



**Protocol on the working arrangements between the
Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership
And
The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board**

1. Purpose of the Protocol

- 1.1 Both the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) have important, but distinct roles in ensuring that Looked After Children receive good quality services, have their welfare promoted, reach their potential and are safeguarded from harm.
- 1.2 The IOWSCP is a statutory partnership, and the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board is the key forum for monitoring services and outcomes for Looked After Children, to champion their achievements and pursue innovation and developments to improve outcomes. The IOWSCP and Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board are equal partners with a joint responsibility to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children are prioritised at a strategic level and delivered effectively at an operational level.
- 1.3 This protocol aims to support the IOWSCP and Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board to operate effectively in relation to one another in terms of safeguarding and the means to secure effective co-ordination and coherence.
- 1.4 Joint areas of interest for Looked After Children between the IOWSCP and the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board include, but are not restricted to:
 - **Child's Voice** – Taking account of Looked after Children's wishes and feelings (section 22 (4) Children Act 1989), including those who are provided with accommodation under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 and children taken into police protection (section 46(3) (d) of the Children Act 1989);
 - **Assessing Need and Providing Help** – Where a child becomes looked after, the assessment will be the baseline for work with the family. Any needs which have been identified should be addressed before decisions are made about the child's return home. An assessment by a social worker is required before the child returns home under the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. This will provide evidence of whether the necessary improvements have been made to ensure the child's safety when they return home (Working Together 2018).
 - **Children's Homes** – Monitoring the quality of service provision and outcomes for children who are placed in local authority children's homes.
 - **Out of Area Placements** – Monitoring the quality of service provision and outcomes for children who are placed out of the local area, including the commissioning arrangements.
 - **Stability of Placements** – Monitoring the stability of placement for Looked After Children.
 - **Children who go missing or run away from Care** – Ensuring that Looked After Children receive appropriate support to prevent them from going missing and that they receive the appropriate service and support should they do so.
 - **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)** – Ensuring that UASC receive appropriate assessments and service provision.
 - **Care Planning** – Ensuring Looked After Children have good quality and timely Care Plans and Pathway Plans.
 - **Health and Education Needs** – Monitoring local performance indicators in relation to Health Assessments and Plans and Personal Education Plans.
 - **Looked after Children Reviews** – Monitoring the timeliness (former National Indicator) and quality of children's Looked After Reviews, ensuring that their participation, wishes and feelings are considered.

2. The role of the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board

- 2.1 The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board was established in 2017 to support the work of the Children and Family Advisory Panel (CFAP) in the specific area of corporate parenting. The Children and Family Advisory Panel is constituted to "advise the relevant Executive Member

on a number of policy areas". The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board is delegated to make recommendations on matters falling within its remit to the relevant Executive Member. It may also advise and report to the Children and Family Advisory Panel.

2.2 The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board will consist of elected representatives and young people, known as 'Care Ambassadors'.

2.3 The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board will make recommendations to the Children and Family Advisory Panel and to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services regarding:

- The review and monitoring of outcomes for children in care and care leavers.
- The steps required to ensure that the views of the Isle of Wight's children in care and care leavers are listened to and acted upon, and ensuring those views are incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies throughout the Isle of Wight Council.
- Ensuring sufficient resources are available for the Care Ambassadors to directly engage with all children in care and care leavers, and to commission and deliver agreed projects on behalf of THE Isle of Wight Council.
- Raising awareness by promoting the role of Elected Members as corporate parents and Isle of Wight Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
- Raising the profile of the needs of children in care and care leavers through support for a range of actions and events, to recognise their achievement and contribution.
- Ensuring that children and young people are clear about what they can expect from the Isle of Wight Council as corporate parents.
- Ensuring that the views of children and young people on the development of services which affect them are regularly heard through the Care Ambassadors, including those with special educational needs (SEN) and learning difficulties or disabilities.
- Reviewing the children in care/care leavers pledge annually.
- Ensuring all staff working with children in care and care leavers have the appropriate support and training needs identified.

3. The role of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP)

3.1 The key objectives of the IOWSCP as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 are:

- To coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children.
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work.

3.1 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

3.1 A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and transition into adulthood successfully.

3.1 The role of the IOWSCP is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The IOWSCP is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

4. The relationship between the Corporate Parenting Board and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership

- 4.1 The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board produces an annual report for the Children and Family Advisory Panel, and this will be submitted to the IOWSCP on an annual basis. Where possible the timing of submission should enable the findings to be incorporated into the IOWSCP Annual Report.
- 4.2 The IOWSCP produces an Annual Report which is presented to the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet. The report will contain a section on Looked After Children.
- 4.3 Quality Assurance audits undertaken or commissioned by IOWSCP in relation to any aspect of Looked After Children issues will have the findings reported to the Corporate Parenting Board in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Local and National Performance Indicators for Looked After Children are reported to both the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board and the IOWSCP

5. Evaluation and Review

- 5.1 If there are any areas of significant concern that cannot be resolved in accordance with this protocol then a strategy meeting will be held between the Independent Chair of the IOWSCP, the Director of Children's Services and the chair of the Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board, and any other senior person that is regarded as being required.
- 5.2 The Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board and IOWSCP should undertake to review the implementation of this protocol annually.

Approved By: IOWSCP Business Group

Date: 24th February 2021

Next Review due: February 2022