



# **Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership**

## **Local Safeguarding Arrangements**

**Published January 2021**

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## Forward

Welcome to the Isle of Wight multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, known locally as the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP).

These Local Safeguarding Arrangements are published in line with requirements outlined in Working Together 2018.

As leaders we recognise that safeguarding children cannot be achieved in isolation from other partnerships, or our communities. This has been an area of strength on the Isle of Wight in recent years. Our vision is founded on the belief that safeguarding is everyone's business and that, in conjunction with other strategic boards and partnerships, children on the Isle of Wight are safe and realise their potential. As a safeguarding partnership, we must be clear about how we do this and what this means for partner organisations, children, and their families as well as the wider community.

The multi-agency partnership on the Isle of Wight is robust and effective, with clear commitment from senior leaders. We believe the changes outlined in this document will enhance the already strong partnerships we have on the Isle of Wight. The development of the new partnership arrangements has given us the opportunity to review and change some of our ways of working, building on strengths within the good partnership relationships that already exist but focusing on how we can make a real difference to multi-agency frontline practice to improve outcomes for Isle of Wight children, and their families.

We aim to achieve these improvements by developing and spreading good practice based on what we know works well and is evidenced based. This ensures a proactive and responsive approach to the needs of children, and families in the area and drives opportunities to shape and influence policy development leading to improved practice and outcomes.

This plan of arrangements, known hereafter as the plan, sets out the arrangements for us, the safeguarding partners to work together and with other agencies, to identify and safeguard children in need of protection on the Isle of Wight.

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Isle of Wight Council

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Constabulary

## Introduction and Context

Helping and protecting children through a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Through collaborative working across organisations and agencies who work with children, young people and families, including those who work with parents/carers, the ambition of our arrangements is that everyone can recognise, respond and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that children, young people and families are effectively safeguarded and supported.

Organisations, agencies and practitioners should be aware of, and comply with, this plan set out by the safeguarding partners.

The safeguarding arrangements have been developed to build on the strengths of the previous arrangements under the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board. The Learning and Improvement Framework, which included clear and robust Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review processes, multi-agency audits and a comprehensive multi-agency training programme, has been retained with some additions to enable the new Partnership to extend its programme of scrutiny functions and respond to changes in statutory guidance.

## Legislative Context

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) is established in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (the Act) and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance. The IOWSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements under which the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies work together to coordinate their safeguarding services, identify and respond to the needs of children on the Isle of Wight, commission and publish local child safeguarding practice reviews and provide scrutiny to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.

Working Together 2018 explains that the three safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- The Local Authority
- The Integrated Care Board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- The Chief Officer of Police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area



## Safeguarding Partnership Aims and Objectives

To ensure that the children of Isle of Wight are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted, the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

1

Work effectively and collaboratively towards shared priorities to achieve improved outcomes for our children.

2

Build working relationships between partners which support continuous improvement, professional curiosity, constructive challenge, and enable partners to hold each other to account for the outcomes we deliver for children.

3

Be self-reflective, open and committed to learning and improvement.

4

Embed the learning from local and national safeguarding reviews, and local scrutiny and assurance practices to improve the way children are safeguarded.

5

Work, and share information, proactively to enable the early identification and response to new areas of safeguarding and emerging themes.

6

Listen and respond to children and young people, and adult victims / survivors of child abuse to inform how services are delivered.

7

Ensure services for children and families in Isle of Wight support parents and carers to provide the best possible care for their children and enable families to live together where possible.

8

Facilitate collaborative working beyond organisational boundaries and agency constraints to deliver best outcomes for children and families.

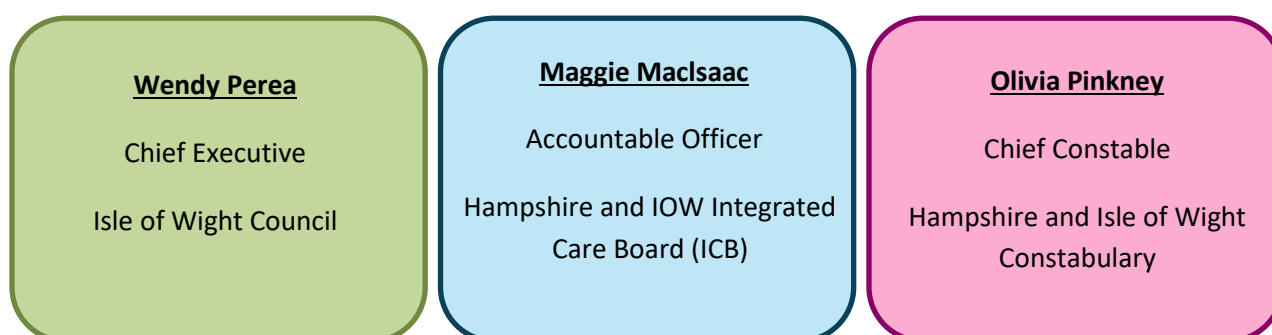
## Thresholds

The Safeguarding Partners will oversee regular review and dissemination of the Isle of Wight Thresholds Document. This document will be available to all professionals via the Partnership's website.

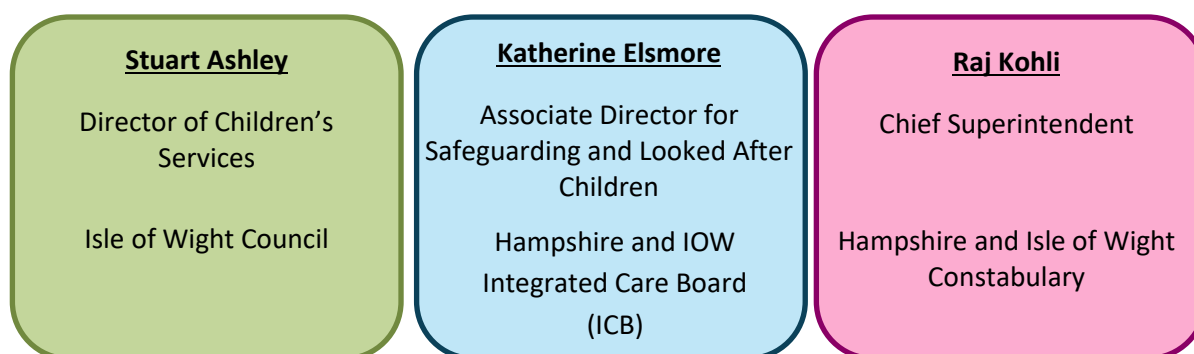
## The Three Statutory Safeguarding Partners

For each of these three partners, Working Together 2018 defines the lead representatives from each as 'the Local Authority Chief Executive, the Accountable Officer of the Integrated Care Board and a Chief Officer of Police'.

For the Isle of Wight, the lead representatives are:



As set out in Working Together 2018, the lead representatives can delegate their functions, although they retain accountability for any actions taken on behalf of their agency. On the Isle of Wight, the lead representatives have identified the following senior officers in their respective agencies who have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements:



The representatives, or those they delegate authority to, will:



Speak with authority for the safeguarding partner they represent



Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters



Hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements

## Geographical Area

**The area covered by the arrangements is defined by the Isle of Wight County Council local authority boundary.**

It is acknowledged that partners to these arrangements may have responsibility for services outside this area, either due to their organisational boundaries overlapping other local authority areas or because they have responsibilities for children living in another area.



Arrangements for how the IOWSCP will work with its neighbouring partnerships in the Pan-Hampshire area are outlined further below.

## Relevant Agencies

**The strength of local partnership working is predicated on safeguarding partners working together collaboratively with relevant agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

The safeguarding partners are obliged to set out within their arrangements which organisations and agencies are required to work as part of those arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. These organisations and agencies are referred to as **relevant agencies** and when nominated by the safeguarding partners as relevant agency organisations, should act in accordance with the arrangements

Acting in accordance with the safeguarding arrangements requires safeguarding partners and relevant agencies to work together and:

- Fully engage with the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership functions as set out within this document.
- Provide information which enables and assists the safeguarding partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including as related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.
- Ensure that their organisation works in accordance with the safeguarding procedures and protocols approved by the partnership.
- Have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place specifically relevant to their organisation.
- Provide evidence of the above to the Partnership when requested as part of its scrutiny arrangements.
- Participate fully in multi-agency audits and assurance activities when required.



**The relevant agencies as named by the safeguarding partners are:**



\*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.



**All Schools and Early Years Settings** are named as relevant partners. Schools are represented on the Partnership Board by Head Teacher representatives of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, and Special Schools. Early Years settings are also represented via the Isle of Wight Council Early Years team.

**There are no youth custody facilities** within the geographical boundaries of the partnership.

**The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills** (Isle of Wight County Council) is a participating observer of the IOWSCP. This includes attending meetings and receiving all its written reports.

Whilst the legislation and statutory guidance draws a distinction between Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies to ensure clarity around accountability, it is clear that all members of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership have a shared responsibility to work collaboratively to provide targeted support to children and families.

This document describes the arrangements through which the statutory safeguarding partners and those named as relevant agencies, will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children on the Isle of Wight.

If your organisation is not named and you think it should be, please get in touch with the IOWSCP by emailing [scp@iow.gov.uk](mailto:scp@iow.gov.uk) to discuss this.

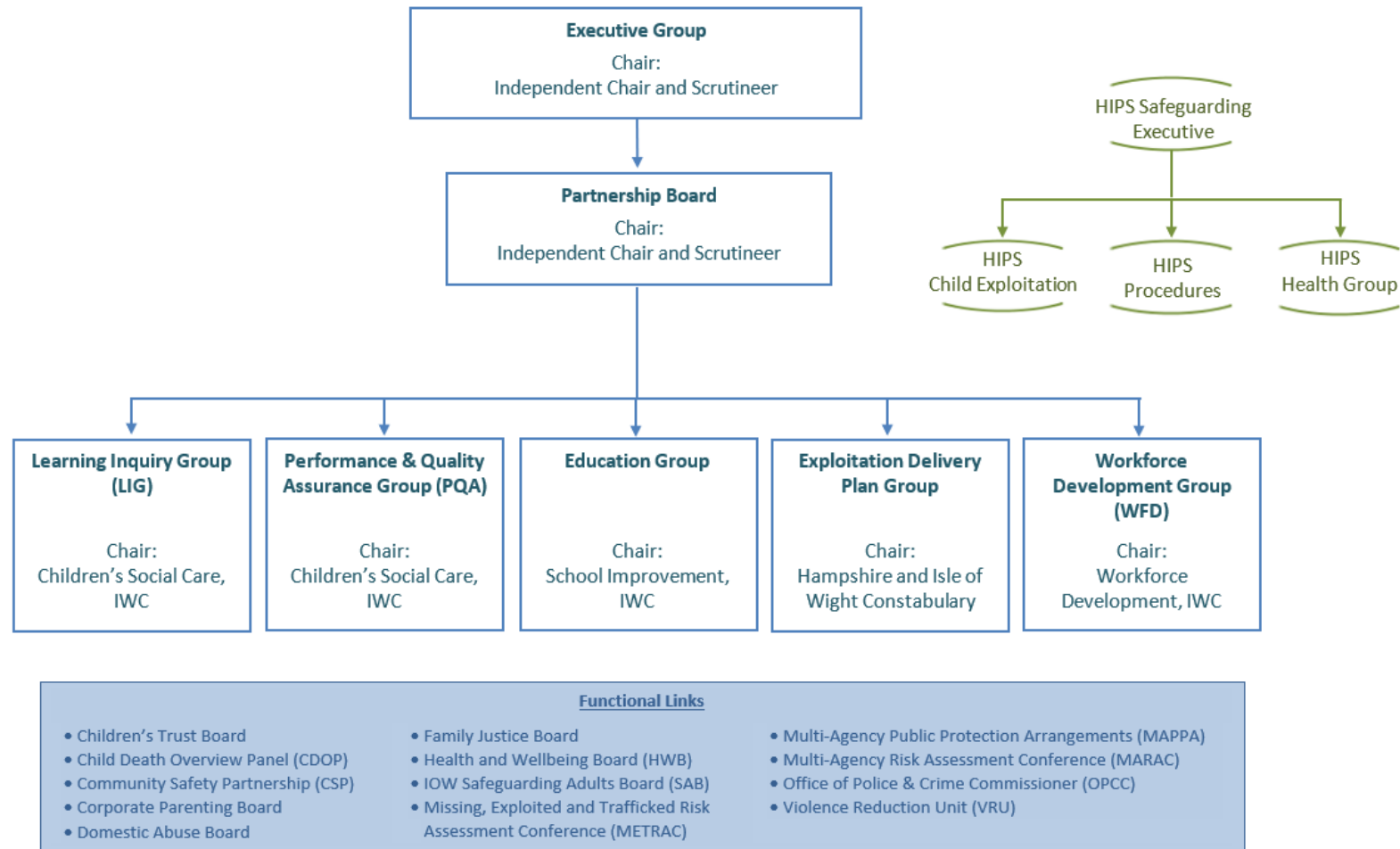


## Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight collaboration

The Isle of Wight statutory safeguarding partners have agreed to work in partnership with the statutory safeguarding partners for Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton, to ensure coherence in safeguarding arrangements across the wider geographical area. The arrangements for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight collaboration are known locally as 'HIPS' and are set out in Appendix 1 to this document. The description of arrangements for the Isle of Wight in the paragraphs below need to be read alongside the description of the collaboration arrangements in Appendix 1.

## Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

A diagram of the Partnership and its related subgroups is shown here:



## **Executive Group**

### **Purpose**

To be the key decision-making body of the Partnership. To set the performance, policy, and strategic priorities for the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP). It is responsible for ensuring that statutory requirements are met, and it sets the priorities for its Business Plan according to local issues and demands with evidence of clear improvement priorities, sharper focus on impact, evidence, assurance, and learning. To make key decisions that reflect those priorities and all other safeguarding business of the partnership.

### **Objectives**

- To ensure that the IOWSCP and its operational groups fulfil the statutory functions as laid out in Working Together 2018.
- To provide leadership and direction for the IOWSCP, ensuring that the Business Plan is produced.
- To strive to continuously improve performance against the priorities defined within the Business Plan, providing strategic direction and decision making.
- To drive forward safeguarding business through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of the Board members, and sub-groups.
- To respectfully scrutinise and hold each other to account for progress on Business Plan actions to ensure that deadlines are met, disseminating actions to individual partner organisations in the IOWSCP.
- To propose and agree annual budget priorities.
- To identify items requiring intervention at Board level and operational issues that can be dealt with more appropriately through the subgroups.
- To receive and capture emerging good practice from National and Regional safeguarding guidance that can inform and influence the development of local safeguarding arrangements.
- To receive papers and approve agenda items on behalf of the Board where appropriate.
- To horizon scan and ensure new and emerging safeguarding risks to children are responded to and new legislative requirements are met.

## **Partnership Board**

### **Purpose**

To hold each other to account in their responsibility to safeguard children. To act as a forum for partner organisations and agencies to collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children.

### **Objectives**

- To come together as a wider partnership, to work collaboratively to safeguard children.
- To act as a critical friend and to support partner agencies in their work to safeguard children.
- To be aware of the work of statutory partners in helping, protecting, and caring for children on the Isle of Wight and the mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- To oversee the monitoring and evaluation of multi-agency frontline practice to safeguard children and identify where improvement is required.

## **Performance and Quality Assurance Group**

### **Purpose**

To co-ordinate quality assurance and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by IOWSCP Partner Agencies, individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has oversight of all multi-agency and single agency audits, section 11 audits and analysis of performance data about safeguarding within relevant agencies on the Isle of Wight.

### **Responsibilities**

- Develop an annual scrutiny and assurance programme, derived from the business plan, emerging safeguarding issues and inspections of services.

- Commission audits and reviews of safeguarding arrangements and practice within partner agencies.
- Maintain a multi-agency dataset of agreed safeguarding indicators and provide a quarterly analysis on trends and themes to the Partnership Board.
- Ensure that the 'voice of the child' is considered in scrutiny and assurance work undertaken.
- Ensure findings identified from audits, including good practice, are disseminated to front-line professionals.
- Monitor agency compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, challenge organisations where appropriate, and report findings to the Partnership Board.
- Ensure actions arising from quality assurance activities are completed, reviewed and monitored for impact.
- Escalate risks to the Executive Group and Partnership Board through the Risk Register.

### **Learning Inquiry Group**

#### **Purpose**

To enable multi-agency learning to improve practice in relation to safeguarding children. To support the Safeguarding Partners in making a recommendation regarding whether a case meets the criteria for a Learning Review as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. This can include reviews of good practice. The LIG will support the Safeguarding Partners in commissioning and overseeing Learning Reviews and recommending ways in which the learning and improvement from such reviews can be embedded into practice.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Receive cases for considering notifications and carry out appropriate scoping processes
- Undertaking a 'Rapid Review' of cases where a Serious Incident has been reported in accordance with the requirements in Working Together 2018
- Consider the most effective and proportionate ways of conducting reviews (using the methodologies menu) that highlight learning, and how to best disseminate good practice throughout agencies.
- Making recommendations about whether to undertake a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review or to recommend a National Learning Review.
- Draft Terms of Reference for Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Oversee the conduct of and/or undertake Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Report to the Partnership Board with review findings and proposed actions.
- Ensure publication and dissemination of review reports
- Maintain a Review Action tracker to monitor recommendations and the actions taken by partner agencies as a result of reviews.
- Disseminating and embedding learning via the Partnership Board and the Workforce and Development group.
- Informing the Executive/Partnership Board and relevant subgroups of emerging issues and risks
- Reflect on learning and themes arising from previous reviews when commissioning new reviews.

### **Education Subgroup**

#### **Purpose**

To facilitate communication across the education sector regarding their statutory safeguarding duties, the local safeguarding challenges and to take responsibility for disseminating learning from audits and Learning Reviews. The group is pivotal in developing and sharing increasingly strong safeguarding practice, identifying strategic and practice issues from within the sector, and making recommendations to the Executive.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Provide a forum for strategic discussion of child protection and safeguarding in Early Years and Education Settings across the Isle of Wight.

- Develop and review new and relevant local, regional, and national safeguarding and child protection guidance and disseminate information accordingly.
- Consider IOWSCP decisions and recommendations relating to Early Years and Education Settings and to ensure that they are implemented through a co-ordinated education response.
- Monitor compliance with S175/S157 Education Act 2002 and 'Keeping children safe in education: for schools and colleges' (2021).
- Ensure that there is appropriate discussion and dissemination of lessons emerging from case reviews, audits, and best practice and to ensure required actions are completed, reviewed, and monitored for impact.
- Identify and address concerns in relation to the delivery of services and/or interagency working within the education sector.
- Any member delegating to another colleague, must ensure their deputy has the same decision-making authority. Any substitute should be of the same grade or one grade lower within their organisational structure.

### **Workforce Development Group**

#### **Purpose**

To understand need, procure, co-ordinate, promote, quality assure and evaluate training and development activities for the children and family workforce on behalf of the IOWSCP and IOWSAB.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Identify multi-agency learning and development needs by undertaking an annual needs analysis.
- Develop, maintain, and review a multi-agency Workforce Development policy.
- Support progress of relevant actions in SCP/SAB Business Plans.
- Agree a costed programme of SCP/SAB and joint learning events and contribute to commissioning arrangements on behalf of the Partnership.
- Ensure that learning events remain up to date, relevant and provide local context.
- Ensure that the 'voice of the child' and a Family Approach is considered in the commissioning of the multi-agency training and development programme.
- Ensure that learning from audits, inspections and case reviews is incorporated within the multi-agency training and development programme.
- Consider opportunities for children to contribute to the SCP Conference.
- Consider, through member updates, agency compliance with in-house and multi-agency training and to escalate risks to the IOWSCP Executive Group and Safeguarding Adults Board through the risk register.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the programme of learning through observations and impact assessments.
- Work with other strategic boards to maximise co-commissioning of learning events to achieve efficiency and promote a family approach.

### **Exploitation Strategy Delivery Subgroup**

#### **Purpose**

To develop and oversee the IOW Exploitation Strategy Delivery Plan in response to the HIPS Exploitation Strategy

#### **Responsibilities**

- To ensure that the IOW Exploitation Strategy Delivery Plan follows the Portsmouth format provided
- To ensure that the action plan is distributed to and understood by the IOW HIPS Exploitation Group and METRAC members as well as Executive Group and Partnership Board members
- To ensure that priorities for action are reviewed, progress recorded, and local challenge made to secure progress where needed
- To ensure that the plan is fully reviewed annually and revised to reflect changes to legislation, local and national priorities, new threats or emerging priorities

## Independent Scrutiny, Audit and Assurance

The IOWSCP has an Independent Chair who also acts as an Independent Scrutineer. The Chair is appointed by, and accountable to, the lead representatives from the three safeguarding partners. The appointment of the Independent Chair, should, in the local authority's case, be subject to the approval of the Chief Executive. The Chair facilitates the Board's business, allowing all Board member agencies to participate fully without any perceived or actual bias towards any one agency. The Chair can also intervene or mediate in issues where there are differences of opinion or tensions in partnership activity. The Chair will act as a critical friend, encouraging reflection on practice and openness to improving services and provide an objective assessment of the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements including how they are working for children and families as well as practitioners.



The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Partnership continues to explore a range of additional scrutiny options within its arrangements including the use of peer scrutineers. A rolling annual programme of peer scrutiny visits is being implemented, providing an opportunity for Partnership agencies to visit other settings, meet with frontline staff and gain a better understanding of how safeguarding duties are discharged in practice.

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Partnership Learning and Improvement Framework describes the partnership approach to multi-agency audits. The IOWSCP will lead an annual programme of scrutiny activities on themed areas to be agreed by the Partnership and overseen by the Performance and Quality Assurance Group. The programme will reflect the priorities for safeguarding children on the Isle of Wight and will be informed by:

- Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Performance indicators.
- The need to further explore issues that have caused of concern, including those highlighted through previous audits.
- Feedback from learning and development, management forums or policy implementation.

The programme will be led by members of the Safeguarding Children Partnership Team and professionals from Partnership member agencies. Recommendations for practice change will be made to the Partnership Board as necessary and the Performance and Quality Assurance Group will oversee implementation and monitoring of these changes. Audit findings will be shared with HIPS Executive Group as set out in Appendix 1.



## Governance & Accountability

The IOWSCP has an independent chairperson who will hold all agencies to account.

Each statutory Partnership Board member agency has set out their agency's responsibilities and a clear line of accountability, including delegated functions, for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The IOWSCP is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of work undertaken by local agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, but it is not accountable for their operational work. Each agency retains their own existing lines of accountability for their services.

The IOWSCP does not have the power to direct other organisations; however, it will bring concerns to the attention of the agency concerned and the Partnership Board and escalate to other bodies where appropriate. This can include escalating issues that require further exploration and / or resolution to the HIPS Executive.

The IOWSCP has a clear work programme, including measurable objectives, and a budget. The budget is agreed by the three safeguarding partners and outlines the agencies that are required to contribute to the Partnership and the level of financial contribution.

## Yearly Report

The IOWSCP will publish a yearly report which enables the work of the Partnership to be scrutinised by the Independent Chair, safeguarding partners and other local partners, and broader partnership bodies such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust. The yearly report will provide an analysis of the work of the partnership on the Isle of Wight and also the work undertaken with partners in the Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. The report will include:

- A summary of the activities undertaken by the partnership.
- Details of child safeguarding practice reviews undertaken during the year and action taken to improve practice.
- Evidence of the impact of the work of the partnership, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- A record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report's period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.
- Ways in which the partners have sought and utilised





feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

- A review of the use of restraint in secure settings.
- The Independent Chair's assessment of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements over the preceding year.
- Any changes to the safeguarding arrangements.

## Partnerships

The IOWSCP will be independent and will not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures. However, to be effective, the IOWSCP arrangements will link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children's Trust, Isle of Wight Safeguarding Adult Board, Channel Panels and the PREVENT Board, Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Family Justice Board and the Strategic MAPPA Board (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements).

## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

To deliver on the key functions outlined in Working Together 2018, the partnership will oversee a Learning and Inquiry Group (LIG) which will consider:

- Serious child safeguarding cases that raise issues of importance to the local area.
- 'Near misses'.
- Cases where there has been good practice.



The LIG conducts Rapid Reviews and recommends the notification of incidents to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

All safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are expected to refer cases to the LIG for consideration, to provide case file information to any case under review and to participate in learning events.

The LIG reports quarterly into the Executive Group and Partnership Board with summary information on all the cases considered, any findings and its recommendations for improvement. It also provides detailed analysis of findings for the Yearly Report. The LIG makes recommendations to the Board for the dissemination of learning through multi-agency training and professional development.

Findings from case reviews are also shared with the HIPS Executive as outlined in Appendix 1.

## Multi-Agency Professional Learning and Development

Locally, there is an ongoing commitment to developing a consistent approach and access to good quality multi-agency training, which is underpinned by robust evaluation processes to ensure that the training programme is clearly focussed on the needs of partners to deliver effective services. In addition to the needs analysis, the training programme is informed by case audit processes, local and national case reviews and contemporary research.

The partnership provides multi-agency learning opportunities guided by learning needs analyses and learning from reviews and audits. The partnership is committed to providing a comprehensive multi-agency training programme which includes the following elements:

**Core safeguarding training courses** – these provide a foundation for good multi-agency safeguarding practice with the opportunity to attend refresher events to keep knowledge up to date. These courses are offered regularly throughout the year to enable all partners to attend as and when required.

**Subject-specific workshops, conferences, practitioner forums and seminars** – these provide an opportunity to explore safeguarding children issues in greater depth. These events vary from year to year, depending on the safeguarding themes identified both nationally and locally.

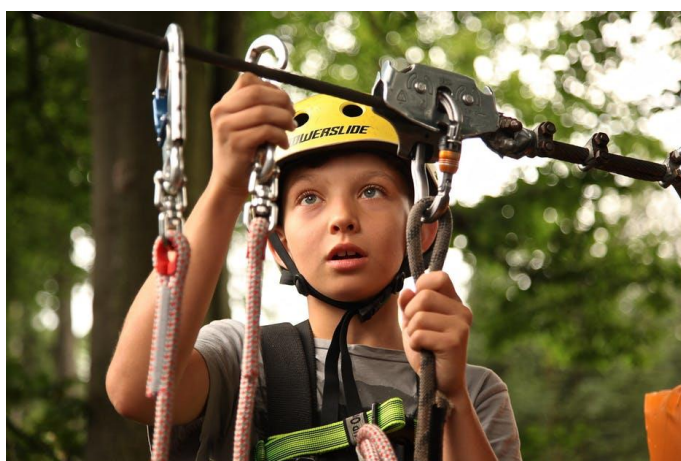
The Learning and Development Programme is flexible and adaptable to ensure that the needs of the partnership workforce are met, and additional courses will be arranged according to demand.

IOWSCP events are fully funded for all safeguarding partners/relevant agencies, and organisations who contribute financially to the Partnership. Other organisations may access the training; however, charges may apply. From 2020 the training offer was expanded to include a range of digital learning opportunities.

## Funding Arrangements

Working Together 2018 states that the three safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner (which should be equitable and proportionate), and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding arrangements for the IOWSCP include contributions by partner organisations who, in addition provide a variety of resources such as staff time for training, subgroup attendance and other development activity. The funding arrangements are regularly reviewed by the three safeguarding partners. Accommodation, legal and communications services are provided by Isle of Wight Council.

The IOWSCP statutory and non-statutory partners have expressed their commitment to cross-agency support and a continued shared responsibility to safeguard children.



## Safeguarding Children Partnership Team

The work of the IOWSCP is led and coordinated by the IOWSCP's Partnership Team. The Team are funded by the financial contributions as set out above. The team work closely with the Safeguarding Partners, Independent Chair, and partner agencies to ensure the partnership operates effectively and fulfils its statutory requirements.

### Voice and Engagement

The voice and experience of children and families is central to how safeguarding arrangements work effectively.

Whenever a Child Safeguarding Practice Review is undertaken, consideration will be given to how best to engage with children, parents and carers and support them to effectively contribute to the review. The findings from any reviews will be explained to those involved on completion of the review and prior to any publication.



Multi-agency audits will include views and opinions from children (where appropriate) and/or their families and will be used to inform recommendations for practice improvement.

Multi-agency learning programmes will include collation of the views and experience of children and families in receiving the support and help they need to safeguard children. The IOWSCP will directly engage with young people's forums on the Isle of Wight and use the voice and feedback from these groups to inform products and initiatives as well as receive feedback on the services provided to them.

### Performance Data and Intelligence

The Learning and Improvement Framework for the partnership sets out the way performance information is provided to the Performance and Quality Assurance Group (PQA) to inform its assessment of the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families (including early help). Data relating to key safeguarding processes and particularly vulnerable groups of children will be provided each quarter with an analysis that provides an explanation of any trends and issues for attention of the group. This information is collated by the Partnership Team, reviewed and analysed to inform a six-monthly report outlining key trends and themes, recommendations for further scrutiny and identifying areas for potential strategic intervention.

This will be supplemented by specific reports on topics that have been identified by the PQA Group as requiring assurance monitoring. The framework will be subject to regular review by the Executive Group and therefore the issues covered may vary according to the needs of children on the Isle of Wight and risks identified.

## Multi-Agency Procedures and Guidance

The Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight safeguarding children procedures apply across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS). They provide a clear framework under which organisations will work together to safeguard children. The procedures are updated regularly to take account of local and national learning and any changes in legislation or statutory guidance. Additional guidance and procedures that cover a range of specific circumstances are included and the following areas of safeguarding are addressed:

- Risks, indicators and the protection of children with disabilities.
- Resolving professional disagreements and escalating.
- Information sharing between practitioners.
- Safe recruitment, selection and retention of staff and volunteers.
- Expectations around whistleblowing mechanisms and training.
- Children living away from home.

All member organisations of the IOWSCP should have in place appropriate, robust safeguarding policies and procedures that should be compatible and aligned to the HIPS interagency procedures. These 'single agency' procedures must include the escalation process within that organisation and clear whistleblowing procedures.

## Review of the safeguarding arrangements

These arrangements will be reviewed by the safeguarding partners in November 2020 with the next review scheduled for 2023 and every three years thereafter. Additional or amended statutory guidance will be responded to at the time of publication.







### Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group Arrangements

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. Working Together 2018 (WT2018) provides flexibility for safeguarding arrangements to operate across larger areas/multiple local authority boundaries. Early discussions in the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight indicated that each local authority area will retain responsibility for their own local safeguarding arrangements, under the auspices of the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Police and Health via the ICB).
- 1.2. For many agencies and professionals who work across more than one of the local authority areas, there would be benefit in greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes.
- 1.3. Given that each local area retains some degree of local arrangement, the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Executive Group, supported by some specific four-area subgroups, works alongside the four local partnerships.

#### 2. Desired outcomes

The overarching outcome of these arrangements is that **children in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight should be safeguarded from harm**, based on the following principles:

- All work is designed to ensure that services are delivered in the best interests of the child.
- There will be no duplication of existing work, but the arrangement provides strategic direction and challenge to enable enhanced co-ordination of activity and understanding of impact.
- Work will provide a clear route for escalation of any system-wide issues and an agreed forum for the Safeguarding Partners to collectively fulfil their statutory duties.
- Work will ensure that we make the best use of collective resources.
- Work will be established within the existing resources (both financial and in people hours terms) and should not incur additional cost to agencies.
- Local partnerships will continue to identify their own priorities in addition to any identified at a strategic level by the HIPS Executive.
- Local areas will continue to ensure that the voices of children and families are clearly represented in local partnership work.

#### 3. Role of HIPS arrangements and relationship with Local Safeguarding Children Partnership

The role of the HIPS Executive Group is to provide strategic direction and coordination of safeguarding activity across the Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight area, to promote best practice, implement local and national learning and identify issues requiring strategic intervention by the Safeguarding Partners across the HIPS area.

#### 4. Membership and frequency of the HIPS Executive

- 4.1. To support this role and relationship of mutual accountability, the membership of the HIPS Executive will be focussed to the three Safeguarding Partners across each of the four LSCP areas, namely:
- Directors of Children's Services from each of the represented local authorities. Directors of Children's Services will represent education establishments (those who are maintained by the Local Authority) including Early Years services.
  - Hampshire Constabulary represented through the Chief Superintendent with lead safeguarding responsibility.
  - Health, represented by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB); representatives will represent the health sector in their local area. They will ensure dialogue with other health commissioning bodies across the HIPS area, namely NHS England (South East) and NHS England Specialist Commissioning.
  - The Safeguarding Partners have also invited the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend the group to represent Academy educational establishments.
- 4.2. The Safeguarding Partners act as the conduits and facilitate the flow of information and business between the HIPS Executive and the Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

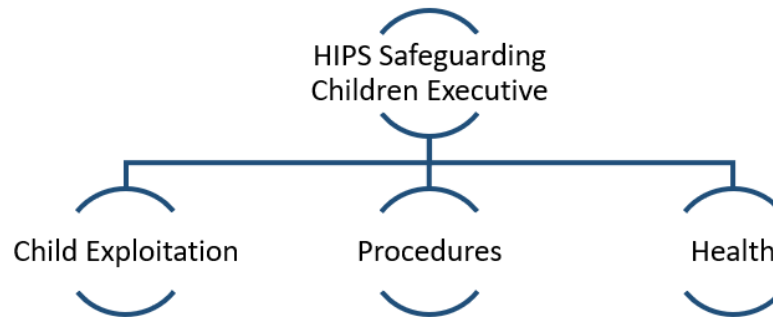
#### 5. Chairing of a HIPS Executive

The HIPS Executive is chaired by an Independent Chair recruited by the Safeguarding Partners for this role.

#### 6. Related groups

- 6.1. The HIPS Executive will convene three standing subgroups where there is a clear benefit to coordinating specific areas of business across the HIPS area:
- Health Group – This group will coordinate safeguarding business across the health economy across the HIPS area. It will take the lead on the promotion and implementation of any best practice and learning for the health sector.
  - Child Exploitation Group – The purpose of this group is to develop a shared understanding of the threat/need in respect of child exploitation, including patterns of activity that may reflect the organised exploitation of children; identify risks requiring strategic intervention and operational issues that can be dealt with more appropriately through the existing local structures; to drive forward the response to child exploitation through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of staff across the Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight area; to ensure that the vulnerabilities and risks associated with children who go missing are understood and incorporated within a consistent and robust multi-agency response.
  - Procedures Group – This group will develop all common multi-agency policies and procedures that inform single agency policy and practice across the HIPS area and lead on the Section 11 self-assessment audit.
- 6.2. Other workstreams, e.g. Quality Assurance, Workforce Development, and specific areas of business will be undertaken via Task and Finish or project focussed groups. The partners remain committed to undertaking the Section 11 Audit process on a Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight basis. The arrangements are shown in Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1**



**7. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

Local Partnerships commission and carry out their own Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The learning and good practice arising feed into both the local partnerships and the HIPS Executive to allow themes to be reviewed across the broad area and inform future initiatives. The HIPS Executive to allow themes to be reviewed across the broad area and inform future initiatives.

**8. Review**

The implementation and effectiveness of the new arrangements will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Partners in November 2023

Updated: May 2023