



Isle of Wight  
**Safeguarding  
Children  
Partnership**

**Yearly Report 2024/25**



# Partnership Chair Foreword

## “BETTER TOGETHER”



### **Welcome to this yearly report for the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

This reporting year has seen the new arrangements for the partnership come into effect with me as Partnership Chair. It has been a new “hat” to wear and fits well with my role as Strategic Director of Children’s Services for the Isle of Wight Council. I have been ably supported in both aspects by the other delegated safeguarding partners, from Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Constabulary, the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board and the Independent Scrutineer, Scott MacKechnie.

This has been a challenging and positive first year for the Isle of Wight Council Children’s Services as we have moved from our strategic partnership with Hampshire, and it has been my privilege to lead the service during this time. In this year through effective local collaboration and co-operation, we have successfully established a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for children on Island and our own Local Authority Designated Officer function. Neither of which would be possible without the generous cooperation of our partners and relevant agencies.

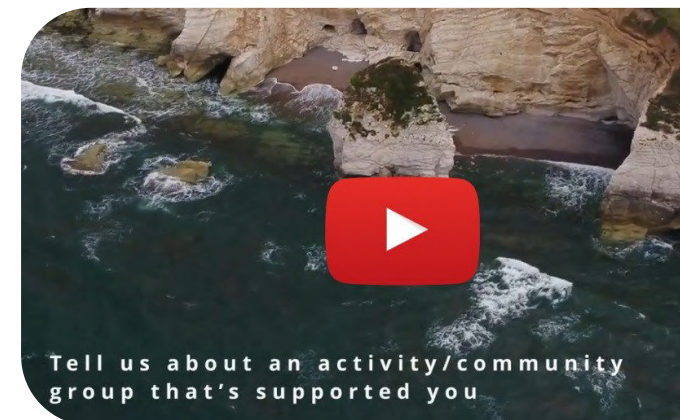
Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are effective and mature. It is a learning partnership with consistent contribution and engagement from our partners and relevant agencies. Throughout this yearly report you will hear more details of this including our multi-agency auditing and assurance, our learning from serious safeguarding cases, safeguarding practice development and how

we have responded to our 2024/25 strategic priorities. Learning from serious safeguarding cases is an important function of the partnership, and it is equally important we are assured the learning from this is embedded in practice.

On behalf of the safeguarding partners, I want to acknowledge and thank our practitioners, managers and leaders who contribute to our multi-agency arrangements, supporting the Island’s children and families, and hope that you can see your work reflected within this report.

As Partnership Chair and with the other safeguarding partners, we continue to focus on our shared responsibility for leadership of the Island’s multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the partnership reflects that, with senior leaders representing the safeguarding partners and education leading workstreams and subgroups, with shared accountability for the progress and outcomes.

[Listen to what our children and Young People say about living on our Island:](#) *Voices of young people that are have/are receiving support from the Youth Justice Service.*



The independent scrutineer role has developed this reporting year, and has been absolutely fundamental within our arrangements, in particular providing an additional layer of assurance, support and challenge for the development of our Island's MASH.

There is no room for complacency in safeguarding children. There is sustained demand on the range of our services and education settings on the Island, reflecting increased levels of need for children and families. The cost of living worries, have not gone away for many families, and global uncertainty adds to the stresses and strains. This is coupled with services that continue to be stretched, sometimes with reducing resources. It remains as important as ever, and our shared responsibility, that each one of us plays our fullest part in safeguarding children, from very early help and support to when a child is in need of protection.

For our Island's children, as safeguarding partners:

We want to ensure children's positive educational engagement; this is a multi-agency endeavour. Education is a huge protective factor for children. If children are not in school or engaged in education, they miss the protection and opportunity this offers.

We are exploring the experience of children and families who may have been referred to Children's Social Care more than once and sometimes frequently. We want to make sure children and families are getting the right help at the right time and from the right services. This work has begun in this reporting year with a focus on preventing neglect and cumulative harm.

We have also focused this year on safeguarding partners and relevant agencies meeting the statutory requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children, from the quality of the referrals to children's social care to the multi-agency contribution to child protection planning. This work took the form of an audit, with a multi-agency panel and showed how we are **better together** in finding solutions and overcoming barriers to effective multi-agency practice.

Child exploitation and online harms are at the forefront of developing work to safeguard our older children. As safeguarding partners, we are not collectively assured contextual safeguarding is sufficiently understood across our workforce or used consistently to respond to concerns of extra familial harm for our island's children. This is an area of developing multi-agency practice, which safeguarding partners will continue to provide high support and high challenge to.

Language that cares is a central part of our priorities, no more acronyms, for example not reducing children we care for to three letters "LAC". No more talk of placements, CIN, CP, IHAs and using that "business" or professional language or shorthand, that can act as a barrier across multi-agency disciplines but more importantly for the children and families we work with. I cannot stress how much safeguarding practice is relational practice, it is about connection, and colleagues, we don't connect through acronyms. Join the safeguarding partners and **let's** challenge each other to always use language that cares. More to come on this.

The coming year sees a year of transformation and change as the safeguarding partners respond to the requirements of the Families First Programme and as ever, this will be a shared responsibility. We look forward to this, we know our strengths and the areas of safeguarding practice we need to improve. Colleagues, we are always "better together" for our Island's children.

Thank you for all that you do for our Island's children and families, each and every day.

**Ashley Whittaker**

Strategic Director of Children's Services, Isle of Wight Council

Partnership Chair, Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

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# Our Children

**Population**  
**140,906<sup>1</sup>**

There are  
**24,776**  
children on the  
Isle of Wight

0–5 years old: 6,601  
6–11 years old: 8,262  
12–16 years old: 7,176  
17–18 years old: 2,737



**17,534** children attend IOW schools

16,132 children attend primary & secondary schools

405 children attend special schools

36 children attend Island Learning Centre

961 children attend independent schools



**708** children are Electively Home Educated on the IOW<sup>2</sup>

**6.8%** of pupils have special educational needs or disabilities, this includes children with Education, Health and Care Plans, on the IOW, compared to the England average of 5.4%<sup>3</sup>



There are **47** early years settings on the IOW

Children with English as an additional language  
4.5% of primary school children  
4.8% of secondary school children<sup>4</sup>



Children with free school meal entitlement<sup>4</sup>



**25.1%** of primary school children  
**23%** of secondary school children

The IOW was ranked **96** in local authorities areas on the indices of multiple deprivation<sup>5</sup>

**12** areas on the IOW are among the most deprived in the country<sup>6</sup>



1. ONS mid-2023 population estimates | 2. Children registered as EHE mid-May 25 | 3. Data published in June 2025 | 4. Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) LA Level: Isle of Wight | 5. English indices of deprivation 2019 – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) | 6. Gov.UK IMD 2019

# Introducing our Safeguarding Children Partnership

## FRONT DOOR DATA

CONTACTS/REFERRALS/ASSESSMENTS	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total number of contacts to the Children's Reception Team (CRT) /Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	16,309	17,496	17,565
% contacts progressed to referrals	42.6%	41.4%	34%
Number of child in need referrals	3,870	4,378	5,229
% of re-referrals to Children's Reception Team/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub	41.6%	45.6%	46.4%
Child and family assessments completed within timescales	89.4%	95%	90%
% of closed Early Help Plans where improvements were seen	61%	71%	74.3%
Total number of children open to social care during the year	1,434	1,525	1,364

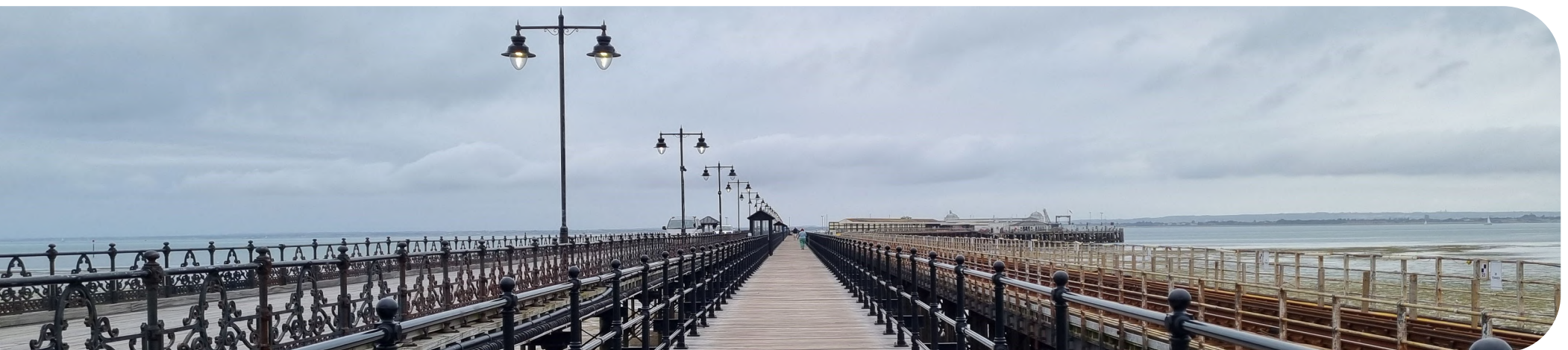
  

CHILD PROTECTION PLANS	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of children subject to Child Protection Plans	216	184	208
Number of unborn babies subject to Child Protection Plans	24	14	15

From 1st April 2024 to 23rd February 2025 Hampshire Children's Services provided the Children's Social Care Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) function for the IOW through a service level agreement.

From 24th February 2025 to 31st March 2025 an IOW Children's MASH was in place.

Since the IOW MASH was established, the number of new contacts and the number of contacts that progress to referral has decreased. This data is scrutinised at monthly MASH operational board meetings and at the Partnership's Executive group meetings.





MAIN CATEGORY OF RISK/HARM [CHILD PROTECTION PLANS]	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Neglect	80.6%	66.3%	68.10%
Emotional Abuse	10.2%	26.1%	24.30%
Sexual Abuse	7.9%	6.5%	4.30%
Physical	1.4%	1.1%	3.30%

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total number of looked after children	288	279	367
Number of children in care per 10,000 during the year	122	115	112
Percentage of looked after children reviews completed in time frames	91.7%	97.4%	91.30%
Percentage of health reviews completed in time frames	92%	70.4%	81.40%
Percentage of care leavers 18+ in suitable accommodation at year end	79.3%	78.7%	77.20%
Percentage of care leavers 18+ in employment, education, or training at year end	75.7%	58.9%	52.70%

YOUNG CARERS	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total number of children who are young carers	390	444	542

CHILDREN AT RISK OF, OR IN, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Children at risk of, or in, the criminal justice system during the year who the Youth Justice Team (YJT) worked with	259	315	231





## PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

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

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership local arrangements were updated and published in September 2024 to fully reflect the requirements of the Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance.



## OUR SHARED PARTNERSHIP VISION

**The IOWSCP Safeguarding Partners, Independent Scrutineer and partnership members are committed to:**

- Effective, child centred leadership which prioritises the needs and voices of children and their families
- Ensuring agencies understand their roles and responsibilities through active engagement and collaboration in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Ensuring a proactive environment in which multi-agency safeguarding practice can continuously improve
- Supporting effective information sharing in systems which ensures professionals are confident and knowledgeable about vulnerable children
- Facilitating and delivering high support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency safeguarding system
- Regularly assessing the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding practice
- Creating a culture of continuous learning and development

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

The IOWSCP works collaboratively with Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships and this collective is known as HIPS. The HIPS arrangement provides opportunities for working together across borders on strategic issues and common themes. This arrangement supports each Safeguarding Children Partnership area to retain a focus on local priorities. The HIPS Executive Group consists of the delegated safeguarding partners from each Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) area and is chaired by Scott MacKechnie, as Independent Scrutineer. The HIPS Executive Group works to ensure:

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

The HIPS Executive Group has three standing subgroups:

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

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

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

### LINKS TO OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

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

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





**Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** - work on shared projects and joint workforce development opportunities

**Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB)** - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

**PREVENT Board** - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

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

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

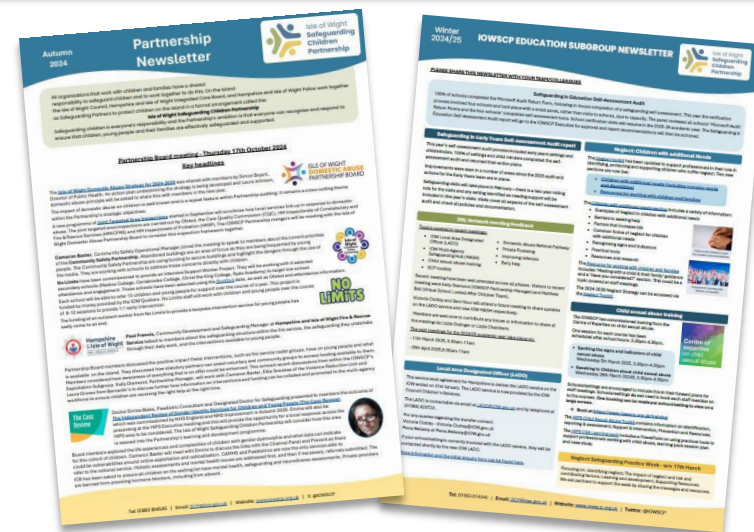
**Community Safety Partnership (CSP)** - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities

## COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SHARING

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

The [Communications and Engagement Strategy](#), updated in December 2024, ensures effective communication with the multi-agency workforce. It outlines agencies' responsibilities, principles and standards, methods of communication and outlines how we measure success. Following each IOWSCP Partnership Board meeting, a newsletter is produced with information about decisions made, presentations, practice developments and links/signposts to key documents and articles. The Education subgroup also provides a newsletter for all education colleagues following each meeting, highlighting key decisions and

developments. The [Partnership Induction pack](#) for new Board and subgroup members continues to be an extremely useful document and is always well received. New for 2024-25 was a joint [HSCP and IOWSCP communications forward plan](#).





## FINANCE

The three safeguarding partners agree levels of funding for the IOWSCP. There is a smaller contribution from the National Probation Service. Wider partners generously give their staff time for learning and development delivery, subgroup and task and finish group attendance and activity, and multi-agency auditing. This is a valued contribution to the partnership. Funding arrangements are regularly reviewed at the Executive Group and reported to the Partnership Board.

It is the aspiration of the delegated safeguarding partners to move towards the equitable funding arrangements as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children. During this reporting period NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight (Integrated Care Board) have increased their funding percentage to the partnership.

The IOWSCP wider partner agencies have expressed their commitment to cross-agency support and continue to demonstrate a shared responsibility for supporting safeguarding activity during 2024/25 ensuring that the IOW's robust partnership is sustained.

### FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS 2024-25

Isle of Wight Council		£103,150
NHS Hampshire & Isle of Wight (Integrated Care Board)		£57,346
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary		£14,657
National Probation Service		£830
<b>Total partner contributions for 2024-25</b>		<b>£175,983</b>



## THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

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

All schools (including independent, academies and free schools), colleges and educational providers are recognised as Relevant Agencies in our safeguarding arrangements. Their voice and influence is embedded within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The IOWSCP partnership arrangements include a strong, well-established education subgroup, chaired by the Service Director for Education, Inclusion & Access. Within the education subgroup, there is regular reporting on safeguarding matters arising from Ofsted inspections from schools and early years settings; school exclusions and attendance; Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) updates and analysis of data concerning children with vulnerabilities and their educational engagement. The education subgroup has representatives from the Education and Inclusion Service, Virtual School, Public

Health, Police, Fire and Rescue Service alongside 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 the stated intention of the delegated safeguarding partners to invite a school leader representative from the education subgroup to be a member of the executive to further support the voice of education being heard at the highest level of strategic decision making.

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





## IOWSCP STRUCTURE

### The lead safeguarding partners for the IOWSCP are:

Wendy Perera – Chief Executive, Isle of Wight Council

Alexis Boon – Chief Constable, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

Maggie McIsaac – Chief Executive, NHS Hampshire and IOW (Integrated Care Board)

### The delegated safeguarding partners are:

Ashley Whittaker – Strategic Director of Children's Services, Isle of Wight Council

Sarah McConnell – Detective Chief Superintendent, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

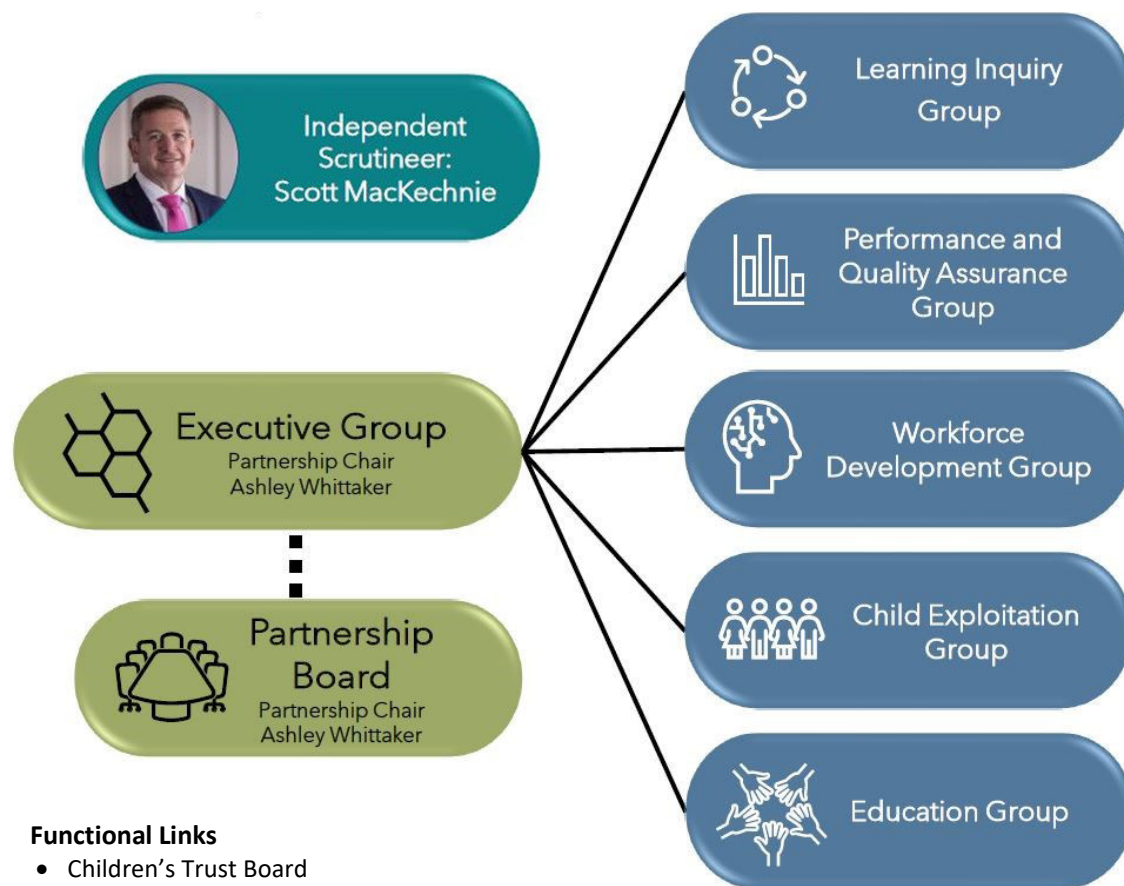
Fiona Holder – Safeguarding Director, NHS Hampshire and IOW (Integrated Care Board)

### The Partnership Chair is:

Ashley Whittaker – Strategic Director of Children's Services, Isle of Wight Council

### The Independent Scrutineer is:

Scott MacKechnie



### Functional Links

- Children's Trust Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB)
- Family Justice Board *\*is being re-established*
- Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)
- IOW Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)
- Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC)
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)



# Our areas of focus

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-26

In January 2024 the safeguarding partners agreed their strategic priorities for 2024-26. These were:

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

The safeguarding partners have expressed those themes as the strategic priorities below, reviewed and updated for 2025-26:

1. Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education, with a focus on vulnerable learners with reduced educational engagement.
2. Promoting a multi-agency, whole-system approach to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children, focused on preventing neglect and cumulative harm. To include:
  - Safeguarding children as victims of domestic abuse and working with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
  - Continued focus on early help (and within early years)
  - Language that cares
  - Understanding children and families experience of services where they have been closed due to lack of engagement or not meeting the criteria e.g. mental health and emotional wellbeing.
3. A multi-agency approach to implementing the safeguarding changes required by the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#) (and [Families First Partnership Programme](#)).
4. Assuring the safe and effective operation of the Isle of Wight Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).



## BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES 2024-25

The IOWSCP safeguarding partners agreed to set two-year strategic priorities 2024-26 and business plan for 2024-25 which would then be reviewed. These strategic priorities were identified through themes arising from scrutiny and quality assurance programmes, findings from local and national learning reviews, responding to the changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children and the 2023-24 strategic priorities. Progress on the business plan is monitored through the Executive Group, as well as outcomes and impact of the work.

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

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Day in my life' tools updated to include parent-oriented issues
- ✓ Elective Home Education Safeguarding Partnership Report
- ✓ Created guidance: [Multi-agency roles and responsibilities for children who are Electively Home Educated](#)
- ✓ Virtual school annual assurance report received by the PQA subgroup
- ✓ Expanded IOWSCP education dataset, including virtual school data
- ✓ Safeguarding statement for draft Isle of Wight Council Education Strategy 2025-2030
- ✓ Designated Safeguarding Leads conference 2024 focus on multi-agency roles and responsibilities to support school attendance
- ✓ [Educational Neglect Advice](#) and [associated case study](#) produced
- ✓ Development of practice resource: [What being late means to me – using the child's voice](#)
- ✓ Progression of recommendations from Vulnerable children who are persistently and severely absent multi-agency audit in November 2023



## OUTCOMES & IMPACT:

- ★ [Day in my life tools](#) shared in practitioner briefings and as part of the Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week. The live Neglect Toolkit tour during the week resulted in 569 views of the Day in my life tools, which were downloaded 453 times. These tools now enable practitioners to reflect on the impact of parent-oriented issues on the daily lived experience of children and young people, from pre-birth to adolescents and for those children with complex needs and disabilities.
- ★ The Elective Home Education Safeguarding Partnership Report provided an overview of the current position in terms of legislation, guidance, research and briefings related to children who are electively home educated, following the publication of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Briefing “Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education” in May 2024. The report also included local learning. The Island has the highest percentage nationally of children who are home educated. Members were able to consider the Isle of Wight multi-agency response to the National Panel Briefing. In April 2025 the Executive members received an update regarding progress against local and national recommendations.
- ★ Multi-agency understanding of the duty and extended duties of the virtual school and their strategic oversight around our most vulnerable cohort
- ★ Education subgroup engaged in analysis of the data reported to the Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup regarding children with vulnerabilities and educational engagement.
- ★ In relation to the Working Together to Improve School Attendance statutory guidance, there is a clear understanding for professionals regarding the definition of when children are persistently and severely absent, the impact this has on children and young people and how to respond. A practitioner resource giving advice regarding educational neglect has also been made available to practitioners, to support identification and response. The associated case study is an effective learning tool, providing professionals the opportunity for practical engagement with the guidance document.

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

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neglect Strategy 2024-26 and updated Toolkit](#) published
- ✓ New course developed ‘Understanding cumulative harm and preventing the normalisation of neglect’
- ✓ Promotion of risk assessment/referral tools at HSCP/IOWSCP Designated Safeguarding Leads conference
- ✓ Development of the Neglect Toolkit to include resources for working with children and additional needs, including complex needs and disabilities and working with children and families' resources



## ACTIONS TAKEN CONTINUED...

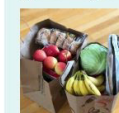
- ✓ Multi-Agency Practice Resource: [Recognising and Responding to the impact of cumulative harm](#) published
- ✓ Multi-Agency Practice Resource: [Recognising and Responding to physical abuse](#) published
- ✓ Promotion of Isle of Wight Council Early Help training
- ✓ [HSCP/IOWSCP toolkit](#) updates, including safeguarding adolescents and unidentified adults
- ✓ Updated and revised procedure: [Working Together to Resolve Professional Differences](#), including further [supporting guidance](#) published
- ✓ Early Help annual report 2023-24 received by Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup
- ✓ [Neglect Safeguarding Practice week March 2025](#)
- ✓ Early Help Joint Targeted Area Inspection Dry Run Audit
- ✓ [Early Help practitioner briefing](#)

## What is Neglect?

The ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. This can seriously harm their health and development.

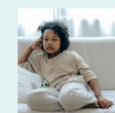


### Types of neglect:



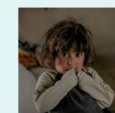
#### Nutritional neglect:

Not giving a child enough food for healthy growth or giving them an unhealthy diet that leads to obesity.



#### Emotional neglect:

Not providing the love and attention a child needs, such as ignoring, humiliating, or isolating them.



#### Physical neglect:

Not meeting a child's basic needs for food, appropriate clothing, and suitable living conditions.



#### Lack of supervision & guidance:

Not supervising a child properly or leaving them with inappropriate care givers, which can put them in danger.



#### Educational neglect:

Not supporting a child's education, e.g., not helping with their learning, ignoring special needs, or not showing interest in their education.



#### Medical neglect:

Not providing medical care, e.g., ignoring recommendations, not seeking help when needed.

### Signs of neglect:

- ✗ Being left alone for a long time
- ✗ Being persistently ignored by parents/carers
- ✗ Taking on the role of carer for other family members

- ✗ Faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones
- ✗ Thin or swollen tummy
- ✗ Seems hungry or turns up to school without

- ✗ Delayed development
- ✗ Difficulties with schoolwork concentration
- ✗ Missing school

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT:

- ★ The revised [Neglect Strategy and associated Action Plan](#) is underpinned by a strengths-based, family focused approach to partnership work. It is supported by the full range of practitioner resources available from the HSCP and IOWSCP online Neglect Toolkit, as well as supporting local policies for multi-agency practice as found on the [HIPS Procedures website](#).
- ★ The [Neglect Threshold and Indicators Chart](#) provides an interactive guide to recognising neglect in children.
- ★ Expanded toolkit to include 'working with children and additional needs, including complex needs and disabilities' highlights further considerations that practitioners may need to have when working with children and families. It highlights the increased barriers to seeking help and support these children and families face; explores the factors that increase risk; and support for recognising signs and indicators of neglect for this vulnerable cohort.
- ★ There are two courses for Early Help, the Early Help for Children and Families eLearning and Early Help Assessments and Information Sharing face-to-face learning. Intended outcome was for increased professional awareness of the Isle of Wight Council Early Help offer. Training data demonstrates that whilst 84 professionals engaged in Early Help training in 2024-25, this is lower than in 2023-24, where 132 professionals engaged. This is an area of continued focus for the IOWSCP Executive.
- ★ Agreed [multi-agency procedure](#) across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) to act as a supporting framework where there is a difference of professional opinion that needs to be resolved or escalated.

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

### ACTIONS TAKEN

- ✓ Updated [partnership arrangements and induction pack](#)
- ✓ Working Together to Safeguard Children benchmarking position statement
- ✓ Development of Independent Scrutineer role
- ✓ eLearning on [information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#)
- ✓ Updated [Learning Inquiry Group Procedure and Guidance](#)
- ✓ Meeting with the DfE Partnership facilitator reviewing the role of education within the partnership
- ✓ [Multi-Agency Audit of multi-agency compliance](#) with statutory guidance and quality of engagement in:
  - Strategy discussions (incorporating MASH and area teams)
  - Child and family assessments
  - Child protection conferences, core groups and child protection plans
  - With a focus on the multi-agency child protection standards
- ✓ Commissioning a subject matter expert to scope children's voice and influence within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to develop a sustainable plan for strengthening the child's voice.
- ✓ Development of [Voluntary and Community sector safeguarding checklist](#) and accompanying [Safeguarding Self-Assessment Guidance](#)
- ✓ Maintained a focus on section 11 organisational standards with a focus on agencies responses to their 23/24 action plans



### OUTCOMES & IMPACT:

- ★ IOWSCP is compliant with Working Together to Safeguard Children Statutory Guidance, including embedding the role of education at a strategic and operational level
- ★ A workstream is underway to strengthen the voice of children and families within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- ★ Safeguarding children's checklist provides community groups and the voluntary sector organisations with an opportunity to consider their safeguarding practice, policies and guidance and think about what is working well and areas for development. The guidance underpins this by providing further support. HSCP & IOWSCP will review all submissions from community groups and the voluntary sector organisations on a yearly basis and will provide annual feedback based on the submissions, including safeguarding resources.

## Priority 4: Embedding and refining the work of the partnership

### ACTIONS TAKEN

- ✓ Communication and development forward plan
- ✓ Development of Safeguarding Theme Overview Packs for a range of safeguarding practice themes
- ✓ Safeguarding Practice Week - Neglect
- ✓ Safeguarding Practice Week - Learning from Reviews
- ✓ Learning from reviews toolkit - based on the work of the National Panel
- ✓ Development of quick guide outlining IOW approach to Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework
- ✓ Second phase evaluation of safeguarding infants
- ✓ IOWSCP Learning Needs analysis undertaken
- ✓ Reviewed Keeping Children Safe, Section 11 Safeguarding Self-Assessment standards and areas of focus in preparation for Q1 2025/26
- ✓ Published [new website](#) promoting accessibility



### OUTCOMES & IMPACT:

- ★ Practitioner awareness of supporting resources, guidance, frameworks and tools.
- ★ Safeguarding Infants Second Phase evaluation.
  - The first phase evaluation (June 2023) made 7 recommendations, one of which was to complete a phase two evaluation of ICON and Every Sleep Counts 12 months to evaluate whether there is greater awareness of 'Every Sleep Counts' and 'ICON' materials and awareness and use of the toolkits. The second phase evaluation included parental voice and a repeat of the frontline practitioner and the professional leads survey.
  - The Unborn/New-born Baby Safeguarding Protocol Audit Practitioners Briefing contained a summary of the key strengths from the multi-agency audit of Unborn/Newborn Babies in November 2022, along with key messages for practitioners, training and a link to the Safeguarding Infant toolkit. This was shared with members on the Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish group for dissemination within their agencies and has been uploaded to the IOWSCP website. **Practitioner and lead professionals survey show a 31% increase in awareness.**

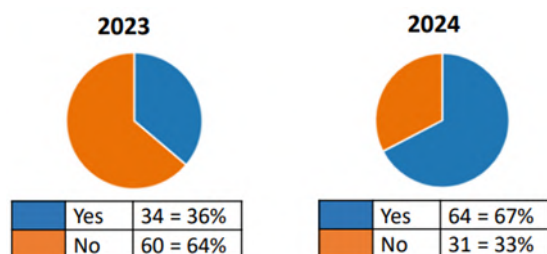


## OUTCOMES & IMPACT CONTINUED...

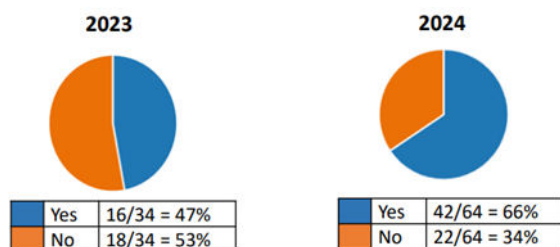
- Safeguarding Infants e-learning was selected as a Longitudinal Evaluation for the IOWSCP Workforce Development Group, and the evaluation was fed back to the Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish Group, for their consideration. A small Teams session took place in April 2024. Only 2 practitioners attended the longitudinal evaluation event despite 110 practitioners starting the eLearning course and 50 completing it with two attendees however it provided a rich discussion and valuable feedback was gained.
- The ICON leaflet was updated, and 3000 leaflets delivered to agencies Island wide. These included Health Visitors, all GP practices, Maternity, Family Hubs, Social Workers and Early Years Settings.

### A selection of responses from practitioner survey comparing 2023 results with 2024 results:

Have you heard of the ICON/abusive head trauma (coping with infant crying) prevention programme?



Have you used the ICON/abusive head trauma prevention materials or messages with any families that you work with?



Were the ICON/abusive head trauma prevention materials helpful for you in supporting families with the key messages?

2023			2024		
	Yes	13		Yes	39
	No	0		No	1
	Partially	3		Partially	2

Have you accessed the ICON/abusive head trauma prevention section of the Safeguarding Infants Toolkit?

2023			2024		
	Yes	13		Yes	35
	No	24		No	29

Do you feel confident in sharing the 'Every sleep Counts' messages with families?

2023			2024		
	Yes	23		Yes	53
	No	11		No	8

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT CONTINUED...

### - Selection of feedback from parent voice:

Have you heard about the resources that help to share safe sleep messages?  
For example, Every Sleep Counts leaflets or Safe Sleep for Babies film

15 Yes

2 No

Have you heard about the resources that help to share safe sleep messages?  
For example, Every Sleep Counts leaflets or Safe Sleep for Babies film

15 Yes

2 No

Who shared the message with you?

*All said midwife and/or health visitor. 2 responses mentioned seeing the posters in GP surgeries and family centres*

Have you accessed/used the resources?

14 Yes

3 No

Were the resources useful? Did you learn anything new or is there anything you would now do differently?

13 Yes

4 No





## ISLE OF WIGHT MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)

Since 2014, Hampshire County Council provided the Children's Social Care Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangement for the Isle of Wight, through a service level agreement. In 2024-25, the IOW developed and launched its own MASH, which became operational on 24 February 2025. The rapid pace this was established and implemented, was made possible by the significant effort, enthusiasm and support of all partners, demonstrating the strength of local multi-agency collaboration.

Currently, Children's Service and health colleagues are co-located in the Isle of Wight MASH, with police colleagues expected to join in 2025-26.

### The Expected Benefits of having an Isle of Wight MASH

- ✓ Local co-location for strengthened visibility and accessibility
- ✓ Strong and effective partner relationships
- ✓ Understanding of local area and proximity of partner agencies
- ✓ Quick response to children's needs
- ✓ Strengthened understanding of demand
- ✓ Customised data collection
- ✓ Workforce stability
- ✓ Reducing re-referrals
- ✓ Timely transfer of children and families to the right service

Throughout 2024-25, the IOWSCP has overseen the development of the MASH, received regular progress reports, with the Executive Group identifying key risks, recorded on a register, that required action to mitigate. Safeguarding Partners, who are also members of the MASH Strategic Board, have agreed that 'Assuring the safe and effective operation of the MASH' is a IOWSCP strategic priority for 2025-26. Governance for the IOW MASH remains with the IOWSCP Executive Group.





## SCRUTINY

Our Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup (PQA) considers a six-monthly report of data shared by partner agencies. It highlights trends and questions for PQA members and the Executive group to consider, discuss and action. Two data reports were considered by the Executive group during 2024/25. The following are examples of the points/questions posed:

QUESTIONS/MATTERS RAISED	RESPONSE
<p>In September 2024, the National Probation Service (NPS) provided assurance to the Executive group outlining steps they have undertaken to address the areas within their inspection which required improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full time case admin support staff for senior practitioners are now in place</li><li>• Safeguarding and domestic violence checks now occur on every pre-sentence report</li><li>• More quality assessment auditing is taking place, looking in particular at safeguarding issues, domestic violence and information sharing. Monthly auditing reports are fed back to managers.</li><li>• The number of vacancies has been reduced. This delivery unit is in particular being fully resourced.</li></ul>	<p>They noted safeguarding referrals were now being made at the Pre-sentence Report stage and they are now ensuring that every subject and connected children has the appropriate safeguarding and domestic abuse checks before they can propose adequate and appropriate sentencing proposals. In Q1 and Q2 2024-25, the number of safeguarding children referrals made to MASH by the National Probation Service had almost tripled compared to the previous two quarters.</p>

QUESTIONS/MATTERS RAISED	RESPONSE
<p>It has been noted that the <b>Number of children in private fostering arrangements</b> number is very low for the Isle of Wight. Children's Social Care were asked what can the partnership do to support this work, in particular the identification of children who may be privately fostered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private fostering page developed on the IOWSCP website</li> <li>• Children's Services leadership team have reviewed the protocol, and a training programme will be rolled out to all Children's Social Care staff and other relevant teams within the council</li> <li>• Children's Services Private Fostering Statement of Purpose created and shared with partners</li> <li>• Article on private fostering included in the board newsletter</li> <li>• Awareness of what constitutes a private fostering agreement and the responsibility of professionals and agencies response to this shared at the Designated Safeguarding Lead network meeting. <b>Impact:</b> In Q3 – Q4 2023-24 there were 0 children registered as being in private fostering. In Q4 2024-25 there were 10 children</li> </ul>
<p><b>Number of families with children living in a B&amp;B and number of children living with their family in a B&amp;B</b> is increasing each quarter and is at the highest it has been for 3 years. There are housing stock issues on the Isle of Wight and a lack of private rental opportunities as highlighted in the Isle of Wight poverty reduction strategy 2024-2029.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isle of Wight Poverty Reduction Strategy presented at the IOWSCP Board. The independent scrutineer inquired how the poverty reduction strategy links to the Council's housing strategy. The Service Director for Children's Social Care requested Children's Social Care is included in the development of the Council's housing strategy. It was also highlighted the strategy's connection to the Isle of Wight Council's draft education strategy and the impact on children when they lack suitable and stable accommodation.</li> <li>• Children's Social Care are working with Isle of Wight Council Housing colleagues to identify what can be done to address this, including what it means to be 'intentionally homeless'.</li> <li>• The impact of inadequate housing was further evident in the Early Help JTAI Dry Audit in October 2024. The IOWSCP Executive agreed a recommendation that the findings should be shared with the Isle of Wight Council Housing Lead and be considered strategically.</li> </ul>

## QUESTIONS/MATTERS RAISED

It was noted that despite a decrease in the **number of open children to CAMHS (for all children)**, there was a steady increase in the **average time from assessment to first appointment (for all children) with CAMHS**. Prior to this, the waiting time has been below or at national target for the past 3 quarters.

CAMHS were asked if there was any analysis around this?



## RESPONSE

- The increase in timescale for assessment during the last quarter was likely impacted in a change of recording systems
- There was also an increase in referrals which will mean more children/young people are assessed
- They had a reduction in the workforce due to staff holidays and sickness at the beginning of the year so had less assessment slots available

Impact: Q3 and Q4 of 2024-25 demonstrate that the **number of open children on CAMHS case-load (for all children)** increased for Jan 2025 but the **average time from assessment to first appointment (for all children) to CAMHS** has decreased

## MULTI-AGENCY ASSURANCE

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

- **Joint Targeted Area Inspection Dry-Run Audit: The multi-agency response to children and families who need help**
- **Multi-agency audit of compliance and engagement in child protection processes**

Recommendations from audits are progressed by agency representatives and monitored through the PQA subgroup until completion. The learning identified is shared with the partnership through subgroups, training, newsletters, safeguarding practice weeks, practitioner guides and safeguarding theme overview packs to ensure key messages are delivered to frontline professionals. Key findings and effective practice from audits undertaken during 2024/25 are available on the [IOWSCP website](#).





## Joint Targeted Area Inspection Dry-Run Audit: The multi-agency response to children and families who need early help

### Practitioner Briefing – [Priority, Pace and Purpose: The multi-agency response to children and families who need early help](#)

The Joint Targeted Area Inspection dry-run audit highlighted several strategic and operational recommendations aimed at strengthening early help support for children and families.

It emphasised that Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and GPs needed to consider their role and contribution to the multi-agency early help arrangements, with support and challenge from the independent scrutineer.

The audit called for a review of the step-down process from children's social care to ensure all partners understood their responsibilities, particularly regarding the 18-week rule and the timely sharing of assessments, plans and closures.

Several recommendations focused on enhancing professional support—such as promoting available practitioner resources such as the [Professional's Meeting Guidance](#), implementing multi-agency reflective supervision for complex cases, and addressing workforce development needs for engaging neurodiverse



parents and parents with mental health concerns.

Practitioners were reminded to be cautious about stepping down children and families before summer holidays and schools were reminded of the correct procedures for the transfer of safeguarding information between settings.

It was recommended that school policies better reflect early help roles and responsibilities. The 157/175 Safeguarding in Education self-assessment 2024-25 academic year is being updated to provide assurance that early help is appropriately referenced in relevant school policies and procedures.

The audit also underlined the need for housing providers to complete the Section 11 safeguarding self-assessments and for the strategic consideration of the impact of temporary and inadequate housing.

Furthermore, it encouraged partners to support and challenge each other in using language that cares routinely, this means avoiding acronyms and language such as cases, rather than children, and phrases such as “hard to engage”. Many of these actions and recommendations have been progressed and embedded.

### Multi-agency audit of compliance and engagement in child protection processes

#### Practitioner briefing - [Summary of key learning for effective practice](#)

The multi-agency audit of compliance and engagement in child protection processes set out a range of recommendations to improve effectiveness, communication, and effective multi-agency working. It stressed that further advice and development is needed for strategy discussions and child protection meetings that take place during school holidays, and the need to avoid these times, where possible.

The audit recommended better coordination with health partners in out-of-hours strategy discussions, suggesting follow-up strategy discussions are considered for the next working day.

Collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will ensure the continuation of domestic abuse offer training and a clear referral pathway for children who are victims domestic abuse to access support.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is encouraged to outline available mental health services and explore a single referral route for children's talking therapies to streamline access and reduce repetition for children and families.

The audit concluded that where adult mental health concerns impact children, these should be addressed through appropriate referrals as part of child protection planning.

Child protection administrative processes also required review, particularly the inclusion of parental details in correspondence and improved processes for sharing of information, including minutes, assessments and plans. Improved collaboration between children's and adult services - especially mental health - was encouraged.

An update on the HIOW ICB Health Contribution to ICPC Transformation Project was requested to ensure audit findings inform health contributions to child protection planning.

Agencies were reminded to ensure clear understanding of information sharing, especially around s17 child in need enquiries, the legal basis for sharing, and child and family assessments.

Finally, the audit highlighted the need to promote existing multi-agency [resources](#) and [toolkits](#) to support practitioners, and to ensure use of the [HIPS Working Together to Resolve Professional Differences procedure](#) when professional disagreements arise over safeguarding decisions.

### During 2024–25, notable progress was made across several multi-agency audit recommendations.

- For children with disabilities transitioning to adulthood, Children's Social Care is currently revising its sufficiency strategy, with plans to develop an action plan that incorporates this recommendation once the strategy is approved.
- In addressing children missing education due to medical reasons, a multi-disciplinary panel is now in place, taking a family-centred approach to support.
- For persistently or severely absent children, a Model Attendance Policy has been established, promoted at the Designated Safeguarding Leads conference, and supported by updated educational neglect guidance and a localised strategy aligned with revised legislation. Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) guidance has also been shared as good practice.
- Within MASH, several recommendations are now embedded into the new Isle of Wight model. A checklist noting good practice when completing an Inter-Agency Referral Form is now included on the IOWSCP's Worried About A Child webpage. A practitioner briefing on quality of referrals has been shared through training and newsletters.
- Regarding the response to child sexual abuse audit, the recommendations from the national review into child sexual abuse are being considered by the IOWSCP Learning Inquiry Group (LIG).



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary are now providing regular and more comprehensive data on child sexual abuse to the Safeguarding Children Partnership. The HIPS Executive received an assurance report March 25 including progress against Child Sexual Abuse strategic priorities, it is planned this will be repeated annually and relevant findings shared with IOWSCP Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup.

Agencies have provided assurance of how they are embedding the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Toolkit with the oversight of the Independent Scrutineer and Executive Group. This included agencies' attendance and engagement with the IOWSCP training offer relevant to child sexual abuse.

## LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

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

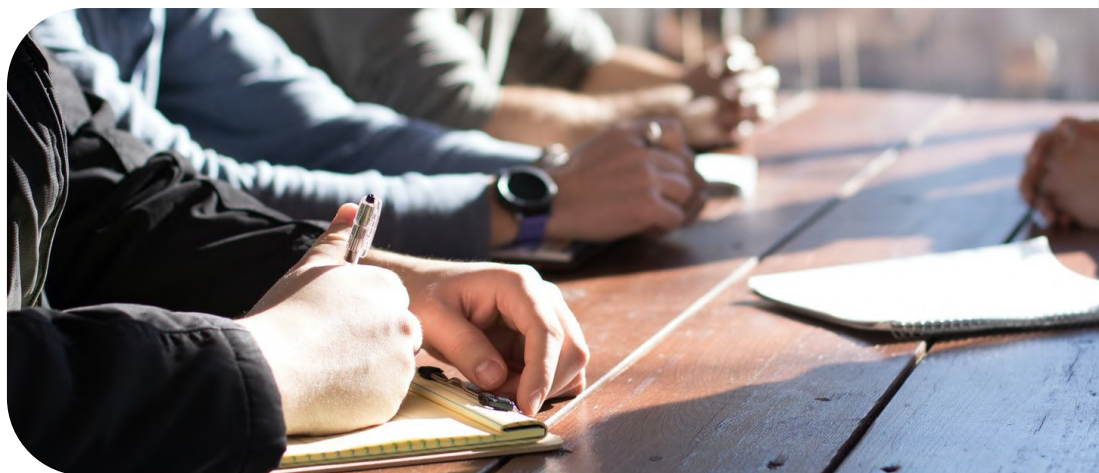
### Serious safeguarding cases are those in which:

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

There is additional guidance from the national Child Safeguarding Review Panel for safeguarding partners in determining the criteria of serious harm.

The Group also discuss and share local learning from single agency reviews, other area LCSPRs and national child safeguarding practice reviews. The purpose of any review conducted by the IOWSCP, or nationally, is to identify learning and whether improvements to safeguarding practice are necessary, through a better understanding of what happened and why things happened as they did.

Presentations on recently published LCSPRs identify cross cutting themes and learning and the group benchmarks local multi-agency safeguarding practice against these.



Following a referral in 2023/24, that did not meet the criteria for a Serious Incident Notification or LCSPR, it was agreed that a local learning event would be completed. Terms of reference and key lines of enquiry were agreed by LIG members, and a multi-agency practitioner workshop was held in April 2024, facilitated by a representative from Children's Social Care and the Integrated Care Board. 18 practitioners from a range of agencies attended and actively participated, sharing information and their views on the areas of effective practice and areas of learning. A number of participants shared how supportive and valuable the learning event was and reflected on the importance of attending. The report from this local learning event and accompanying practitioner briefing was approved by LIG members and the IOWSCP Executive group, including the delegated safeguarding partners.

The local learning event was in response to a child who had suffered injuries some of which were unexplained. Throughout their life, there was a number of missed appointments and non-engagement from parents.



## Recommendations from the local learning event and outcomes:

The recommendations focused on strengthening multi-agency safeguarding practices.

- ★ Several actions were completed, such as the promotion of the [HIPS Escalation Protocol for the Resolution of Professional Disagreement](#), the [Neglect toolkit](#), and associated training across services, as well as the dissemination of the updated [Understanding Unidentified Adults Toolkit](#) and [Safeguarding Theme Overview Pack](#) with practical flowcharts.
- ★ The [Multi-agency practice resource: Recognising and responding to child physical abuse](#), including specific attention to bruising in infants, was developed and shared.
- ★ A [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section was added to the IOWSCP website, outlining how MASH operates, to support practitioner understanding.
- ★ Additionally, the [Learning from reviews' Safeguarding Practice week](#) highlighted the importance of professional curiosity.
- ★ Senior leaders were reminded of the importance of prioritising staff attendance at local learning events.
- ★ Agencies have been asked to confirm they have consistent, accessible systems for recording fathers' details, though full assurance is yet to be received.

## Single-agency learning and multi-agency recommendations will be progressed by partners and will be monitored and assured through the IOWSCP LIG.

During 2024/25 the LIG received four referrals for consideration; the safeguarding partners agreed none met the criteria for a Serious Incident Notification. Of these:

**1. Referral from Youth Justice Service:** this was decided by safeguarding partner representatives to be better placed for consideration by the Children's Social Care multi-agency safeguarding leads meeting.

**2. Referral from CAMHS:** taken forward by the relevant agencies involved as part of professional differences and escalation, to review what went well, what didn't and identify what could be done differently next time.

**3. Referral from HIOW Constabulary:** LIG members agreed that multi-agency and single agency learning had been identified through considering of all the information provided by agencies and the meeting discussion and a local learning event was not required, however 4 recommendations were agreed and will be monitored by the LIG:

- LIG and PQA to work collaboratively to assure effectiveness of HRDA [High Risk Domestic Abuse] and MARAC [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference] arrangements to safeguard children as victims of domestic abuse – **to be taken forward as part of the 'Children as victims of domestic abuse' multi-agency audit planned for Q3 2025-26**
- Children's Social Care to reissue the Protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising in infants who are not independently mobile and provide assurance that this has been promoted.
- Partnership Team to create a learning pack linking together resources that correspond with the identified learning from this child and families circumstances. **COMPLETE – slide deck learning pack shared with LIG members for distribution**
- Learning in this case brought forward awareness of the range of differently qualified roles within primary care because this child was seen by a paramedic within primary care. All medical practitioners within a primary care setting who see children should undertake safeguarding training including ensuring knowledge of procedures/

protocols such as the Protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising in infants who are not independently mobile.

**COMPLETE – Assurance provided by the Named GP**

**4. Referral from Solent NHS Trust (now Hampshire & IOW Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust):** members agreed that multi-agency learning required further consideration and a local learning event was required. Terms of reference and key lines of enquiry were agreed by LIG members, and a multi-agency practitioner workshop was held in November 2024, facilitated by a representative from Children's Social Care and the HIOW Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. 31 practitioners from a range of agencies attended and actively participated, sharing information and their views on the areas of effective practice and areas of learning. The report summarised key areas of learning and practitioner briefing slides were shared.

This local learning event was in response to a child with additional needs, who experienced a number of early adverse childhood experiences.

**Recommendations from the local learning event (Outcomes will be monitored by the Learning Inquiry Group):**

The recommendations focus on strengthening safeguarding processes and multi-agency collaboration on the Isle of Wight.

Key areas for improvement include urgently reviewing how Child Protection Medicals are conducted to better support both children and professionals and addressing systemic pressures and the lack of contextual information during assessments.

There is an emphasis on enhancing decision-making oversight within the MASH and involving a broader range of professionals in strategy discussions, supported by practical tools such as updated templates and checklists.

Several actions have already been completed, such as developing [practice principles and a template for using multi-agency chronologies](#), promoting resources for working with children with additional needs, and reinforcing

practitioner training on information sharing.

Additionally, the importance of identifying connected/unidentified adults and conducting multi-agency debriefs after significant incidents has been addressed. A final recommendation highlights the need to clarify strategy discussions as a process rather than a one-off event, ensuring a more robust and informed approach to safeguarding children.





## National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Briefings

The LIG, IOWSCP Executive group and the Board also considered the:

- [National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment](#)
- [National Panel Annual Report 2022/23](#)
- A Local Reflective Report detailing the Isle of Wight response was developed from national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Briefing - [Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education \(EHE\)](#), which provides an overview of the current position on elective home education in terms of legislation, guidance, research and briefings. The LIG will monitor progress against national panel report recommendations, and additional local recommendations developed through the local reflective report.
- In March 2025, the Executive group received an update in relation to agencies response to progress against those recommendations. Regarding one of the local recommendations, 'If the Children Not in School Bill' is enacted the IOWSCP should work with the EHE team to develop a guide for the multi-agency workforce on the role of the EHE team and the new multi-agency responsibilities. A practitioner guide should be developed regardless of whether legislation progresses, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the local authority and multi-agency workforce in respect of EHE. It was noted that whilst the Children Not in School Bill did not progress, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill now at committee stage, contains similar legislative intent. Given the delay in legislation a [Multi-Agency roles and responsibilities around Elective Home Education Practitioner Guide](#) was produced and published.

Under section 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, all schools are required to carry out an annual self-assessment of their safeguarding arrangements for

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION

children. In 2024, 100% of IOW schools and colleges completed a self-assessment. The self-assessment tool is updated annually in line with legislation: [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) and [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) guidance](#). Working Together to Safeguard Children now stipulates this must be completed and shared with the safeguarding partners. On the Island this is in place and working very effectively. The self-assessment audit tool and accompanying guidance document supports schools and colleges to reflect on their current practice, identify areas of good



practice, outline actions and developments and consider the impact of any actions and areas to strengthen.



Within the audit return, education settings were asked to respond to thirteen questions, identifying whether they felt that they had fully met, partially met or did not meet the standard, and submit these to the IOWSCP. This year, eight additional questions were asked about physical intervention practice and a further question sought assurance that pastoral roles, including roles involved in supporting attendance/engagement in education, access multi-agency safeguarding training relevant to their roles. All schools confirmed their staff had. All 55 schools responded 'fully met' to all the questions apart from two who identified that a process was 'partly in place' and had actions to address this. When asked if attendance training was included as part of induction, 37 schools confirmed it was. Schools provided a number of priorities within the action planning section of their return, demonstrating their commitment to maintain

the current standard or further strengthen practice.

Following the audit submissions, 4 schools were asked to provide their self-assessment tools to the IOWSCP to quality assure the audit process. This was in place of the usual verification visits which will restart in 2025/26.

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



## RECOMMENDATIONS & LEARNING IDENTIFIED

Schools should include reference to Early Help and the Isle of Wight Council Family Information Hub in policies



## ACTION TO PROGRESS / OUTCOME

Additional questions and guidance added in the Keeping children safe in education 2025 157/175 audit tool

- Are all staff aware of the Early Help process and understand their role in it? Are they aware of the cohorts of children who may benefit from early help and support?
- Is Early Help actively promoted for relevant pupils within your school by your DSL, school staff and Governors?
- Does your setting help to coordinate an offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified, and do they contribute to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children?

## RECOMMENDATIONS & LEARNING IDENTIFIED

Education subgroup members to signpost schools to the [HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit](#), including the [HIPS learning pack](#) available to support in-house child sexual abuse awareness training for all staff

IOW Council to provide guidance for all schools, clarifying the expectations around the transfer and retention of safeguarding records including for those young people that are eighteen and over.

## ACTION TO PROGRESS / OUTCOME

- Launch of Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse 'Child Sexual Abuse Referral Pathway' promoted to all schools and included within the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse toolkit
  - Child Sexual Abuse Safeguarding Practice Week planned for June 2025 will be promoted to all schools and will include a live toolkit tour
  - Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit promoted at Designated Safeguarding Leads network
  - Child sexual abuse article in the IOWSCP Education subgroup quarterly newsletter signposting the Child Sexual Abuse Referral Pathway launch and HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit
- 
- A task and finish group from members of the education subgroup will take this action forward.

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (SECTION 11)

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

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

The process reflects a two-year cycle of self-assessment (year 1) followed by monitoring and tracking of action plans (year 2). The focus for 2024/25 was to re-visit agencies action plans from the self-assessment tool completed in 2023/24 and receive assurance on the outcomes from this. This was accompanied by an optional staff survey.

Take up of the staff survey this year was low with ten responses, reflecting the fact the survey was optional. Consequently, agencies were not able to triangulate their self-assessment. For the mandatory staff survey in 2023-24 there were 206 responses from across the multi-agency workforce.

The review of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) self-assessment action plans relating to agencies that cross one or more local authority borders, were led and managed through agreed HIPS arrangements. The themes arising from this work had oversight from the IOWSCP Executive group.

2025/26 will see agencies requested to complete the full self-assessment (year 1) against the safeguarding standards.

#### KEY STRENGTHS:

- ✓ A strong culture of safeguarding across agencies was evident.
- ✓ Agencies promoted IOWSCP partnership resources and toolkits in supervision, team meetings and training. One agency built in IOWSCP training to annual appraisals which ensured attendance at multi-agency training.
- ✓ Agency submissions evidenced their strengthened approach to their staff accessing IOWSCP workforce development. Increased monitoring of engagement in training and workforce development opportunities was noted by some agencies.
- ✓ Some agencies noted developments in their safeguarding governance structures, demonstrating monitoring and assurance of safeguarding activity including oversight of the section 11.
- ✓ Agencies were consistent in noting supervision is in place for staff/ volunteers and some agencies have extended their offers with drop-in sessions.
- ✓ With regards to children with additional needs and disabilities, it was positive to see greater awareness from agencies around neurodivergence.



#### EMERGING THEMES:

- There wasn't consistent evidence of improvements relating to standard 11 relating to safeguarding and disabled children. Organisations safeguarding policies and procedures should routinely include reference to the increased vulnerability of disabled children to abuse and neglect.
- Organisations should consider how they can be assured that practitioners access and understand policies that are shared within their organisation, for example a whistleblowing / freedom to speak up policy.
- Safer recruitment training is used widely within larger organisations. It was apparent access to safer recruitment training was an emerging theme for smaller organisations.
- Acronyms are still used widely. The use of acronyms by different professional disciplines is a challenge to the effective sharing of information. Agencies were reminded of the need to share information in a way that can be understood by everyone.



## SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The joint Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and IOWSCP Workforce Development subgroup (WFD) is well established and there is synergy between the two workforce development agendas in terms of pooling budgets for areas of joint interest as well as separate courses that are relevant for the individual Board / Partnership.

Learning Needs Analysis is undertaken annually, with feedback from a staff survey of workforce development requirements considered alongside course evaluations, attendance numbers and observations of learning delivered. Learning needs are also identified through the Partnerships' scrutiny and assurance programmes and learning reviews. Learning and development is

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

### **“ Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People Level 3:**

*Be vigilant for signs of safeguarding concerns in patients.*

*Raise any concerns with safeguarding lead - follow appropriate pathways.*

*Be more confident discussing with patients and asking the right questions if I do have concerns and knowing where to sign post or access services.*

### **Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse:**

*I will actively apply the knowledge of spotting subtle signs and indicators of child sexual abuse. I will ensure I remain vigilant in observing behavioural changes, physical signs, or disclosures from anyone, and will document and report concerns promptly in line with safeguarding procedures.*

*I will adapt my communication style to ensure that I provide a safe and supportive environment for children to share their concerns. This includes using open-ended questions, listening without judgement, and being mindful of my language and tone to avoid leading or influencing responses.*

delivered face-to-face, online or in an e-learning / briefing format.

A comprehensive, and extended list of 33 courses was offered during 2024/25, with 642 attendees from a wide range of agencies. Data from the 2024/25 programme of learning and development showed that:

- ★ **99% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that training met its learning outcomes.**
- ★ **99% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that they understood how to apply the learning in their day-to-day role**
- ★ **92% of all attendees felt the style of delivery enhanced their experience of the event**

*I will review and reinforce my understanding of my organisations policies and procedures. Additionally, I will work with colleagues to share insights from the training, ensuring a consistent and positive approach to identifying and responding to potential abuse cases.*

### **Understanding Cumulative Harm and Preventing the Normalisation of Neglect:**

*Re-examine current cases that we have considered as neglect to see if we've overlooked cumulative.*

*Share this information to discuss in our monthly safeguarding meetings to share with the other DSL's.* ”

**In June 2024, 57 Designated Safeguarding Leads from across the Island attended the IOWSCP Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Conference.** This consisted of a full online day with multi-agency representatives providing presentations. It focused on updated statutory guidance such as the Prevent Duty and Working Together to Safeguard Children, strengthening understanding of safeguarding in the context of school engagement and exploring IOWSCP resources and toolkits.

## PARTNER AGENCY SUBMISSIONS

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

1. **How do the workstreams of the IOWSCP support your agency in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing?**
2. **Specific assurance of how the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnerships Neglect Strategy and Toolkit has been promoted and embedded within your agency?**
3. **Can you evidence how IOWSCP learning and development opportunities have impacted directly on a) safeguarding practice and b) outcomes for children and families**
4. **How do you ensure that learning from the workstreams of the IOWSCP is disseminated and embedded within your organisation?**
5. **How have you used feedback from children and families to inform and develop safeguarding practices?**

### BARNARDO'S

At Barnardo's, our frontline practitioners continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding through active engagement with IOWSCP training.

This has directly enhanced practice, particularly in the accurate and timely submission of Child Protection Information (CPI) forms and Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Frameworks (CERAFs), enabling earlier identification and support for children at risk of exploitation. IOWSCP toolkits, especially the Neglect Toolkit, are routinely referenced in team meetings, supervisions, and peer case discussions. The neglect threshold and indicator chart has been referenced and cited by practitioners when detailing concerns via Inter-Agency Referral Forms (IARFs) to children's services, ensuring referrals are appropriate



and risk centred.

Learning from multi-agency audits has led to tangible improvements in practice, such as encouraging practitioners to write directly to the child and adopt a child's perspective in their work. A bespoke training session on the quality of referrals and processes was developed and delivered to all staff and is now part of the induction for new team members. Practitioners are regularly reminded to revisit the training materials when completing IARFs.

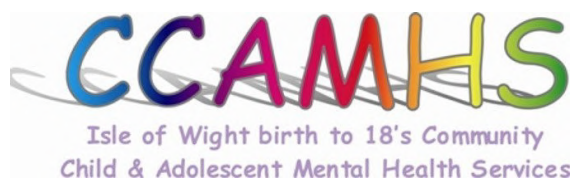
Safeguarding resources such as ICON and Every Sleep Counts are embedded in our antenatal and Welcome to the World sessions. All frontline staff and volunteers have received training on safeguarding infants, and IOWSCP Safeguarding Theme Overview Packs (STOP) are shared with relevant practitioners. Posters and materials are also prominently displayed in family centres to support parental engagement.

Audits and supervision discussions identified a need to strengthen practitioner awareness around unidentified adults in households. Targeted training was delivered, followed by reflective discussions and audits, which confirmed improved curiosity and information gathering, with staff now proactively seeking managerial support when needed.

Partnership working remains central to our approach, underpinning the success of the family hubs model and our team around the family ethos.

### CAMHS

Clinicians in CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) are kept informed about IOWSCP safeguarding resources through regular emails and team briefings, ensuring they know how to access support via the IOWSCP materials. When concerns arise, appropriate referrals, such as the IARF, are completed. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neglect Strategy and Toolkit has been shared with all practitioners, discussed in team meetings, and the toolkit is actively promoted by managers to ensure consistent use. Learning from IOWSCP training has improved clinicians' ability to identify safeguarding concerns, particularly in mental health, where issues like parental neglect are common. This has led to more effective referrals and better outcomes for children and families.



### CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Children's Services on the Isle of Wight continue to work collaboratively within the IOWSCP to safeguard children and promote their wellbeing. A key element of this work is the effective use of toolkits and resources provided by the Partnership, which support direct work with children, facilitate staff training, and the embedding of best practice. These resources,



including those tailored for children with additional needs, are widely used and valued by practitioners. The Neglect Toolkit remains a priority within our service plan, with efforts underway to increase its use across the workforce. The widespread use of this toolkit by staff is crucial for the effective safeguarding of children. Newly qualified staff now receive training on the toolkit as part of their induction, ensuring early familiarity with identifying and addressing neglect.

The impact of IOWSCP's learning and development opportunities is evidenced through improved safeguarding practice and better outcomes for children and families. Two local learning events in 2024 focused on enhancing multi-agency collaboration and decision-making within safeguarding processes, including the MASH. These events reinforced the importance of the child and family's historical context, professional challenge, and communication across agencies. The learning has been disseminated to staff and partners, promoting consistent threshold application.

Thematic audits have been instrumental in identifying patterns and trends in safeguarding practices. The learnings from these audits have been disseminated to staff, providing them with valuable insights to improve their practice and better safeguard children.

A recent review of recognising and responding to exploitation, including extra-familial harm and contextual safeguarding, has led to the appointment of a dedicated Children's Services Exploitation Lead. This reflects a proactive stance on emerging risks and a commitment to strengthening the local safeguarding response. Staff engagement in training on exploitation, missing children and the CERAF will be central to equipping practitioners with the knowledge and tools to safeguard children at risk outside the home. These initiatives demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous improvement, multi-agency collaboration, and ensuring that children's voices are heard and acted upon.



## EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND ACCESS

Safeguarding remains a fundamental priority across all education and early years services on the Isle of Wight and is fully integrated into the Isle of Wight Education Strategy. The 2024–2025 Safeguarding in Education Audit provides assurance of safeguarding measures implemented throughout the education sector. Ofsted inspection outcomes consistently reflect the effectiveness of these arrangements, and no concerns have been identified through the Local Authority's quality assurance processes.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at headteacher briefings, with regular updates also disseminated via email to headteachers, governors, and settings to maintain system-wide awareness and consistency. The Neglect Strategy and Toolkit has been actively promoted across all sectors. In Early Years, 100% of settings and childminders have received training to identify signs of neglect, with the toolkit embedded into the Early Years Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit. Practitioners are supported by IOWSCP toolkits to guide decision-making, ensuring that support is based on clear threshold criteria. Regular training, clear policies, and a proactive approach to child protection enable practitioners to effectively identify and address potential concerns.

The Early Years Advisory Team continues to play a key role in disseminating safeguarding information and promoting best practice through briefings, newsletters, and network meetings. This year the Education, Inclusion and Access team have worked with the partnership to produce the 'Multi-agency roles and responsibilities around Elective Home Education Guide'. This practitioner guide helps multi-agency practitioners to clarify definitions in terms of children missing or absent from education and promote a shared understanding and have improved consistency in professional language and response.

The IOWSCP Threshold Chart remains a vital resource, regularly used to identify when additional support is needed and to ensure consistent language in referrals. The "Day in My Life" tool is also used to gain insight into children's

lived experiences.

Learning and development opportunities such as "Right Help, Right Time" MASH workshops have enhanced inter-agency collaboration and learning from reviews have been embedded into daily practice.

These collective efforts demonstrate a robust, reflective, and responsive safeguarding education system that prioritises the safety and well-being of all children and families.

## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The IOWSCP continues to play a vital role in guiding Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS) staff in their work with children and young people.

A key focus is the safeguarding adolescents workstream, which helps ensure that HIWFRS responses are both appropriate and proportionate. All safeguarding procedures and guidance within HIWFRS are aligned with IOWSCP frameworks, promoting consistency and informed decision-making. A significant development has been the integration of the six types of neglect, as defined in the IOWSCP Neglect Strategy and Toolkit, into all safeguarding training. This has deepened staff understanding of neglect and its warning signs. Practical tools like the Threshold Chart and the Neglect Threshold and Indicator Chart support staff in assessing and responding to concerns. These resources have been shared with Community Safety teams and are embedded in ongoing training.

HIWFRS procedures require staff to report concerns internally, where they are triaged using the toolkit. This structured approach ensures thorough assessment and appropriate referrals, building staff confidence in handling safeguarding issues effectively.



## HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

The IOWSCP continues to play a pivotal role in supporting Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



### HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing. The integration of IOWSCP strategies and toolkits - covering areas such as child sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation and extra-familial harm - into operational policing practice has significantly enhanced our ability to identify, assess, and respond to safeguarding concerns. Tools such as the CERAf, Threshold Chart, and Community Partnership Information (CPI) Form are now routinely used by officers to ensure concerns are escalated appropriately. The Section 11 audit has provided a valuable mechanism for critically evaluating and improving internal safeguarding arrangements, while information shared through IOWSCP Executive and Board meetings, subgroups, and Safeguarding Practice Weeks ensures our workforce remains aligned with current priorities and learning.

Multi-agency audits and Local Learning Reviews have strengthened inter-agency communication and enabled more timely and effective safeguarding responses. The IOWSCP's Exploitation Subgroup remains a key forum for reviewing practice, identifying training needs, and improving the quality of CERAf submissions. The ongoing CERAf scrutiny survey, conducted by police MASH/Missing Exploited, Trafficked Team (METT) (now Child Exploitation Team) is helping to highlight quality issues and inform improvements. The Child Centred Policing strategy is now embedded across teams, with a revised strategy awaiting sign-off. This continues to prioritise the voice of the child and trauma-informed approaches, including the use of the Custody Video Book, which supports children in custody to make positive choices.

Training remains a cornerstone of our approach, and continued professional development is delivered across teams, including Contact Management and Neighbourhood Policing. The Education Partnership Team, now within the

Strategic Area Policing Hub, continues to support school engagement and deliver safeguarding-themed educational packages. These efforts are complemented by tactical advice and resources addressing key issues such as knife crime, online safety, and anti-social behaviour. Notably, police-led multi-agency training has contributed to a significant increase in CPI submissions in Q1 2025 compared to the previous year, reflecting improved information sharing and partnership working. Regular multi-agency scrutiny of Police Public Protection Notices and timely Child in Custody Notifications further ensure that children's needs are identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity.

## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION TRUST

NHS

The IOWSCP workstreams shape and inform practice across the Trust. They ensure that best practice is embedded through strategic partnerships working, targeted training, and consistent information -sharing.



### Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The resources and toolkits developed through partnership workstreams are embedded within the Safeguarding Support Team's Level 2 and Level 3 training offers. These materials enhance staff capability and ensure consistency in safeguarding practice.

Learning from audits and reviews is shared directly to relevant teams and services and further supported through tailored supervision and engagement following reviews. Active participation in the Section 11 self-assessment process also helps maintain accountability and progress in implementing the "Keeping Children Safe" standards.

Within the 0-19 service, staff are regularly directed to the IOWSCP website and encouraged to participate in its partner-led training sessions, which foster a shared understanding across agencies. Taking part in training attended by

Within the 0-19 service, staff are regularly directed to the IOWSCP website and encouraged to participate in its partner-led training sessions, which foster a shared understanding across agencies. Taking part in training attended by partner agencies allows the sharing of professional views and experiences with colleagues who work in the local area. Safeguarding supervision sessions further support staff by highlighting relevant resources and training aligned with emerging themes highlighted.

The sexual health service similarly draws on the IOWSCP's website, training events, and toolkits to inform practice, ensuring that safeguarding awareness is embedded across day-to-day activities.

The Trust also demonstrates a clear commitment to the Neglect Strategy, with the safeguarding team offering bespoke training that promotes the early identification of neglect. Use of the toolkit is widely integrated into the supervision offer provided to staff groups, for example, being used in responsive supervision sought by staff and accessed via our advice line.

Practitioners frequently use the Neglect Threshold and Indicator Chart and are referred to the Neglect Toolkit during safeguarding discussions, particularly when making MASH referrals. Facilitators deliver thematic reviews in safeguarding group sessions to enhance staff knowledge and application of these tools.

The dental and sexual health services further promote the neglect toolkit during supervision, team meetings, and case discussions, ensuring staff are equipped to identify and respond to concerns. The resources are effectively communicated through Microsoft Teams, newsletters, and safeguarding channels, ensuring broad access and consistent messaging across the workforce.

### **NHS HAMPSHIRE AND IOW (INTEGRATED CARE BOARD)**

As a safeguarding partner of the IOWSCP, the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight (Integrated Care Board), through its Isle of Wight place-based team, continues to play a central role in safeguarding children and young people across the Island.

The ICB has actively supported the development, implementation, and monitoring of the IOWSCP

strategic priorities and business plan and associated workstreams. This includes contributing to the development of strategies and toolkits - such as enhancements to the neglect toolkit for children with additional and complex needs—which are now embedded across health networks on the Island. The designated safeguarding professionals, including the designated nurses for children and adults, are active members of the Isle of Wight Workforce Development Group, and contribute to task and finish groups, training reviews, and the promotion of up-to-date resources. Learning and development opportunities are regularly shared with NHS providers and primary care through the ICB newsletter. Designated professionals and the named GP also participate in key safeguarding forums, including the Safeguarding Leads meeting, ensuring that discussions are informed by current research and aligned with local and national procedures. The designated doctor and nurse are members of several strategic subgroups, including the Learning Inquiry Group, Partnership Board, HIPS Health subgroup, and the Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup. These forums enable the safeguarding team to provide expert medical advice, influence practice and promote better outcomes for children and young people.

Supervision sessions are a core component to support practice and case discussions through these provide opportunities to share learning directly with practitioners. The designated doctor continues to provide safeguarding supervision to both the named doctor and named GP. A key focus across all safeguarding activity is the inclusion of the voice of the child, which has been embedded into toolkit development and wider safeguarding guidance.



## **Hampshire and Isle of Wight**



## PRIMARY CARE

Primary care remains a vital component of the safeguarding system on the Isle of Wight. The named GPs for children and adults lead on the delivery of safeguarding training and supervision for GPs and primary care staff, ensuring alignment with IOWSCP priorities. These sessions are well-attended and have seen steady growth over the past four years, with an average of one to two representatives from each practice now participating. Supervision sessions provide a safe and structured environment for discussing complex cases, raising awareness of safeguarding protocols and toolkits, and identifying gaps in learning and system processes. Topics covered include safeguarding infants i.e. the bruising protocol, safe sleep and ICON, early help, missed appointments and non-engagement, children not registered with GPs, children missing education, self-harm, and gender dysphoria.

The Extended Section 11 Audit in 2023 identified a need for domestic abuse training, which was addressed through Paragon's delivery of targeted sessions, including 'Domestic Abuse Dragonfly Champion' training, taken up by three practices. The Named GP is also working with healthcare and education leads to improve the use of clinical record systems for sharing information on MASH strategy discussions and children missing education. The IOWSCP's wide-ranging training offer is particularly valuable for medical staff at all levels, including junior doctors with limited paediatric experience. These collective efforts have significantly enhanced the safeguarding knowledge, confidence, and consistency of response among primary care teams, ensuring children and families receive timely and appropriate support.

## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL HOUSING

The IOWSCP provides learning opportunities for housing practitioners to better understand and respond to issues such as domestic abuse and in particular recognising children as victims of domestic abuse.

The resources available via the IOWSCP allow staff to better understand child

protection and risks to children within a domestic setting. It highlights the mechanisms to identify risk, and report concerns of harm for children within homelessness accommodation.

## INCLUSION IOW

The Inclusion team actively supports the IOWSCP workstreams by embedding a range of strategies and toolkits into daily practice, including those focused on neglect, adolescents, child sexual abuse, exploitation and safeguarding infants.



These resources, alongside tools like the IARF, CERAF, Threshold Chart, and CPI form, enhance the team's ability to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns effectively. The Neglect Strategy and Toolkit, particularly the 'Neglect Threshold and Indicator Chart' and 'A Day in My Life' tool, are widely used and promoted through ongoing training, case discussions, and dissemination of IOWSCP updates.

Learning and development opportunities provided by IOWSCP have directly improved safeguarding practice by strengthening multi-agency collaboration, enhancing referral pathways, and increasing practitioner confidence in addressing complex issues. This has led to more effective interventions and improved outcomes for children and families, particularly through better information sharing and the ability to engage in honest conversations with families.

## IOW NHS TRUST

The Trust's safeguarding workstreams play a crucial role in building staff capacity to identify, respond to, and prevent child abuse through a collaborative, system-wide approach.



The **Child Sexual Abuse Strategy Workstream** addresses the often-hidden nature of abuse by equipping staff with training and support to recognise signs and respond effectively.

The **Neglect Workstream**, supported by the revised strategy and toolkit, helps staff identify and respond to neglect from the unborn stage to young adulthood. As neglect is the most common form of abuse both locally and nationally, this workstream emphasises early identification, timely intervention, and coordinated responses. The Neglect Toolkit, promoted through Safeguarding Council Meetings and embedded in level 3 safeguarding training for Maternity staff, is widely used in supervision with practitioners and midwives. It remains accessible via intranet pages, supervisions and teaching sessions, reinforcing its role as a key safeguarding resource.

The **Child Exploitation and Extra-Familial Harm Workstream** prepares staff to manage complex risks such as exploitation, trafficking, and missing children. It promotes a multi-agency, child-centred approach, enabling staff to understand risk factors and respond proactively.

The **Safeguarding Adolescents Workstream** enhances information sharing and inter-agency collaboration. It encourages a family-focused approach that values the lived experiences of young people and promotes empathetic, respectful interventions.

A range of safeguarding tools and practices support NHS staff in managing concerns. Toolkits offer practical guidance through case studies and concise resources, helping staff navigate complex scenarios. A centralised online hub improves access to key documents like the Inter Agency Referral Form, CERAF, CPI Form, and Threshold Charts, supporting timely and consistent decision-making.

**Local Learning Reviews** and **multi-agency audits** offer opportunities for reflection and shared learning, highlighting effective practices and areas for improvement. These reviews strengthen collaboration and build practitioner

confidence, ultimately improving outcomes for children.

**Practitioner briefings** provide accessible updates on lessons from practice, audits, and policy changes, supporting continuous learning and reinforcing safeguarding responsibilities.

Together, these workstreams and initiatives foster a culture of learning, reflection, and proactive safeguarding. NHS staff are better equipped to protect children, respond swiftly to concerns, and continuously improve their practice.

Targeted training and supervision is in place, particularly on the Threshold Document and the Injury in Non-Mobile Babies Protocol within the 111 Hub. This has significantly improved risk recognition and response. This has led to increased referrals to the MASH, ensuring timely assessments and interventions. These improvements highlight the vital role of ongoing professional development in safeguarding children.

## NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE

The National Probation Service recognises the vital role of the IOWSCP in supporting our safeguarding responsibilities. Through collaborative workstreams, we have implemented routine safeguarding checks for individuals undergoing Pre-Sentence Reports on the Isle of Wight. This ensures report authors have access to the most current information regarding child protection concerns, key worker involvement, and relevant meetings such as Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), enabling more accurate risk assessments and effective case management.

Probation practitioners also benefit from this integrated approach, ensuring safeguarding children remains central to their ongoing supervision and risk management duties.

National  
Probation  
Service



The impact of IOWSCP's learning and development opportunities is evident in improved safeguarding practices and written report among officers. This has directly contributed to better outcomes for children and families, as access to timely and accurate information enhances our ability to manage offenders and protect vulnerable individuals.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The Isle of Wight Public Health function plays a key role in safeguarding children and families by contributing a population health perspective to the IOWSCP. While not a front-line service, Public Health actively participates in safeguarding through regular engagement in audits, including completing the Section 11 safeguarding standards self-assessment process, membership of task and finish groups and strategic input. It commissions services such as public health nursing, sexual health, substance misuse, and domestic abuse support, ensuring these providers embed safeguarding protocols and IOWSCP resources into their operations.

This collaboration enhances workforce development and promotes consistent safeguarding practices. For instance, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) works with the IOWSCP to align training and priorities. Public Health Nursing services follow established safeguarding protocols and use tools like the Threshold Chart and CERAf. Sexual and Reproductive Health services ensure staff are trained to identify and respond to child sexual abuse, with clear referral pathways for under-18s.

Safeguarding performance is monitored through quarterly Contract Quality Review Meetings, where providers report on training, supervision, and incident learning. Commissioners use a Commissioning, Legal and Procurement toolkit to guide oversight and promote the "Think Family" approach, encouraging holistic safeguarding.

Outcomes are evident through initiatives like the IOWSCP Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Practice Week (Nov 2024), which improved professional capacity

to support affected children. Future plans include co-producing child-specific domestic abuse referral pathways and ensuring the continued domestic abuse training provision. Strategic learning is embedded, and real-world impacts are highlighted through client stories shared at Contract Quality Review Meetings, and through supervision, both of which demonstrate improved identification and support for vulnerable children.

## PARAGON

Paragon actively engages with the IOWSCP to ensure robust safeguarding practices and promote the wellbeing of children. We use the IARF and Threshold Chart to guide referrals to social care, participate in audits and learning reviews. Staff attend local learning events, safeguarding leads meetings, and have received training on the new MASH, with managers involved in pre-planning meetings. Key resources, including information from themed practice weeks and LIG updates, are shared across the team to reinforce best practices.



**PARAGON**  
TOGETHER EMPOWERING CHANGE

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neglect Strategy and toolkit have been embedded within the agency through distribution to all advocates, integration into shared folders, and regular discussion in team meetings. Advocates, particularly those working with children and young people, demonstrate strong familiarity with the toolkit and the Neglect Threshold and Indicators, which are also visibly displayed in the office.

Learning and development opportunities have directly enhanced safeguarding practice. Training on Female Genital Mutilation, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, MASH, and faith/honour-based abuse has increased staff confidence and knowledge, enabling more informed and culturally sensitive support. Additionally, paperwork for children and young people has been redesigned to be age-appropriate and trauma-informed, reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement in outcomes for children and families.



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

- ✓ Sharing key updates, findings, and policies through board meetings, own organisational newsletters, reports, and strategic documents.

## DISSEMINATION OF LEARNING

- ✓ Safeguarding Practice Weeks.
- ✓ Disseminating the IOWSCP board and education subgroup newsletters
- ✓ Practitioner briefings summarising learning and recommendations are shared across agencies and discussed in team/manager/all staff briefings.
- ✓ Key multi-agency information is shared at the Designated Safeguarding Leads Annual Conference
- ✓ Information from Board and subgroup meetings is shared widely via forums like the Headteachers Forum, NHS learning sessions, and Barnardo's locality meetings.
- ✓ Agencies include links to practitioner briefings, newsletters, and local procedures in their internal communications.
- ✓ Agencies direct staff to relevant IOWSCP resources and training following audits or learning reviews.
- ✓ Supervision, both planned and responsive, and in both individual and group sessions
- ✓ Information is fed back to community action groups and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations via networks like Hampshire and IOW Health and Care Alliance.
- ✓ Sharing information through multi-agency projects like Family Hubs to promote long-term, joined-up support for families.



## EMBEDDING THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

**Our partners and relevant agencies confirm that they use a wide range of strategies to embed the work of the partnership, including:**

- Learning and training opportunities are frequently disseminated through emails, newsletters, and intranet systems.
- Managers use IOWSCP resources (e.g. practical tools, threshold charts, neglect indicators and toolkits) and incorporate these resources into their supervision discussions to guide practice
- Team meetings, briefings, and internal forums are commonly used to share safeguarding updates and key messages
- Active participation in audits and learning events, which foster strong relationships with partner agencies and provide an opportunity to review and assess the effectiveness of safeguarding practices across different agencies and make recommendations to improve practice at a strategic level
- Feedback from IOWSCP training is shared within teams to reinforce learning and improve practice
- Supervision sessions play a crucial role in identifying individual learning needs and addressing gaps in safeguarding knowledge
- Performance reviews and single agency audits to see if learning with regards to practice development has been embedded
- Training opportunities and safeguarding updates are incorporated into workforce development strategies, including induction processes
- Dedicated roles in some agencies (e.g. Partnership Development Officers, Designated Safeguarding Officers) support continuous improvement and collaboration and cascade learning from audits, reviews, and partnership work
- Multi-agency training sessions, workshops and peer reviews

- Agencies collaborate to develop and implement strategies (e.g. Neglect, Child Exploitation and Extra Familial Harm and Child Sexual Abuse strategies) and frameworks like MASH, CERAf, and METRAC to improve coordination

## CHILDREN'S VOICE



The lived experience of children and their families is also understood through multi-agency auditing, learning from serious safeguarding incidents and other local learning, multi-agency data and single agency scrutiny. The assurance work undertaken by the partnership consistently focuses on the lived experience of our children and families.

It is our priority, to continue to strengthen our understanding of the lived experience of children who are receiving our help and support. Reflecting on what are children telling us, the common themes and importantly what are we going to do about it. This is an area of focussed development for the partnership.

Understanding a child's lived experience involves not only what is said, but also what we observe — how a child presents, how a parent presents, their interactions, and any changes over time. We must recognise that a child's behaviour can be a form of communication. It is essential to support all children in expressing themselves, including those with communication needs and those from families where English is an additional language.

## EXAMPLES OF CHILDREN'S VOICE

### BARNARDO'S

**AREA:** Our advocacy service collects feedback about how confident children and young people feel about expressing their feelings; how involved they are and if they are aware of their rights to be involved and heard; how confident they feel to voice their views and opinions with or without support.

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** *"I would never have made a complaint to social care if you hadn't helped me as I thought it would make me look bad and they wouldn't take me seriously, but you helping me make the complaint meant changes were made for the better and they did listen."*

**INFLUENCE:** Whenever a complaint (via advocacy service) or issue is taken to children's services on behalf of a young person, there is a process to review practice and consider what could have happened to prevent this occurring and therefore influences future practice.

In this situation, where a young person felt unsafe in the home they had been placed, through the advocate sharing their views, this was addressed and as a result the young person felt safe at home.

### EDUCATION, INCLUSION & ACCESS

**AREA:** Evaluations from parents to review our working arrangements and identify areas of best practice and areas that require development.

- In every Personal Education Plan to develop individual safety and education plans

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** *"I just wanted to say thank you so much for the effort and support you have put in place for X in getting him back to school."*

*He has gone back to school after the Easter holidays without an issue or any stress. He has been seen by the mental health school team who will be working*

*with him to hopefully reduce the anxiety in the future.*

*He even said yesterday that school was good. The relief for us seeing him happy again is priceless and I can't thank you enough."*

**INFLUENCE:** Development of the new IOW Education Strategy. Informing the school place planning work. Re-framing school attendance as a safeguarding measure to protect children.



### HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

**AREA:** We continue to work closely with the Youth Commission and the Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) to support and influence our practices. The YIAG undertake scrutiny of Stop Search, children in custody, and sit on strategic boards to ensure that the voice of young people is evident to senior leaders within the Constabulary.

**INFLUENCE:** We will develop better understanding of child abuse and sexual



exploitation issues across the Island through sharing the annual force problem profile on this topic, engaging partners to provide Isle of Wight context and insight in its drafting.

We will support improvements in quality of CERAF submissions across a broader range of partners in relation to concerns of child exploitation.

## ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

**AREA:** We have a well-established and well attended Youth Forum. It is attended by our Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children, our Named Doctor for Safeguarding Children, practitioners and managers from the Local Authority and the ICB (this list is not exhaustive). The forum is attended by a wide range of young people including those with physical health difficulties, mental health difficulties, end of life care, neurodiversity, learning difficulties, gender dysphoria, LGBTQ+ and children from different ethnic backgrounds. Young people who are looked after have been invited, however have not yet attended.

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** "The support given by staff for all young people involved not only with regards to *their forum work and the medical field, but investment into the young people as individuals is great.*" (Professionals' opinions).

*"We come up with ideas and share thoughts as a group."*

*"Everyone has their voices heard, not just their (professionals) opinions. We get to be part of a really good team and working on really cool projects that make you feel proud to be a part of."*

*"It is not often we experience that level of acceptance and openness and more often than not it is a battle to get X access to services Your efforts and attitudes across the whole team meant everything to us and you all protected X on so many levels. The impact of that will be lasting for him."*

**INFLUENCE:** Ideas raised at the Forum by young people are fed back into the Trust to make changes and to consider projects to improve services for children.

## HAMPSHIRE & IOW HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**AREA:** 0-19 service - We are currently working on a system to capture feedback and the voice of the child in our work as part of the formation of the new HIOW organisation. Proposals include use of iPads to get instant feedback and QR codes shared with children and their families to give their views. Once this is in operation, we will be able to collate the comments, review and change practice where necessary and share with our partners.

Sexual Health services - We collect [Family and Friends Test](#) from clinic attendance to provide an opportunity to provide feedback on their experience

**CHILDREN'S VOICE & INFLUENCE:** To be reported in 2025/26

## NHS HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT (ICB)

**AREA:** The Designated Doctor chairs the IOW NHS Youth Forum, which is passionate about coproduction and youth engagement.

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** Youth engagement projects include:

1. Development of Social Prescribing for Weight Management Service in Primary Care
2. Improved access to sexual health services
3. Better signposting to mental health services
4. Paediatric Ward garden – designed by young people – specifically focused on young people with neurodiversity and mental health crisis
5. Sensory boxes
6. Improved decoration and "homeliness" on ward
7. Improved food provision for children, young people and families
8. Better Wi-Fi

**INFLUENCE:** By listening to the views and voices of children and young people, the designated team, as part of the partnership, can shape all aspects of services and support such as training, policies, procedures, education and resources. This allows us to shape service design and directly influence commissioning.

## INCLUSION IOW

**AREA:** Collected by CareOpinion or verbally to inform service development.

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** *"Thank you for all the work you have done – not just with my son but the whole family. You are the first professional he is ever opened up to"*  
*"Our son wouldn't have been able to do this without your support and continued understanding, especially when he disengaged. We thank you very much for not giving up on him."*

**INFLUENCE:** Increased confidence regarding involvement of family members in safeguarding, where appropriate. Ensure a holistic family approach is taken to working with children and young people.

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

**AREA:** The conference chairs service sends out QR codes for children, young people and their families to complete their feedback, in an effort to improve returns which continues to be reported as very low.



**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** *"You helped mum to get the support for me at school and for me to be able to understand how I need to ask for help"*

*"Thank you so much for everything you have done for our family and how much you have supported us. We are all forever grateful. Thank you for pushing me to get the help at school, it means a lot and we will miss you so much. I will miss asking when you are coming round next."*

*"Throughout my time at school, I struggled with a lot of aspects that were indeed school related where times got too difficult and I couldn't see the light but with X it made an incredible difference to me not only in how I have formed as an individual but also how I overcome those difficult situations at school. Whether it was dealing with personal struggles or the struggles with school life knowing that I wasn't alone and had that support helped ease the weight on my shoulders and most definitely off my mind. The presence of someone who believed in me created that safe space for me and who would listen to me rumble on about things and someone who constantly reminded me of my strengths and my capabilities gave me the courage to keep going and to see that light even during the toughest times."*

**INFLUENCE:** We use the feedback from children and families to directly inform and shape the development of our service. Their insights help us identify what is working well and where improvements are needed from the structure and content of activities to accessibility and overall experience. This ongoing input is essential in ensuring the service remains responsive, relevant, and supportive of the needs of children and their families.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

**AREA:** The Public Health team routinely use service user feedback to inform continual improvement within service delivery. The team engage with local communities through the Hampshire County Council Insight and

Engagement team for specific pieces of work to gain insight that is used to inform service planning and system thinking across Isle of Wight.

**INFLUENCE:** Information is used in a wide variety of ways including to inform transformation plans, routine continual improvement of service delivery, identifying local needs and supporting bids. For example, Public Health through PEACH use data gathered from school surveys to children and young people (including #BeeWell) to identify local needs and inform practice.

## PARAGON

**AREA:** We routinely collect feedback from clients exiting the service. This is feedback about the service standards and impact/outcomes of our support as well as any areas of improvement. We also facilitate an authentic voice meeting with clients and Police every quarter so that clients can feedback.

Managers complete monthly dip samples on cases and obtain regular client feedback. This looks at how satisfied clients were with the service; would they recommend to others and what improvements they would like to suggest.

We also hold Feedback Fortnights across all Paragon services where we survey all clients seen during that period.

**CHILDREN'S VOICE:** *"Thank you for helping me understand my feelings. I don't get so angry anymore. I feel much happier now because you have been there for me. I can speak more about how I am feeling now too and know that it is okay not to always feel great"*

*"I feel sad that the advocate isn't going to be visiting anymore but I did feel better about things now. I am happy living with Dad, and it feels life is calmer now. I feel I understand my feelings better."*

*"I have loved every week and will miss you. I speak to my dad about worries now too"*

*"(The advocate) is the first person I have talked to about the stuff that happened to me when I was living with Mum. I would never have gone to CAMHS without*

*the advocates help."*

*"Thank you again it nice to know that I have someone I trust to talk to and who listens and actually cares."*





## CASE STUDIES

### HOUSING

As a housing officer, I became aware of a young parent with a baby. The parent had previously been a looked after child. The young parent was living with someone who began exhibiting controlling and emotionally abusive behaviour, including undermining their belief in their ability to parent. It quickly became clear that the young parent and so the baby too, were in a harmful and unsafe environment.

I arranged interim accommodation for the parent and baby to ensure their immediate safety and to remove them from the abusive household. Once they were settled and safe, I referred them to Paragon for specialist domestic abuse support and reconnected the young parent with their leaving care personal advisor. Together, we coordinated a multi-agency approach to support them during her time in temporary accommodation.

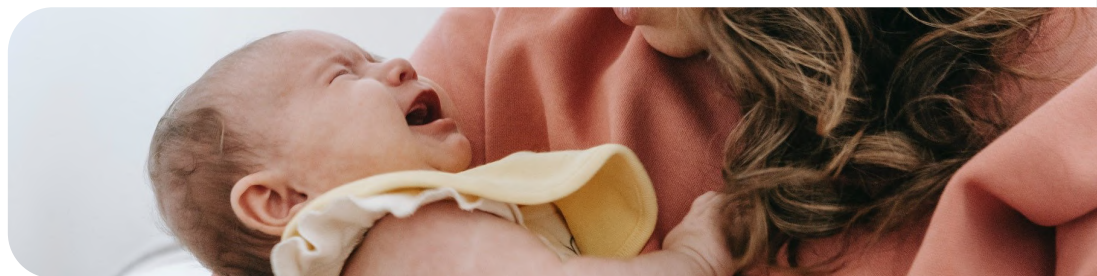
During this period, a third party raised concerns about the young parent's ability to care for their baby. In response, I completed an Inter-Agency Referral Form (IARF) and submitted it to the MASH to ensure the appropriate safeguarding measures were in place and the information was shared.

It was identified that they would benefit from more structured and ongoing support. I successfully referred them to a supported accommodation service specifically for young parents. This setting not only provides a safe space but also equips residents with the skills and confidence needed to transition to independent living.

The young parent is making positive steps towards building a stable and independent future for themselves and their child.

### BARNARDO'S

I attended a Breastfeeding Stay and Play session with my young baby. I was absolutely exhausted and on the verge of tears. My baby had been crying almost non-stop all weekend, and I hadn't slept at all the night before. I was starting to feel like something was seriously wrong with them. I just didn't know what to do anymore.



I'd been to the group before and remembered how supportive it was, so I hoped someone there could help. When I arrived, I was met with kindness and understanding. One of the staff members sat with me and listened without judgment. She introduced me to the ICON resources they had recently started using and showed me something called the "crying curve."

Seeing that chart was such a relief. Based on what I described, she explained that my baby's crying was actually within the normal range for their age. She told me that around 8 weeks, I might start to notice a change - that the crying would likely begin to settle. Just hearing that helped me breathe again. It made me feel like I wasn't failing, and that my baby was okay.

We also talked about recognising early cues and how important it is to take a moment for myself when I feel overwhelmed. That really stuck with me. I even ended up sharing the crying curve with another mum at the group who seemed to be going through something similar. It felt good to pass on that reassurance.

I left the session feeling lighter, more confident, and not so alone.

## NHS HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT (INTEGRATED CARE BOARD)

At a recent safeguarding supervision session, there was discussion about possible neglect for a child with disabilities. There was limited health involvement, and the practitioner felt there were difficulties in communicating concerns across agencies.

Through supervision, the practitioner was supported to access the Neglect Toolkit, including the Neglect Threshold and Indicator chart and 'Day in my life' tools, to go through the specifics of the child and families circumstances. This enabled the active use of resources to support practice, including creating a clear plan, enable communication and a resolute focus on the voice and lived experience of the child.

## HAMPSHIRE AND IOW HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Safeguarding Support Team was approached by two frontline health professionals seeking supervision. The family had been involved with various agencies for an extended period and the children were on a child protection plan for concerns around cumulative neglect.

The practitioners highlighted the risk that the ongoing complexities of the family dynamic were causing key health issues for the children to be overlooked. A notable concern involved unmet health needs, with repeated missed appointments for specialist care, leading to delays in intervention.

Through joint work with the Safeguarding Support Team, the professionals were guided in using the interactive Neglect Threshold and Indicator Chart and Neglect Toolkit. This enabled them to work collaboratively and present a clear, evidence-based account of their concerns, specifically highlighting the range of unmet health needs affecting the children.

This direct piece of work led to more focused attention on the children's health within the multi-agency framework, ensuring that the wider team was better informed about the impact of neglect on the children's wellbeing.

## PRIMARY CARE

During a routine safeguarding review, I was approached by a member of the GP practice team regarding a mother who had not brought her 4-year-old child in for scheduled immunisations. Despite multiple reminders and a confirmed appointment, the child was not brought, and no follow-up appointment was made and when the parent was spoken to, they declined to rebook.

Upon further exploration, it became evident that this was not an isolated concern. The parent has a known history of significant mental health challenges, and it was shared that the family had previously been discussed at a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) due to serious domestic abuse.

Given the complexity of the family's circumstances, I advised the practice to refer to the Neglect Toolkit and the HIPS Family Engagement guidance to support their decision-making and engagement strategy. I also recommended that they initiate a conversation with the local 0–19 service to ensure a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to supporting the parent and child. The aim was to provide the parent with the right support while ensuring the child's health needs were not overlooked.

This highlights the importance of professional curiosity and the value of collaborative working when safeguarding concerns intersect with broader social and emotional challenges.



## ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

My mum came to the hospital. She hadn't told anyone she was pregnant with me yet. I think she might be scared or alone.

One of the people at the hospital talked to someone called the safeguarding lead. They used special tools to think about what life might be like for me – not just now, but after I'm born. They used something called the Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire (CSERQ4) to see if my mum might be in danger. They also used a tool called "A Day in My Life" to imagine what my days might feel like – what I might see, hear, and need when I am born.

They wrote everything down and added it to a form that goes to other people who help keep children safe. It's called an inter-agency referral. That means the right people will now know about me and will try to make sure I'm okay.

## EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND ACCESS

**Education and Inclusion:** I'm a single dad, and my child had been missing a lot of school. At the time, I was struggling to keep everything together – work, home, and parenting. I didn't realise how serious the absences had become until the school reached out. They told me how low my child's attendance was and that their schoolwork was slipping. I knew things weren't perfect, but I didn't know how to fix it.

The school tried to contact me a few times, but I didn't always respond. I felt overwhelmed and, honestly, a bit ashamed. Eventually, they referred us to the Education Welfare Service and Children's Social Care. At first, it seemed like they might close the case, thinking it was just about attendance. But then, professionals met together and thought again about our situation. They told me my child's attendance was so low it was actually at a level they consider to be educational neglect.

That shift changed everything.

Children's Social Care stepped in and brought together a team to support us.

They didn't just focus on the school side – they looked at what I needed too. I knew I needed to do more, but I just didn't know where to start. They signed me up for parenting workshops. I hated the idea of it at first but actually, they helped me learn how to build better routines and support my kids more effectively. My child had some counselling, which really helped with their confidence and emotional wellbeing. It helped us to start talking more too.

Six months later, things looked completely different. My child's attendance has shot up to 95%! and they are doing so much better in class. The teachers are really impressed at their progress and how much more they are getting on and focussing in class. At home, I felt more confident as a parent. I finally felt like I was able to give my kids the support they needed.

Looking back, I'm grateful that the professionals didn't just tell me to get my child to school but helped us work it out. Recognising poor school attendance as a real issue – and not just a school problem – made all the difference. That support plan didn't just help my child; it has helped our whole family!

**Early Years:** When my partner passed away, everything changed overnight. I suddenly found myself trying to hold it all together – not just for me, but for my child. We were both grieving, and I could see it was affecting him deeply. He started acting out at preschool – swearing, lashing out, and having big emotional outbursts. I knew it wasn't like him, but I didn't know how to help.

The preschool staff were amazing. They didn't just see the behaviour – they saw the pain behind it. They put a one-to-one staff member with him during the day to help keep him safe and supported. They also used social stories to help him understand what he was feeling and how to express it in better ways. They even adjusted his routine to make things feel more predictable and comforting for him.

But they didn't stop there – they reached out to me too. They pointed me toward bereavement support through the IOWSCP and Mountbatten and encouraged me to join parenting sessions at the Family Hub. I was hesitant at first, but connecting with other parents going through similar things really



encouraged me to join parenting sessions at the Family Hub. I was hesitant at first, but connecting with other parents going through similar things really helped. I didn't feel so alone anymore.

We also had a meeting with the preschool team, health professionals, and their safeguarding lead. It felt good to know we weren't facing this on our own. They helped us put a plan in place and with a little extra support from early years and mental health services.

Looking back, I can see how quickly everyone came together to help us. It's still hard, but now we have tools, support, and people who care. That's made all the difference.

### INCLUSION IOW

The client was referred to Inclusion for support, and during our first meeting, a number of concerns came to light. There were noticeable inconsistencies in how she described her alcohol use, which raised some red flags about possible dependency. She didn't seem fully aware - or was perhaps downplaying - the effect her drinking might be having on her children.

She's currently the only caregiver for her children and has very little support around her. She recently moved to the Island after spending time in a refuge on the mainland. Understandably, this has left her feeling quite isolated and vulnerable.

During the triage, she shared some information that made me concerned about her mental health. Her emotional responses were quite flat, and she seemed to brush over some serious issues, especially around her children's wellbeing.

Given the complexity of the situation, we discussed the case in our clinical team meeting and agreed that it would be best to submit an Inter-Agency Referral Form (IARF) to make sure she and her children get the right support from other services.



## PARAGON

Hi, I'm a young person who had a lot of changes happen really fast. Everything felt different and confusing. I had to start a new school, and Mum and Dad weren't together anymore. That made me feel really sad and worried.

I didn't want to go to school. I felt sick in my tummy and my head hurt because I was so stressed. I missed how things used to be and didn't understand what was happening with Mum and Dad. Sometimes I would cry and have big meltdowns because it was all too much.

Someone from Paragon came to help me. They helped me talk about how I was feeling. We did some things like drawing around my hand and writing the names of people I trust. I also drew a body and showed where I feel things like sadness, worry, and happiness.

We talked about school, and I said it was too loud. I didn't like going in, but I started helping with little jobs in mornings, and that made it a bit easier. I even started walking through the gates by myself!

I found it really hard seeing Dad. I was scared and didn't want to go. I drew pictures of Dad's house to show what I was worried about. There was a fight once at drop-off, and it made me feel really upset. We talked about using a calendar so I could see when I'd be with Mum or Dad, and that helped a bit.

We talked about being safe. I knew to call 999 if I needed help, but I didn't know my address—so I learnt it! We also talked about safe and unsafe behaviours using flashcards. That helped me understand more about who I can trust.

I made a new friend. We talked about how I made that friend and what makes someone a good friend. We worked out what kind of friend I want to be.

### What Helped Me Feel Better

- ★ Mum and I got matching bracelets so I can feel close to her when I'm at school.



- ★ I talked to the Family Liaison Officer at school, and they helped me every morning.
- ★ I did a worksheet called "I am an amazing person" and it made me feel proud of myself.

After 10 sessions with Paragon, I feel a lot better. I'm not scared to go to Dad's anymore. I go into school by myself most days and don't have meltdowns. I'm making friends and I can talk about my feelings more easily. I was okay when the sessions ended because I know I've got people I can talk to now.

## MATTERS RAISED TO THE PARTNERSHIP AND RESOLVED

**MATTER RAISED:** Feedback that it can be difficult to share the vast amounts of learning in a clear and practical format for busy frontline practitioners

### ACTION TAKEN

- [Practitioner briefings](#) created to accompany audit reports that share key learning for effective practice
- [Safeguarding Theme Overview Packs \(STOP packs\)](#) created to pull key resources together around a particular safeguarding theme
- Audit reports shared in a presentation format with accompanying delivery notes
- [Communications forward plan](#)
- Themed [Safeguarding Practice weeks](#) that include live toolkit tours

### OUTCOME/IMPACT

- ✓ *"After attending the IOWSCP's Community Partnership Information (CPI) training, I used the CPI form for the first time and had a really positive experience. I received immediate feedback about a missing child, which showed me just how effective the form is. I found the training incredibly valuable and would definitely recommend it to others."*
- ✓ 86% of practitioners stated that the Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week was effective in raising awareness of child neglect and its impact on children.
- ✓ *"The (domestic abuse) resources were excellent and really useful. They were actually where we picked up the protocol and we followed up with Paragon. They came in and met with the staff following that. I also know a number of our staff carried out the domestic abuse dragonfly training as a result of seeing them promoted in the resource packs. It made us realise how relevant it is for our housing teams."*

- ✓ The audit report was presented in a new presentation style, designed to assist colleagues to share the learning within their agencies. IOWSCP Executive members approved saying they believed it was more engaging, easy to disseminate and captured the key learning points and areas of good practice.

**MATTER RAISED:** Partnership members noted a need to strengthen how we collectively as a partnership hear the voice or understand the lived experience of children

### ACTION TAKEN

Safeguarding Partners commissioned a subject matter expert to scope:

- The existing participation practices of partner organisations, and how they hear/use the voices of the children and families they work with.
- How to use partners' practices and findings to identify both quick and long-term opportunities for safeguarding partners and the independent scrutineer, to understand and listen to user experiences of safeguarding services.
- Toolkits expanded to include 'Resources for working with children and families' and communication support & practical ideas for engaging with children
- Day in my life tools updated and written in the child's voice and now include parent-oriented issues to ensure that the impact of these are considered for children

### OUTCOME/IMPACT

- ✓ Commissioned report will be reported back to the IOWSCP Executive group in Q1 2025-26, outlining quick and longer-term opportunities to ensure the voice and lived experience of children and their families is understood



group in Q1 2025-26, outlining quick and longer-term opportunities to ensure the voice and lived experience of children and their families is understood.

**MATTER RAISED:** Multi-agency compliance and engagement in child protection processes audit raised the issue with children's services sending out requests for information for section 17 / section 47 enquiries using only the ICS number so it is difficult for agencies to find information on the correct child or associated adults. This was further noted in the response to the multi-agency participation in child protection conferences report.

#### **ACTION TAKEN**

- Children's services now send out requests for information using the child's name, date of birth and relevant family members.

#### **OUTCOME/IMPACT**

- ✓ Agencies are assured they are correctly sharing information in a timely way.

**MATTER RAISED:** It was observed that there was an opportunity to enhance partner engagement and information sharing at the IOW Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC), as current attendance and update contributions had been limited.

It was also identified that partner agencies outside of police and Children's Social Care were not generally completing and submitting a Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF).

#### **ACTION TAKEN**

- [IOW CERAF Quick Guide](#) created by the exploitation subgroup and shared widely, including being presented at the schools Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) network
- Multi-agency CERAF training promoted
- Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Police Team monthly CERAF quality assurance audit provided to Exploitation subgroup

- Community Safety Partnership manager now attending the local exploitation delivery group subgroup
- METRAC Terms of Reference have been revised and joint working between Children's Social Care exploitation lead and the police Missing, Exploited and Trafficked lead

#### **OUTCOME/IMPACT**

- ✓ Multi-agency attendance at the METRAC has improved with allocated social workers invited to attend, meaning information shared is relevant and up to date. Neighbourhood Policing, who manage children/young people identified as being at 'medium risk' are now also in attendance.
- ✓ METRAC review multi-agency task and finish group set up for Q1 2025-26
- ✓ Updated multi-agency CERAF training to be delivered
- ✓ Child Exploitation Safeguarding Practice week scheduled for Q2 2025/26
- ✓ Discussions to take place around monthly CERAF quality assurance auditing to be made multi-agency



**MATTER RAISED:** Agencies response to the multi-agency participation in child protection conferences report highlighted an opportunity to strengthen quoracy and multi-agency attendance at child protection conferences

**ACTION TAKEN**

- Members were asked to report on their agencies internal audit systems/ processes to ensure their compliance with statutory requirements around child protection conferences, their internal arrangements for identification of representatives for conferences and their views around any changes their agencies have taken following the findings of the report
- Report presented at the education subgroup as it was noted in the report that in 26% of conferences, no attendance or information was provided by schools. It was noted the timeframe included a school holiday period. This, in turn, was discussed at the DSL Network and Headteachers' Forum.

**OUTCOME/IMPACT**

- ✓ Multi-agency attendance at child protection conferences is now a standing agenda item at the Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) subgroup for regular monitoring
- ✓ Most recent report on 'Multi-agency Participation in Child Protection Conferences' demonstrated that schools attended 80% of conferences. There is a decrease to 8% of conferences where no information was provided by education providers

**MATTER RAISED:** Concerns were expressed by a number of agencies and safeguarding partners regarding the significant work required to establish the Isle of Wight Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) service within a limited timeframe, highlighting potential risks to child safety.

**ACTION TAKEN**

- Children's Social Care appointed a MASH development lead

- Multi-agency partnership representation and Independent Scrutineer on the

- MASH Operational Board
  - MASH Strategic Board

- Partnership engagement on the:

- MASH Recruitment and Workforce group
  - MASH Workforce Development Group
  - MASH Policies, Procedures and Legal Compliance group

- Development and actioning of communications plan to effectively communicate the launch and implementation of the IOW MASH, and IOW LADO service, ensuring all stakeholders were informed, engaged, and supportive.

- Bespoke IOW MASH multi-agency training 'Right Help, Right Time' delivered via the IOWSCP

- Safeguarding partners organisational agreement to action multi-agency co-location of MASH

- Independent Scrutineer oversight

- Regular progress updates on the development of MASH were provided to the IOWSCP Executive Group, as part of MASH governance and MASH was formally incorporated into the IOWSCP Executive Risk Register to ensure appropriate oversight and risk management.

**OUTCOME/IMPACT**

- ✓ The 'Right Help, Right Time' training delivered by MASH was initially held weekly and later transitioned to a monthly schedule. It was very well attended by professionals across the multi-agency workforce, reflecting strong engagement and commitment to improving collaborative safeguarding practices. Feedback on these sessions has been very positive.
- ✓ IOW MASH has now gone live. Project structure in place and now

progressing to phase 2.

- ✓ Proposal for future MASH governance to be agreed by the MASH Strategic group and IOWSCP Executive



## SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE WEEKS

After the success of Safeguarding Children Week in 2023– 24 HSCP and IOWSCP jointly hosted 3 safeguarding practice weeks in 2024-25. These safeguarding themed practice weeks provided opportunities to bring together agencies and organisations that work with children and families across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues.

### Safeguarding Practice Week Themes:

#### LEARNING FROM REVIEWS

This week aimed to address the need for a different approach to learning and highlighted the recurring themes or ‘perennial practice challenges’ from both national and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs).

This week included:

- ★ Launch of the [Learning from Reviews Toolkit](#), accompanying [Safeguarding Theme Overview Pack \(STOP Pack\)](#) and additional resources providing practitioners with the information, training and tools to effectively understand and apply learning from reviews to safeguarding children on the Isle of Wight.
- ★ [Information exchange and risk and critical thinking](#)
- ★ [Family engagement, honest conversations, and professional curiosity](#)
- ★ [Resolution, Disproportionality and Supervision](#)
- ★ [Myth-busting and agency responsibilities](#)

#### CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

This initiative, in partnership with the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, highlighted the importance of safeguarding children who



are impacted by domestic abuse. It focused on various aspects of multi-agency practice each day, providing valuable resources to support practitioners responding to domestic abuse within families.

This week included:

- ★ Introduction of the [Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway](#)
- ★ [Finding out about the support for children and young people](#)
- ★ [Learning and Development opportunities](#) including [An introduction to the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people](#)
- ★ A focus on key messages for practice from the [National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's review of multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse](#)
- ★ Launch of the [Safeguarding children and domestic abuse STOP Pack](#)



## NEGLECT

This week underpinned the Neglect Strategy and action plan. Various aspects of multi-agency practice were explored each day, offering valuable resources and training to support practitioners in their efforts to address neglect within families.

This week included:

- ★ [Identifying neglect](#) – resources for professionals and for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- ★ [The impact of neglect](#) – including the cumulative impact of neglect
- ★ [Neglect Toolkit live tour and learning and development opportunities](#)
- ★ [Neglect safeguarding theme overview pack - resources to support with recognising and responding to neglect](#)
- ★ [Practitioner voice - the impact of neglect practice week](#)
- ★ Promotion of the newly updated section of the Toolkit: [Children with additional needs \(including complex needs and disabilities\)](#)

We have improved how we collate feedback regarding Safeguarding Practice Weeks, as can be seen from below:

### Paragon: Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Practice Week

The resources were really useful and comprehensive and were shared amongst all our practitioners. They were really helpful to practitioners who may be confused about where to refer children and young people and what the processes are. I like the fact that all the links were on there to individual websites and referral forms - preventing those barriers from making referrals in the first place.



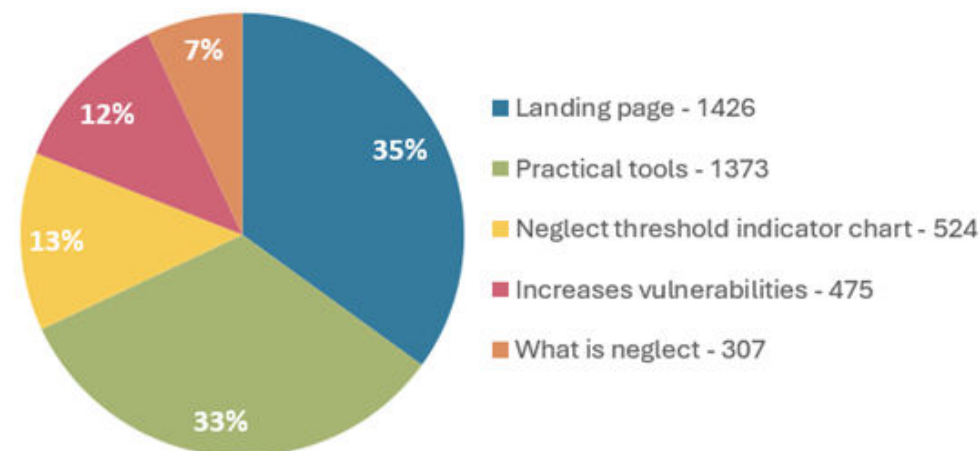
134 Practitioners from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight attended the Neglect Toolkit tour.

### IMPACT OF THE WEEK: Neglect Toolkit webpage views

There were a total of 5,519 visits to the neglect toolkit in quarter 4 of 2024-25, this is a 106% increase in comparison to quarter 3 and it remains the most viewed professional's toolkit across the year.

Of the 1,462 views of the landing page of the toolkit, 1,018 left to other internal pages - 13% of these went to the neglect threshold indicator and 12% to the practical tools section of the toolkit.

Of the 1,373 views of the practical tools section of the toolkit, 569 were to the 'Day In My Life' tools, 453 of these downloaded the various Day In My Life' tools.



**Neglect Practice Week** – In quarter 4 of 2024-25 Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week took place. There were 1,560 views of the Neglect toolkit during this week, with a peak of 613 views on the Wednesday. There were 150 views of the new interactive neglect threshold and indicator chart during the whole week.

### Practitioner feedback from the live toolkit tour:

*"1. Utilise toolkit visuals regarding school attendance in meetings with parents*

*2. Refer back to toolkit with other professionals in school where clarity/shared understanding of need/support required.*

*3. Utilise 'A Day in my Life' as another aid when considering Education Support Plans"*

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*"1. From the session I am more aware of the long-lasting impact on a child neglect can have. This can impact: health, education, development etc*

*2. How important early identification and intervention are to help prevent neglect. The resources available to support families and ensure the child safety, wellbeing and needs are being met.*

*3. Some of the resources on the new updated version were really good and we could incorporate across our MDT."*

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*"1. How to access the toolkit*

*2. Better understanding of help available*

*3. Maintain that poor school attendance to other professionals is an ingredient of Neglect"*

## PRACTITIONER FEEDBACK FROM SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE WEEK:

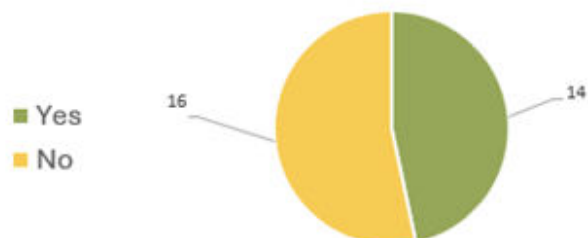
**Q. Do you have any feedback or suggestions for the partnership regarding the Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week or the Neglect Toolkit? (a selection of responses below):**

*"Thank you for the information. It was useful to have this over the week in small chunks and being reminded of neglect over the week was an effective learning style."*

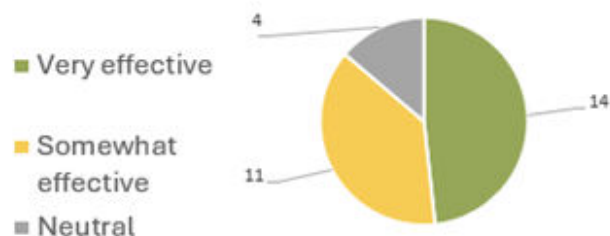
*"Always helpful to have prompts of tools to support practice. Having the learning from incidents is essential part to support practitioners in reflecting on their own practice and areas for improvement."*

*"The tour of the neglect toolkit was really useful and highlighted some resources that will be very helpful with future decision making."*

Were you aware of the Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week 2025 before it took place?



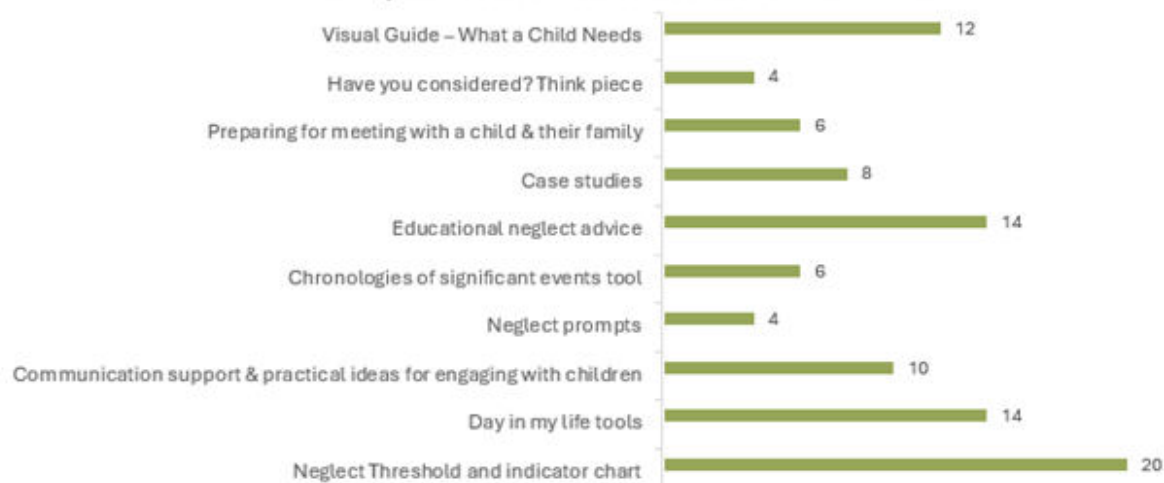
How effective was the Neglect Safeguarding Practice Week in raising your awareness of child neglect and its impact on children?



Is the Safeguarding Theme Overview Pack (STOP Pack) a helpful resource to share resources and information?



Is the Safeguarding Theme Overview Pack (STOP Pack) a helpful resource to share resources and information?





## IMPACT OF INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

I know the role of Independent Scrutineer is an important and valuable one to the Partnership. It ensures a clear focus on seeking assurance on the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. I also ensure that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are challenged and supported in their roles and work collaboratively to meet the safeguarding priorities identified by the partnership. This is an important function for the partnership, as we must independently scrutinise the arrangements thoroughly on behalf of children and families on the Isle of Wight.

During 2024/25 my role moved from being a dual scrutineer and chair of the Partnership's Executive Group and Board, to solely performing the role of the scrutineer. I have and will continue to attend the Executive Group and Board as this engagement is critical to ensure oversight, assurance, support and challenge. The delegated safeguarding partners and I agreed the focus of scrutiny for the remainder of 2024/25. This included scrutiny of the developing Isle of Wight MASH, given the short timescales for implementation and the importance of front door arrangements.

The importance of the function of independent scrutiny continues to be highlighted this year, demonstrated through my engagement in the governance arrangements for the new Island MASH, supporting the welcomed engagement of key partners and stakeholders, providing challenge and support to progress and plans. This has included direct visits to the new MASH and observing the weekly quality assurance process.

In addition, in the role as Scrutineer, I have carried out a range of functions:

- Provided scrutiny for the safeguarding partners in fulfilling their statutory obligations and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements
- Scrutinised the performance management and quality assurance processes

of the partnership

- Encouraged and facilitated an open culture of mutual, respectful challenge and support
- Maintained oversight of the Section 11 organisational self-assessment process responding to the Children Act 2004 (Keeping Children Safe)
- Worked with safeguarding partners and subgroup chairs to scrutinise progress, learning from multi-agency audits and review the impact of the 2023/24 Business Plan
- Met with a range of partnership board members to offer scrutiny, support and challenge
- Provided oversight to local learning events considering the learning arising from the multi-agency response to children.
- Maintained contact with the delegated and some lead safeguarding partners via the meetings of the partnership and through established one to one meetings

I perform the role of scrutineer across the four local authority areas of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) and for the HIPS Executive. This supports cross border working and reduces duplication for agencies that cross one or more local authority area.



The impact of independent scrutiny has been considerable.

Ensuring:

- A focus on increasing the voice and influence of children within the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including championing a “discovery” project in respect of this which will report in 2025/26.
- Safeguarding partner oversight of organisational changes that impact across partners and relevant agencies, including the formation of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the early release scheme coordinated by the National Probation Service and the development of the new Isle of Wight Children’s Services.
- Support and challenge by seeking assurance of the consideration of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, to developing Isle of Wight strategies, for example, the Isle of Wight Council Education Strategy, the Isle of Wight Council Anti-Poverty Strategy and the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Scrutineer engagement and contribution to multi-agency auditing and providing independent scrutiny of the IOWSCP’S multi-agency performance dataset.
- Assurance of the progress of recommendations in relation to the Reflective Report – Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education and the embedding of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnerships Neglect Strategy and Toolkit and the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Toolkit.
- That the changes flowing from the Island’s potential school place planning, include full and careful consideration of the Island’s most vulnerable children, in particular where this means a transition between schools.
- Assurance regarding learning and recommendations arising from national reports including the reports from the national child safeguarding practice review panel considering intrafamilial child sexual abuse and the national panel briefing considering safeguarding children and elective home

education. These areas are of particular interest to me as scrutineer, given the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and the higher percentage of children on the Island who are electively home educated.

- Robust partner and scrutineer oversight of the implementation and future governance of the MASH.
- A review of the strategic priorities of the partnership, through facilitating a development session for the Executive members which resulted in the identification of the safe operation of MASH as a shared priority for 2025/26.

Looking forwards, my role will continue to develop and remain central to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The current arrangement will be in place for the coming years, an arrangement the safeguarding partners consider important due to the pace of change on the Island and the partnerships across the HIPS region.

**Scott MacKechnie, Independent Scrutineer**

**Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership**



## IOWSCP RESPONSE TO NATIONAL REPORTS

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership has considered the learning from three national reports and briefings from the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in this reporting year.

- [Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education, national panel briefing](#)
- [Annual Report of the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel](#)
- [“I wanted them all to notice” National Child Safeguarding Practice Review](#)

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION, NATIONAL PANEL BRIEFING

This report was published in May 2024 and encompassed learning and findings from a range of rapid reviews, child safeguarding practice reviews and serious case reviews nationally.

The learning and recommendations were considered by the Learning Inquiry Group from a local perspective and additional recommendations were made including assurance from agencies that practitioners who work with children routinely ask about their experience of education and where and how they access education.

The IOWSCP Executive approved the recommendations and have requested a formal update in respect of progress in quarter one of 2025/26. As with all recommendations, these will be monitored and assured for completion with the oversight of the IOWSCP Executive via the Learning Inquiry Group.

Safeguarding partners remain concerned about the number of children on the Island who are electively home educated and the associated challenges for Island practitioners in identifying and responding to the minority of children who may be at risk of harm. A practitioner briefing has been produced that outlines multi-agency responsibilities in relation to Elective Home Education. This has been widely shared.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW PANEL

This report was considered in terms of any additions to the Partnership’s



[Learning from Reviews Toolkit](#), which was published during this reporting year.

This toolkit brings together learning from a range of sources around “perennial practice challenges” such as sharing information, professional curiosity and analysing risk. It is promoted and available to all multi-agency practitioners.



## “I WANTED THEM ALL TO NOTICE” NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEW

Child sexual abuse is an area of focus across HIPS and the IOWSCP have worked to implement the recommendations from the national panel. We have been resolute in sharing the learning from the national review which built on and resonated with local learning from a multi-agency audit of practice which took place in 2023/24.

We have in place:

- A range of [training](#) for multi-agency practitioners considering child sexual abuse
- A comprehensive [strategy and toolkit](#) outlining information and resources for practitioners and a smaller [toolkit for parents and carers](#)
- Resources and training from the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse in terms of signs and indicators of child sexual abuse, and communicating with children.

We have requested and received assurance from agencies regarding their embedding of the HIPS toolkit.

We will continue to focus on this area by embedding the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway with launch events on the 1 April 2025.

The partnership have delivered bespoke training sessions for colleagues in Children’s Social Care and our Designated Safeguarding Leads in Education settings.

The training will continue into the financial year 2025/26.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-26

The safeguarding partners have reviewed and updated the strategic priorities for 2025-26 based on consideration of the local and national context:

### **1. Working to ensure a multi-agency family approach to safeguarding children through their engagement in education, with a focus on vulnerable learners with reduced educational engagement.**

#### **AIM:**

- ★ A shared understanding of who our most vulnerable and at-risk children are
- ★ The partnership is assured of multi-agency planning being in place for every child who requires it
- ★ Increased confidence across the multi-agency workforce of roles and responsibilities
- ★ An increased engagement in Early Help for those professionals working with vulnerable learners with a focus on the Early Years.

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

#### **To include:**

- Safeguarding children as victims of domestic abuse and working with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Continued focus on early help (and within early years).
- Language that cares
- Understanding children and families experience of services where they have been closed due to lack of engagement or not meeting the criteria or are on waiting lists. Such as mental health and emotional wellbeing services or awaiting an Education Health and Care assessment.
- Identify actions to appropriately reduce the re referral rate for children and families to children's social care



**AIM:**

- ★ More families with children in their early years engaged in Early Help
- ★ To increase confidence across the multi-agency workforce in their response to children as victims of domestic abuse
- ★ To maintain a focus on critical areas such as Child Sexual Abuse, Child Exploitation and Early Help
- ★ To better understand the re-referral rate for children to children's social care and collectively take actions in response to supporting the prevention of neglect and wider cumulative harm (get it right first time)
- ★ Developing a shared language that cares in our work with children, families and each other



### 3. A multi-agency approach to implementing the safeguarding changes required by the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#) (and [Families First Partnership Programme](#)).

**AIM:**

- ★ Safeguarding partners maintain oversight and assurance of the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill when enacted.

### 4. Assuring the safe and effective operation of the Isle of Wight Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

**AIM:**

- ★ Safeguarding partners are assured of the safe and effective operation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)





## CONCLUDING STATEMENTS FROM DELEGATED SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

As delegated safeguarding partners for the Isle of Wight multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, we take our joint and shared responsibilities very seriously. We value the unique contribution of each and every practitioner who works to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our Island's children, each and every day.

Ours is a learning partnership, which is mature enough to withstand significant challenges and changes in membership. We have seen this through the multi-agency engagement at all levels in the establishment of the Island MASH arrangements.

We consider our partnership to be impactful from the learning and recommendations arising from local and national multi-agency assurance and reporting, to the training and resources developed with and for practitioners. It has been a busy year!

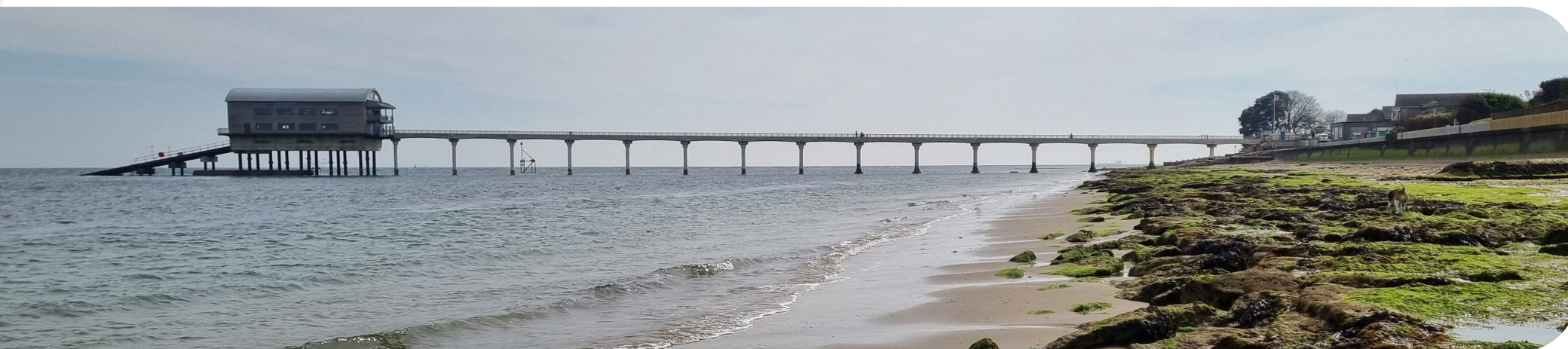
Looking forward we will continue to focus on ensuring effective safeguarding practice in a challenging multi-agency resourcing context mirrored by a

challenging financial context for families. We are aware this year, more than ever of the impact of these contexts on our children, from the impact for some children waiting for services and support through to the impact of housing, including temporary housing for our children and families.

We continue to work together to navigate and mitigate these challenges and look forward to some of the opportunities the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme will have, considering the more seamless approach of Family Help for children and families, the mandated offer of family group decision making, and the very clear focus on early help and prevention.

This will be a relentless focus for our partnership over the coming months, we agree as safeguarding partners that too many children on the Island are referred more than once to the Island's Children's Social Care Service and consider we should all be "professionally curious" about that and identify actions collaboratively, in response.

We must consider early help services and support when needs emerge for children and families, not waiting until we think a referral to Children's Social



- We must consider early help services and support when needs emerge for children and families, not waiting until we think a referral to Children's Social Care is needed. Could we have done more earlier?
- We must make sure families are stepping across from child protection to child in need to ensure change is embedded. Are we making sure families are stepped across into early help, universal and community services to support this and ensuring children and families are connected and helped moving forward?
- We must make sure, when we are working with families, that actions,

support and services have the impact that we require for the child, if it isn't working, try something else.

- We must be aware of the services and support available to our children and families, from our Family Hubs to specialist and statutory services.

The more we can get right first time for our children and families it is obviously better for our children; it is also better from the perspective of shared resources. Not offering help and support at an early stage, can lead to a revolving door of costly multi-agency involvement, **so let's get it right first time for the children and families we work with.**

**Ashley Whittaker**

**Strategic Director of Children's Services Isle of Wight Council**

**Sarah McConnell**

**Detective Chief Superintendent,  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary**

**Fiona Holder**

**Safeguarding Director  
NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
(Integrated Care Board)**



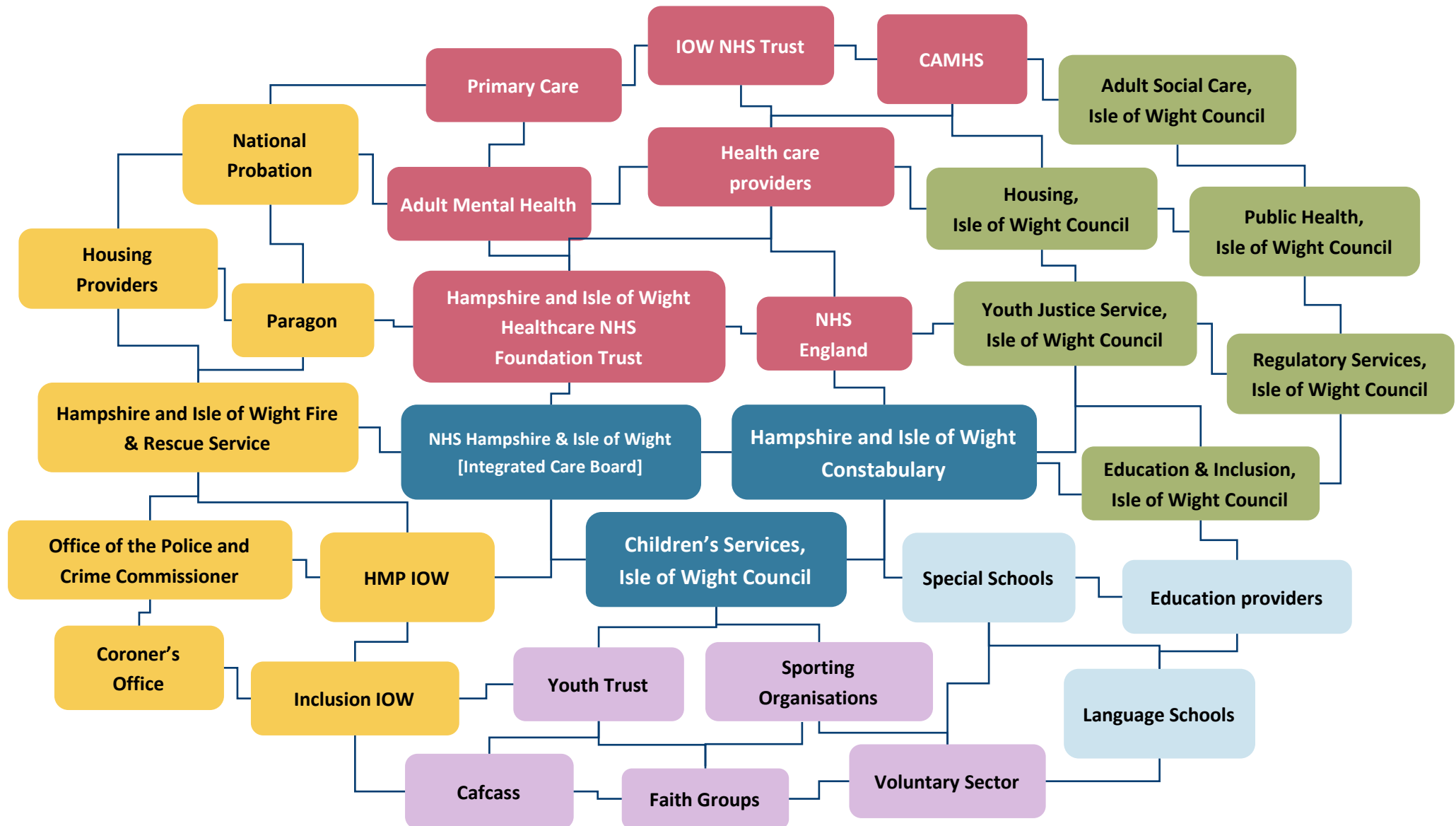
**HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT  
CONSTABULARY**



**Hampshire and Isle of Wight**



# Relevant agencies





# Glossary

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	LCSPR - Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
CERAF - Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework	LIG - Learning Inquiry Group
CP - Child Protection	LSCP - Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
CPI - Community Protection Information form	MAPPa - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
CRT- Children's Reception Team	MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CSERQ4 - Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Questionnaire	MASA - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
CSP - Community Safety Partnership	MASH - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
DAPB - Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	MET - Missing, Exploited and Trafficked
DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead	METT - Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team
EBSA - Emotionally Based School Avoidance	METRAC - Missing, Exploited, Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference
EHE - Electively Home Educated	MHST - Mental Health Support Teams
EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage	NHS - National Health Service
GP - General Practitioner	NPS - National Probation Service
HIOw - Hampshire and Isle of Wight	PEACH - Partnership for Education, Attainment and Children's Health
HIPS - Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships	PHSE - Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
HIWFRS - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service	PQA - Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup
HRDA - High Risk Domestic Abuse	RAFT - Resilience Around Family Team
HSCP - Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	RSE - Relationships and Sex Education
HWB - Health and Wellbeing Board	S11 - Section 11 Self-Assessment
IARF - Inter Agency Referral Form	SAB - Safeguarding Adults Board
ICB - Integrated Care Board	STOP - Safeguarding Theme Overview Pack
ICON - Infant crying is normal, Comforting methods can help, It's okay to walk away, Never, ever shake a baby	SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
IOW - Isle of Wight	VCSE - Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise
IOWSCP - Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership	VRP - Violence Reduction Partnership
JTAI - Joint Targeted Area Inspection	WFD - Workforce Development Subgroup
LADO - Local Area Designated Officer	YJS - Youth Justice Service
	YIAG - Youth Independent Advisory Group