, alongside Headteacher and early years representatives. This ensures that education is involved at both an operational and strategic level within the partnership.

Two-way communication between the IOWSCP and education sector is further strengthened through an annual Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference; annual partnership update to the Headteachers Forum; the annual 157/175 self-assessment audit process, and through inclusion in multi-agency safeguarding assurance.



IOWSCP STRUCTURE



Independent Chair
and Scrutineer

Scott MacKechnie



Functional Links:

- Children's Trust Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Family Justice Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)
- IOW Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)
- Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC)
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Our areas of focus

BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES

In light of the anticipated changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children and the Government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care 'Stable homes built on love', the IOWSCP safeguarding partners agreed to set one-year strategic priorities and business plan for 2023-24. These strategic priorities were identified through themes arising from scrutiny and quality assurance programmes, findings from local and national learning reviews and from scoped priorities in 2022-23. Progress on the business plan is monitored through the Executive Group, as well as outcomes and impact of the work.

Priority 1: To implement the multi-agency HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Local delivery plan for the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.
- ✓ Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) conference workshop on maximising the use of the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse signs and indicators template.
- ✓ Promotion of child sexual abuse training across multi-agency organisations.
- ✓ Thematic multi-agency audit of child sexual abuse within the family environment, including a frontline practitioner survey.
- ✓ Child sexual abuse toolkit for parents and carers developed.
- ✓ Review of the findings from the section 157/175 audit regarding Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and delivery of an appropriate curriculum.



OUTCOMES AND IMPACT:

- ★ Condensed child sexual abuse toolkit for parents and carers focused on prevention, identification and support.
- ★ Multi-agency learning and recommendations from the thematic audit shared widely across the multi-agency workforce, including resources being developed: a practitioner briefing highlighting key learning from the thematic report created; a child sexual abuse safeguarding theme overview pack to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and an accessible learning pack developed for agencies to share key learning maximising the use of the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse signs and indicators template and updated case studies to support the session.

- ★ Supporting resources and good practice shared with Isle of Wight schools via the Section 157/175 Safeguarding in Education audit report findings
- ★ Reinforced the priority to develop a Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton local area multi-agency dataset in relation to child sexual abuse
- ★ Assurance provided of statutory agency awareness and knowledge of the guidance from the crown prosecution service relating to criminal investigations and therapeutic support for children ensuring timely access to therapeutic support for children
- ★ Clarified referral pathways to therapeutic support for Isle of Wight children in relation to child sexual abuse

Priority 2: To identify, understand and respond to vulnerable children with disrupted attendance

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Thematic multi-agency audit: Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent from school
- ✓ Promotion of the new Isle of Wight Council Model School Attendance policy
- ✓ Development of an Educational Neglect Advice multi agency briefing and associated case study
- ✓ Development of Day in my Life tools for use with children to strengthen understanding of the child's daily lived experience. Also includes the impact of parent oriented issues, which can impact a child's attendance at school

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT:

- ★ Multi-agency learning from the thematic audit shared widely across the multi-agency workforce, including resources being developed: a practitioner briefing highlighting key learning from the thematic report created
- ★ New training course being developed as part of the 2024-25 IOWSCP learning and development programme in response to the thematic audit: 'Safeguarding children and engagement in education' course
- ★ Guidance for GPs shared, advising not to provide letters in support of absence from school
- ★ Safeguarding children through their engagement in education taken forward as an IOWSCP strategic priority for 2024-26
- ★ Action being taken to strengthen the IOWSCP multi-agency dataset to include key data relating to children with additional vulnerabilities



Priority 3: Promoting and embedding the work of the Partnership

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Established a safeguarding infants task and finish group to undertake a first phase evaluation on the ICON and Every Sleep Counts programmes
- ✓ Extended IOWSCP learning and development offer
- ✓ Designated Safeguarding Leads conference
- ✓ New IOWSCP website
- ✓ Established a joint HSCP and IOWSCP Communication and Development group to promote the use of joint programmes and toolkits and ensure they are reviewed and updated – the IOWSCP Comms plan works in conjunction with this
- ✓ Development of a compact section 11 self-assessment that is bespoke for community organisations and volunteer groups and built in collaboration with them
- ✓ Planning for second phase evaluation of ICON and Every Sleep Counts programmes



OUTCOMES AND IMPACT:

- ★ Fully accessible website
- ★ Reinforcing the relationship between the IOW Safeguarding Children Partnership and the voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector
- ★ ICON and Every Sleep Counts awareness campaign further evaluation in 2024-25.
- ★ Increase multi-agency awareness of partnership resources, assessment tools for identifying and responding to risk and understanding the daily lived experience of children and young people
- ★ Learning and development has been well received, 97% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed that the training met its learning outcomes and they understood how to apply the learning to their day-to-day role
- ★ Condensed child exploitation toolkit for parents & carers signposts supporting resources and services
- ★ Practitioner briefing created summarising the learning from the 'Quality of referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)' audit findings

Our learning and development

SCRUTINY

Our Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup (PQA) considers a six-monthly report of data shared by partner agencies. It highlights trends and questions for the Executive group to consider, discuss and action. Two data reports were considered by the Executive group during 2023/24 and the following points/questions posed:

QUESTIONS/MATTERS RAISED	RESPONSE
What are the timescales for looked after children having immunisations that are up to date?	Children entering care are often not up to date with their immunisations and so require a full programme of vaccinations. Since there must be a gap between when some can be administered, this can add a delay.
Has there been exploration regarding the high increase for the number of pupils with at least one fixed-term exclusion?	The Education Inclusion Service (EIS) are working with the schools that have the highest number of suspensions. It's expected that there will be a reduction in the number of primary school exclusions once the Island Learning Centre (ILC) changes in September to be secondary school age only and the Primary Behaviour Service is established. The EIS Manager and School Improvement Manager are looking at where children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are overrepresented and working with schools to provide support. Schools will have an action plan on how they will reduce their suspension figures.
How much of the increase in children known to be Electively Home Educated (EHE) is due to better identification, what other factors are we seeing?	More secondary school children move to EHE than primary. There has been a proactive multi-agency focus on identifying Elective Home Educated/Children Missing Education pupils. This has led to an increase in the number of known EHE pupils.
How long do young carers remain in receipt of support?	There are thresholds of service in place. Barnardo's are working with 'My Time' and YMCA to better identify and support young carers. It is expected and hoped that figures will increase as young people better access support services. (This was the case in the next data collection).

QUESTIONS/MATTERS RAISED

What has caused such a steep rise in the number of children taken into police protection?



Regarding the percentage of first visits by Children's Social Care completed within timescales, what are the plans to address this in order to reach the target level consistently, so they are within timescales?



Total number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan has increased steadily from 192 in Q2 2022-23, to 262 Q2 2023-24. Are we seeing more step ups to child protection, or more children coming in at child protection level?



Percentage of looked after children that have dental checks up to date and within timescales.

In Q1 2023-24 67% were in timescale and in Q2 72% were in timescale. The target is 85% minimum.

What plans are in place to reach the target?



RESPONSE

Children's Social Care Service Manager for Operations explored this with the Constabulary's Head of Child Abuse Investigations. It was noted there were 18 children, some in sibling groups taken into police protection, these powers related to 7 incidents. The number of incidents is in line with previous figures. Children's Social Care also review those children coming to them under police powers and agreed with the police where the response was necessary.

Staff recruitment and retention in the Child Assessment and Safeguarding Teams (CAST) has been improving over the last quarter which has increased Social Worker capacity and availability for these visits to be undertaken within 5 days.

Due to family availability, there will always be a percentage of first visits which fall outside of 5 days however the Team Managers continue to prioritise allocating new cases on the same day, so the Social Workers have enough time to make contact and arrange visits within timescale.

Children's Social Care analysis shows that this is in part a result of a slight increase on children going on to Child Protection Plans which is in line with increased demand and also children being on Child Protection Plans for longer.

Children going onto a Child Protection Plan who have been on a plan before has decreased and the numbers of children in care is not increasing at a higher rate. This indicates a system that is reducing the longer term needs of children on Child Protection Plans.

There has been a continued drive to ensure all looked after children have a dental check. The data shown has not been a true reflection of the actual number of children who have received a dental check due to some recording errors. The current data shows that 88% of looked after children have an up-to-date health assessment. In addition, there is a small group of young people not wishing to have a dental check. There is weekly scrutiny of performance relating to dental checks and fostering Social Workers are also reminding carers of the need to book in a dental check appointments. Data corroborated directly with the NHS evidences that 100% of looked after children are registered with a dentist.

MULTI-AGENCY ASSURANCE

Themed multi-agency audits are commissioned by IOWSCP's Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup as part of a broader scrutiny exercise. During the reporting period these included:

- **Thematic multi-agency audit: Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent from education**
- **Quality of referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) tabletop audit**
- **Thematic multi-agency audit: The multi-agency response to child sexual abuse**

Recommendations from audits are progressed by agency representatives and monitored through the PQA subgroup until completion. The learning identified is shared with the partnership through subgroups, training, newsletters, safeguarding practice weeks, practitioner guides and safeguarding theme overview packs to ensure key messages are delivered to frontline professionals. Key findings and effective practice from audits undertaken during 2023/24 are available on the [IOWSCP website](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AUDITS

Thematic multi-agency audit: Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent from education

Practitioner briefing

1. The Isle of Wight Council school attendance policy to be shared with the partnership after approval. This enables assurance that it contains an island wide multi agency approach to improving school attendance, which

includes early intervention within a graduated approach and when multi-agency support is required. In addition, that where needed, planning and intervention includes a holistic view of the child's needs, is relationship based and considers practical support.

2. 'Safeguarding children and school attendance' course and guidance to be considered by the IOWSCP, this could be in partnership with the HSCP and reflect some of the effective practice noted within this audit.
3. The IOWSCP should consider developing the PQA dataset to further understand the experience of education of the Island's vulnerable children. The IOWSCP should work in partnership with the Virtual School. (Exclusions, suspensions, Alternative Provision, Elective Home Education, attendance, attainment, Reduced Hours Provision, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), Children Missing Education (CME), Managed Moves)
4. Where school attendance meetings are held and there are medical/health issues impacting on attendance, school nurses should be routinely invited, and relevant information shared with the GP. Consideration should be given to inviting GPs if appropriate.
5. Child Protection Coordinators should be reminded to escalate to designated professionals in the Integrated Care Board (ICB) if there are issues in receiving GP information for Section 47s or Initial Child Protection Conferences or if that information is incomplete.
6. As part of a family approach, the service lead for adult mental health will consider how their patient records can reflect when connected children are on a child protection plan or a Section 47 request has been made.
7. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Neglect Guidance is collaboratively developed and shared with the multi-agency workforce, and the updated HSCP and IOWSCP Neglect Threshold and Indicator chart is to include educational neglect.



8. The ICB and Children’s Services to lead a task and finish group focusing on the flow of information from and to GPs, in relation to children where they are concerns for their safety and welfare including poor school attendance.
9. Island schools to ensure they are aware of the correct process for applying for special educational needs discretionary funding.
10. GPs to be advised not to provide letters in support of absence from school. If a child is too unwell to attend school for a prolonged period of time, a description of a child’s symptoms and the impact they might have on the young person should be given rather than stating a child cannot attend school. Any such letter should include details of any other health professionals involved with the child and should be copied to them to ensure good co-ordinated care of the child. If GPs receive a request such as this from parents/carers, it should be considered whether there are any underlying safeguarding or medical concerns and further discussions had

with the school or ICB safeguarding team.

11. Attendance of practitioners working with children and families in this audit process was of significant value and where that was not possible left gaps in information. Partners and relevant agencies will be reminded of the importance of their engagement in multi-agency auditing.
12. The IOWSCP Executive to consider the value of facilitating a “round table” discussion to explore further the theme of children who are or may be neurodivergent.
13. IOW Children’s Services and schools to consider formally adopting the Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) good practice guidance and for Children’s Services to ensure all relevant policies for schools are in one place and accessible.

IOWSCP PQA group to revisit and consider further assurance regarding the recommendation from the 2022 IOWSCP multi-agency case file audit Safeguarding Adolescents at risk of or experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation or Child Criminal Exploitation held in September 2021 there was a recommendation for agencies *to monitor that professionals leading case planning and review meetings, always send revised plans and meeting notes to family members and professionals involved in the cases in a timely way, to ensure effective information sharing.*

IOW quality of referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Tabletop Audit

Practitioner briefing

1. For IOWSCP/HIOW MASH CRT to consider the use of ‘health, home and happiness’ as a framework to support the child’s voice and/or more detail to be supplied in the IARF guidance that the voice of the child should include their wishes and feelings, their presentation and

observations of the child, where known. The IARF currently states under 'Voice of the child' "Describe the voice of the child. For example, consider the child's lived in experience. Consider the child's perspective if they are unable to voice their views due to age, communication abilities and so on".

2. For HIPS procedures and strategy group to consider the development of practice guidance in relation to physical abuse.
3. Exemplars of good quality IARFs to be developed and added to the HSCP and IOWSCP websites and linked on the IARF page if possible.
4. Consideration of developing a checklist for completing IARFs.
5. How to complete a 'good' IARF video created and added to the HSCP and IOWSCP websites.
6. A Practitioner Briefing to be developed from this report and to be shared across the multi-agency workforce. This will include practitioners being reminded of the need to call CRT MASH where there are concerns that a child may have experienced physical punishment that is unreasonable/ abusive. This is due to the need to consider any immediate safeguarding requirements. Practitioners will be required to submit an IARF following the call to MASH.

Thematic multi-agency audit: The multi-agency response to child sexual abuse

Practitioner briefing

Please note the recommendations are aligned to the [HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy](#) priorities.

1. For IOWSCP to review the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's national review of intra-familial child sexual abuse and consider any

recommendations for the safeguarding partners. The terms of reference are linked below, and the panel is due to publish in Spring/Summer 2024

2. [Terms of reference - national review by the child safeguarding practice review panel into child sexual abuse within the family environment \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
3. Members of PQA are reminded that completion of IOWSCP PQA audit tools is necessary to support:
 - The effectiveness of the audit process in terms of identifying both effective practice and areas for development both at a multi-agency and single agency level.
 - Sharing information on the day is time consuming and risks confusion around dates, activity and outcomes.
4. For the HIPS Procedure and Strategy Group members to be reminded of the need for an agreed local multi-agency dataset in relation to child sexual abuse. It is recognised that this may be difficult to achieve, although has been achieved nationally. In order for LSCPs across HIPS to scrutinise, understand and demonstrate the priority of child sexual abuse, this work should be scoped. Any barriers to this could be helpfully considered by the HIPS Executive (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 11).
5. Statutory agencies, in particular, should be clear about expectations of training regarding child sexual abuse for frontline practitioners and managers. This should include, but is not limited to, child sexual abuse awareness, Brook traffic light tool, child exploitation and specialist child sexual abuse medical assessments (HIPS CSA Strategy priorities 3,4,7,).
6. While the value of preventative programmes such as the NSPCC 'Pantosaurus' is recognised, partners, through the IOWSCP should consider raising community awareness through the development of web-based information, and signposting national resources. This should be included in the IOWSCP communications plan (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 1).

7. Strategy discussion templates should routinely include the decision regarding a specialist child protection medical assessment and the rationale for the decision. Statutory agencies are requested to ensure relevant practitioners are reminded that a medical may be required for forensic reasons but is always holistic. This means while it may evidence if abuse has happened, the absence of evidence doesn't mean it hasn't and children's health and wellbeing needs arising from alleged abuse must also be considered (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 5,6,9).
8. There is helpful [guidance](#) from the crown prosecution service relating to criminal investigations and therapeutic support for children. This guidance is clear that investigations should not delay a child's access to therapeutic support. This guidance should be issued to relevant social care practitioners, police officers and commissioned services providing therapeutic support (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 5,6).
9. The increase in investigations relating to indecent images of children has inevitably meant prioritisation of the forensic examination of digital equipment and statutory partners should be reminded of the ICAT MASH policy which states, 'ICAT can inform children's MASH of live investigations at the point a suspect or address is identified by the ICAT intel team where children are linked prior to action being taken by the police.' This approach supports the effective and timely safeguarding of children. The IOWSCP should seek assurance the ICAT MASH policy remains in operation and is being utilised.
10. The ICB and Children's Service to lead a task and finish group focusing on the flow of information from and to GPs, in relation to children where they are concerns for their safety and welfare including poor school attendance. (This is a repeated recommendation from the Thematic Multi-Agency Audit of: Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent).
11. For HIPS procedure and strategy group to update [Adults who Disclose](#) [Child Sexual Abuse](#) Sexual protocol to include links to the Community Partnership Information form.
12. For the IOWSCP PQA subgroup to explore a model of multi-agency reflective supervision where there are concerns regarding child sexual abuse and practice is believed to be 'stuck' in some way. This would complement the HIPS Protocol for the Escalation and Resolution of Professional Disagreements, statutory processes and single-agency supervision (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 2).
13. Given the number of children within the audit who were neurodivergent or where there were concerns emerging regarding neurodivergence, it is recommended that relevant agencies consider training for practitioners regarding sexual development and children who are neurodivergent and those who have a learning difficulty. Social workers, DSLs in schools and relevant health professionals should be made aware of parenting programmes such as Cygnet and the content. The programmes should be promoted to parents of children with an autistic spectrum condition.
14. To promote practitioner confidence regarding child sexual abuse, a Practice Briefing will be developed from this report and can be shared across the multi-agency workforce (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 1).
15. **"In conclusion, we can no longer stay silent on this issue. We have to talk about it and act."**
Within 6 months of this audit, for the agencies involved in the audit to share with the IOWSCP the steps that they have taken to promote practitioner confidence regarding child sexual abuse. This must include promoting [HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy](#) and toolkit including the [signs and indicators of child sexual abuse template](#) to their workforce. The responses will be part of the scrutiny work of the IOWSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer. (HIPS CSA Strategy priority 1)

LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

The Learning and Inquiry Group (LIG) considers serious safeguarding cases referred to determine whether a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is appropriate and proportionate. Where the criteria for a Serious Incident Notification, Rapid Review and therefore a LCSPR are not met, and the LIG agrees there is multi-agency learning, a multi-agency local learning event may be undertaken, led by members of the LIG.

Serious safeguarding cases are those in which:

- **Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and**
- **The child has been seriously harmed or died**

The Group also discuss and share local learning from single agency reviews, other area LCSPRS and national child safeguarding practice reviews. The purpose of any review conducted by the IOWSCP, or nationally, is to identify learning and whether improvements to safeguarding practice are necessary, through better understanding of what happened and why things happened as they did. Presentations on recently published LCSPRs identify cross cutting themes and learning and the group benchmarks local multi-agency safeguarding practice against these.

During 2023/24 the LIG received one referral for consideration and members agreed that the referral did not meet the criteria for a Serious Incident Notification however multi-agency learning was identified and it was agreed that a local learning event was required. The terms of reference and key lines of enquiry have been agreed by LIG members. The report from this local learning event and accompanying practitioner briefing will be approved by both the LIG group and the IOWSCP Executive group and learning from this will be shared in the IOWSCP yearly report 2024-25.

Following the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children, the LIG noted the changes to the Serious Incident Notification process and updated the procedures and process that guide the work of the LIG.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION

Under section 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, all schools are required to carry out an annual self-assessment audit to review their safeguarding arrangements for children. In 2023, 100% of IOW schools and colleges completed a self-assessment. The self-assessment tool is updated annually in line with legislation: [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) and [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) guidance](#). Working Together to Safeguard Children now stipulates this must be shared with the safeguarding partners. On the Island this is in place and working very effectively.

The self-assessment audit tool and accompanying guidance document supports schools and colleges to reflect on their current practice, identify areas of good practice, outline activities and consider the impact of any actions and areas for development. Within the audit return, settings were asked to respond to 12 questions and identify whether they felt that they had fully met, partially met or did not meet the statement, and submit these to the IOWSCP. All schools responded 'fully met' to all the questions apart from three who identified that the process was 'partly in place'. Schools provided a number of priorities within the action planning section of their return, demonstrating their commitment to maintain the current standard or further strengthen practice.

Following the audit submissions, verification visits were undertaken by members of the IOWSCP education subgroup with five schools to quality assure the audit process. The focus of these visits reflected the IOWSCP strategic priorities.

Findings from the audit and available resources to support areas of learning/development have been shared with schools. Findings were also used to help inform the content of the annual Designated Safeguarding Lead conference, IOWSCP learning and development programme, the IOW Local Authority learning and development offer and the education newsletters' content.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEARNING IDENTIFIED

HSCP and IOWSCP child-on-child abuse toolkit to include information around disclosures from non-verbal children.

IOWSCP to promote the HSCP and IOWSCP child-on-child abuse toolkit.

IOWSCP to signpost schools to the [HIPS Child Sexual Abuse toolkit](#), including the [HIPS learning pack](#)

ACTION TO PROGRESS / OUTCOME

➤ In 2024/25 an update to the Neglect toolkit will include resources and guidance in working with children with additional needs. This will include children with speech, language and communication needs. This resource will be included in the child-on-child abuse toolkit.

➤ The Child-on-child abuse toolkit has been shared at the IOWSCP Education subgroup, Executive and the Partnership Board. In addition the toolkit has been highlighted in newsletters and relevant training promoted. The child-on-child abuse toolkit, along with general awareness of other IOWSCP toolkits to support practice will also be included in the Designated Safeguarding Leads conference in June 2024.

➤ Awareness of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Toolkit will be shared with schools via the thematic audit practitioner briefing, feedback at the IOW Headteacher forum and via a practice awareness flyer for schools signposting the link to the strategy and toolkit.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (SECTION 11)

The timing of the Section 11 Keeping Children Safe organisational self-assessment was moved on a permanent basis to quarter 1 (April-June), starting in April 2023. This enabled safeguarding partners to be assured of the effectiveness of the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the robustness of agencies individual safeguarding arrangements.

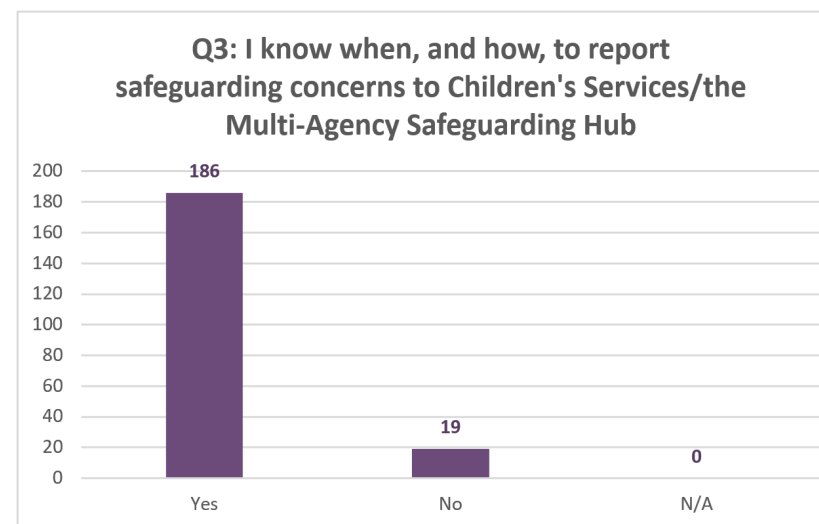
The Section 11 organisational self-assessment, enables agencies to:

- ✓ **Scrutinise and reflect on their safeguarding governance, processes, and practice, and to identify how arrangements could be strengthened.**
- ✓ **Highlight areas of good practice where positive outcomes for children can be evidenced.**
- ✓ **Provide a feedback mechanism to the safeguarding partners on progress against areas for improvement, including any barriers to partnership working.**

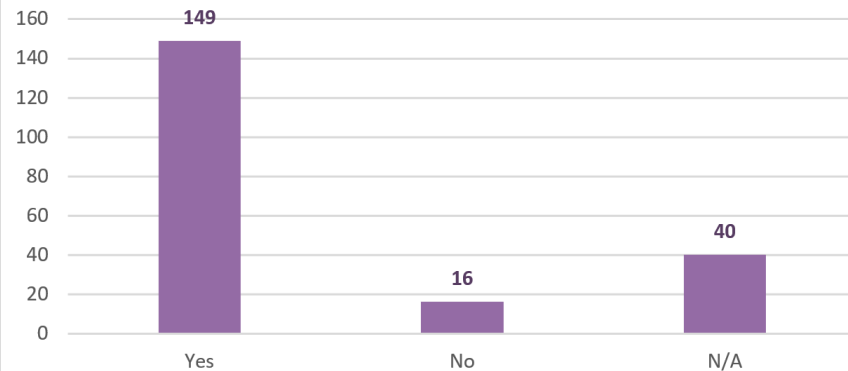
The process reflects a two-year cycle of self-assessment (year 1) followed by monitoring and tracking of action plans (year 2). The focus for 2023/24 was to re-visit the safeguarding standards through completion of the full self-assessment tool and a mandatory staff survey (year 1). The local arrangements also included a panel of safeguarding partner representatives, and three agencies were randomly selected to present their Section 11 findings to the panel. This added a further layer of assurance and deepened understanding of the effective practice in place within agencies across the island.

The staff survey included 206 responses from across the multi-agency workforce and agencies used the survey results to triangulate their self-assessment. Review of HIPS self-assessments relating to agencies that

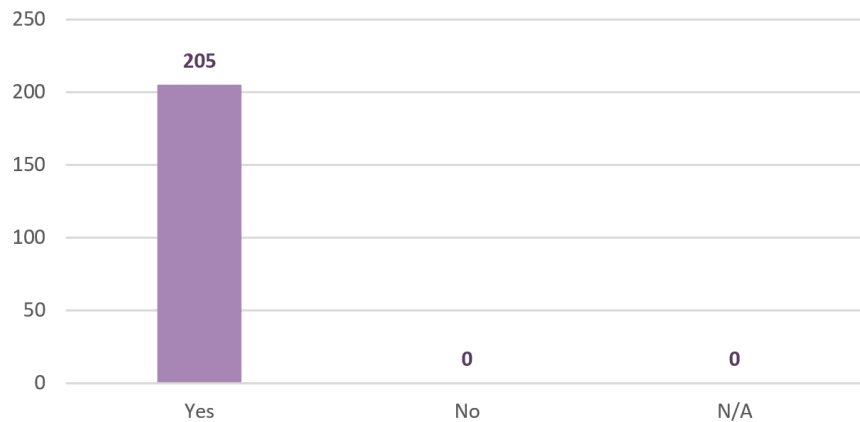
cross one or more local authority borders were led and managed through agreed HIPS arrangements. The themes arising from this work had oversight from the IOWSCP Executive group.



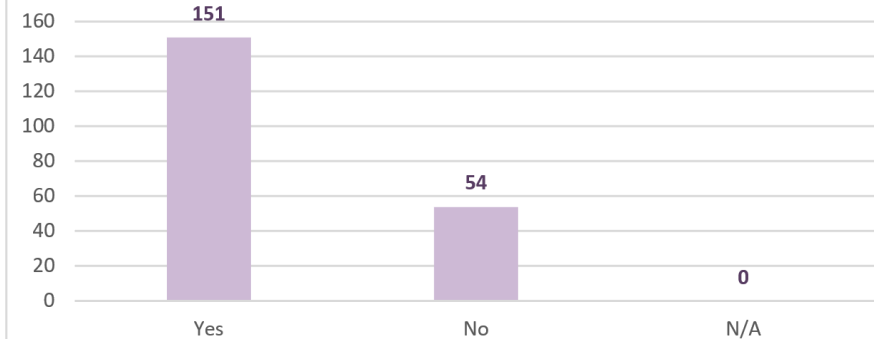
Q5: I am made aware of new or updated Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) policies, procedures and resources by my service



Q7: I am clear about my responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children



Q17: I am aware of the LSCP's guidance on assessing levels of need, which should be used to support contacts with Children's Services/the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub



KEY STRENGTHS

- ★ Agencies that participated in the IOWSCP S11 panel day found the process helpful as did panel members. The process provided assurance regarding the strength and maturity of the partnership shown through the honest and transparent discussions that took place.
- ★ The IOWSCP S11 panel was a valuable mechanism for agencies to share evidence and discuss future developments. It also offered the opportunity to reflect on what may already be in place via partnership and other agencies to support development.
- ★ Over 99% of staff who responded confirmed they were clear who to speak to within their organisation if they had safeguarding concerns and were able to access timely safeguarding advice.
- ★ All respondents confirmed they were clear about their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children.

- ★ All respondents confirmed they know who to speak to if they have concerns that another member of staff (including volunteers) may have behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child.
- ★ Standard 3.3 “There is a whistle blowing procedure in place and this is supported by investigate procedures which lead to appropriate action” was scored as fully met by all agencies.

EMERGING THEMES

- A continuing need to increase awareness and use of threshold charts to assess levels of risk and support partnership toolkits.
- Overall, the response to the S11 standards was positive. Standard 2 was where agencies scored the most “partially met”. In particular relating to 2:2 which focuses on staff awareness of LSCP toolkits. This was also a conversation at the S11 panel, and it was noted that staff are often aware of the tools but may not relate to them as LSCP toolkits? Consideration will be given to how the question is phrased in future years. Although the staff survey also noted the uncertainty of a quarter of respondents in terms of this area. In response to this, HSCP and IOWSCP undertook a ‘Safeguarding Practice Week’ in October 2023, raising awareness of LSCP resources.
- Consistent theme of increasing complexity of the needs of/risks to children and families; increase in families experiencing financial hardship and challenging housing situations.
- The understanding of universal early help services needs to be further developed to ensure effective early intervention for children and families.

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The joint Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and IOWSCP Workforce Development subgroup (WFD) is well established and there is synergy between the two workforce development agendas in terms of pooling budgets for areas of joint interest as well as separate courses that are relevant for the individual Board / Partnership. A Learning Needs Analysis is undertaken annually, with feedback from a staff survey of workforce development requirements considered alongside course evaluations, attendance numbers and observations of learning delivered. Learning needs are also identified through the Partnerships’ scrutiny and assurance programmes and learning reviews. Learning and development is delivered face-to-face, online or in an e-learning / briefing format.

A comprehensive, and extended list of thirty-three courses were offered during 2023/24, with 642 attendees from a wide range of agencies. Data from the 2023/24 programme of learning and development showed that:

- ◆ **97% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that training met its learning outcomes.**
- ◆ **97% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that they understood how to apply the learning in their day-to-day role**
- ◆ **92% of all attendees felt the style of delivery enhanced their experience of the event**

Attendee evaluation included actions they intended to take as a result of the learning. A selection is included below:



Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool:

“Not allow my own personal judgements to cloud thinking around safeguarding. Use the toolkit before making referrals. Use the Brook website for resources.”

An Introduction to Keeping Children Safe Online:

“1. Speak to the young people I work with about screen time and the impact this will have on them and their babies. 2. Develop a facilitator on online safety/screen time for the team to use to support conversations on this topic. 3. Ask more detailed questions around online safety as I now have a better knowledge and understanding myself.”

Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People :

“Threshold Chart will be printed and laminated and put on our office wall for ease of reference, I will refer to this every time a concern is raised by a staff member before submitting any referral to see where it fits. I will aim to have more open and honest discussions directly with my tenants where I have concerns. I will be looking at our safeguarding policies and procedures with my line manager to make sure they are appropriate and accurate and in line with guidance and legislation.”

Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People:

“1. Using the Isle of Wight threshold chart more effectively in decision making regarding referrals. 2. Read and refer to the IOW Neglect Toolkit to gain a deeper and broader understanding of what constitutes neglect. 3. Complete the Brook Traffic Light System training to gain a better understanding of appropriate sexual behaviour for different age groups.”

Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children:

“We will add a discrete section for MET (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) to

the safeguarding section of our weekly briefing in SEN Assessment and Review. I will deliver a MET update of the key messages to the staff in the SEN Assessment and Review Team. I have a greater knowledge of MET which will support the SEN Panel being used as a mechanism for identifying children who are reported to be at risk of being MET.”

Understanding, Identifying and Responding to Neglect:

“1- I have refreshed my way of thinking that we focus on strength-based support and restorative work. 2- I will explore the toolkit and read and share the revised strategy where necessary. 3- I have taken into my practice the points that we must not become de-sensitised with cases where neglect is seen as 'their norm' and I will explore how my role is placed within the 'revolving door' patterns.”

Understanding, Identifying and Responding to Neglect:

“Staff will know how/where to access the strategy and toolkit. Attendance at the training was included into the school's safeguarding action plan for this year. Information will be delivered to all school staff through weekly safeguarding questions.”

An Introduction to a Family Approach:

“Be more inclusive with the main and wider family and or connected people. Recognising the need to work with all members of the family to influence change and therefore improve outcomes for children. Explore the neglect toolkit for resources I can use especially "The day in the life" look at the one on disability.”

Child Exploitation – As a health professional what do I need to know?

“Keeping in mind behavioural changes in young people that may indicate child exploitation. Using the CPI (Community Partnership Information) form to share information. Completing the CERAF (Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework) when concerns of child exploitation.”



DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS CONFERENCE

In June 2023, the IOWSCP held a Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) conference. This consisted of a full online day with multi-agency representatives providing presentations and a half day, in person, interactive workshop.

Content included:

- ➔ Understanding the referral process and the role of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- ➔ Prevent referrals; The role of the DSL in multi-agency information sharing
- ➔ A multi-agency response to child sexual abuse
- ➔ The importance of understanding and listening to non-verbal communication
- ➔ Responding to child-on-child abuse in education settings
- ➔ Experiencing children's online experience post Covid

69 Designated Safeguarding Leads from across the Island attended



PARTNER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS

Partner agencies were asked to provide information in answer to the following questions, related to the work of IOWSCP and multi-agency partnership working:

- 1) How do the workstreams of the IOWSCP support your agency in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing?
- 2) Can you evidence how IOWSCP learning and development opportunities have impacted directly on a) Safeguarding practice and b) outcomes for children and families
- 3) How do you ensure that learning from the workstreams of the IOWSCP is disseminated and embedded within your organisation?
- 4) How have you used feedback from children and families to inform and develop safeguarding practices?

BARNARDO'S

At Barnardo's, our frontline workers complete relevant IOWSCP training. A direct impact on practice has been seen on the appropriate submissions of CPI forms and CERAFs - children and young people at risk of exploitation have been identified and support provided. IOWSCP toolkits are referenced in team meetings and are used in workshops



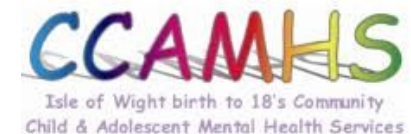
with parents, for example, sharing of ICON and Safe Sleep resources with new/expectant parents. Barnardo's workers signpost parents to the toolkits and information following conversations and posters advertising these materials are also displayed in prominent places in family centres.

Frontline workers reference toolkit resources and threshold charts when sharing concerns via IARFs (Inter Agency Referral Forms) with social care colleagues, ensuring concerns are evidence based and supported by research. Frontline workers are now taking a more child centred approach when writing IARFs.

Strategic leads from Barnardo's are often involved in multi-agency audits, and learning from audits is fed back to frontline workers. Any changes to ways of working are implemented with the learning from the audit as the rationale for change.

Partnership working is key to the family hubs model, one which the Barnardo's team are trained in at induction, team meetings and supervision to being the key to the success of the team around the family approach.

CAMHS (CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE)



IOWSCP strategies and toolkits are shared with staff regularly to ensure knowledge and compliance. The team at CAMHS and Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) have accessed learning and development opportunities and the feedback is that staff find this extremely useful and informative and has impacted their practice.

Within the NHS we have a learning lessons forum where incidents and concerns are discussed, and good practice shared.

The CAMHS Children and Young People Services Cluster Lead is a member of the IOWSCP Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup and participates in the IOWSCP multi-agency auditing programme. This helps to develop positive relationships between services and enables learning identified through them to be shared, including in other forums.

EDUCATION INCLUSION SERVICE (EIS)

Staff report the thresholds chart has been useful to consider when assessing level of risk/concern and ensure consistency of language when making referrals and speaking with other agencies. Schools have also valued the multi-agency coproduction of educational neglect advice.

IOWSCP learning and development is regularly promoted to all IOW education settings, including early years. Through Ofsted inspections in 2023-24, no concerns were raised regarding safeguarding. Furthermore, no safeguarding concerns were noted through Local Authority quality assurance processes.

As part of the 157/175 safeguarding in education audit, schools identified learning and development opportunities that were needed. These were reported to the IOWSCP Workforce Development subgroup and specific courses linked to these needs were promoted directly. The verification visits that quality assure the 157/175 safeguarding in education audit demonstrated direct examples of IOWSCP resources, such as supporting resources within toolkits and guidance for assessing levels of risk and concern were core documents for designated safeguarding leads.

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Workstreams of the IOWSCP provide guidance and clarity to HIWFRS

personnel who work with children and young people and support HIWFRS to ensure our actions are appropriate and proportionate. This is relevant for the safeguarding adolescent workstreams.



HIWFRS safeguarding procedures and guidance documents are developed in accordance with IOWSCP documents.

Guidance provided by the IOWSCP 'Safeguarding Adolescents' toolkit assisted HIWFRS to develop a self-harm toolkit which support our Children and Young People (CYP) staff to support the young people on our Prince's Trust and Cadet programme with self-harming behaviour and provide guidance on signposting and managing discussions with parents/carers and onward referrals where appropriate.

HIWFRS mandatory level 1 and level 2 safeguarding training is in accordance with guidance outlined by the IOWSCP.

Other training provided by IOWSCP is regularly promoted to and accessed by key HIWFRS personnel who work with children and young people and supports them to build their skills and knowledge in specific areas, such as Brook traffic light tool; Family approach to parental mental health, Domestic abuse & Substance misuse; Safeguarding adolescents.

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

IOWSCP multi-agency audits allow us as an organisation to regularly review practice and improve performance.



Officers from the Education Partnership Team have been working with neighbourhood teams and schools to look at how we educate and prevent in a number of areas including exploitation, online safety and knife crime. The

details are shared with the partnership which allows joint working to overcome barriers and challenges within education settings. We have also worked alongside education partners in a multi-agency effort to improve school attendance.

We work closely to support training initiatives from police to partners and we are afforded opportunities to train partners around key issues such as Community Partnership Information and Information Sharing Guidance. This helps us reach a wider audience and enables important messages to be easily disseminated to all partner agencies.

The Constabulary promote and encourage IOWSCP training opportunities to teams and supervisors. Officers attending sessions are encouraged to disseminate learning at team briefings/meetings. Other workstreams such as toolkits, one-minute guides and other helpful guidance produced by the IOWSCP is added to our “Safeguarding A-Z” intranet site for ease of access by frontline staff and, again, all staff are regularly reminded during training of how to access this.

The Constabulary is a key stakeholder in several multi-agency boards and subgroups and are active members of multi-agency audits. The partnership encourages sharing of information and ideas and promotes a culture of organisational review and reflection. We have collectively reviewed the CERAF form and process with a view to improve the number of agencies completing them and the content of the form. Through the strong partnership network, we have been able to encourage the sharing of information through the CPI process and have seen some recent successes with the increase of these coming through for the Island.

We have also created a specific post of “Continuous Improvement and Partnership Development Officer” within the MASH. This officer liaises closely with all partners and attends many of the subgroups above. The officer then uses these close links with partners to develop training to improve partnership working and understanding. Both the National Police Chiefs Council and the

College of Policing have cited this as best practice for partnership working.

ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

The Child Sexual Abuse Strategy supports our staff to work in a coordinated way to help prevent child

sexual abuse, by enhancing the recognition, protection and assistance provided to victims, survivors and their families. The strategy and toolkit support staff to understand, recognise and respond to the immediate needs and risks and encourages staff to develop the courage to contemplate difficult scenarios, identify potential signs of abuse, and engage in challenging conversations.

The Neglect Strategy, toolkit and thresholds chart support our staff to recognise and respond to children and families suffering from the impact of neglect. We use the tools and thresholds chart in teaching and supervision. The strategy supports partnership working to have a consistent and collective response to all children who are at risk from the impact of neglect.

The Exploitation and Extra Familiar Harm Strategy and Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy support the safeguarding team to guide staff. We have a robust Paediatric Liaison Service which scrutinises hospital attendances, ensuring that vulnerable children are safeguarded, and that information is shared in order to keep them safe.

The IARF, CERAF, Threshold chart and CPI documents form part of all our training and supervision. We receive numerous calls for advice from all services in the acute and community services and regularly use the threshold chart to guide staff and advise about the use of CERAF and CPI forms.

The Section 11 audit offers the Trust an opportunity to really scrutinise our safeguarding practices, it gives us the opportunity to celebrate areas of good



practice and explore the areas where improvements are needed.

The Safeguarding Children Team are fully involved in the Learning Inquiry Group and any learning events that are generated from this source; we also support all the audits held by the partnership.

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (HLOWICB)



The IOW Integrated Care Board (ICB) place-based is committed to safeguarding children and young people on the Isle of Wight. The ICB supported the development, implementation, and monitoring of business plans, have supported the development of workstreams, strategies and toolkits and implementation within health settings, including primary care.

The Section 11 audit gave the ICB the opportunity to benchmark itself against its legal requirements. The Section 11 audit standards are included within the safeguarding standards for the NHS provider contracts.

The wider HLOWICB undertook a Primary Care Extended General Practice Section 11 Audit in this reporting year and the findings were shared with the IOWSCP. This included standards for adult safeguarding and reinforced the 'Think Family' approach. The results for island practices were consistent with those for the wider system and provided assurance on child safeguarding processes and knowledge.

In addition:

- The strategies and toolkits developed by the IOWSCP are reflected in training of staff within primary care, NHS community services and acute hospital services.
- The Designated professionals and the Named GP for Safeguarding

Children worked closely with the Education Inclusion Service to improve outcomes for children missing from school due to ill health. The feedback received from education colleagues has been positive and the work has been highlighted as successful.

- The Named GP for Safeguarding Children continues to provide summaries of findings and recommendations on IOWSCP audits to primary care which are also discussed in primary care supervision sessions.
- The Named GP has worked with the police to develop and deliver child sexual exploitation training to GPs on the Island and across HIPS in 2023 as this was highlighted as a training need in the Extended Section 11 Audit.
- There is work being undertaken with HSCP and members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnerships Neglect Task and Finish group to develop a training resource for frontline staff to explore when obesity becomes a safeguarding concern.
- Primary Care Supervision sessions to raise awareness of protocols and toolkits, discuss complex cases and promote learning and multi-agency working.
- Safeguarding children's week was supported by the Designated professionals and Named GP.

The Designated Nurses for children and adults are members of the IOWSCP workforce development subgroup. The ICB safeguarding team ensures that learning and development opportunities are shared with primary care and NHS providers through the ICB newsletter.

Primary Care: The Named GPs for children and adults lead on training and supervision of GPs and Primary Care staff on the Island. IOWSCP priorities help to shape the safeguarding training and supervision sessions. New resources such as toolkits are brought to the attention of GPs. Case discussions at primary care safeguarding supervision sessions and ad hoc

advice to GPs all help to identify gaps in learning and system processes, which guide further work with safeguarding partners.

INCLUSION IOW

The Inclusion team utilises several strategies and toolkits including the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit; Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and Toolkit; Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Toolkit; Child Exploitation Strategy and Toolkit; Safeguarding Infants Toolkit and Adopting a Family Approach Toolkit. We also use IOWSCP resources (IARF, CERAF, Threshold Chart and CPI form) and briefings from multi-agency audits.



Members of the Young People Team have attended multiple training courses covering a wide range of safeguarding themes and/or utilised guidance from IOWSCP learning and development opportunities. These have impacted directly on information sharing with other agencies (including Resilience Around Family Team (RAFT), Children's Social Care, Youth Justice Service, mental health services, health agencies) and improved referral pathways (e.g. maternity's digital system) and utilisation of targeted outreach, thereby improving safeguarding processes. It has also given practitioners the confidence to have challenging conversations with family members leading to better outcomes with children and families.

ISLE OF WIGHT CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

As a core safeguarding partner of the IOWSCP, Isle of Wight Children's Services has a key role in supporting the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Service leads within Children's Services



are represented at all subgroups, and chair the Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup and Learning Inquiry Group. We also strive to prioritise attendance at multi-agency audits, chairing when required.

Attendance at the Partnership Board and subgroups holds many benefits, supporting continued improvement in working together to safeguard children across the Isle of Wight. It improves partnership working and relationships, providing an understanding of agency priorities and any critical pressures experienced. This was evident following the cessation of the 10-year partnership between Hampshire County Council and the Isle of Wight Children's Services; we have been able to inform partners of the transitional arrangements and developments in real time. This has been crucial as a new Children's Service Directorate leadership team has been established. There remain key service elements that continue to be delivered by Hampshire Children's Services via Service Level Agreements. The latter includes our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. Partners have offered (and continue to offer support, scrutiny and insight to future planning arrangements.

Children Social Care ensure the use of multi-agency resources and toolkits are embedded across the service, to inform practitioners subject matter expertise and development, through individual/group training, reflective sessions, and supervision; to inform assessments of families regarding assessing level of need; to ensure practice is unified across partner agencies. These include the neglect and child sexual abuse toolkits, and local procedures and protocols such as the HIPS Unborn Baby Safeguarding protocol. The neglect strategy and toolkit, for example, is used service wide to support frontline practitioners in identifying levels of risk, and resources such as the 'Day in my life' tools provide them with practical tools when working directly with children. These support our frontline practitioners with consideration and understanding of the child's voice and their lived experience.

Multi-agency audits are a valuable source of learning and help to strengthen practice both within Children's Services and across multi-agency partnership

working. Multi-agency auditing provides a useful opportunity to reflect on what is working well and what can be further improved to support families and protect children and young people. Examples of this were evident in both the Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent, and The multi-agency response to child sexual abuse thematic multi-agency audits.

ISLE OF WIGHT YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE (YJS)

The Youth Justice Service works with children and families from the ages of 10 to 18, accordingly the workstreams used are dependent on this context. The toolkits we routinely use to support outcomes include:

Child Exploitation Strategy and Toolkit: The Child Exploitation (including harmful practices) workstream is fundamental to our practice. Child exploitation can bring children into the criminal justice system, and we need to balance the risk to others and the needs of the child. For example, we routinely complete the CERAF assessment tool and incorporate into our own assessments. This workstream is key to having successful outcomes. It supports us in planning with the child and family on how their needs are addressed. The child exploitation toolkit supports the completion of MASH referrals ensuring that as much information is included to support colleagues in making decisions and is used to inform our assessments of children and families.

Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and Toolkit: Working with and safeguarding adolescents is at the heart of what we do. The YJS overall objectives are to prevent offending, reoffending and safeguard children. Many of our staff have considerable experience assessing, planning, and working with this age group. We use this toolkit mostly when the safeguarding risk is not within the home.

Serious Violence Toolkit: The new toolkit will be used by YJS staff to assist us in addressing serious violence on the Isle of Wight. We work with the Crown

Prosecution Service and partner agencies to ensure that we are compliant with the Serious Violence duty.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health function that covers both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight continues to be fully engaged in the IOWSCP. This includes, where appropriate, contributing and bringing a population health perspective to the development of strategies and toolkits, completing the Section 11 audit and meeting with the IOWSCP Partnership Team on a quarterly basis to enable effective Public Health input. Completing these tasks and participating in relevant task and finish groups enables the identification of where work could potentially benefit from Public Health expertise.

The public health function commissions a range of specialist areas including public health nursing, sexual health, substance misuse, domestic abuse services, weight management, and smoking cessation services. Providers of these services are expected (through their respective commissioning arrangements) to enable their staff to access and use IOWSCP resources such as the above listed strategies and toolkits. For example, the public health nursing services routinely use and comply with the Unborn Baby Safeguarding protocol, bruising protocol, ICON and Every Sleep Counts. Safeguarding and embedding learning is monitored through robust quarterly quality reporting through Contract Quality Review Meetings as standard agenda items.

SOLENT NHS TRUST

Through our workstreams and engagement with the IOWSCP our practitioners are provided with learning opportunities for service development. Staff have attended various courses facilitated by the partnership as part of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Updates, new knowledge, and reflections on



training are shared via group safeguarding supervision, this provides talking points and additional learning for the team.

Staff members use the strategies when decision making about the children and families they support. They use them independently in their work and are encouraged to revisit them when seeking supervision on challenging cases. The resources available aid safeguarding work. Threshold charts afford practitioners the opportunity to look objectively at the assessment they have made and decide on the course of action most suited to the child and their family. It allows for objective decision making rather than working with an emotional response and reduces unnecessary referrals.

The toolkits offer excellent resources and training for experienced practitioner and students alike and are a usual aid for safeguarding supervision.

Staff take part in multi-agency learning and this is disseminated to staff one to ones if the audit highlights any concerns, and overall themes and learning is shared at our professional development meetings or clinical voice groups.

IOWSCP strategies inform practice within the sexual health services. In service we use a risk assessment tool, and the strategies inform this. They have provided clinicians with the narrative and education as to why they are asking specific safeguarding questions in their assessments. The toolkits and resources help staff recognise the complexity and interconnective nature of child sexual abuse, identify barriers for disclosures and use an approach which allows them to build trust and a rapport.

YOU TRUST

Staff from the You Trust, including Paragon, attend local learning events and share resources and good practice. We use the IARF to alert social care of any safeguarding concerns and use the threshold chart to guide



us when making referrals.

Staff have an awareness of the IOWSCP strategies and know how to access these should they need more detailed information for particular cases.

Training offered by the IOWSCP, such as MAPPA has been particularly useful. MAPPA is often an acronym that is shared around services and whilst there is a general understanding of the principle of MAPPA, the training was most informative in assisting understanding of the process/dynamic/management and indeed any barriers in utilising a MAPPA and the multi-agency approach to accessing and providing information with regards to risk management. Training such as on the MASH also provided the opportunity to refresh the principles and processes of multi-agency working and ensure staff support that process effectively.



DISSEMINATION OF LEARNING

IOWSCP agencies use a range of mechanisms to disseminate learning, including:

- Practitioner briefings that summarise learning, recommendations and key messages for practitioners, are shared across agencies and discussed in team/manager meetings.
- Key multi-agency information is shared at the Designated Safeguarding Leads Annual Conference
- Managers reflect on IOWSCP resources such as practical resources in toolkits, threshold charts and indicators of neglect threshold charts, and use this information in supervision sessions.
- Multi-agency learning and development opportunities are promoted across agencies.
- When highlighted in audits/learning reviews/agency representative will direct their agency/departments to IOWSCP resources/training.
- IOWSCP Board and Education subgroup newsletters and the IOWSCP website are promoted across agencies
- Information from IOWSCP Board/subgroup meetings is shared widely across partnership agencies. i.e. Headteachers Forum; Designated Safeguarding Lead Network meetings; standing agenda items at Barnardo's biweekly locality management, NHS lunchtime learning sessions, IOW NHS Trust joint safeguarding strategic group; Solent safeguarding steering group
- Feeding back information to community action to share amongst other Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Care Alliance (HIVCA).

- Including links to practitioner briefings/newsletters/local procedures and guidance within own organisation newsletters
- Feedback from IOWSCP training is shared within teams.
- Commissioned services, such as those commissioned by public health routinely report safeguarding practice within quarterly Contract Quality Review Meetings. Standard agendas include items such as impact of learning, safeguarding supervision, case studies, attendance at relevant safeguarding related meetings, service user and staff voice.



EMBEDDING THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Our partners and relevant agencies confirm that they use a wide range of strategies to embed the work of the partnership. These include:

- Participation in multi-agency audits
- Audit recommendations for practice development are monitored through the PQA subgroup and via internal audits/meetings and further multi-agency audits.
- IOWSCP practice resources such as case studies and example scenarios are used in internal training and in supervision.
- Some agencies have learning and development leads who facilitate single agency learning and development forums or build IOWSCP resources into their course content.
- Ensuring frontline staff attend multi-agency training.
- The Solent Safeguarding steering group meets every eight weeks, chaired by the Trusts Chief Nurse and Allied Health professionals; this provides a platform where safeguarding activity, inclusive of IOWSCP, is disseminated across the Trust and senior leadership.
- In some agencies, “Safeguarding Champions” are established with an aim of the role to disseminate information and enable a network of a culture of learning.
- A joint agency workshop facilitated by the ICB Designated Nurse for Safeguarding was undertaken with an aim to promote improved pathway communication between teams, to facilitate relationship formation, and understanding of each other’s role to ensure better working relationships to improve the safety and quality of the service delivered to children and their families.
- Single agency auditing to see if learning with regards to practice development has been embedded.



CHILDREN'S VOICE

AGENCY	AREA	CHILDREN'S VOICE	AND INFLUENCE
CAMHS	We collect feedback from children and parents in regards to their experience of CAMHS.	<p><i>"I just wanted to say thank you so much for all your help and support. You really are making a difference and we are very grateful."</i></p> <p><i>"It has been a pleasure and you have been fantastic. I've never seen a better example of working together. My child is lucky to have you fighting in her corner."</i></p> <p><i>"She showed me different ways/ activities to cope as well as having a really positive environment. It was all amazing and it has really helped me to know how to calm myself down and not worry as much as I did before."</i></p>	When we receive concerns or complaints, we make amendments to the service/ practice.
BARNARDO'S	Currently supporting the partnership gather feedback from parents via a survey about ICON and Safe sleep.	<p><u>Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Family support service:</u> <i>"I cannot find the right words to say how wonderful the ladies are. They are so supportive, understanding and caring. For families suddenly finding themselves living through a nightmare, these ladies offer a listening ear and explain how processes for visiting loved ones work. I always feel they have our best interests at heart, they are non-judgemental and just all round fantastic."</i></p> <p><u>Family Hubs:</u> <i>"It has changed massively, my relationship has improved a lot thanks to this course. I have changed also the way I am towards my kids."</i></p> <p><u>Support for neurodiverse families:</u> <i>"This course has made me feel more confident as a parent. I feel like I'm not alone now. When my child is being testing, I think back to the course, take a deep breath and use what I have learnt to help both me and my child diffuse a situation that would once be a nightmare."</i></p> <p><i>"This course has been amazing. Life changing to my approach of parenting. Positive praise, building confidence, and realising that some of my parenting has come from the way I was brought up and I've learned to parent in a more positive way and made a change."</i></p>	<p>We capture lots of feedback from children and parents across our services, this is reviewed in team meetings and amendments like doing more of something that is celebrated, ensuring consistency or learning from feedback is continually done and themes monitored quarterly.</p> <p>Most of the feedback reinforces approaches and allows learning and reflection on why we do what we do, and the child's or parents lived experience in that.</p>

AGENCY	AREA	CHILDREN'S VOICE	AND INFLUENCE
EDUCATION INCLUSION SERVICE	<p>We collect children and young people's views as part of developing the Children and Young People's plan, engagement activities as part of the school place planning and development of our Education Strategy.</p> <p>Evaluations from parents to review our working arrangements and identify areas of best practice and areas that require development.</p>	<p><i>"You worked so well with us as a family and spent extra time submitting information to the panel to help my child get back into a form of school having refused for over a year due to bullying and other issues."</i></p> <p><i>"She has been an invaluable support over the past 9 months. She has listened to us, shown understanding and hasn't judged us for the situation we have found ourselves in. She has advocated for our child and sought help from different agencies for him. I feel sad that she will no longer be working with us and I can't thank her enough for all she has done for our family."</i></p>	<p>Developing a new Children's and Young People's Plan</p> <p>Developing a new Education Strategy</p> <p>To inform the school place planning work</p>
INCLUSION IOW	<p>Collected by CareOpinion or verbally to inform service development.</p>	<p><i>"I felt the worker listened and didn't judge me. They understood why I had done the things I did and helped me to turn things round."</i></p> <p><i>"I knew the information I passed on about my child would be used to keep him safe, not to get him into trouble- it really helped knowing I wasn't alone in stopping him from the path he was on"</i></p>	<p>Strengthened practices regarding involvement of family members in safeguarding where appropriate.</p>
HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE	<p>Feedback / evaluation of the experiences of the young people taking part in our 12 week Prince's Trust Team programme – outcomes of the programme; experiences of the programme activities; experiencing of young people when safeguarding concerns were identified or disclosed whilst on the programme.</p>	<p><i>"The leaders always helped me with the problem and always kept me informed with anything."</i></p> <p><i>"The staff were respectful of my concerns and ensured I was comfortable with the outcome."</i></p> <p><i>"I felt like my feelings were valid and I definitely felt like I had a support system."</i></p> <p><i>"They were very supportive and made a safe place for us to be honest and open. They made sure to keep me aware of what's going on and made sure to ask me first."</i></p>	<p>The information enables us to review our practices regarding safeguarding young people who are on the Prince's Trust programme to ensure they are supported, listened to, kept informed and are safe.</p>

AGENCY	AREA	CHILDREN'S VOICE	AND INFLUENCE
<p>IOW NHS TRUST</p>	<p>The IOW NHS Trust has a Youth Forum which harnesses the power of young people's voices. The forum meets every 2 months, for 2 hours in the evening.</p> <p>Any maternity complaints that have a safeguarding element are reviewed by the Named Midwife for Safeguarding Children, and families are offered the chance to feedback their experiences in face to face meetings. Views of the family are used to inform future safeguarding training and practice.</p>	<p>Topics discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to get mental health support when you don't want to involve your parents or the GP • How to get sexual health support without informing parents or GP • Improving the environment on ward – especially for those who are here in a mental health crisis / or have neurodiversity 	<p><u>The Youth Forum</u>: Changes in meal offer and options; changes to the décor inside the ward-inspired by the children; outdoor space - plans developed with the young people; sexual health services invited to talk about their service; increased diversity and representation to the forum.</p> <p><u>Maternity</u>: Feedback from maternity patients around staff's explanations of safeguarding referrals has led to improved training and individual supervision with specific staff to improve confidence in explaining processes to parents and encouraging parents to engage with support available during the antenatal period.</p>



AGENCY	CHILDREN'S VOICE	AND INFLUENCE
INTEGRATED CARE BOARD	Doctor for the Isle of Wight has worked with the IOW youth forum to gain the children and young people's voice within the work she does for the NHS Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity transformation work – support for young people • Neurodiversity – improved environment • Improved resources for young people – Wi-Fi and food • Improved access to mental health and sexual health • Participation in Youth Voice Conference • Work on transport safety • Young person chosen for National CYP Transformation Programme Board
PUBLIC HEALTH	The Public Health team routinely engage with the local community through the Insight and Engagement team for specific pieces of work to gain insight that is used to inform service planning and system thinking across the Isle of Wight. An example of this approach would be the First 1001 days review which included the voice of families and has led to specific key pieces of work.	Information is used in a wide variety of ways including to inform transformation plans, routine continual improvement of service delivery, identifying local needs and supporting bids. For example, Public Health through Partnership for Education, Attainment and Children's Health (PEACH) use data gathered from school surveys to children and young people (including #BeeWell) to identify local needs and inform practice.
HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY	We have worked closely with the Youth Commission and the Youth Independent Advisory Group to support and influence our practices particularly around how we can improve the way we interact and communicate with children and young people who are arrested and taken into custody.	We have created a video book to provide to children when in custody. The book was developed with the Youth Commission and the Youth Independent Advisory Group who gave their opinions of the content. The book was also reviewed by university students to provide further feedback and advice on changes that could improve it.

#BeeWell

#BeeWell is a youth-centred, wellbeing programme. In autumn 2023, 1428 young people in years 8 and 10, from nine Isle of Wight secondary schools took part in a survey which sought to understand what factors influence young people's wellbeing and what makes them thrive. The survey was based on a range of wellbeing drivers: health & routines; hobbies & entertainment; school; environment & society; relationships; wellbeing support. The findings from this survey will be shared with the Partnership in 2024/25 and the Isle of Wight will seek to become a coalition partner of #BeeWell. [HIPS #BeeWell Headline Findings Survey 2023](#)

CASE STUDIES

INCLUSION IOW

A young person open to a number of agencies due to offending and safeguarding concerns was referred to Inclusion for support due to mis-using a number of substances. Their relationship with their family was deteriorating due to their behaviours and they were not engaged in any meaningful activity. The Inclusion worker gained trust of the young person and they made disclosures of involvement in drug supply. He was also observed by the worker having interactions with car drivers outside his house. The worker submitted intelligence on a Community Partnership Information (CPI) form and used disclosures to inform completion of a Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF). He also shared information with other professionals, and the child was discussed at a Missing, Exploited, Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC). One year later the young person has been successfully supported, is no longer involved in the supply of drugs and has remained at the family home. Relationships have significantly improved, and the young person is now in employment.

BARNARDO'S

“Thinking the unthinkable” and the risk of child sexual exploitation.

Through a case supervision discussion, the worker was encouraged to adopt a “think the unthinkable” approach to work with a child and this led to consideration of whether grooming was taking place. There was some challenging of possible gender bias as well. The worker was able to explain to a parent that a referral to Children’s Services was needed. The worker was sensitive in what was shared so as not to alarm the parent but to reassure. The child later shared with the worker that they were thankful that their parent had taken action as they were not comfortable with the situation but felt unable to speak out. To our knowledge there has not been any disclosure of sexual abuse however as a result of exploitation training and learning from the

thematic audit into child sexual abuse and the resources in the child sexual abuse toolkit, workers were supported to look at this situation through a different lens, to challenge gender bias and to think the unthinkable.

CAMHS

A practitioner submitted an Inter Agency Referral Form after completing the level 3 safeguarding training. This was to highlight issues of inappropriate housing and on-going concerns where the perpetrator of previous abuse was still causing issues for the young person and provided a mental health perspective on the impact for the young person. The young person was in agreement with the submission of the Inter Agency Referral Form.

EDUCATION INCLUSION SERVICE

Neglect ‘Day in my life’ tool - “I’ve used ‘A Day in my Life’ tool to support work with parents to identify and document needs and to gain an insight into the child’s lived experience. It is also used to support the formulation of an Early Help plan. Parents have a copy of this and agreed that those involved in Early Help may have this information prior to the Team Around the Family meeting. The information collated will help to provide focus on priorities for work/ support and could be used as a ‘work in progress’ measure for reference alongside the Early Help plan.”

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE (HIWFRS)

Guidance provided by the IOWSCP regarding mental health and self-harm for adolescents assisted HIWFRS to develop a self-harm toolkit. This supports relevant HIWFRS staff to support the young people on our Prince’s Trust and Cadet programmes with self-harming behaviours and provides guidance on managing discussions with parents / guardians and onward referrals where appropriate.

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

The Named GP for safeguarding children worked closely with the Education Inclusion Service to support GPs in understanding the reasons why children have disrupted attendance and to promote cooperation between Primary Care and the Local Authority in this area. This work has been very successful, and advice given on a case by case to GPs. There has been a significant reduction in the number of letters being written by GPs in support of school absence for medical reasons and improvement in the quality of information provided by GPs to the 'Children Missing Education' team.

Prior to the Child Sexual Abuse audit, the audit proforma was shared by the Named GP with GP practices for the 15 cases identified. Through this process it was highlighted that some GPs were not receiving conference invitations, minutes, and actions from conferences. The Named GP has worked with Lead Independent Reviewing Officer to address this gap and a new system is now in place which included Primary Care in the distribution of Child Protection Conference minutes and invites.

The Designated Nurse and Named GP engaged and supported the audit. Advice and items to consider were shared with professionals working with the young people identified for the audit.

IOW NHS TRUST

A vulnerable family with parents who had learning disabilities struggled to engage with safe sleep messages provided during the antenatal period. The midwife used the resources contained within the Safeguarding Infants toolkit to provide a resource pack for the parents to refer to if they forgot any of the key points. By using this as an aide memoire the parents felt confident with the safest way to put their baby down to sleep by the time their baby was born.

SOLENT NHS TRUST

16-year-old "Claire" (pseudonym) attended clinic supported by a paediatric nurse just before being discharged from the children's ward following a stay as

an inpatient due to self-harm. "Claire" was initially seen alone in the sexual health clinic. At the start of the conversation "Claire" appeared extremely anxious. The sexual health nurse explained the service offer and what to expect at the appointment, to include screening, and contraception options available.

So what? Time was given to "Claire" to ensure she felt comfortable and safe in the clinic. In time, through the risk assessment tool (which forms part of the CERAF), Claire gave answers which indicated she had a complex social history and suffered childhood trauma – through familial sexual abuse. Her current relationship with an older male appeared unhealthy with an obvious imbalance of power.

A referral to Children's Social Care was completed, with the agreement of "Claire". Part of this included "Claire's" voice.

The nurse noted how "Claire" was now going to engage with talking therapies as she said her hospital stay has shown her how this can help manage her feelings.

What happened? The outcome of the referral ensured the allocated social worker was aware of her current relationship with the older male. "Claire" completed 6 sessions with the Sexual Health Practitioner and shared that she feels more equipped to have a voice in future relationships and asked if she could come back to clinic if she wanted to ask more questions.

"Claire" had shared how she thought she was always destined to have a boyfriend who was as she described 'in charge' and how talking about control and coercion she was able to identify behaviours she had experienced. Claire saw herself as 'someone to have sex with' and knew little about consent and choice.

Learning: The toolkits were accessible and gave the nurse conversation starters- promoting professional curiosity, which in effect allowed Claire to feel comfortable in being honest and open, sharing how she felt and being heard.

MATTERS RAISED TO THE PARTNERSHIP AND RESOLVED

MATTERS RAISED

The first phase evaluation that sought to establish how well embedded the ICON and 'Every Sleep Counts' programmes are in relation to safeguarding infants, demonstrated almost two thirds of practitioners had not heard about these programmes, and of those who had, half had not used the materials or messages with families.

ACTION TAKEN

- Safeguarding Infants e-learning promoted to all partnership members and added to the education and board newsletters. Professionals leads from relevant agencies to signpost training to their staff.
- Practitioner briefing from Unborn/Newborn baby multi-agency audit shared.
- ICON and Every Sleep Counts materials added to the IOWSCP parent/carer website pages, including advertising 'Dadpad' in the ICON resources. Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish group members promoted within their teams to signpost parents to.
- ICON leaflet updated and 3000 leaflets shared in IOW Family Hubs, 0-19 Service Team, GP surgeries and the Midwifery department at St Mary's Hospital, Newport
- Developed a Safeguarding Infants toolkit, combining Every sleep Counts and ICON toolkits
- Parental survey on awareness of ICON and safe sleep messages

OUTCOME/IMPACT

Second phase evaluation practitioner survey show a 31% increase in awareness.

In first phase evaluation 47% had used the materials with families. In the second phase evaluation, 66% had. There was a 200% increase in those practitioners who felt the ICON and Every sleep Counts materials were helpful for supporting families with the key messages.

In relation to promoting the Safeguarding Infants toolkit:

"Useful for signposting new and experienced staff to revisit knowledge. I have used myself to support understanding of certain concerns and how to manage / give advice."

88% of parents surveyed were aware of the resources, with 76% finding them useful. All parents said midwives and health visitors had shared the messages and 2 responses indicated seeing the posters in the GP surgery and family centres.

MATTERS RAISED

The PQA multi-agency data analysis noted that the percentage of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan at 31st March for emotional abuse on the IOW has halved in the past two years. The IOW is almost 30% higher than national for children subject to a Child Protection Plan due to neglect.

Are we confident that physical abuse and emotional abuse are being recognised sufficiently?

Percentage of children with an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) held within 15 days from strategy meeting .

“The service are more frequently having to reschedule Child Protection Conferences due to quoracy issues. This causes delay in being able to have a full multi-agency discussion about a case and ensuring a timely response for the child and their family.”

ACTION TAKEN

The Lead Independent Reviewing Officer completed a **Child Protection Conference categorisation report in response to the Performance & Quality Assurance subgroup query** which analysed conference categorisation and explored the context around neglect being so high, both historically and currently.

An overview of all Child Protection Conferences were audited by the Lead Independent Reviewing Officer from 1st August 2023 to 31st October 2023.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

Work has taken place with all conference chairs in respect of the importance of the category reflecting the risk of significant harm for the child so that this makes sense to children and families and ensuring clarity on what needs to be addressed for the child. This does require chairs to challenge agency representatives on their view of the category and this work has evidently been taking place with the most recent benchmarking figures demonstrating that the use of neglect and emotional abuse has come more in line with statistical neighbours

The audit report detailed a breakdown of quoracy and the multi-agency attendance at child protection meetings and included whether agencies:

- Attended with a report
- Attended without a report
- Gave apologies with written information provided
- No information provided

This report is being considered by each agency and their findings and any changes will be reported to the Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup with the oversight of the Independent Chair and Scrutineer.

MATTERS RAISED

HIPS Section 11 audit theme: There is a continuing need to increase awareness and use of threshold charts and HIPS toolkits.

Just over 25% of respondents in the IOW Section 11 practitioners survey were “not sure” or said “no” about being updated by their service regarding LSCP policies, procedures and resources.



ACTION TAKEN

- Joint HSCP and IOWSCP Comms and Development subgroup established
- Safeguarding Children Week highlighting key partnership tools and resources and workforce development opportunities - all agencies were asked to support promotion of this.
- Online Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) conference in June 2023 included focus on partnership resources to support frontline practitioners assessed level of risk/harm using the threshold charts and a second in-person DSL conference workshop modelled examples of using the unidentified adults toolkit and child sexual abuse toolkit including practical resources and case studies.



OUTCOME/IMPACT

Increased multi-agency practitioner awareness of supporting resources.

Practitioner briefings are now created for all audit reports that summarise key learning and signpost key supporting resources such as associated toolkits.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WEEK

[Safeguarding Children Week 2023](#),

which ran from the 9-13 October, was developed by the HSCP and IOWSCP as an opportunity to bring together agencies and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues.

The aim for the week was to enable all organisations and individuals working with children and families to feel confident in identifying



the signs of abuse and neglect and to know how to record and respond to safeguarding concerns. The week included a variety of themes for different audiences to share, a different one being released each day.

Included in the week:

- ★ **Launch of new toolkits: Community and Voluntary Organisations; Safeguarding Infants, Child Exploitation**
- ★ **Daily messages from senior managers**
- ★ **Safeguarding Practice Development Day focusing on multi-agency training**
- ★ **A focus on useful partnership resources to be used with parents and carers**

IMPACT OF INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

The role of Independent Chair and Scrutineer is an important and valuable one to the Partnership. It ensures a clear focus on seeking assurance on the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The Independent Chair and Scrutineer also ensures that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are challenged and supported in their roles and work collaboratively to meet the safeguarding priorities identified by the partnership.

Throughout 2023-24, the Independent Chair and Scrutineer chaired the Executive Group of the IOWSCP, which is effectively the centre of the Partnership. Collectively, the Executive Group maintains effective oversight of decision making and progress. In addition, the Independent Chair and Scrutineer has carried out a range of functions:

- ✓ Chaired the Partnership Board and meetings
- ✓ Provided scrutiny for the safeguarding partners in fulfilling their statutory obligations and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements
- ✓ Scrutinised the performance management and quality assurance processes of the partnership
- ✓ Encouraged and facilitated an open culture of mutual, respectful challenge and support
- ✓ Maintained oversight of the Section 11 organisational self-assessment process responding to the Children Act 2004 (Keeping Children Safe)
- ✓ Worked with safeguarding partners and subgroup chairs to scrutinise progress, learning from multi-agency audits and review impact of the 2023/24 Business Plan
- ✓ Met with a range of partnership board members to offer scrutiny, support and challenge

The IOWSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer fulfils the same role across the four local authority areas: Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) and for the HIPS Executive which brings together the safeguarding partners across HIPS. This supports cross border working and reduces duplication for agencies that cross one or more local authority area.

The role of Independent Chair and Scrutineer has helped the safeguarding partners:

- Maintain connectivity across the partnership and has supported regular communication and safeguarding partner oversight regarding proposed organisational changes that impact across partners. In 2023/24 this included consideration of reorganisation of health providers and the ending of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Children's Services strategic partnership.
- Encourage agencies to bring the outcomes of any relevant inspections to the attention of the safeguarding partners, which promotes high support and high challenge for any improvements that are needed (including multi-agency improvements) and also the sharing of effective practice.
- Provide scrutiny to discussions and decisions in response to the updated statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children, ensuring strategic briefings for the new lead safeguarding partners.
- Support safeguarding partners to maintain oversight of issues raised within the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes collectively identifying, considering and progressing risks for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure the equitable voice of the safeguarding partners and a focus on the voice of children and young people.
- Supported assurance regarding national reports including the reports from the national panel phase 2 report: Safeguarding children with disabilities in residential settings. Children's Services and the Integrated

Care Board reported regarding the learning identified in the national report and in response to phase 1, Children's Services considered a broader cohort of children for assurance purposes.

- Facilitated the consultation with safeguarding partners and relevant agencies regarding the proposals following the decision to end of the strategic partnership between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Children's Services.
- Chaired the partners panel selection processes for Director and Service Directors of the new leadership team.



IOWSCP RESPONSE TO NATIONAL REPORTS

A report providing an update on the Isle of Wight's readiness and current compliance in respect to the nine recommendations and eight supplementary recommendations contained within the phase two report from the Child Safeguarding Review Panel Safeguarding Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Needs in Residential Settings was presented to the IOWSCP Partnership Board in October 2023. It was noted that many of the recommendations are national in scope and will require further detail or guidance nationally.

Following publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children in December 2023, the safeguarding partners undertook an initial benchmarking activity and identified the Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners. It was agreed in light of a new Director of Children's Services being appointed in February 2024, that the current Independent Chair and Scrutineer would remain in role autumn 2024, and thereafter would become the Independent Scrutineer and the new role of Partnership Chair was agreed by the lead safeguarding partners as the Director of Children's Services. The partnership arrangements will be updated during quarter 1 of 2024-25 to reflect this.

The role of education partners is embedded in the current partnership structure and the safeguarding partners are consulting on how to further strengthen the role of education partners.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024–26

In January 2024 the safeguarding partners agreed their strategic priorities for 2024-26. They mirror the themes arising throughout the work of the partnership in 2023/24. These are:

- The importance of educational engagement for every child, in particular for children with additional vulnerabilities and/or needs.
- The theme of increased complexity of need of children and families
- Keeping the resources and tools of the partnership in the line of sight of busy practitioners, making sure they are updated and used.
- Meeting the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children and taking an iterative approach to the implementation of the vision outlined in Stable Homes Built on Love.

The safeguarding partners have expressed those themes as the priorities below:

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

- Emphasis on relational safeguarding practice, confident engagement (IOW Approach, Children’s Services).
- Expanding the scrutiny of key education data relevant to safeguarding children.
- Expanding the neglect toolkit to consider parent-oriented issues.
- Gain assurance around the safeguarding workforce development needs of pastoral staff employed by schools and settings such as those roles involved in supporting attendance/engagement in education.
- Gain assurance of (and support) guidance to define the multi-agency roles and responsibilities supporting children and families to ensure educational engagement/attendance.
- 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.



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

- Emphasis on relational safeguarding practice, confident practice promoting engagement. (IOW approach, Children's Services).
- Ensure agencies working with children and families fully understand the universal and early help offer to children and families.
- Continuing to develop consistent understanding of the child's lived experience/ the voice of the child – through webinars, resources.
- Being aware of connected adults and knowing their relationship with the child.
- Ensure multi-agency colleagues know and use risk assessment/referral tools effectively; doing the basics well.
- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework.
- 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.
- Workforce development webinars and practice guidance, raising awareness of the cumulative impact of harm and the normalisation of neglect.
- Utilise a version of the day in the life tools in all toolkits to understand better the child's daily lived experience.



3: Embedding the changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

- 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).
- 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
- Promote information sharing to enable all children to achieve best outcomes.



- Focus on independent scrutiny arrangements of the partnership, defining, testing.
- Ensuring the multi-agency workforce are kept informed of changes to key services and agencies and ways of working and their own roles and responsibilities.
- Maintain a sharp focus on assurance of multi-agency safeguarding practice, during times of multi-agency change and transition.

4: Embedding and refining the work of the partnership

- 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
- Evaluation, development and refinement of partnership resources.
 - Continued increase use; accessibility; informed by frontline practitioners.
- Introduction of Safeguarding Practice Weeks, focused on workstreams underway in order to embed learning.
- Development of an induction landing page on partnership websites.



CONCLUDING STATEMENT FROM THE DELEGATED SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

As safeguarding partners, we continue to recognise the unique contribution of all the agencies and services that are part of our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. We are acutely aware of the challenges children and families and you, as practitioners supporting them, face every day. Please be assured we know the difference you make to and with our children and families. We recognise the importance of having the right organisational conditions that support effective safeguarding practice and will continue to focus on these during the coming year. We have had a number of years now of increased and sustained need for our services and we continue to work closely together to manage this collectively. This is a time for innovation and also a time for ensuring we all “do the basics well”. Supporting children and families as risks and needs first emerge, not waiting for problems to become worse before we have the conversation. Using the practice tools available to us and using them

well, such as the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework and the Inter Agency Referral Form. We all know these tools are only as useful as the quality of information we are able to share within them. So always have the conversation, that is where information sharing and understanding the child’s lived experience begins. We need to strengthen our confidence and assertiveness as a multi-agency workforce, enabling and engaging children and families in the support available, offering high support and high challenge and mirroring this approach in our work with each other. Every way round safeguarding practice is relational practice. Watch out for this core theme of all our priorities developing in 2024/25.

A genuine thank you for all your continued hard work and commitment to our Island’s children.



Ashley Whittaker
Director of Children’s Services

Isle of Wight Council



Gill Gould
Senior Clinical Quality Lead for
Primary and Community Care

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Integrated Care Board



Katherine Elsmore
Associate Director Safeguarding
and Looked After Children

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Integrated Care Board



Karen McManus
Head of Public Protection

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Constabulary



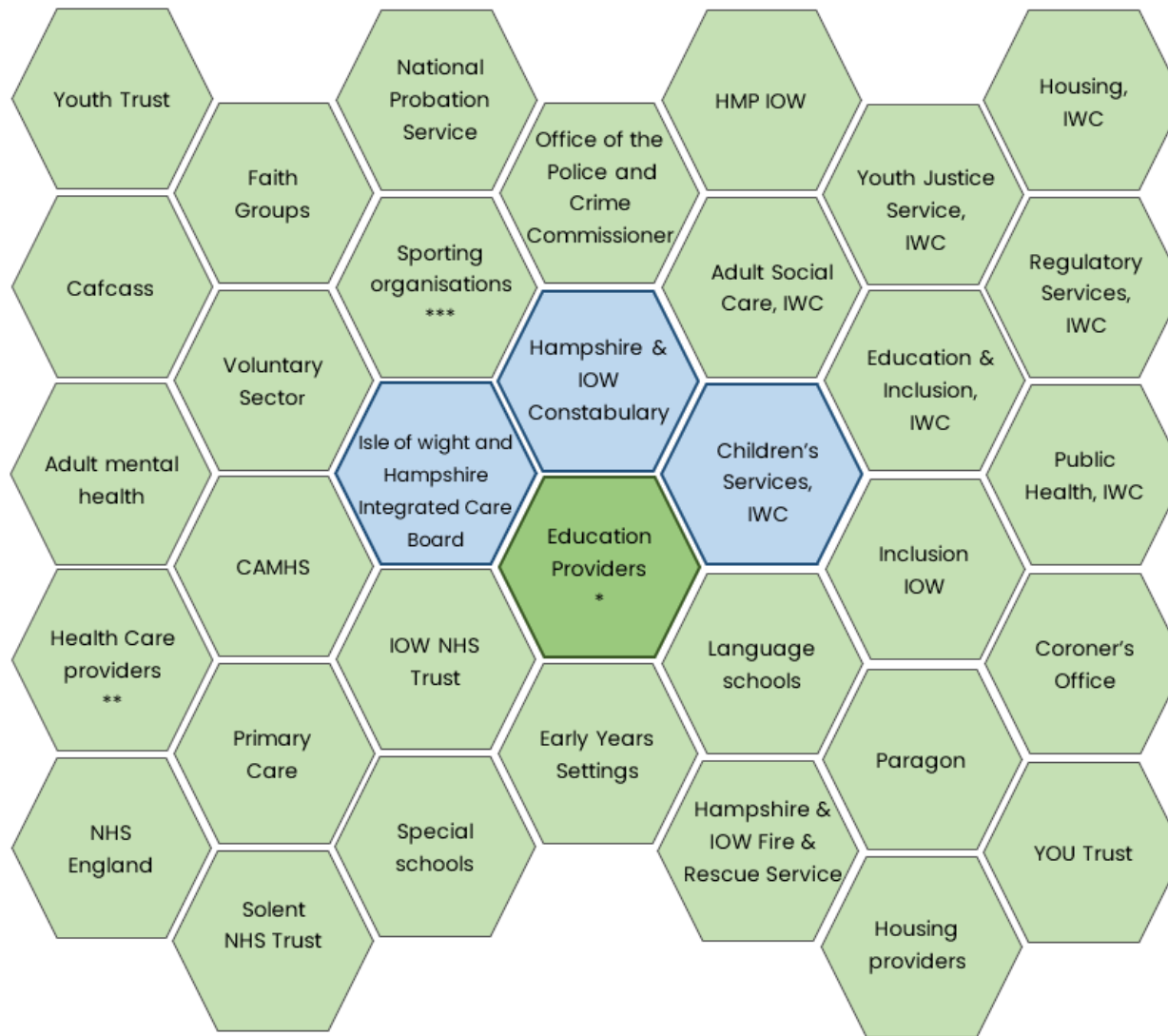
Rob Mitchell
Area Commander

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Constabulary



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT
CONSTABULARY

Relevant agencies



*Primary, Secondary, Independent, Post 16 years and special schools, pupil referral units and Early Years settings.

**Including healthcare providers represented through membership of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

***Via the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Active Partnership (Energise Me). This includes national sporting bodies who have branches operating on the Isle of Wight such as the Football Association (FA) for example.

Glossary

CAFCASS - Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CAST - Children's Assessment Safeguarding Team
CDOP - Child Death Overview Panel
CERAF - Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework
CME - Children Missing Education
CPD - Continual Professional Development
CPI - Community Protection Information
CSA - Child Sexual Abuse
CYP - Children and Young People
DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead
EBSA - Emotionally Based School Avoidance
EHE - Electively Home Educated
EIS - Education Inclusion Service
EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage
GP - General Practitioner
HIOW - Hampshire and Isle of Wight
HIOWICB - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board
HIPS - Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships
HIVCA - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Care Alliance
HIWFRS - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
HSCP - Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
HWB - Health and Wellbeing Board
IARF - Inter Agency Referral Form
ICB - Integrated Care Board
ICON - Infant crying is normal, Comforting methods can help, It's okay to walk away, Never, ever shake a baby

ICPC - Initial Child Protection Conference
ILC - Island Learning Centre
IOW - Isle of Wight
IOWSCP - Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership
LCSPR - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
LIG - Learning Inquiry Group
LSCP - Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
MAPPA - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASA - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
MASH - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MET - Missing, Exploited and Trafficked
METRAC - Missing, Exploited, Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference
MHST - Mental Health Support Teams
NHS - National Health Service
PEACH - Partnership for Education, Attainment and Children's Health
PHSE - Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
PQA - Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup
RAFT - Resilience Around Family Team
RSE - Relationships and Sex Education
S11 - Section 11 Self-Assessment
SAB - Safeguarding Adults Board
SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
VCSE - Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise
VRP - Violence Reduction Partnership
WFD - Workforce Development
YJS - Youth Justice Service