



PROTOCOL ON THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE

ISLE OF WIGHT CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

AND

THE ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS BOARD

AGREED BY	IOWSCB Executive	May 2017	
AGREED BY			
REVIEW DATE			

1. PURPOSE OF PROTOCOL

1.1 Both Isle of Wight (IOW) Corporate Parenting Board and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Childrens Board (IOWSCB) 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 IOWSCB is a statutory partnership board and the Corporate Parenting Board is the key multi-agency forum for monitoring services and outcomes for Looked After Children, to champion their achievements and pursue innovation and developments to improve outcomes. There is no hierarchical relationship between the IOWSCB and Corporate Parenting Board but 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 two Boards to operate effectively in relation to one another in terms of safeguarding and the means which we will secure effective co-ordination and coherence.

1.4 Joint areas of interest for Looked After Children between the IOWSCB and the 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 that Act);
- 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 2013, Chapter 2).
- Children's Homes – Monitoring the quality of service provision and outcomes for children who are placed in the local authorities 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 – monitor the stability of placement for Looked After Children (former National Indicators 62 & 63).

- 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) – Ensure that UASC receive appropriate assessments and service provision.
- Care Planning – Ensure Looked After Children have good quality and timely Care Plans and Pathway Plans.
- Health and Education Needs – Monitor local performance indicators in relation to Health Assessments and Plans and Personal Education Plans.
- Looked after Children Reviews – Monitor the timeliness (former National Indicator) and quality of children’s Looked After Reviews, including that their participation and wishes and feelings are taken into account.

2. THE ROLE OF ISLE OF WIGHT CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

3. 2.1 Isle of Wight Corporate Parenting Board was established in 2011 to work together, acting on behalf of the council and partners, to ensure that all of the services, to children in care and care leavers are of a high standard. This will include improving the placement choice for children in care.

2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board will consist of officers representing social care ,health, education, elected members and the local authority. Young people, who are members of the Children in Care Council, will attend the Corporate Parenting Board.

2.2 The Corporate Parenting Board will:

- raise issues regarding the governance of the Children in Care Council;
- scrutinise and monitor outcomes for children in care and care leavers;
- ensure that the needs of our Children in Care Council are considered as appropriate and incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies throughout the council;
- ensure sufficient resources for the Children in Care Council to directly engage with all Children in Care, commission and deliver agreed projects on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council and function as a working group;
- raise awareness by promoting the role of elected members as corporate parents and the council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities;
- raise the profile of the needs of children in care and care leavers through a range of actions & events, to recognise their achievement and contribution;

- ensure that children and young people are clear about what they can expect from the Isle of Wight Council as corporate parents;
- ensure that the views of children and young people are regularly heard through the Children in Care Council, including those with special educational needs (SEN) and learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD). They will have a full say in the development of services which affect them, review the Pledge annually and act as a consultative group on all key issues;
- ensure all staff working with children in care have the appropriate support and training needs identified.

3. THE ROLE OF ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS BOARD

IOW Safeguarding Children Board (IOWSCB)

3.1 The key objectives of the IOWSCB as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' are:

- To co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the well-being of children;
- To ensure the effectiveness of that work

3.2 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

3.3 A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

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

4. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD AND IOW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

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

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 IOWSCB, the Director of Childrens Services and the chair of the Corporate Parenting Board and any other senior person that is regarded as being required.
- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Board and IOWSCB should undertake to review the implementation of this protocol annually.