No.2
2026/27

Partnership Newsletter

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

All organisations that work with children and families
have a shared responsibility to safeguard children and to work together to do this.

On the Island, the Isle of Wight Council, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight [Integrated Care Board], and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police work together as Safeguarding Partners to protect children on the Island in a formal arrangement called the **Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and the Partnership's ambition is that everyone can recognise and respond to ensure that children, young people and their families are effectively safeguarded and supported.

Quarterly Partnership Update: Keeping Children Safe Together

This quarter has seen significant progress across a number of safeguarding priorities, with partners continuing to work together to strengthen early help, improve safeguarding practice, and respond to emerging risks affecting children and young people across the Isle of Wight.

A key focus has been the ongoing development of the **Families First Partnership Programme (FFP)**. Safeguarding partners have reaffirmed their shared commitment to delivering a more integrated, preventative approach that ensures children and families receive the right support at the right time. The reforms place a strong emphasis on shared ownership, early intervention, and improving outcomes for children and families.

The Board received an update on the continued development of the **MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)**, which remains a positive example of partnership working on the Island. Significant progress has been made in strengthening systems, processes and staffing, while discussions with agencies such as education, CAMHS and the prison service are supporting ambitions for a more integrated "front door" for children and families. Recent additions to the workforce, including increased health representation, demonstrate ongoing commitment to multi-agency working. MASH representatives have also continued to strengthen relationships with schools.

Partners were updated on progress within **Contextual Safeguarding**. Attendance and engagement at the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC) has improved, with increased focus on addressing risks linked to locations and adults of concern. Work is also progressing to improve understanding of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

The Board also considered national and local learning around **digital forensics in child suicide cases**. Members heard how securing and examining digital devices is a routine part of police investigations following a suspected child suicide. Digital evidence can help professionals understand the circumstances surrounding a child's death, including exposure to harmful online content or contact with individuals who may have influenced their wellbeing. The discussion highlighted the growing importance of understanding children's online lives when responding to safeguarding concerns.

As part of the Partnership's quality assurance arrangements, agencies completed the annual **Section 11 Keeping Children Safe Self-Assessment** process. The self-assessments provide assurance that organisations are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities and help identify areas for improvement. Future assessments will place greater emphasis on evidencing progress against previously identified actions, strengthening accountability across the partnership.

Recent activity of the Partnership's subgroups has included strengthening awareness of private fostering, preparing for a neglect-focused Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) exercise, reviewing police safeguarding practices, addressing child-to-parent/caregiver abuse, and undertaking thematic audits focused on child sexual abuse and exploitation. Planning has also begun for a Partnership Learning Needs Analysis to help shape future workforce development and training opportunities.

New Interactive Isle of Wight Threshold Chart

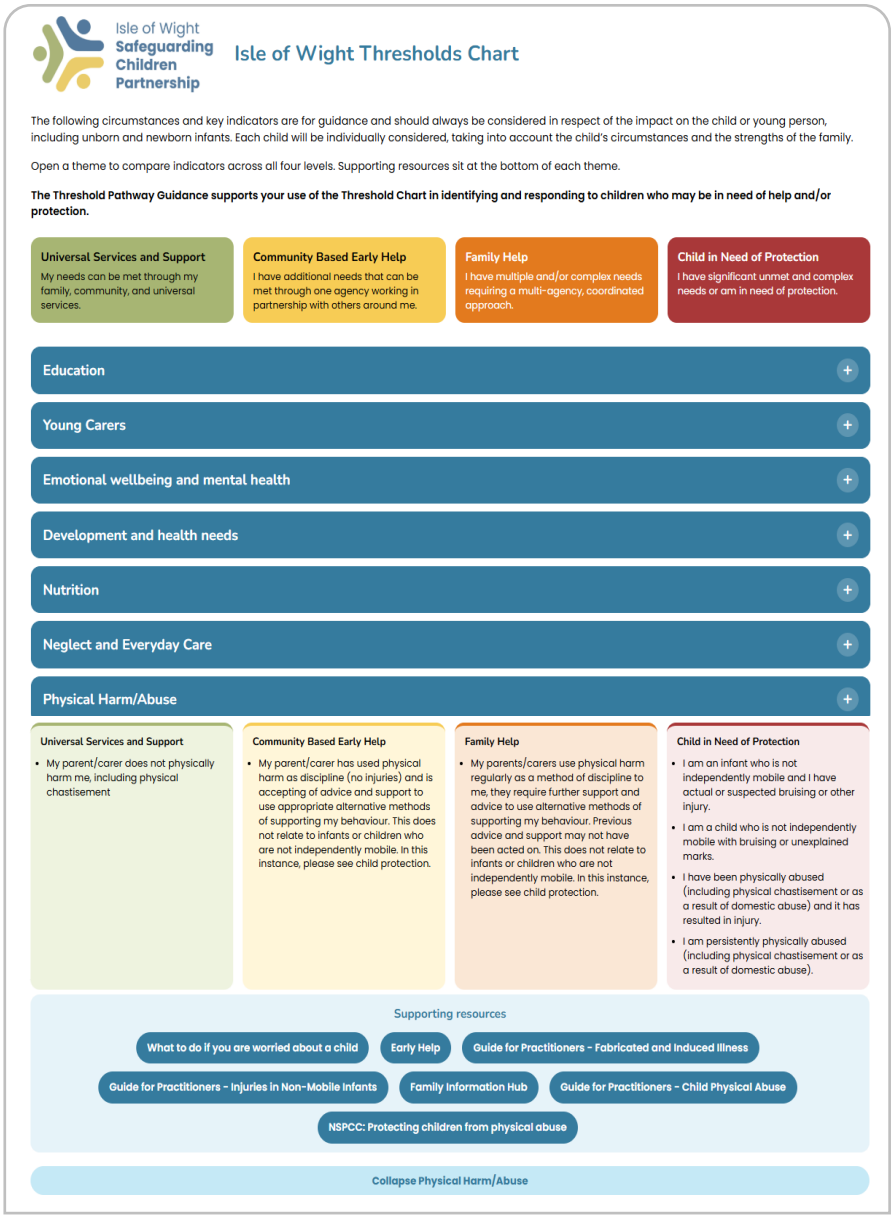
The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership is pleased to launch its new interactive Threshold Chart

The IOW Threshold Chart has been updated in line with family help and redesigned as an interactive online resource and will now be accessed directly through the Partnership's website, replacing the previous paper copy.

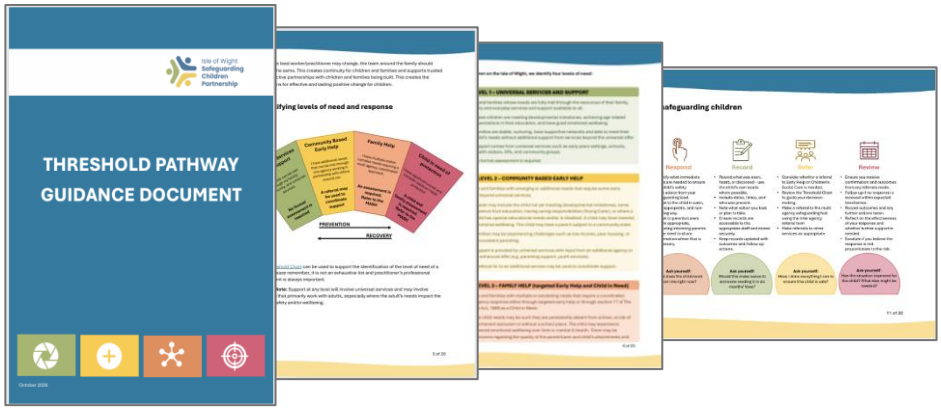
The chart has been developed from the child's perspective and expanded to provide clearer descriptors across all levels of need, including family help. It is designed to support professional judgement and promote a shared understanding of thresholds across all agencies.

The new format offers a more accessible and user-friendly experience for practitioners. It also includes **direct links to relevant resources, guidance and tools**, providing quicker and easier access to information that supports effective decision making and safeguarding practice.

Please ensure that any saved electronic or paper copies of the previous Threshold Chart are deleted.



Alongside the Threshold Chart, the Threshold Pathway Guidance Document has been reviewed and refreshed to ensure consistency with the updated threshold framework and approach



NEW RESOURCES - ONLINE HARM GROUPS

The **National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team** (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) have launched a suite of new resources to help professionals, parents and carers, and young people understand and respond to the growing threat of online harm groups**.**

Education from the National Crime Agency

Online harm groups, often referred to as 'Com Groups' (short for community) use tactics such as grooming, coercion, manipulation and blackmail to exploit young people online. Their activity can overlap with a range of harms, including child sexual abuse.

The resources are designed to help professionals, parents, carers and young people better understand the risks associated with online harm groups and know how to respond appropriately.

Practitioners are encouraged to access the range of recently published resources, which include:

- Guidance for Professionals
- Guidance to support engagement with 11-18 year olds
- Advice to signpost parents and carers

Guidance for professionals, helping those who work with children and young people understand the threat and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.

Advice to signpost parents and carers to providing practical information to help families recognise the warning signs, support their child and access support. Sharing tools and guidance helps to build their knowledge and protective capabilities.

Guidance to support engagement with 11-18 year olds, helping young people recognise online pressure and manipulation, understand when something doesn't feel right, and know where to get help. This includes **a short animation** to support young people's learning and aid understanding.



2nd – 6th November 2026

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE WEEK

Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

It is estimated that 1 in 6 children experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18 in England and Wales*



Preventing child sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility.

Children who experience sexual abuse can suffer significant and lasting harm, making it essential that professionals can recognise the signs and indicators of abuse, understand risk factors, and respond appropriately to concerns. Early identification and intervention are key to safeguarding children and ensuring they receive the help and support they need.

The best time to learn about child sexual abuse is before you think you need the knowledge. Don't wait until you have concerns about a child. Equip yourself now with the skills to identify signs, respond appropriately and help keep children safe.

As part of the Safeguarding Practice Week: Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse, partners will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills through a range of specialist learning events. These sessions will support practitioners to strengthen their understanding of child sexual abuse, improve their response to safeguarding concerns, and enhance partnership working to better protect children and young people across the Isle of Wight.

Please see the programme of events below.

For booking links, more information and resources visit:
https://www.iowscp.org.uk/child-sexual-abuse-safeguarding-practice-week

Day	Time	Session – via Microsoft Teams
Monday, 2nd November	9.30-10.30am	Sexual Health Service – IOW support offer
	3.30-5pm	Signs and Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse - Interactive session led by the Centre of Expertise of Child Sexual Abuse
Tuesday, 3rd November	1.30-2.30pm	Child Sexual Abuse and the Online Environment
	3.30-4.30pm	Multi-Agency support for Child Protection Meetings
Wednesday, 4th November	9.30-10.30am	Child Sexual Abuse and the Online Environment
	1.30-2.30pm	Learning from Child Abuse Investigations
	3.30-4.30pm	IOW Sexual Health Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – Schools' focus session
Thursday, 5th November	11.30am-12.30pm	Multi-Agency support for Child Protection Meetings
	3.30-4.30pm	Medical assessments in suspected child sexual abuse with Subject Matter Expert: Dr Helen Daley**
Friday, 6th November	9.30-10.30am	Learning from Child Abuse Investigations
	11.30am-12.30pm	Sexual Health Service – IOW support offer

***It is strongly recommended to complete the **Medical Assessments in Suspected Child Sexual Abuse eLearning** before attending this course*

* Data from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

NEW statutory Information Sharing Duty has come into force

This new duty introduces a clear legal expectation for organisations and practitioners to share information with one another, where it is relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

It aims to address **one of the most frequently identified barriers** in serious safeguarding incidents, where **poor information sharing** has contributed to children not receiving the right support or protection. The guidance is intended to promote a consistent approach to information sharing and support a cultural shift in how information is understood and shared across organisations.

The duty is not limited to situations where a child meets a specific statutory threshold, it also applies to information that may support:

- Early help
- Prevention and intervention services
- Assessment and planning
- Wider child welfare needs

We've produced a short briefing outlining the purpose of the duty, key expectations, and what you may need to do differently in practice. Click here to access it on our website.

What does it mean for me?

The new Duty reinforces something that is already central to effective safeguarding: **share relevant information when it may help keep a child safe.** The duty aims to remove uncertainty and encourage practitioners to share information earlier, rather than waiting until concerns escalate or reach a statutory threshold.

ACCESS ELEARNING: Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners

Isle of Wight Fostering is now 'Foster Together'

The new name has been shaped by the people who know fostering best, including foster carers, children and young people, and partners from across the Island.

Because fostering is about so much more than providing a home. It's about local people, local communities and local services coming together to support Island children belong, feel safe, supported and loved.

Our commitment remains:

- Supporting Island children and young people to stay close to home
- Recruiting and supporting our local foster carer community
- Helping children stay close to their schools, friends and communities
- Together, we're creating brighter futures for Island children.

Find out more: https://ow.ly/JuMA50ZQuof

Partnership Training

The IOWSCP provides a free **learning and development programme**

for all practitioners who work with children and families on the Isle of Wight.

These multi-agency learning opportunities bring professionals from different agencies together to develop knowledge and skills and are designed to complement single-agency training. They include virtual events and courses, webinars, workshops and eLearning.

Our learning and development programme is hosted on the Isle of Wight Council's Learning Hub. Contact us at scp@iow.gov.uk if you don't have a Learning Hub account.

IOWSCP Learning and Development Programme

Child Sexual Abuse

An introduction to child sexual abuse
An introduction to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
An introduction to harmful sexual behaviour
Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit Tour
Child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and group-based harm
Medical assessments in suspected child sexual abuse eLearning
Putting the child sexual abuse response pathway into practice
Speaking to children about child sexual abuse
Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse

Child Exploitation

An introduction to the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF)
An introduction to the Serious Violence Duty
An introduction to trafficking and the National Referral Mechanism
Child exploitation - As a health professional, what do YOU need to know?
Child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and group-based harm
Child Exploitation Toolkit tour
Contextual Safeguarding - Beyond the Family Dynamic
Missing, Exploited and Trafficked children (MET)
Modern Slavery Toolkit tour
Safeguarding against child financial exploitation
Serious Violence Duty Toolkit tour

Child Abuse / Neglect

An introduction to child abuse linked to faith and belief
An introduction to child-on-child abuse
An introduction to honour-based abuse, forced marriage and dowry
Neglect Toolkit Tour
Understanding cumulative harm and preventing the normalisation of neglect
Understanding, identifying and responding to neglect

Partnership Training

Safeguarding children and young people

An introduction to children who go missing from home/care
An Introduction to keeping children safe online
An introduction to safeguarding children with excessive weight
Children We Care For and Care Leavers eLearning
Community and Voluntary Organisations Toolkit Tour
Complex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children – Level 4
Cyber Choices: Safeguarding against cybercrime
Safeguarding adolescents in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight
Safeguarding adolescents Toolkit Tour
Safeguarding disabled children (including children with a learning disability)
Safeguarding Infants eLearning
Safeguarding Infants Toolkit Tour
Working together to safeguard children and young people

Working with Families

Adopting a Family Approach Toolkit Tour
An introduction to adopting a family approach
An introduction to having honest conversations
Fire Risk and Vulnerability - Adult and Children (HIOWFRS)
Practical session: Day in the Life Tools
Unidentified adults
Unidentified Adults Toolkit Tour
Unpacking Disguised Compliance - The Importance of Professional Curiosity

Reporting / Referrals / Processes

"Right Help, Right Time" - IOW Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) workshop for multi-agency professionals
An introduction to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
An introduction to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
Families who move across county borders
Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners eLearning

Partnership Training

Domestic Abuse

An introduction to recognising and responding to perpetrators of domestic abuse
An introduction to stalking
An introduction to the homicide timeline
Children as victims in their own right: Understanding the impact of domestic abuse (including those with special educational needs and disabilities
Domestic abuse: Understanding and assessing risk and supporting safety planning
From concern to action: Responding to abusive or unhealthy behaviours in young people's intimate relationships
Recognising and Responding to Child and Adolescent to Parent and Carer Abuse and Harm
Recognising and responding to coercive controlling behaviour
Recognising and responding to domestic abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships
Recognising and responding to male victim-survivors of domestic abuse
Recognising and responding to people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse
Recognising and responding to post separation abuse including using the courts and child contact arrangements
Responding to disclosures of domestic abuse
The Hidden Costs of Control: The Impact of Economic Abuse on Families
Untangling the web: Power, control and counter-allegations in domestic abuse
Violence in pregnancy and impact on baby brain development eLearning
Coercive and controlling behaviour (Paragon)
Domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence (Paragon)

Learning & Development Programme 2026-27 brochure

Safeguarding Essentials brochure

Voluntary and Community Sector Learning & Development brochure

This newsletter is designed to strengthen awareness, support practice, and ensure that staff across all agencies are equipped with the right tools and guidance to safeguard children and young people.

Please share this newsletter and the resources within it with colleagues in your agency and encourage staff to:

- Review the materials carefully
- Reflect on how they can be applied in practice
- Use them to support ongoing professional development and safeguarding awareness

Website Resources

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

IOW Services

Learning from Reviews

Local guides and leaflets

e.g.

- 7 Golden Rules for information sharing
- Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway for Children
- Exploitation Pathways
- Neglect Indicator chart
- Threshold Chart and Threshold Pathway Guidance Document

Practitioner Briefings

Practitioner Breifings sumarise key learning from local and national reviews, audits and related report. Providing clear, practical insights that support continuous improvement and strengthening practice across teams

Practitioner Resources

e.g.

- 7 Golden Rules for information sharing
- Professionals Meeting Guidance on when to call a meeting
- Multi Agency Standards for Child Protection
- Recognising and responding to the impact of cumulative harm
- Understanding links between trauma and neurodiversity
- Engaging Parents who are Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in Child Protection Processes

Organisations that can help

STOP Packs

STOP Packs are a one-stop collection of essential tools and resources focused on specific safeguarding themes. Designed to support effective practice, and some also include materials and signposting for parents and carers.

HIPS Procedures

Toolkits

Toolkits reflect the regional safeguarding strategies and offer a whole range of practical guidance and tools to support practitioners e.g.

- Neglect
- Safeguarding Infants
- Adopting a Family Approach

Safeguarding Practice Weeks

e.g.

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Safeguarding Essentials
- Child Exploitation

Gov.uk Links

e.g.

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education