

## Partnership Board meeting - Tuesday 17th October 2023 - Key headlines

### Strategic partnership arrangements between Hampshire and Isle of Wight Children's Services

The IOWSCP Executive group (safeguarding partners, chairs of subgroups and Independent Chair and Scrutiner) were previously invited to respond to the Cabinet Committee report in September regarding the future arrangements of the strategic management of Children's Services.

Wendy Perera, Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council and Claire Shand Director of Corporate Services joined the meeting to discuss with partners the ending of the strategic partnership arrangements between Hampshire and Isle of Wight Children's Services. Wendy provided assurances to the Partnership that a robust plan is in place which is moving at pace. Stuart Ashley, Director of Children's Services, and Claire Shand are leading heading an exit strategy planning group.

They are looking at the full scope of the buy-back services. Some services such as MASH, Out of Hours and LADO will continue. Stuart said the overriding principle of Hampshire withdrawing from the partnership is to leave the Island in the strongest position.

Wendy assured members that looking after children and taking care of those who are most vulnerable is the absolute priority for the local authority and they are committed to ensuring services post January do not add any risk to the Island's community. Scott informed members he had been invited to join the stakeholder panel for the DCS role.



An update on **Project Fusion** was provided by Lesley Stevens, Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities at the IOW NHS Trust, following the initial presentation in March 2023 by James Seward. Project Fusion is a partnership project between the IOW NHS Trust, Southern Health, Solent Trust and Sussex Trust to bring together community, mental health and learning disability services. A new organisation is expected to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This project was a recommendation from an independent review commissioned by the ICB 18 months ago. Lesley said that from an Island perspective this project will provide resilience for services, drive out unwanted variation in delivery, provide staff with specialist career progression and prevent professional isolation with the development of a peer network.

Scott noted the project has in place a risk register and asked that any developing risks that require partner engagement are shared with the partnership. Questions were asked about the ADHD service on the Island which is only accepting new referrals from CAMHS, Youth Justice Service and children that are looked after and asking how this situation can be improved. It was acknowledged that this is a challenging area, both nationally and locally, and is part of the 10 clinical programmes within Project Fusion. Neurodiversity programmes and pathways are being looked at, in the meantime they are providing support and sign posting for children and families on the waiting list and are looking to escalate those requiring a more rapid input.



A brief overview on the outcome of the **HMIP inspection of Portsmouth and Isle of Wight National Probation Service** (NPS) was provided by Tim Gaites, Senior Probation Officer on behalf of Sarah Beattie, Head of Probation Delivery Unit for Portsmouth & Isle of Wight. The inspection was completed in May 2023 with an outcome of good, but multiple areas relating to child safeguarding require improvement. Tim gave a brief overview of each inspection area rating, the priority areas for improvement, immediate actions taken, and positives outlined in the HMIP report. NPS have been asked to provide an update in Q1 of 2024/25.

The findings of the **Section 11 Keeping Children Safe Self-Assessment** was presented by Debbie Key, Strategic Partnership Manager. The Section 11 assessment aligns to the safeguarding standards outlined in **Section 11 of the Children Act 2004** and enables agencies to scrutinise and reflect on their safeguarding governance, processes, practice and identify how arrangements could be strengthened. The assessment process included 3 agencies presenting to a multi-agency panel on significant changes to their assessment since their last submission, areas of strength, areas to develop. The panel was a valuable mechanism to share evidence and discuss future developments. Overall the response to the standards was positive. Recommendations being taken forward include:

- IOWSCP and **HSCP** working collaboratively to produce a range of eLearning to support awareness/knowledge of LSCP toolkits.
- A Safeguarding Children Week in October 2023 to highlight the IOWSCP workforce development offer to agencies.
- Agencies to ensure that disabled children and their increased vulnerability is included within safeguarding policies and training offers.
- Agencies to be offered a development session with the IOWSCP regarding the S11 Self-assessment, purpose, how it supports agencies and the need for evidence for 24/25 return.

Kelly Diamond, Partnership Manager, presented the key points from the IOWSCP's **The-matic audit of vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent** which considered the multi-agency response to potential safeguarding concerns apparent from low school attendance, including unauthorised absence. As noted in **Working Together to Improve School Attendance**, it is "recognised that children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation". This audit corresponds with one of the IOW SCP priorities for 2023/24 – Identifying, understanding and responding to vulnerable children with disrupted attendance. A 15 minute briefing document has been developed in order to share the findings of the audit with the workforce.

The role of **Family Practitioners** was presented by Debbie Price, Area Director for Children's Social Care. The role, developed within the context of statutory and legal requirements, is the first step in the local authority's journey to developing a new Family Help model and pilot of a new case holding role within CAST. This role employs the skills of a differently qualified worker, and therefore separate to a Social Worker role. These staff case hold specific families who have met the threshold for receiving statutory services, but will only case hold specific Children in Need case types where there is a lower level of risk.



Jim Pegler, **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)** Director joined the meeting to provide an update on the work of the VRU following his initial visit in March. Jim provided data on hotspots and the age and gender of recorded serious violence victims. Regarding the **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) theme on serious youth violence**, this would primarily look at how police, the Youth Justice Service and health agencies respond but as a wider partnership this needs to be a focus. Members discussed early identification markers and information sharing. Jim agreed the Island has a good partnership response in place.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday 24th January 2024**



## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Thresholds Chart and

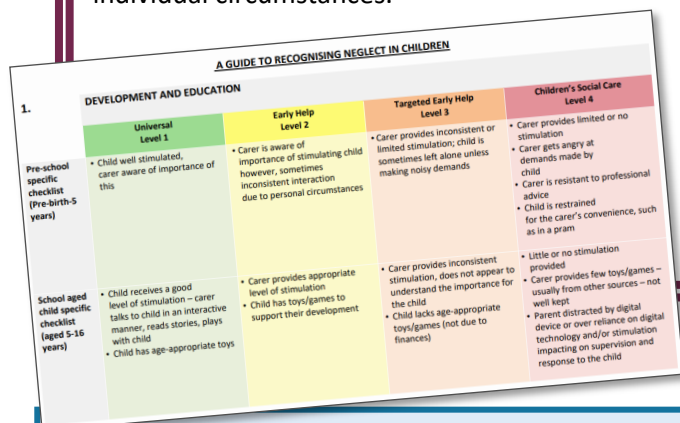
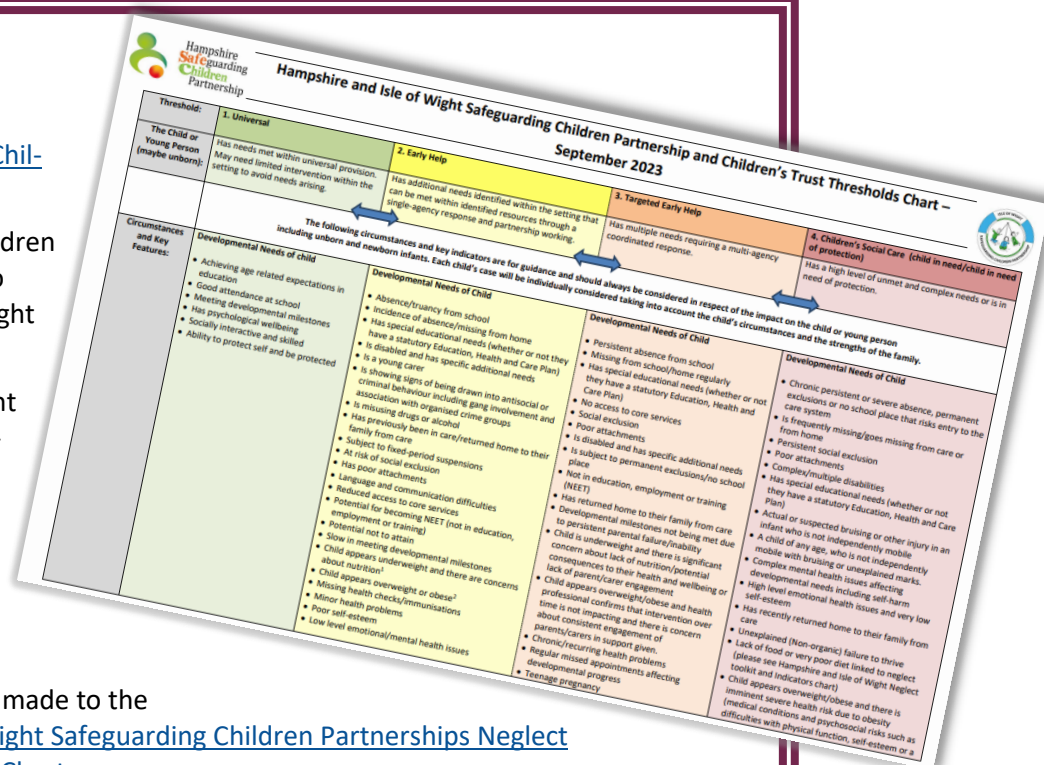
### Neglect Indicator Updated

The [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Children's Trust Thresholds Chart](#) has been revised and updated.

The purpose of this document is to support practitioners working with children in all agencies and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to access the right help for children, young people and their families at the right time.

The guidance sets out which agencies and what levels of intervention might be required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, including when statutory intervention may be needed.

Please remember the document is an *aid* to decision making and professional judgement is always important when considering children and their individual circumstances.



An update has also been made to the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnerships Neglect Threshold and Indicator Chart](#)



The first ever **Safeguarding Children Week** in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight took place on the 9th to 13th October 2023 and was designed to bring together agencies and organisations to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues and enable all individuals working with children and families to feel confident in identifying the signs of abuse and neglect and to record and respond to safeguarding concerns.

Each day of Safeguarding Children Week featured a different safeguarding theme, comprising of the launch of several new toolkits, film messages from senior managers, key learning, signposting and training opportunities that organisations and individuals can utilise as part of their safeguarding role.

**Monday:** [Supporting community and voluntary organisations](#)

**Tuesday:** [Protecting from child exploitation](#)

**Wednesday:** [Training Together. Learning Together. Safeguarding Together](#)

**Thursday:** [Safeguarding unborn babies and infants](#)

**Friday:** [Supporting parents and carers](#)

**[If you do one thing...](#)**

## Hear what safeguarding means to...

**Stuart Ashely**  
Director,  
Children's Social Care



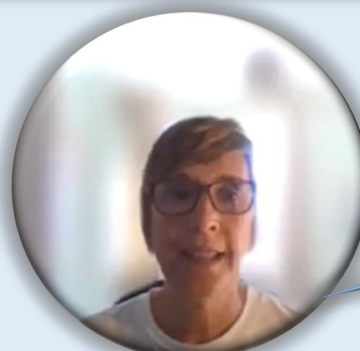
**Katherine Elsmore**  
Former Associate  
Director for  
Safeguarding and Looked  
After Children



**Cynthia Condliffe**  
Interim Designated Nurse for Safe-  
guarding Children and Looked After  
children, Integrated Care Board



**Carol Attrill**  
Team Manager,  
Early Help Operations



**Helen Figgins**  
Voluntary and Community  
Partnership representative



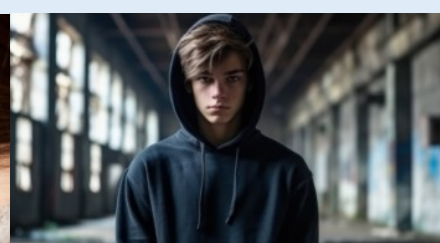
## NEW TOOLKITS LAUNCHED DURING THE WEEK:



**[Community and Voluntary  
Organisations Toolkit](#)**



**[Safeguarding Infants Toolkit](#)**



**[Child Exploitation Toolkit](#)**



**[Supporting parents and  
carers Toolkit](#)**



## Thematic Multi-Agency Audit of: Vulnerable children who are persistently or severely absent Practitioner Briefing

In July members of the Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup of the IOWSCP conducted a thematic audit to consider the multi-agency response to potential safeguarding concerns apparent from low school attendance, including unauthorised absence.

[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#) says it is

**“recognised that children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation”.**

The purpose of the audit was to provide information on current practice and how we are recognising and responding appropriately to vulnerable children where their education attendance is of concern.

The audit was an opportunity to acknowledge effective multi-agency practice already in place and offer some assessment of how well partner agencies are working with children and families in line with their responsibilities as set out in [Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2022](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#), alongside learning from reviews.

The audit looked at 10 children and focussed on the following headings:

- ◆ **Identification of poor school attendance and consideration of safeguarding risks** – was it timely, appropriate and child focussed?
- ◆ **Were children and young people responded to appropriately when attendance concerns began to emerge?**
- ◆ **Where required, was there an assessment and analysis of need** – how well were the risks to the child and their needs assessed, did this include a focus on their school attendance, was the voice of the child heard and were assessments family focused and take account of family circumstances.
- ◆ **Planning and interventions** – was there an appropriate multi-agency response to meet the needs of the child and their parents/carers? Were the expected outcomes child focused and achievable and did they include a focus on attendance?
- ◆ **Review** – were plans regularly reviewed and any actions and outcomes monitored in terms of their impact on the child? Did this include a focus on an improvement in school attendance?
- ◆ **Challenge, Management and Professional Escalation** – was there appropriate management oversight ensuring practice was safe and that practitioners were given appropriate support and challenge, and professional decision making was escalated as needed.

A [15 minute practitioner briefing](#) has been developed from the audit report in order to easily share the learning with frontline staff.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The IOWSCP will be conducting the next thematic case file audit on the **21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**, with a focus on child sexual abuse.

The cases will be selected in December and shared with agencies on **Monday 8th January**.

Professionals involved in those cases may have to complete an audit tool reflecting on the identification of child sexual abuse, investigation, assessment, planning and multi-agency practice.

These tools will need to be returned to the Partnership Team by **Friday 2nd February**

Please ensure you have these dates in your diary as you may be involved!

### Inter Agency Referral form (IARF)

Hampshire Children's Services are implementing a new social care recording system, Mosaic, on **4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**. As part of this change the **Inter-Agency Referral form (IARF)** which professional partners use to report child welfare or safeguarding concerns is changing.

The new inter-agency referral form will be accessible from the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The link will still be accessed as it is now via Hantsweb.

The form will look slightly different to the current one, but the content will remain the same. You will be able to upload supporting documents, such as completed risk assessment tools.

**When you access the link to report a concern, you will see that there is now an option to select either HCC or IOW. Please ensure you select the correct option.**

After submission of an IARF, you can save a copy and receive a confirmation email from a 'no-reply' address.

Please also note that in the period **from 22<sup>nd</sup> November until 4<sup>th</sup> December** referrers will not receive the standard feedback email informing them of the outcome of a contact with Hampshire Children's Services, as this functionality will be unavailable whilst we move from our current system to our new system, Mosaic.

If you have any questions, please get in contact with the Care2Change Programme via: [Care2Change@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Care2Change@hants.gov.uk)

### The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) protects the public by helping employers to make safer recruitment decisions, and by preventing individuals who pose a risk to vulnerable groups from working in certain roles.

An employer may request a [DBS check](#) as part of their safer recruitment practices, but these should not be used in isolation to assess a person's suitability for a role. The level of check that can be applied for will depend on the work being undertaken as legislation determines eligibility for [Standard](#) and [Enhanced](#) level checks. Where an applicant's role would not provide eligibility for a Standard or Enhanced level check, they can always be asked to apply for a Basic DBS check.

The DBS also offers the [Update Service](#) which is an online subscription service that provides employers with the opportunity to check the status of an existing Standard or Enhanced DBS certificate. With the individual's consent an employer can carry out an instant online status check for free.

In addition to providing DBS certificates, the Disclosure and Barring Service maintains the Adults' and Children's Barred Lists. These are lists of individuals who are not allowed to work in regulated activity with vulnerable groups.

Regulated activity providers (employers or volunteer managers of people working in regulated activity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and personnel suppliers (employment agencies, employment business, or educational institutions) have a legal duty to refer to DBS where certain conditions are met. This applies even when a referral has also been made to a local authority safeguarding team or professional regulator.

More information on when and how to make a [barring referral](#) to the DBS can be found on the GOV.UK website.

As a Regional Outreach Adviser for DBS, Kelly Matthews supports organisations and networks of all sizes and across all sectors with DBS related queries, including delivering training about DBS products and services. You can contact Kelly directly by emailing; [Kelly.Matthews@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.Matthews@dbs.gov.uk).



**NYAS** is a leading children's charity that since 1979 has been providing advocacy and legal representation to children and adults when important decisions are being made about them, supporting and empower children and adults in vulnerable situations.

**NYAS** deliver a broad range of services from statutory services to independently supported projects. These services support a range of people, including [care-experienced young people](#), adults in vulnerable situations, [families](#) and sec-



## Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership Training

The IOWSCP provides an annual comprehensive training programme which is fully funded by the Safeguarding Partnership and available for all Isle of Wight Professionals from Partner and Relevant Agencies on the IOW. Our training programme is hosted on the Isle of Wight Council's Learning Hub and accessible via our [website](#). Additional e-learning and some children and adult social care safeguarding courses are also available on the Learning Hub. Our website also contains links to training provided by other agencies.



### An introduction to a Family Approach

This introductory course will explore how support provided by services should be focused on problems affecting the whole family.

[1st January 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### An Introduction to Child-on-Child Abuse

Develop an understanding of what harmful behaviours might look like and how to respond appropriately.

[Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### An introduction to children who go missing from home/care

It is known that children who go missing from home or care are at risk of suffering harm and there are specific risks around children running away and the risk of sexual exploitation.

[17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 12pm-1pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 2



### An Introduction to Disguised Compliance

An introduction to Disguised Compliance and how parents and carers can appear to comply with professionals working to safeguard children in order to deflect attention and reduce professional engagement.

[21st February 2024, 7pm-8.30pm via Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at level 3



### An introduction to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (HIPS Course)

This training will discuss the different types of Female Genital Mutilation and how to identify those at risk.

[13<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3 subject specific

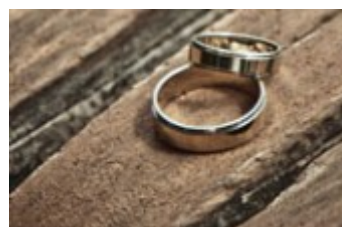


### An introduction to having Honest Conversations

This course is an introduction to navigating having honest conversations with parents/carers, children and other professionals in an understanding and accepting way.

[31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3



### An introduction to honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Dowry (HIPS course)

This introductory course will help develop professional knowledge and seek to answer questions about what constitutes Honour Based Abuse and forced marriage.

[20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Subject Specific Level 3



### An Introduction to Keeping Children Safe Online

This social media course provides practitioners who work with children with a greater understanding of the technology that young people use as well as identifying associated risks.

[7th February 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### An Introduction to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

Providing professionals with an understanding of the MAPPA process, its purpose and function.

[6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### An introduction to the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) (Level 2)

A practical session to support professionals with understanding the CERAF and observing best practice guidance when it is being completed.

[13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 2



### Child Exploitation—As a health professional, what do I need to know?

Designed specifically for health practitioners, this training develops understanding and awareness of the different and evolving types of exploitation that children may experience and empowers health professionals to recognise and respond to any identified risk factors.

[17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Intercollegiate training level 3





### Childrens Reception Team (CRT) and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): Effective MASH referrals and follow-up actions

Through this course you will understand the role and function of the Children's Reception Team (CRT) and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), what happens to information when it is received by CRT and the purpose of MASH and how it operates.

[7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 9.30am-11am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 2.



### Domestic Abuse: Violence in pregnancy and the impact on baby brain development eLearning **\*NEW**

This course will explore how domestic abuse in pregnancy can impact on the brain development of unborn babies and look at the link to problems in childhood as a result of domestic abuse in pregnancy.

[Access the eLearning Course](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3.

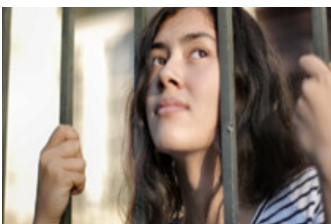


### Families Who Move Across County Borders

An introduction to safeguarding issues surrounding families who move across county borders/ local authority boundaries.

[6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 12pm-1pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3

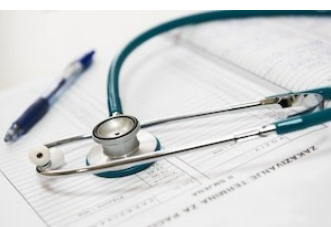


### Harmful Practices - An Introduction to Child Abuse Linked to Faith and Belief

This training will help professionals to recognise and respond to situations where abuse linked to faith and belief is suspected.

[13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3



### Medical Assessments in Suspected Child Sexual Abuse

This training is designed to improve referrals of children for medical examinations in child sexual abuse.

[3rd January, 9.30am-12pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3.



### Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children (MET)

This course is designed to create greater awareness of child exploitation.

[13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3



### Safeguarding Infants eLearning

This course aims to support all practitioners/professionals working with vulnerable families through pregnancy and after birth, working in Social Care, Midwives, Health Visitors, GP's, Barnardo's, Paediatricians, Nursing staff, Mental Health Practitioners, Inclusion, and Police.

[Access the eLearning course](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### Safeguarding Adolescents in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight

This new webinar supports professionals in improving outcomes for children transitioning through this period, to safeguard them from psychological and physical harm

[10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 9.30am-11.30am via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3



### Safeguarding disabled children, including children with a learning disability (HSCP & IOWSCP)

This training will help employees and volunteers to understand how disabilities can impact children's lives, families and their care.

[17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 3 subject specific



### Understanding, identifying and responding to neglect

This course will guide Hampshire professionals through the HSCP and IOWSCP Neglect Strategy and Toolkit and enable them to transfer this knowledge into practice.

[21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, 1.30pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Level 2



### Unidentified Adults

An introduction to unidentified adults - those who agencies are not aware of, or not engaging with.

[31st January 2024, 12pm-1pm via Microsoft Teams](#)

Contributes to meeting the learning outcomes at Level 3



### Working Together to Safeguard Children

This course is particularly relevant for professionals who potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and/or evaluating the needs of children or a young person. This course consists of a pre-course workbook and a full-day face-to-face session.

**\*\*Applicants must have completed Level 2 training and be working confidently at this level to be suitable\*\***

[Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am-4pm, via Zoom](#)

Level 3

### CPI Form (Community Partnership Information) Guide

The [CPI information guide](#) explains what the form is, how to use it, what happens with the information provided and what to do if you are concerned about sharing information. Find the form at [Hampshire and IOW Police Safe4me website](#)

### Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements 1 minute guide

This [1 minute guide](#) explains what MAPPA is, why its important, how it is conducted and frequently asked questions. The guide can also be found on our [IOW Resources webpage](#)