#### Purpose

To co-ordinate quality assurance and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by IOWSCP Partner Agencies, individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has oversight of all multi-agency and single agency audits, section 11 audits and analysis of performance data about safeguarding within relevant agencies on the Isle of Wight.

#### Objectives

To provide evidenced assurance to the Executive Group of regular and effective monitoring of multi-agency front-line practice to safeguard children and identifies where improvement is required in the quality of practice and services that children, young people and families receive, including the effectiveness of early help.

#### Responsibilities

* Develop an annual scrutiny and assurance programme, derived from the annual business plan, emerging safeguarding issues and inspections of services.
* Commission audits and reviews of safeguarding arrangements and practice within partner agencies.
* Maintain a multi-agency dataset of agreed safeguarding indicators and provide a bi annual analysis on trends and themes to the Executive Group.
* Ensure that the ‘voice of the child’ is considered in scrutiny and assurance work undertaken.
* Ensure findings identified from audits, including good practice, are disseminated to front-line professionals.
* Monitor agency compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, challenge organisations where appropriate, and report findings to the Executive Group.
* Ensure actions arising from quality assurance activities are completed, reviewed and monitored for impact.
* Escalate risks to the Executive Group through the Risk Register.

#### Accountability

* The Chair will be a member of the Executive Group and Board.
* The Chair will be agreed by the Executive Group
* The Group will be directly accountable to the Executive Group
* The Chair will report to the Executive Group the activity of the PQA group on a quarterly basis
* Creation and delivery of an annual audit plan reflecting findings from recent local and national serious case reviews, audits and inspections, and monitors the understanding and application of thresholds.

#### Membership

Representatives will be provided by each statutory agency with appropriate seniority to be able to speak for their agency and be sufficiently able to hold their organisation to account. The named individual will need to exhibit the required knowledge and expertise in relation to safeguarding children and quality assurance to be able to contribute effectively to the work of the group.

As a minimum the following agencies will nominate representatives:

* Isle of Wight Council – Children’s Services
* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary
* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board
* Isle of Wight NHS Trust
* Isle of Wight Council – Education
* National Probation Service
* Youth Offending Team
* Solent NHS Trust
* Voluntary Sector Representative

To ensure their agency is appropriately represented at all meetings, any member delegating attendance to another colleague, must ensure their deputy has the same decision-making authority. Any substitute should be of the same grade or one grade lower within their organisational structure.

#### Frequency of meetings

The PQA Group will meet quarterly.

#### Quoracy

The PQA Group will be quorate if half of its members are present, which should include the Chair/Deputy Chair and representatives from the following organisations:

* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary
* Isle of Wight Council - Children’s Services
* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board

#### Support from the Partnership Team

* Agree the agenda with the Chair at least four weeks before the meeting
* Send the agenda and supporting papers to members at least one week in advance of the meeting
* Produce and send to members the meeting minutes and an action tracker no later than one week after the meeting
* Maintain an up to date list of members and their contact details
* Organise and provide administrative support for any task and finish groups commissioned
* Undertake reviews or data collection as a collective understanding of the national picture on topics and themes, government legislation and policy etc on behalf of the group to enrich and improve local processes and procedures.

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| Date reviewed: | September 2023 |
| Next review date: | September 2024 |