



Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

Business Plan 2020-23



Introduction

This Business Plan outlines the agreed priorities for Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) for the period 2020-2023.

The IOWSCP is a statutory body established by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. The IOWSCP is led by three Safeguarding Partners including IOW Council Children's Services, IOW Clinical Commissioning Group, and Hampshire Constabulary. The broader IOWSCP consists of Relevant Agencies that cooperate with each other to safeguard children and promote their welfare. We are responsible collectively as a Board for strategic oversight of child protection arrangements across the Isle of Wight and our role is to lead, coordinate, develop, challenge and monitor the delivery of effective child protection and safeguarding practice by all agencies across the Island. More information on the arrangements of the IOWSCP can be found in the published 'New Arrangements' document on the IOWSCP website.

Our Purpose

Section 3 of Working Together 2018 states that the purpose of local safeguarding children partnership arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children
- organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively
- there is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats
- learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice
- information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

Our Principles and Values

- **The voice and lived experience of the Child** - to ensure that our work is child centred and we continually seek to engage and involve children and young people and their families.
- **Safeguarding children is everyone's business.** Safeguarding is only effectively delivered by strong, effective, proactive and collaborative partnership working across Safeguarding Partners and all Relevant Agencies.
- **Learning** from reviews and scrutiny and assurance activity is quickly identified and implemented in partnership working.
- **Enabling high quality safeguarding practice.** We will promote awareness, effectively coordinate, improve knowledge and work in a way that is characterised by an attitude of continuous improvement and constructive professional challenge.
- **Fostering a culture of openness and transparency.** We will enable IOWSCP partners to work openly together, to learn from collective and individual experience, and to seek and receive assurance on the overall effectiveness of work to safeguard and protect children on the Isle of Wight.



Key Priorities

The IOWSCP Business Plan has been developed to focus on a set of agreed priorities that have been grouped into:

- a) **Part A** of the IOWSCP Business Plan contains **long-term strategic objectives** spanning the period 2020-2023. These objectives cover complex areas of children's safeguarding which require a deeper collective understanding to inform a targeted and coordinated partnership response to achieve real impact on the lives of children and young people living on the Isle of Wight. These objectives have been identified from themes arising from the Partnership's existing scrutiny and quality assurance programmes, as well as findings from local and national learning reviews. The strategic objectives will remain the same for the three year period of the plan but the activities that sit underneath them will be reviewed and refreshed annually during that period.
- b) **Part B** of the IOWSCP Business Plan contains **several shorter-term activities**, typically covering a reporting year. These have also been identified from the Partnership's existing scrutiny and learning review programmes and support the IOWSCP's statutory functions. This part of the Business Plan will be refreshed annually with new activities identified when appropriate.

The structure of the business plan allows the Board to focus on key strategic areas of partnership activity but also remain flexible to respond to emerging needs and refine existing programmes of activity in line with feedback received from children, their families and professionals. To support the delivery of the Business Plan more detailed work plans, aligned to the Board's priorities, will be developed for each Sub and Working Group.

IOWSCP will take a leadership role in the delivery and quality assurance of partnership work in these areas. Progress against this plan will be reviewed and monitored by each individual subgroup / Task and Finish Group in the first instance. Quarterly updates will be provided against all work streams to the Business Group. Where necessary and appropriate, the Business Group will highlight both areas of concern and areas of good practice and success to the full IOWSCP Board meetings for further action.



Part A Strategic Objectives 2020-2023

| Strategic Objective | Outcome | Actions For 2020-2021 |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Safeguarding Adolescents</p> <p>To be undertaken in partnership with the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP)</p> | <p>The IOWSCP has a good understanding of the range of complex and inter-related risks that impact on the safeguarding of adolescents on the IOW.</p> <p>Staff in IOWSCP agencies understand and can recognise factors and indicators of safeguarding risks to adolescents.</p> <p>Staff in IOWSCP agencies are supported in their work with adolescents by practical, applicable tools and information to keep adolescents safe from harm.</p> | <p>A joint IOWSCP and HSCP Task and Finish Group will be established to review the range of risks relating to safeguarding adolescents and consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the current level of multi-agency understanding and response to these issues. - whether there are gaps in service provision and our collective response to protecting young people at risk, and what action can be taken by IOWSCP to respond to these. - whether front line professionals need any further tools, training or support to strengthen their practice. - To hear from the experience of young people who have received services from IOWSCP partner agencies. <p>IOWSCP to explore the value of a longitudinal study of young people who are either at the first point of crisis or intervention or are subject of extensive partnership intervention and services. The information from this work is to be used to inform the longer-term work to safeguard adolescents.</p> |
| <p>Understanding and reducing the number of IOW children who become 'looked after'</p> | <p>That there is a good understanding across the Partnership of the reasons why children should be taken into care, and, that this only happens for those children who are not able to live with their families.</p> <p>That through innovative, effective and targeted early multi agency working, the numbers of IOW children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority are reduced, and more children are supported to safely remain with their families where appropriate.</p> | <p>Cross departmental multi-agency working group established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better understand the children on IOW who are currently in the care of the local authority, and those who are likely to become looked after. - Consider common factors associated with this group of children including local, demographical and socio-economic factors. - Map the services that the children and their families receive from IOW agencies to consider other opportunities for innovative and proactive partnership work to intervene and support families earlier. - Use the information from the above to develop an agreed multi-agency approach to enable children to safely remain with their families on IOW. <p>This objective will likely link and be informed by the first IOWSCP objective to safeguard adolescents.</p> |
| <p>Responding to Neglect</p> <p>To be undertaken in partnership with the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP).</p> | <p>To enhance the understanding of neglect amongst professionals across IOW, and give them the tools to better identify indicators of neglect, and, understand what interventions are available to support and protect children affected by and / or at risk of neglect.</p> | <p>Re-establish the joint IOWSCP and HSCP Neglect Task and Finish Group to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respond to the outcomes of the 2019 IOWSCP evaluation of Neglect - Update the joint IOWSCP / HSCP Neglect Strategy - Review the joint online Neglect Toolkit to include additional information on neglect and consider other tools and practical information to support front line practice. - Review current LSCP training offer on neglect - Consider gaps and other opportunities to promote best practice in multi-agency working to understand and respond to neglect. |

Part B Strategic Activities 2020-2021

| Strategic Activity | Outcome | Actions For 2020-2021 |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Evaluate the impact of IOWSCP initiatives and programmes.</p> | <p>That the IOWSCP, via delivery of different initiatives, can evidence positive impact on Isle of Wight children and families.</p> | <p>In partnership with the IOW Safeguarding Adults Board, evaluate the local IOW response to the HIPS and 4LSAB Family Approach protocol and toolkit.</p> <p>Continue to embed the ICON (coping with crying and abusive head trauma in babies) programme and undertake the professional and public evaluation of impact of the programme on IOW.</p> <p>Continue to embed the IOW 'Every Sleep Counts' campaign and conduct a first phase evaluation by the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>In collaboration with the other HIPS LSCPs, launch the Lurking Trolls online safety campaign aimed at primary school aged children.</p> |
| <p>Improved and effective dissemination and communication channels across IOWSCP Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies.</p> | <p>Staff in IOWSCP agencies are aware of, know where to go to find information on, and are fully utilising information and opportunities provided by IOWSCP.</p> <p>Learning and practice improvements highlighted by the IOWSCPs work is effectively disseminated and embedded in IOWSCP agencies.</p> | <p>IOWSCP to review and publish its Learning and Improvement Framework.</p> <p>IOWSCP to develop and publish a Communications Strategy outlining use of social media and how information and initiatives will be shared with agencies and front line professionals on IOW.</p> <p>IOWSCP to work with Communications Colleagues in partner agencies to develop communications plans for core initiatives and key information dissemination to professionals.</p> <p>IOWSCP member agencies to incorporate learning from IOWSCP activity into messages and policy for their workforce.</p> |
| <p>Dare to Share – multi-agency information sharing. To be undertaken in partnership with the Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) LSCPs.</p> | <p>Staff in IOWSCP agencies are clear on how and when they should share information with partner agencies, and how this is supported by legislation such as Data Protection, GDPR and the principles of patient confidentiality.</p> | <p>IOWSCP to participate in the broader HIPS 'Dare to Share' project to promote effective and timely information sharing across agencies and debunk any perceived challenges in how information sharing relates to other legislation and regulations.</p> |
| <p>Effective safeguarding of unborn and newly born babies.</p> | <p>Staff in IOWSCP agencies to understand, recognise and respond to safeguarding risks to unborn or newborn babies, and follow agreed multi-agency procedures to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements at the earliest opportunity.</p> | <p>IOWSCP to respond to the local findings of the Unborn / Newborn audit to inform front line practice in member agencies.</p> <p>IOWSCP representatives from Health and Children's Social Care to work with broader HIPS Working Group to respond to the findings of the HIPS Unborn Baby / Newborn audit, including revision of the Protocol.</p> <p>Following conclusion of the HIPS project, IOWSCP agencies to disseminate and embed agreed multi-agency processes in front line practice.</p> |