

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.

28th April Partnership Board meeting - Key headlines

Partners continue to make progress on the **Families First Partnership Programme**, working closely with the Department for Education. Work is focusing on building stronger multi-agency approaches, with early priorities including statutory requirements and the development of a new Family Help model to support children and families. Partners across police, health, education, and other services are contributing to this work, with continued collaboration identified as key to success. Further updates will be shared as the programme develops, with partners encouraged to stay engaged and involved.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust presented an example of the **voice of the child** highlighting how children's behaviours often communicate their lived experiences when they are unable to express these verbally. This demonstrated how practitioners identified and interpreted presenting behaviours appropriately, which led to effective safeguarding action to protect a child from child sexual abuse. It was a strong example of how the voice of vulnerable children often presents non-verbally, and that the example clearly illustrated the importance of multi-agency working, professional curiosity, and building a collective understanding to ensure children are safeguarded effectively. The anonymised case study has been included within the [HIPS child sexual abuse toolkit](#).

A recent **Section 157/175 education audit** was presented to the Partnership, highlighting how schools are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. The importance of effective school governance was identified. Learning from other areas has emphasised the importance of robust oversight, and this will be explored further through local safeguarding networks.

Next steps: Some recommendations will be taken forward through the 2026 audit cycle to strengthen assurance. Ongoing partnership work will continue to support schools in maintaining strong safeguarding practice and a positive safeguarding culture.

The Partnership analysed its **2025-26 multi-agency training programme**, noting that except for some core training courses, attendance across many courses has been lower than expected, although engagement from the voluntary and community sector remains strong. To support improved access and uptake, a new '[Safeguarding Essentials](#)' one-page guide has been developed. This resource is designed to help staff and managers identify key training and can be used within supervision discussions. A tailored version for the [voluntary and community sector](#) is also now available.

Private fostering

What is private fostering?

Private fostering refers to an arrangement where a child or young person under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability) is looked after by someone who is not their parent or a close relative, for a period of 28 days or longer. Close relatives are defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or step-parents.



Why do local authorities need to know about private fostering arrangements?

Local authorities need to be informed of private fostering arrangements so they can fulfil their legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who may be living outside of their immediate family. Because these arrangements are made privately and can be less visible to services, children may be at increased risk of harm, neglect, or social isolation if they are not properly monitored. Notification enables the local authority to assess the suitability of the arrangement, carry out necessary checks, and provide ongoing oversight and support to ensure the child's needs are being met. This process helps to ensure that children in private fostering arrangements remain safe, well cared for, and able to access the services they need.

Find out more here: [Private Fostering on the Isle of Wight](#)

Water Safety

Water safety is important for children of all ages. Drowning is among the leading causes of accidental deaths and claims the lives of more than 50 children every year in the UK. Around 50% of children aged 7 and under who accidentally drowned did so at home. Accidental drownings reflect normal everyday activities and can happen throughout every stage of life.

Babies and young children can be most vulnerable when they first begin to move around. Older children can be at risk when they stray further from parental supervision and teenagers through risk taking and thrill-seeking behaviours.

There are a wide variety of resources on the [Partnership's Water Safety webpage](#):



- Resources for Parents and Carers
- Toddler Water Safety
- Bath Water Safety
- Paddling Pool Safety
- Beach Safety
- Open Water Safety
- Water Safety Whilst on Holidays
- Resources for Schools

New HIPS Procedures website

The newly updated **HIPS Procedures website** went live on the **1st April**.

The website provides a **single, shared set of multi-agency safeguarding procedures** for all practitioners working with children, young people and families across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

These procedures set out the agreed approach that all professionals should follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

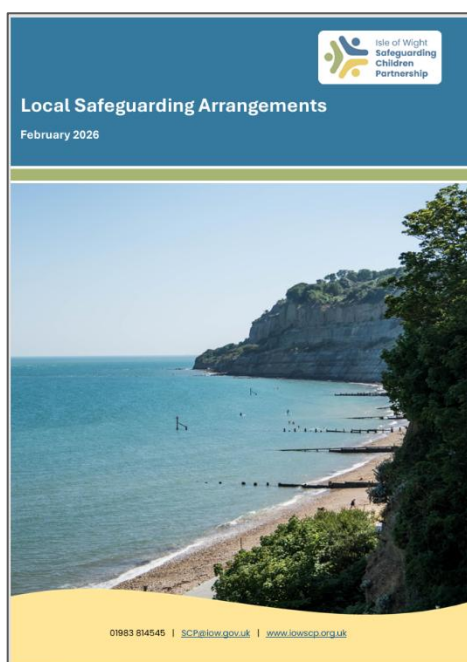
Ahead of the launch, all procedures were **reviewed and updated** to ensure they reflect the most recent legislation and statutory guidance and provide clear and consistent direction across all agencies.

The redesigned website offers a **more accessible and modern platform**, making it easier for practitioners to find the information they need and support confident decision-making in practice.

Whether you are seeking guidance on thresholds, responding to concerns, escalation processes or child protection procedures, the site brings everything together in one place, helping professionals across all sectors - including education, health, police, social care, early years and voluntary organisations - find relevant information quickly and easily.



<https://hipsprocedures.org.uk/>



Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements on the Isle of Wight

Protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation requires strong **multi-agency working and collaboration at all levels**.

Local organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a **significant — and often statutory —** role in safeguarding.

The way these organisations work together is known as **multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASAs)**, delivered locally through the **Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP)**.

Our **Local Safeguarding Arrangements** set out how safeguarding partners and other agencies work together to **identify, protect and promote the welfare of children** on the Isle of Wight.

We have recently completed a scheduled review of these arrangements. You can view the updated documents on our [Governance Webpage](#).

NEW PRACTITIONER RESOURCES

Access
resource here



Engaging parents who are perpetrators of domestic abuse in child protection processes

This resource focuses specifically on how practitioners can safely and effectively engage parents who are perpetrators of domestic abuse, in child protection processes, while keeping children's lived experiences and safety at the centre of practice.

The resource covers:

- ★ What domestic abuse is (and how it presents)
- ★ The link between domestic abuse & safeguarding
- ★ Practice principles for engaging people using abusive behaviours
- ★ Applying these principles in everyday multi-agency practice
- ★ Focusing Child Protection Plans on accountability
- ★ Additional resources to support professional practice

Access
resource here



1-minute practitioner guide to Sarah's Law and Clare's Law

- ★ The Child Sex Offenders Disclosure Scheme (Sarah's Law)
- ★ The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)

This is intended as a quick, accessible reference to support confident conversations, appropriate disclosures, and information-sharing decisions in practice.

This resource is developed in addition to our 75-minute Information Sharing learning session which we're delivering on the 24th September 2026, 10am - 11.15am and is open to practitioners across all agencies [book here: <https://www.iowscp.org.uk/training>]

Access
resource here



Understanding the links between trauma and neurodiversity in children

Children who have experienced trauma may display behaviours that closely resemble those associated with neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism or ADHD. This overlap can make it difficult for professionals to distinguish between trauma responses and neurodivergent traits – especially without a holistic, multi-agency assessment.

This resource supports practitioners working with children who may be neurodivergent and/or have experienced trauma, with practical guidance. This includes the need to be professional curious and not make assumptions, asking what may be driving the behaviour rather than labelling it or viewing it through the lens of a diagnosis.

BARNARD'S

Helping practitioners navigate online risks

Young people face fast-changing online risks - and professionals often lack clear, current guidance. **Barnardo's Online Risk Guide** brings everything together in one trusted place, with expert explanations, practical safeguarding actions, and insights from young people.



What the **BARNARD'S** Online Risk Guide offers

✓ Fast, expert-verified explanations

Clear, continuously updated descriptions of risks, platforms and behaviours.

✓ Practical actions you can use immediately

Conversation prompts, assessment tips and safeguarding guidance.

✓ Saves time & builds confidence

Practitioners say "it's all in one place" - no more endless searching.

✓ A growing learning community

600+ members join webinars and briefings on new and emerging risks.

<https://online-risk-guide.barnardos.org.uk/>

Take the next step

 Explore expert-verified online risk guidance

 Join our Community of practice webinars

 Receive updates about new content

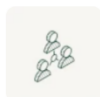
 Share & pass to colleagues

 Contact us - onlinerriskguide@barnardos.org.uk

Scan to get started



Explore how young people experience life online



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[money](#)



[online abuse](#)



[relationships](#)

The IOWSCP provides a free [learning and development programme](#) for all practitioners who work with children and families on the Isle of Wight. The programme is funded by the Partnership.

These multi-agency learning opportunities bring professionals together from different agencies 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.

Child Abuse/

- Introduction courses to:
 - child-on-child abuse
 - child abuse linked to faith and belief
 - honour-based abuse, forced marriage and dowry
 - Fabricated or Induced Illnesses
- Understanding, identifying and responding to neglect
- Understanding cumulative harm and preventing the normalisation of neglect
- Neglect Toolkit Tour *

Child Sexual Abuse

- Introductions courses to:
 - child sexual abuse
 - harmful sexual behaviour
 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Group Based Harm
- Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse
- Speaking to children about child sexual abuse
- Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool training
- Putting the Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway into practice
- Medical Assessments in suspected child sexual abuse eLearning
- Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit Tour

Working With Families

- An Introduction to Adopting a Family Approach
- Unidentified Adults
- Unpacking Disguised Compliance – The Importance of Professional Curiosity
- An introduction to having honest conversations
- Practical Session: Day in the Life Tool *
- Unidentified Adults Toolkit Tour *
- Adopting a Family Approach Toolkit Tour *

Child Exploitation

- Child Exploitation Toolkit Tour
- Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children
- An Introduction to the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF)
- Introduction courses to:
 - Serious Violence Duty *
 - the Trafficking and National Referral Mechanism
- Child Exploitation – As a health professional, what do you need to know?
- Safeguarding against child financial exploitation
- Serious Violence Duty toolkit tour *
- Modern Slavery Toolkit tour *

Reporting, Referrals, Processes

- Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Group Based Harm
- "Right Help, Right Time" - IOW Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) workshop for multi-agency professionals
- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners eLearning
- The importance of Community Partnership Information (CPI) sharing
- Information sharing learning (Clare's Law and Sarah's Law)
- Families who move across county borders
- An introduction to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

*New courses for 2026/27

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Working With Families

- Safeguarding Adolescents in Hampshire and IOW
- Introduction courses to:
 - safeguarding children with excessive weight
 - keeping children safe online
 - children who go missing from home/care
- Contextual safeguarding - Beyond the family dynamic
- Cyber Choices
- Working Together to Safeguarding Children, Level 3
- Complex Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children, Level 4
- Children we care for and care leavers eLearning
- Safeguarding Infants eLearning
- Safeguarding Disabled Children (inc. those with a learning disability)
- Community and voluntary organisations Toolkit tour
- Safeguarding Infants Toolkit tour *

Working With Families

- Children as victims in their own right: Understanding the impact of domestic abuse (including those with special educational needs and disabilities)
- Courses on recognising and responding to:
 - child and adolescent to parent and carer abuse and harm
 - coercive controlling behaviour
 - domestic abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships
 - male victims-survivors of domestic abuse
 - people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse
 - disclosures of domestic abuse
 - Post separation abuse including using the courts and child contact arrangements
- Introduction courses to:
 - stalking
 - recognising and responding to perpetrators of domestic abuse
 - the homicide timeline
- The Hidden Costs of Control: The Impact of Economic Abuse on Families
- Information Sharing Learning (Clare's Law & Sarah's Law)
- Understanding and assessing risk and supporting safety planning
- From Concern to Action: Responding to Abusive or Unhealthy Behaviours in Young People's Intimate Relationships
- Untangling the Web: Power, Control, and Counter-Allegations in Domestic Abuse
- Domestic abuse: Violence in pregnancy and impact on baby brain development eLearning

IOWSCP
Learning & Development
Programme 2026-27

IOWSCP
Learning and Development
Programme 2026-27
Safeguarding Essentials

IOWSCP
Learning and Development
Programme 2026-27
**for the Voluntary and
Community Sector**

Partnership Toolkits

These toolkits have been developed by practitioners for practitioners to help you identify and respond to various safeguarding themes. They contain guides, resources, case studies, strategies and training opportunities.

<https://www.iowscp.org.uk/toolkits>

[Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[Neglect](#)

[Safeguarding Adolescents](#)

[Adopting A Family Approach](#)

[Safeguarding Infants](#) [Child Exploitation](#)

[Understanding Unidentified Adults](#)

[Child-On-Child Abuse](#)

[Serious Violence](#)

[Vountary & Community Organisations](#)

45 minute virtual Toolkit Tours are now available.

They support professionals to become more familiar with the information, tools and resources available within the toolkits:

- [Child Exploitation toolkit tour](#)
- [Neglect toolkit tour](#)
- [Safeguarding Adolescents toolkit tour](#)
- [Serious Violence toolkit tour](#)
- [Modern Slavery toolkit tour](#)
- [Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit tour](#)
- [Unidentified Adults Toolkit tour](#)
- [Adopting a Family Approach Toolkit tour](#)
- [Community and voluntary organisations toolkit tour](#)
- [Safeguarding Infants Toolkit Tour](#)

Practitioner briefings & practice resources

Our practitioner briefings and practice materials help you learn from reviews, audits and other reports. They are designed to be shared within your own organisations, so that learning can be cascaded to frontline practitioners

- [7 Golden Rules for Information Sharing](#)
- [Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework \(CERAF\) quick guide](#)
- [Domestic abuse referral pathway for children and young people](#)
- [The experience of children and families who are re-referred to IOW Children's Social Care](#)
- [Interactive neglect threshold chart](#)
- [Multi Agency Compliance and Engagement in Child Protection Processes](#)
- [Multi-agency response to child sexual abuse](#)
- [Multi-agency roles and responsibilities around Elective Home Education](#)
- [Practice Principles for Chronology Templates](#)
- [Priority, Pace and Purpose – Multi-agency response to children who need early help](#)
- [Professionals meeting guidance on when to call a meeting](#)
- [Recognising and responding to child physical abuse](#)
- [Recognising and responding to the impact of cumulative harm](#)
- [The Unborn/Newborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol](#)
- [Threshold Pathway Guidance](#)
- [Working Together to Resolve Professional Differences](#)
- [Working together to resolve professional differences in relation to child protection conferences.](#)

[www.iowscp.org.uk/
practitioners-
briefings](https://www.iowscp.org.uk/practitioners-briefings)

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.