

Local Safeguarding Arrangements

September 2024



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Introduction and Context | 4 |
| Legislative Context | 4 |
| Lead Safeguarding Partners | 5 |
| Delegated Safeguarding Partners | 5 |
| Partnership Chair | 6 |
| Independent Scrutineer | 6 |
| Safeguarding Partnership Aims and Objective | 7 |
| Thresholds | 8 |
| Geographical Area | 8 |
| Relevant Agencies | 9 |
| The role of education (schools and settings) | 11 |
| Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight collaboration | 12 |
| Partnership Structure and Subgroups | 12 |
| Scrutiny, Audit and Assurance | 18 |
| Governance & Accountability | 18 |
| Yearly Report | 19 |
| Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews | 20 |
| Multi-Agency Professional Learning and Development | 20 |
| Funding Arrangements | 21 |
| Safeguarding Children Partnership Team | 21 |
| Voice and Engagement | 21 |
| Performance Data and Intelligence | 22 |
| Multi-Agency Procedures and Guidance | 22 |
| Review of the safeguarding arrangements | 23 |
| Appendix 1: | 24 |
| Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group Arrangements | |

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 to Safeguard Children.

As leaders we recognise that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children cannot be achieved in isolation from other partnerships, or our communities. This has been an area of strength on the Isle of Wight.

Our vision is based on the belief that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility 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. We will continue to focus on how we can make a real difference to multi-agency safeguarding practice to improve outcomes for our children, and their families.

We aim to achieve these improvements by strengthening and embedding effective 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 on the island and drives opportunities to shape and influence policy development leading to improved practice and outcomes for children.

Our partnership arrangements sets out how the safeguarding partners work together with other agencies, to identify, safeguard and promote the welfare of children on the Isle of Wight.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Ashley Whittaker | Director of Children's Services | Isle of Wight Council |
| Fiona Holder | Safeguarding Director | NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight |
| Nigel Lecointe | Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of Specialist Crime Command | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary |
| Rob Mitchell | Area Commander | Hampshire and Isle of Wight 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 their welfare is supported.

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

The safeguarding arrangements have been developed to build on the strengths of our multi agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes the Learning and Improvement Framework, which details clear and robust Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review processes, multi-agency audits and a comprehensive multi-agency training programme.

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 statutory guidance. The IOWSCP provides the multi-agency 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 (including independent scrutiny) to ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements.



Lead Safeguarding Partners

Working Together to Safeguard Children explains that the three lead safeguarding partners, in relation to a local authority area, are as defined as detailed below.

The lead safeguarding partners have a joint and equal duty to make arrangements to work together as a team to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area.

The Chief Executive of the
Local Authority:

Wendy Perera



The Chief Executive of the
Integrated Care Board:

Maggie Maclsaac



The Chief Constable
of Police:

Scott Chilton



Delegated Safeguarding Partners

As required by Working Together to Safeguard Children, the lead safeguarding partners have confirmed their delegated safeguarding partners. These are:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Ashley Whittaker | Director of Children's Services | Isle of Wight Council |
| Fiona Holder | Safeguarding Director | NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight |
| Nigel Lecointe | Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of Specialist Crime Command | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary |
| Rob Mitchell | Area Commander | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary |

The delegated safeguarding partners are senior leaders within their own organisations and:

- Speak with authority for the lead safeguarding partner they represent.
- Take decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing, and practice matters.
- Hold each other and their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate and implement the local arrangements.

Partnership Chair

The lead safeguarding partners have agreed a partnership chair for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The partnership chair is **Ashley Whittaker, Director of Children's Services, Isle of Wight Council**. The chair facilitates the partnership's business, allowing all member agencies to participate fully.

Independent Scrutineer

The safeguarding partners have agreed an independent scrutineer for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The independent scrutineer is **Scott MacKechnie**.

This is an independent role which provides safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with independent support and challenge at both a strategic and operational level. In addition, the role undertakes the following functions:

- Provides assurance to the multi-agency safeguarding system in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through a range of scrutiny methods, including the voice of children and families.
- Provides assurance statutory duties are being fulfilled, quality assurance mechanisms are in place and local child safeguarding practice reviews and national reviews are analysed, key learning areas identified and where needed, effectively implemented across the safeguarding system.
- Provides independent advice/mediation when there are disagreements between agencies and safeguarding partners and facilitates escalation procedures.
- Evaluates and contributes to the multi-agency safeguarding published arrangements and the yearly report, alongside feeding into wider accountability systems locally.



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

Strengthen 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 reflective, open, and committed to learning and improvement.

4

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

5

Share information and work 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 lead safeguarding partners oversee regular review and dissemination of the Isle of Wight Thresholds Document, this is informed by the delegated safeguarding partners. This document is available to all professionals via the Partnership's website.

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 in this document.



Relevant Agencies

The strength of local partnership working is predicated on safeguarding partners working 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 a **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 arrangements 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 and engagement in self-assessments/multi agency auditing of safeguarding standards and practice.
- 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:

- Adult Mental Health
- Adult Social Care, Isle of Wight Council
- Cafcass
- CAMHS
- Coroner's Office
- Early Years Settings
- Education & Inclusion, Isle of Wight Council
- Education providers*
- Faith Groups
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
- Health care providers**
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- HMP IOW
- Housing Providers
- Housing, Isle of Wight Council
- Inclusion IOW
- IOW NHS Trust
- Language Schools
- National Probation Service
- NHS England
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Paragon
- Primary Care
- Public Health Isle of Wight Council
- Regulatory Services, Isle of Wight Council
- Special Schools
- Sporting Organisations***
- Voluntary Sector
- YOU Trust
- Youth Justice Service, Isle of Wight Council
- Youth Trust

*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, colleges, education providers and early years settings are named as relevant partners. Schools are represented within the partnership arrangements by head teacher/senior leader representatives of primary schools, secondary schools, and special schools. Early years settings are also represented via the Isle of Wight Council Early Years team.

All voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations that work with or support children and families are named as relevant agencies. The VCSE sector is represented on the main partnership board.

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

The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions (Isle of Wight County Council) is a participating observer of the IOWSCP. This includes attending meetings and receiving all 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 safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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 to discuss this.

The Role of Education (Schools and Settings)

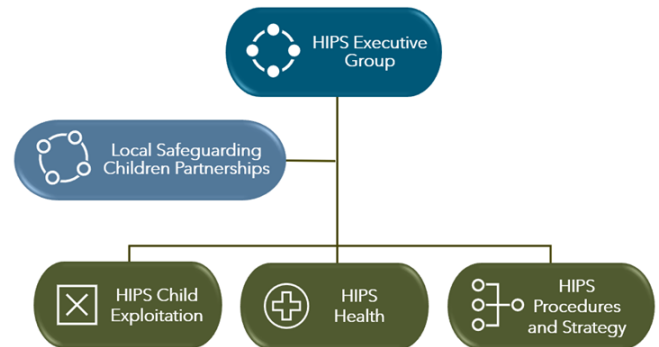
Education is essential for children’s progress, wellbeing and wider development. Being in school can be a protective factor against wider harm, including exploitation. As education and childcare settings have such frequent contact with most children and families, they are uniquely placed to identify 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.

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. It is planned that the IOWSCP Executive Group will include a senior leader representing all phases of schools/settings.

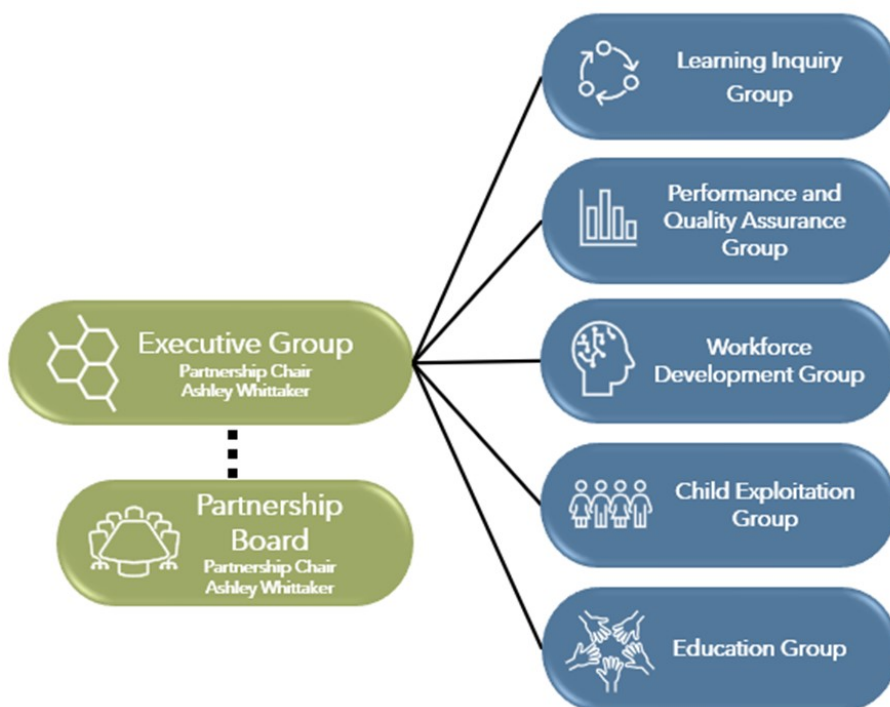
Two-way communication between the safeguarding partners and the education sector is further strengthened through an annual Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference; an annual partnership update to the Headteachers Forum; the annual 157/175 self-assessment audit process, access to the IOWSCP free multi-agency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

Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight Collaboration

The Isle of Wight statutory safeguarding partners have agreed to work in partnership with the delegated safeguarding partners for Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton, to ensure coherence in safeguarding arrangements across the wider geographical area. The arrangement for this collaboration is known locally as ‘HIPS’ (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton) and are set out in Appendix 1 to this document. The HIPS arrangements complement the IOWSCP partnership arrangements.



Partnership Structure and Subgroups



Functional Links

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

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.

Executive Group

The Executive Group is the key decision-making body of the partnership and comprises those with lead responsibility from each of the safeguarding partners, the chairs of the IOWSCP subgroups and representative senior leader(s) of all phases of education. The group has overall responsibility for the safeguarding arrangements. The Executive Group is chaired by the partnership chair and meets quarterly.

Objectives:

- To ensure that the IOWSCP and its operational groups fulfil the statutory functions as laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- 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 partnership 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 support/intervention at executive/main partnership 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 main partnership board where appropriate.
- To horizon scan and ensure new and emerging safeguarding risks to children are responded to and new legislative requirements are met.
- Provide governance of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and receive agreed reporting from the multi-agency senior operational leads within the MASH on a quarterly basis.

Wherever possible, decisions will be made by consensus. In exceptional circumstances, where this is not possible, decisions of the Executive Group will be taken by a majority vote of the delegated safeguarding partners.

Partnership Board

All relevant agencies and safeguarding partners are members of/represented at the IOWSCP main partnership board. There is representation from all education settings within the partnership board. Attendees are expected to have a good understanding of safeguarding and be of a sufficiently senior level to represent their organisation or sector. The partnership meetings will be led by the partnership chair and meets quarterly.

Objectives:

- To come together as a wider partnership, to work collaboratively to safeguard children and implement the strategic priorities of the IOWSCP.

- To act as a critical friend and to support partner agencies in their work to safeguard children and promote their welfare.
- To be aware of the work of safeguarding 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

This group is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the Executive Group. The core membership of the group is made up of senior operational managers from the safeguarding partners who act as decision makers for their organisations.

Responsibilities:

- Develop an annual scrutiny and assurance programme derived from the IOWSCP Business Plan and emerging safeguarding issues.
- Commission multi agency audits and reviews of safeguarding arrangements and practice.
- Maintain and scrutinise a multi-agency dataset of agreed safeguarding indicators and provide a sixth monthly analysis to the Executive Group.
- Ensure that the ‘voice of the child’ is considered in the scrutiny and assurance work undertaken.
- Identify and address concerns in relation to the delivery of services and/or inter-agency working.
- Ensure key findings, including good practice, from audits and reviews are disseminated to frontline practitioners.
- Monitor compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and other sector’s equivalent self-assessments, challenge organisations where appropriate and report findings to the Executive Group.
- Consider IOWSCP decisions and recommendations relating to scrutiny and assurance activity and to assure IOWSCP that they are implemented through a coordinated agency response.
- Ensure that actions and recommendations arising from assurance activities are completed, reviewed, and monitored for impact.
- Escalate risks to the Executive Group.
- Receive and scrutinise reports from other agencies to enable the group to fulfil its responsibilities on behalf of IOWSCP.

Learning Inquiry Group

This group is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the Executive Group. The core membership of the group is made up of senior operational managers from the safeguarding partners who act as decision makers for their organisations. Representatives from relevant agencies are invited to contribute to the group depending on the nature of the cases involved.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain the IOWSCP Learning and Improvement Framework.
- Provide an opportunity for serious incidents to be reviewed in a culture that focuses on continuous

- improvement and decrease the likelihood of such occurrences happening
- Undertake Rapid Reviews as required by statutory guidance.
 - Inform the safeguarding partners and independent scrutineer when a case is considered as meeting the criteria for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review and produce terms of reference and review methodology.
 - Take a flexible and proportionate approach to reviewing and learning from complex cases. Including undertaking local learning events, where agreed by the Learning and Inquiry Group.
 - Reflect on learning and themes arising from previous reviews when commissioning new reviews.
 - Embed, when shared with the group, learning from other relevant external reviews including:
 - National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
 - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews / other learning reviews led by other safeguarding partnerships
 - Safeguarding Adult Reviews
 - Serious Further Offence Reviews
 - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
 - MAPPA Reviews
 - Support the commissioning of and oversee all case reviews undertaken.
 - Approve the final draft of any case review, partnership and agency response, before presentation to the Executive and Main Partnership Board.
 - Recommend how the learning from any case review should be disseminated across the partnership and published as appropriate.
 - Produce, action and monitor a multi-agency action plan for all case reviews, including impact and outcomes of recommendations.
 - Identify any risk factors to the delegated safeguarding partners that may impact on publication of any final local Child Safeguarding Practice Review report, including the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults should a report be published.
 - Recommend how the IOWSCP should publish its response to any local Child Safeguarding Practice Review and, if required, coordinate the response.
 - The premise on which the group operates will be that of challenge and transparency, with the concept of publication always in mind when commissioning a child safeguarding practice review. This acknowledges the benefits of sharing learning through the direct engagement of frontline practitioners and IOWSCP's drive to hold itself publicly accountable.
 - Have oversight of and ensure that case review processes are in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance and have due regard for any guidance published by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
 - Commission work involving other subgroups of the partnership relating to learning identified by the review, for example, training.

Recommendations arising from rapid reviews/child safeguarding practice reviews and local learning events will be agreed by representatives of the three delegated safeguarding partners. They will be shared with the independent scrutineer to allow independent scrutiny of the recommendations and decisions.

Education Subgroup

This group is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the Executive Group. The core membership of the group is made up of senior education leaders from primary, secondary, and special schools including academies, early years settings, further education colleges, independent education establishments, pupil referral units and senior local authority officers within the Education and Inclusion branch of the Isle of Wight Children's Services. The Education Subgroup provides a critical forum for the safeguarding partners to engage with the education sector and in particular schools. The chair of the Isle of Wight Designated Safeguarding Leads Network is a member, and all members of the subgroup share information with their respective phases and networks and raise issues for consideration by the Education Subgroup. Following every meeting, a newsletter is produced which is shared with schools and settings.

Responsibilities:

- Provide a forum for strategic discussion of child protection and safeguarding in Early Years and Education Settings across the Isle of Wight and provide a unified education voice at the IOWSCP.
- Develop and review new and relevant safeguarding 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 learning 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.
- Review local, regional, and national guidance relevant to educational establishments in relation to child protection and safeguarding and make recommendations as appropriate.²
- To contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of safeguarding and child protection arrangements in educational settings, including through scrutiny of relevant data escalating risks to the partnership through the Risk Register.
- To provide the education contribution to the IOWSCP Yearly Report.
- To receive reports from other IOWSCP Subgroups (e.g., Learning Inquiry Group) to enable the group to fulfil its responsibilities on behalf of IOWSCP.

Workforce Development Group

This group is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the Executive Group. The core membership of the group is made up of senior operational managers from the safeguarding partners who act as decision makers for their organisations. This is a joint subgroup with the IOW Safeguarding Adults Board.

Responsibilities:

- Identify multi-agency learning and development needs by undertaking an annual learning needs

analysis.

- Develop, maintain, and review a multi-agency learning policy.
- Agree a costed programme of 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 and include learning from reviews and scrutiny activity.
- Ensure that the 'voice of the child' is considered in the commissioning of the multi-agency learning programme.
- Consider opportunities for children to contribute to the IOWSCP conferences.
- Ensure that learning from audits, inspections and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are incorporated within the multi-agency learning programme.
- To deliver IOWSCP conferences aligned to the IOWSCP Business Plan.²
- Consider, through member updates, agency compliance with in-house and multi-agency training and to escalate risks to the Executive Group.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme of learning through observations and impact assessments.
- To consider IOWSCP's decisions and recommendations relating to workforce development and to assure IOWSCP that they are implemented through a coordinated agency response.
- To ensure that IOWSCP considers the diverse learning needs of the workforce arising from their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, education and national origin.
- To authorise decisions on behalf of the IOWSCP (e.g. commissioning of learning).
- Work with other strategic boards to maximise co-commissioning of learning events to achieve efficiency and promote a family approach.

Child Exploitation Delivery Subgroup

This group is chaired by a member of the partnership nominated by the Executive Group. The core membership of the group is made up of senior operational managers from the safeguarding partners who act as decision makers for their organisations

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate the population, implementation, monitoring and assurance of the HIPS Child Exploitation & Extra-Familial Harm Strategy 2023-26 and an associated Isle of Wight Delivery Plan.
- Provide leadership and direction for the IOWSCP, ensuring a coordinated partnership response to child exploitation.
- Develop a shared understanding of the IOWSCP activities regarding child exploitation and its impact on outcomes for children and their families.
- Coordinate the local response to child exploitation that maximises the specialist skills and experience of staff across the island.
- Identify and address concerns in relation to the delivery of services and/or inter-agency working in relation to child exploitation, including through the review of relevant data and support the facilitation of effective multi-agency working on the island.
- Respond to recommendation arising from case reviews and scrutiny activity, locally and nationally.

Scrutiny, Audit and Assurance

In addition to the agreed programme of scrutiny by the independent scrutineer, the IOWSCP continues to explore a range of additional scrutiny options within the partnership arrangements, including thematic audits. This is evident in the Keeping Children Safe Organisation Self-Assessment (Section 11) which include partner safeguarding discussions, considering agency submissions.

The IOWSCP's 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 Island and will be informed by:

- Local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews/local learning events.
- Scrutiny of multi-agency data.
- The need to further explore issues of concern, including those highlighted through previous audits.
- Learning from other areas and emerging national themes.
- 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 Executive and Main Partnership Board as necessary and the Performance and Quality Assurance Group will oversee implementation and monitoring of these changes.

Governance & Accountability

The IOWSCP has a partnership chair who will hold all agencies to account. The partnership chair is supported in this by the lead and delegated safeguarding partners and the independent scrutineer.

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 is not able to direct other organisations; however, it will bring concerns to the attention of the agency concerned and the Executive Group 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 publishes a yearly report which enables the work of the Partnership to be scrutinised by the partnership chair, independent scrutineer and lead/delegated 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/ local learning events undertaken during the year and action taken to improve practice.
- Evidence of the impact of the work of the partnership, including workforce development, 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.
- The Independent scrutineers assessment of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements over the preceding year.
- Any changes to the safeguarding arrangements.



Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

To deliver on the key functions outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 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 miss incidents'
- Cases where there has been good practice

The LIG conducts Rapid Reviews and representative of safeguarding partners agree 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 analysis of findings for the Yearly Report. The LIG makes recommendations to the Board for the dissemination of learning through multi-agency safeguarding practice development.

IOWSCP have procedures in place to support the identification of and learning from serious safeguarding cases.

Multi-Agency Professional Learning and Development

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

The partnership provides multi-agency learning opportunities guided by learning needs analysis 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 generally 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.

Funding Arrangements

Working Together to Safeguard children 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, workstreams 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 recognise their continued shared responsibility and accountability 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 scrutineer 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 is 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 are explained to those involved on completion of the review and prior to any publication.

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

Multi-agency learning programmes include collation of the views and experience of children and families in receiving the support and help they need to safeguard children. The IOWSCP works to 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 is provided each quarter with a six-monthly 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 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. 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 with the safeguarding partners in December 2025 with the next review scheduled for 2028 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

- Working Together to safeguard children provides flexibility for safeguarding arrangements to operate across larger areas/multiple local authority boundaries. Each local authority area retains responsibility for their own local safeguarding arrangements, under the auspices of the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Police and Health via the ICB).
- For many agencies and professionals who work across more than one of the local authority areas, there would be benefit in joined up working on strategic issues and common themes.
- 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 sub-groups, works alongside the four local partnerships.

2. Desired outcomes

- The overarching outcome of these arrangements is that **children within the region 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 is less duplication of existing work, but the arrangement provides strategic direction and challenge to enable enhanced co-ordination of activity and understanding of impact.
- Provides a clear route for escalation of any system-wide issues and an agreed forum for the Safeguarding Partners to collectively fulfil their statutory duties.
- We make the best use of collective resources.
- Work is established within the existing resources (both financial and in people hours terms) and should not incur additional cost to agencies.
- Local partnerships 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

- To support this role and relationship of mutual accountability, the membership of the HIPS Executive will be focussed to the three delegated 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 and Isle of Wight 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.
 - **Partnership chair** for each of the LSCPs
- 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.

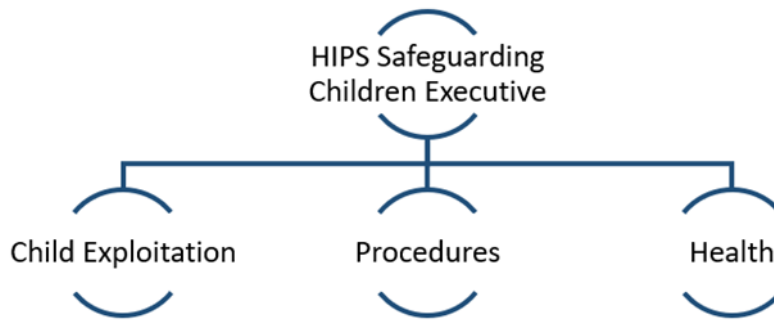
5. Chairing of a HIPS Executive

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

6. Related groups

- 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 and Strategy 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.
- 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.