

# Agenda

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Time	<b>5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Members of the committee	Cllrs R Quigley (Chairman), V Churchman (Vice-Chairman), D Adams, R Downer, S Hendry, J Lever and T Outlaw
Co-opted	Catherine Hobbs (Diocese), Rob Sanders (Diocese), Emily Rufian (Parent/Governor), Matthew Searle (Parent/Governor)  Democratic Services Officer: Megan Tuckwell democratic.services@iow.gov.uk

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1. **Apologies and Changes in Membership (If Any)**

To note any changes in membership of the Committee made in accordance with Part 4B paragraph 5 of the Constitution.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To invite Members to declare any interest they might have in the matters on the agenda.



Details of meetings can be viewed on the Council's Committee [website](#). This information may be available in alternative formats on request. Please note the meeting will be audio recorded and the recording will be placed on the website (except any part of the meeting from which the press and public are excluded). Young people are welcome to attend Council meetings however parents/carers should be aware that the public gallery is not a supervised area.

4. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

Questions may be asked without notice, but to guarantee a full reply, a question must be put (including the name and address of the questioner) in writing or by email to Democratic Services [democratic.services@iow.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@iow.gov.uk), no later than two clear working days before the meeting. The deadline for submitting a written question is Monday, 4 December 2023.

5. **Progress Update** (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive an update on the progress against the outcomes arising from previous meetings, and to provide an update on any outstanding actions.

6. **Mentoring in Schools** (Pages 11 - 20)

To hear from OUS Hampshire & Isle of Wight about the mentoring programme developed in Hampshire, and how it can be introduced on the Island.

7. **Children's Services Transition**

To receive a verbal update on the transition arrangements for the post-Hampshire Partnership.

8. **Performance & Budget** (Pages 21 - 46)

To consider current performance trends and budget for 2023/24.

9. **IW Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report** (Pages 47 - 92)

To receive and note the annual report for 2022-23.

10. **Annual Children in Care Report** (Pages 93 - 110)

To receive and note the annual report for 2022-23.

11. **SACRE Annual Report 2022-23** (Pages 111 - 126)

To receive and note the annual report for 2022-23.

12. **Workplan** (Pages 127 - 130)

To consider any amendments to the current workplan.

13. **Members' Question Time**

Questions may be asked without prior notice, but to guarantee a full reply, a question must be submitted to Democratic Services no later than 5pm, Tuesday, 5 December 2024.



## Interests

If there is a matter on this agenda which may relate to an interest you or your partner or spouse has or one you have disclosed in your register of interests, you must declare your interest before the matter is discussed or when your interest becomes apparent. If the matter relates to an interest in your register of pecuniary interests then you must take no part in its consideration and you must leave the room for that item. Should you wish to participate as a member of the public to express your views where public speaking is allowed under the Council's normal procedures, then you will need to seek a dispensation to do so. Dispensations are considered by the Monitoring Officer following the submission of a written request. Dispensations may take up to 2 weeks to be granted.

Members are reminded that it is a requirement of the Code of Conduct that they should also keep their written Register of Interests up to date. Any changes to the interests recorded on that form should be made as soon as reasonably practicable, and within 28 days of the change. A change would be necessary if, for example, your employment changes, you move house or acquire any new property or land.

If you require more guidance on the Code of Conduct or are unsure whether you need to record an interest on the written register you should take advice from the Monitoring Officer – Christopher Potter on (01983) 821000, email [christopher.potter@iow.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.potter@iow.gov.uk), or Deputy Monitoring Officer - Justin Thorne on (01983) 821000, email [justin.thorne@iow.gov.uk](mailto:justin.thorne@iow.gov.uk).

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If you wish to record, film or photograph the council meeting or if you believe that being filmed or recorded would pose a risk to the safety of you or others then please speak with the democratic services officer prior to that start of the meeting. Their contact details are on the agenda papers.

If the press and public are excluded for part of a meeting because confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, there is no right to record that part of the meeting. All recording and filming equipment must be removed from the meeting room when the public and press are excluded.

If you require further information please see the council guide to reporting on council meetings which can be found at <http://www.iwight.com/documentlibrary/view/recording-of-proceedings-guidance-note>

All information that is recorded by the council is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. For further information please contact Democratic Services at [democratic.services@iow.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@iow.gov.uk)





## Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date and Time	<b>THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs R Quigley (Chairman), R Downer, S Hendry, J Lever, T Outlaw, and N Stuart
Also Present	Cllrs D Andre, P Jordan, and L Peacey-Wilcox  Stuart Ashley, Stephanie How, Ashley Jefferies, James Mackenzie, Natalie Smith, Suzanne Smith, Megan Tuckwell and Melanie White  Benson Hardy and Oliver McClean (Youth Council)
Also Present (Virtual)	Catherine Hobbs (Co-opted), Wendy Perera
Apologies	Cllr D Adams

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### 13. **Apologies and Changes in Membership (If Any)**

Cllr Tig Outlaw was in attendance as a substitute for Cllr Suzie Ellis. Apologies had been received from Cllr David Adams.

### 14. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2023 be approved.

### 15. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Stephen Hendry declared an interest in various matters on the agenda as the chair of governors at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and as a governor at Queensgate Foundation Primary School.

### 16. **Public Question Time - 15 Minutes Maximum**

Mrs Helen Downer of Wroxall submitted a written question in relation to whether vacant school spaces could be leased to childcare providers. A written response was provided (PQ36/23).

Mr Simon Richards asked an oral question regarding school place planning, and what the committee could do to ensure that progress was being made to address the surplus school places across the Island and the subsequent financial pressures on schools.

**17. Progress on outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings**

The chairman presented the report which provided an overview of the progress against outcomes and recommendations from previous meetings. No comments were made at this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and update be noted.

**18. School Place Planning**

The committee received a verbal update on the current position with regards to strategic school place planning to address surplus school places across the Island as a result of low pupil forecast numbers. The Leader recognised and apologised for the way the matter had been handled previously and confirmed that discussions would be held with headteachers in the coming days, and subsequently a process of engagement with all stakeholders would be announced, prior to taking forward any future formal processes. The committee sought a short-term management plan to be established at pace, alongside a long-term management plan that would take into account the partial recovery of children's numbers over the coming years. Questions were raised around whether leadership were pursuing the Government to change funding models which were leading to the closures of rural schools.

RESOLVED:

THAT the update be noted.

**19. Youth Provision**

The committee received a verbal presentation from representatives of the Isle of Wight Youth Council regarding the problems with accessing youth provisions on the Island. It was advised that the main barriers in accessing youth provisions were in relation to public transport (in respect of cost, frequency and time), and social anxieties as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was felt that the Island needed more versatile spaces and well-advertised targeted events for young people to socialise, ensuring disability access throughout. Discussion took place regarding a mobile youth bus to visit rural communities on the Island. The committee supported the Youth Council in contacting IWALC to present a case to representatives of town, parish and community councils across the Island which may be able to provide funding for meaningful, high-quality services for young people. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills agreed to circulate a link to the film which had been produced by the Sandown and Lake Youth Forum about young people's experiences living in the Bay area.

RESOLVED:

THAT the presentation be received and noted.

20. **School Transport**

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the trends in school transport activity and the plans underway to manage the associated costs. Questions were raised in relation to the changes that could reduce costs, including managing parental expectations. The committee were asked to support the savings proposals, and to seek support from the Government in recognising the increasing number of children with special education needs (and the additional funding required for those transport costs). The chairman agreed to write to the Minister in seeking support from the Government to delegate responsibility for setting school transport policies to local authorities.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and update be received and noted.

21. **Annual Complaints Report**

The committee received the annual report on compliments, complaints, and representations for 2022/23, and sought assurance that service improvements were being driven through the lessons learnt. Discussion took place regarding the strengths-based approach to resolving complaints (which emphasised contacting complainants to seek a resolution via telephone or an in-person meeting), which had improved outcomes and reduced the escalation of complaints.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and update be received and noted.

22. **Isle of Wight Start for Life and Family Hub Programme**

Consideration was given to the report on the development of the Isle of Wight Family Hub offer and its delivery plan. Questions were raised around the locations of future family hub sites, and it was suggested that town, parish, and community councils be engaged with in identifying appropriate community spaces for both family centres and youth services. Discussion took place regarding the long-term sustainability of the programme when the funding ceases in 2025, and while there would be no direct grant funding for the supporting families programme, investments could be sought from a variety of contributors including the business sector, public health, and the voluntary sector.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report and update be received and noted.

23. **Workplan**

Consideration was given to the future workplan, and the committee were invited to identify any key issues that should be included. No comments or questions were made at this stage.

RESOLVED:

THAT the workplan be received and noted.

24. **Members' Question Time**

No questions were received.

CHAIRMAN

## Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee - Progress on Actions & Outcomes

Meeting Date	Agreed Action	Responsibility	Update	Actioned
<b>Outstanding Actions</b>				
<b>Actions Completed (Since Last Meeting)</b>				
7 September 2023	<b>School Transport</b> The chairman agreed to write to the Minister in seeking support from the Government to delegate responsibility for setting school transport policies to local authorities.	Chairman of the committee	A letter has been sent to the Minister of State (Education) on behalf of the committee. The response has been circulated to the committee.	Nov-23

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Purpose: For Information

## Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Topic	<b>MENTORING IN SCHOOLS</b>

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Oxford University Society (OUS) Hampshire & Isle of Wight is a regional alumni group of people who once went to university in Oxford.
- 1.2 The mentoring programme is a voluntary activity to allow members of OUS Hampshire & Isle of Wight to put something back into society. It has been running for 8 years and engages about 100 volunteers.
- 1.3 The objective is to help those pupils who are able but disadvantaged to realise their potential, go to the best universities for them and be enabled to overcome any barriers they think stand in their way.
- 1.4 The programme has been developed in Hampshire, and OUS hope to introduce the programme onto the Island.

### 2. Focus for Scrutiny

- 2.1 What are the statistics from the programme that has run in Hampshire, has it been successful?
- 2.2 Are there mentorship programmes already in place on the Isle of Wight?
- 2.3 What is the Isle of Wight Council doing in terms of working with young people to realise their full potential and go to university?
- 2.4 How can the committee support in encouraging mentorship to young people across the Island?

3. Document(s) Attached

3.1 Appendix 1: Overview

3.2 Appendix 2: How good is the Strong Academic Performance of state schools?

3.3 Appendix 3: Case Study: Tower Hamlets 1998 – 2012

Contact Point: Melanie White, Statutory Scrutiny Officer,  
(01983) 821000 ext 8876, e-mail [melanie.white@iow.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.white@iow.gov.uk)





OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY  
HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BRANCH

**Crispin Drummond, Chair**

UNIVERSITY  
OF OXFORD  
ALUMNI NETWORK  
HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

## **P&S Committee Children's Services, Isle of Wight 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

### **Overview: Strong Academic Results on the Island**

1. Why they matter
  - Personal fulfilment of potential:
    - Every child's right
    - Dept of Education requirement
  - Support the Island's Economic Plan:
    - Self-sufficiency of professionals
    - New industrial growth
    - Local confidence and dynamism
2. How they stand now
  - Comparison with neighboring authorities (Appendix 2)
3. Potential improvement
  - Comparison with other authorities that have made improvements (Appendix 3)
4. Possible steps (A)
  - Individual initiatives:
    - National Tutoring Scheme
    - High Sheriff's Literacy Programme
    - Southern Universities Network
  - Initiatives on the Island of local universities:
    - OUS Mentoring programme (*see below*)
    - Teach First
    - Engagement with Academies
5. Required steps (B)
  - Actual Leadership and Co-ordination of education strategy across the Island
  - Concrete integration of education strategy with Economic Plan
  - Adopt those Individual Initiatives you choose to make permanent
  - Constant positive publicity of targets and successes

## The OUS Mentoring programme: in general

1. Introducing OUS
  - Local alumni association, with about 200 active members
  - Most are retired professionals, with a public service ethos
  - Acting independently of the University itself, without any particular incorporation, finances or professionalism of its own
2. The OUS outreach motivation
  - Desire to put something back
  - Ability to use experience and skills
  - Requirement to use time efficiently and productively
3. The Mentoring programme
  - Work with sixth form teachers to identify pupils who are
    - a) academically able, with the potential to get to a Russell Group university and a regular professional career beyond;
    - b) with some kind of disadvantaged background that might impede their confidence in taking those steps; and
    - c) willing to commit to the programme.
  - Provide a dedicated Mentor for 1 to 1 sessions of 40 minutes each, once a fortnight with selected pupils over an eight-month period
  - Role of Mentors: They are not teachers, and not there to give advice. Instead, they are selected to be good listeners, to help pupils work out for themselves the challenges of their next steps after sixth form. Mentors are DBS checked, and free to identify and discuss issues raised by the pupil in the context of their university application.
4. Overall scope of the OUS Mentoring programme
  - OUS has provided this programme since 2015, and now supports about 20 sixth form colleges and schools across Hampshire with about 75 volunteer Mentors
  - there has been a pilot project on the Island in recent years, but in 2024 we are moving into full production
5. Network of OUS activity in Hampshire
6. Costs to a school of hosting an OUS Mentoring programme
  - Zero financial cost
  - Mentors need meeting rooms each visit and pupils' participation needs to be positively reinforced by the Student Services/ Careers staff, and in turn the SMT
7. Outcome of OUS Mentoring programmes
  - 85% of pupils complete the course, with favourable feedback
  - All Mentors report deep satisfaction with the experience of overseeing the transformation in the confidence of a young adult
  - Schools observe significant improvement in the awareness confidence and aspiration of their pupils
  - Over time, schools record important improvements in their numbers going to good universities

## The OUS Mentoring programme: on the Island

1. Four major schools with A Level sixth forms
  - Christ the King
  - Cowes Enterprise College
  - Island V1th Form
  - Ryde Academy
  
2. All four welcomed the OUS proposal in September
  - Letters
  - Emails
  - Personal meetings & presentations
  - Follow-up correspondence
  
  - Results to date: Active OUS Mentoring programmes are now underway with:
    - Christ the King
    - Cowes Enterprise College
  
3. The four schools are very different
  - Personal experience
  - Priority given to academic excellence
  - Institutional organization
  - Challenging enrichment programme
  - Strong Careers function
  - Supporting Disadvantaged pupils
  - Priority given to academic excellence
  
4. Next steps:
  - Immediately, help OUS get the other schools on board
  - Celebrate publicly the c 100 Island pupils who get to Russell Group universities each year
  - Make it a Council priority:
    - Set targets for more of the same
    - Devise and support other initiatives that focus on Strong Academic Results
    - Take long term ownership of the initiatives that work
    - Integrate Strong Academic Results with the Island's Economic Plan

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Source: gov.uk

**How good is the Strong Academic Performance of state schools?**

	Secondary schools: GCSE results			Sixth Forms: University Places				
	No pupils	Eng + Maths grade 5	Attainment 8	No pupils	Russell Group	Oxbridge		
<b>HAMPSHIRE</b>	14,015 in 2023	<b>44%</b>	<b>46.8</b>	10,957 in 2019	1667	<b>15%</b>	108	<b>1%</b>
<b>SOUTHAMPTON</b>	2,315 in 2023	<b>38%</b>	<b>42.8</b>	1,023 in 2019	49	<b>5%</b>	1	<b>0.10%</b>
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>	2,031 in 2023	<b>31%</b>	<b>38.4</b>	762 in 2019	31	<b>4%</b>	0	<b>0%</b>
<b>ISLE OF WIGHT**</b>	1,214 in 2023	<b>36%</b>	<b>40.9</b>	649 in 2019	47	<b>7.20%</b>	6	<b>1.00%</b>
<b>National Averages</b>	606,947 in 2023	<b>45%</b>	<b>46.2</b>	c300000 in 2019		<b>15%</b>		<b>1%</b>

\*\* IoW schools have a high number of low performing pupils coming in from KS2, including 33% with inadequate literacy

\*\* Most of them carry on to perform poorly at KS4

\*\* Meanwhile the middle and high performing pupils progress satisfactorily through Secondary school and do well at KS4

\*\* Additionally, IoW schools have a high number of disadvantaged pupils. They too carry on and perform poorly at KS4

\*\* Altogether IoW schools already produce **380** pupils a year with a good spread of GCSEs. But the potential is for **550**.

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Table 2

### Case Study: Tower Hamlets 1998 – 2012

1. **Tower Hamlets** had (and still has) significant socio-economic deprivation
2. 1998: Ofsted Report on **Tower Hamlets** ‘Infamous and Damning’
3. But Deprivation is not Destiny
4. So **Tower Hamlets** responded with a strategy. It comprised:
  - A) The Local Authority combining with
  - B) schools and
  - C) a range of partners
5. Within five years, the Guardian was praising the improvement  
“Turnaround in **Tower Hamlets**” - article by David Walker, *The Guardian*,  
March 2003
6. By 2012, none of **Tower Hamlets’** schools was rated Inadequate.
7. In December 2013, a research report on the transformation was titled  
“Transforming Education for All: the **Tower Hamlets** Story”
8. Its author was Chris Brown.
9. In October 2023, Chris Brown was appointed Professor of Education at the  
University of Southampton.

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Purpose: For Information

## Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Topic	<b>PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET</b>

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Following the setting of the Council's budget for 2023/24 the committee will monitor performance and the impact on funding across Children's Services and Education as a whole.

### 2. Focus for Scrutiny

- 2.1 What are the budget headlines and what impact will this have on Children's Services and Education for the island?
- 2.2 What is in place to counteract the impact of funding issues across Children's Services and Education on children and families?
- 2.3 What happens if forecasted savings are not realised?
- 2.4 What strategic plans are in place to ensure maximisation of the budget across Children's Services and Education?

### 3. Document(s) Attached

- 3.1 Appendix 1: Performance & Budget

Contact Point: Melanie White, Statutory Scrutiny Officer,  
(01983) 821000 ext 8876, e-mail [melanie.white@iow.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.white@iow.gov.uk)

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# Children's Services Performance Quarter Two 2023/2024

Stuart Ashley, Director Children's Services

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Appendix 1

# C&F Headlines

- Demand continues to rise across social care and early help although there was a slight seasonal reduction in Q2 over the summer holidays as we would expect.
- Recruitment and retention in Children Assessment and Support Teams (CAST) and the Children in Care (CIC) team was more difficult over the summer holidays but has improved again since.
- An increase in the market supplement to those teams and development of senior social workers in CAST has made a difference to retention in these teams.

# C&F Headlines

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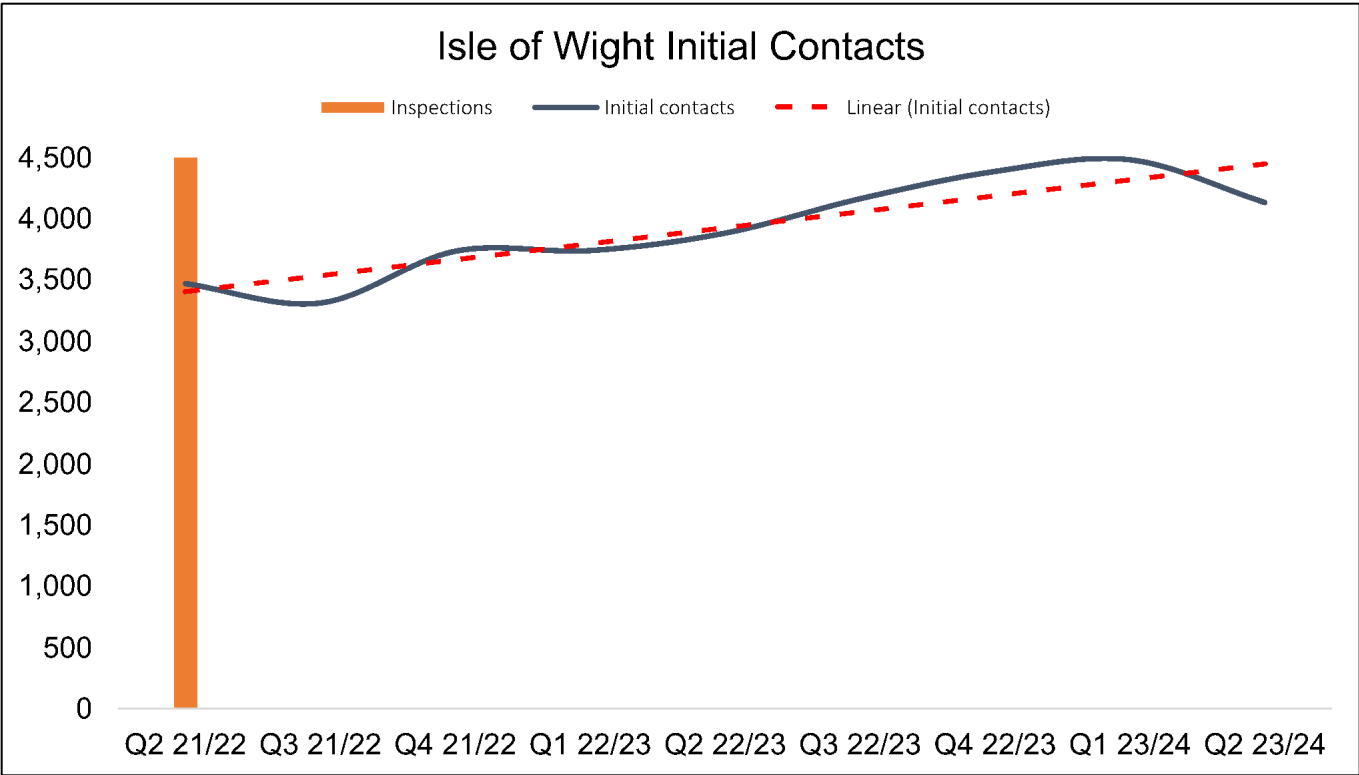
- We have converted two of our agency workers onto permanent contracts.
- We began to implement the Care Review starting with the introduction of Family Practitioners in March 23.
- These new members of our team are case holding children in need in CAST and are working to a high standard.
- Eight of our eleven Family Practitioners across CWD and CAST are currently completing a Social Work Apprenticeship with the University of Winchester

# Performance

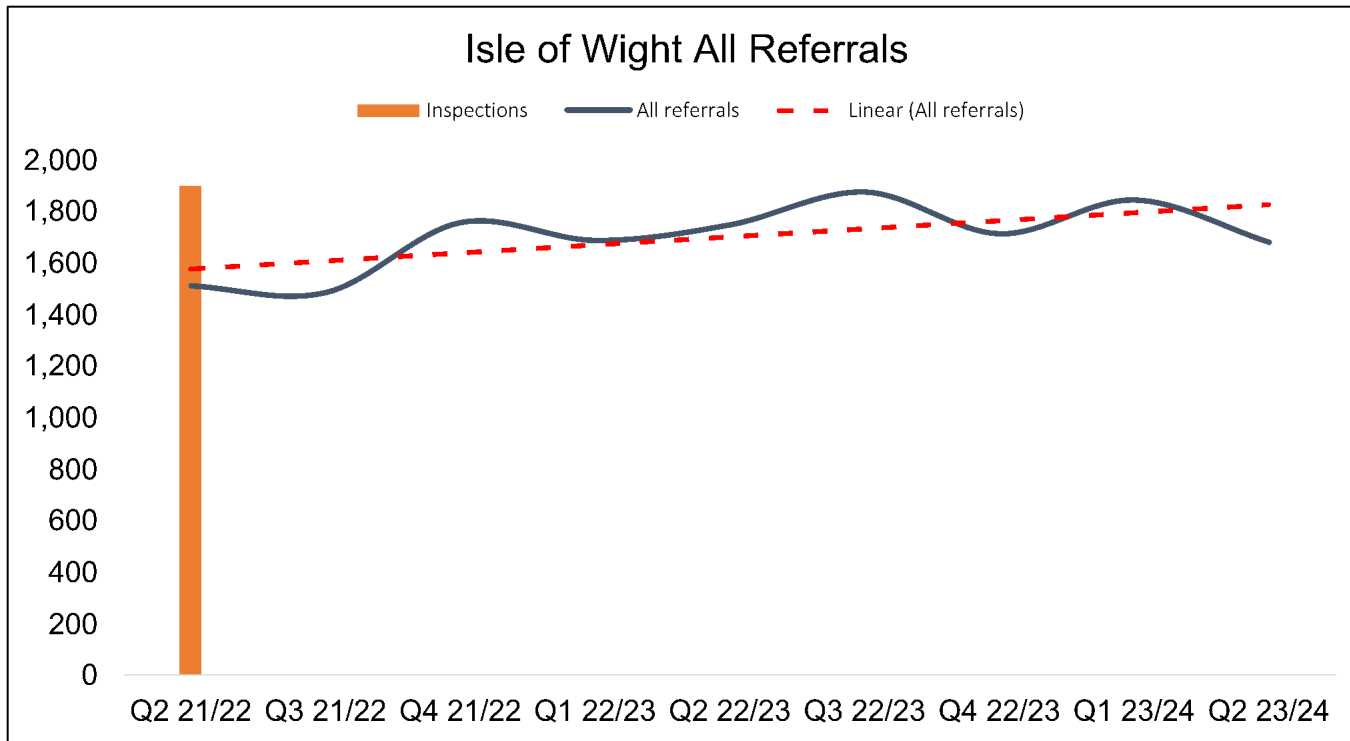
- Slides 5-10 show the performance and numbers of children we are working with.
- We have seen a gradual increase in referrals whilst there have been peaks and dips including in Q2 due to slightly lower referrals during the summer holiday.
- Performance in terms of timeliness of response has remained strong despite the overall increase in referrals.
- We have seen children in need (CIN) and children looked after (CLA) gradually increase in line with the increase of referrals.

# Performance – Contacts

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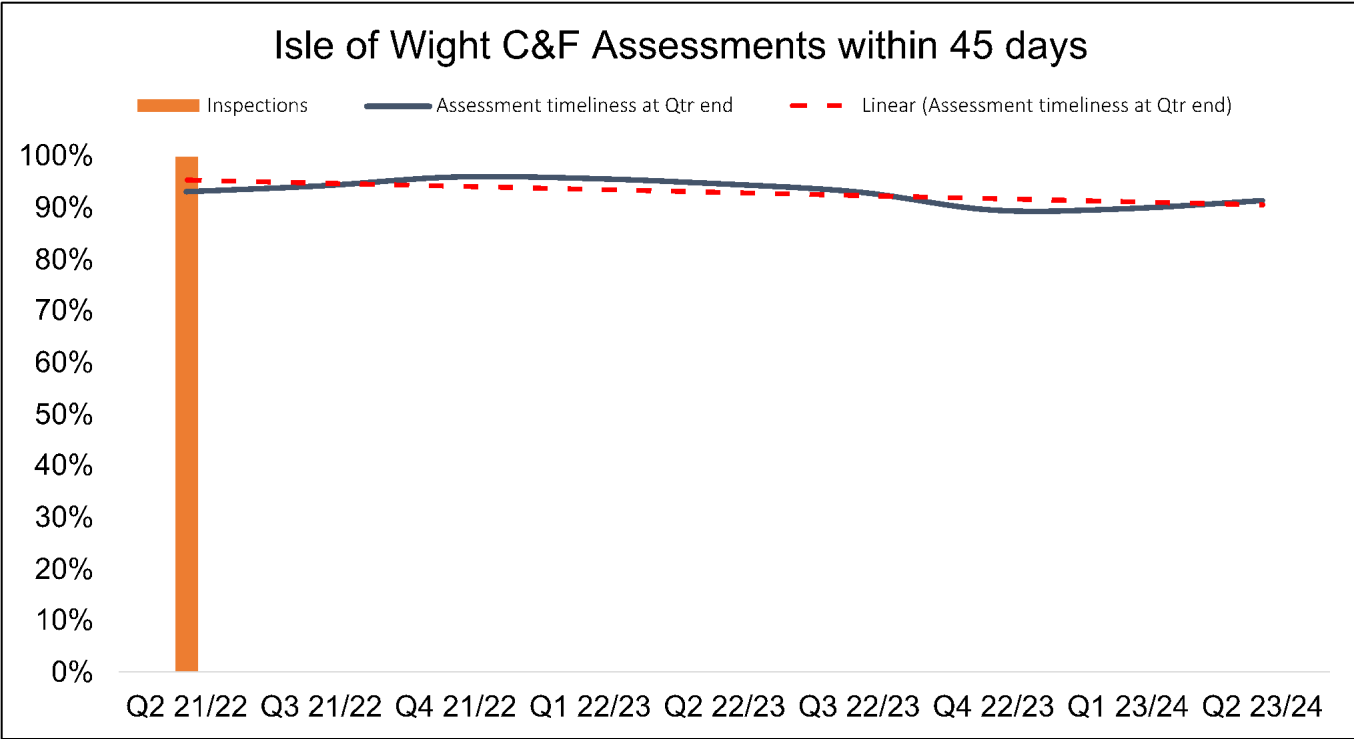
# Performance - Referrals





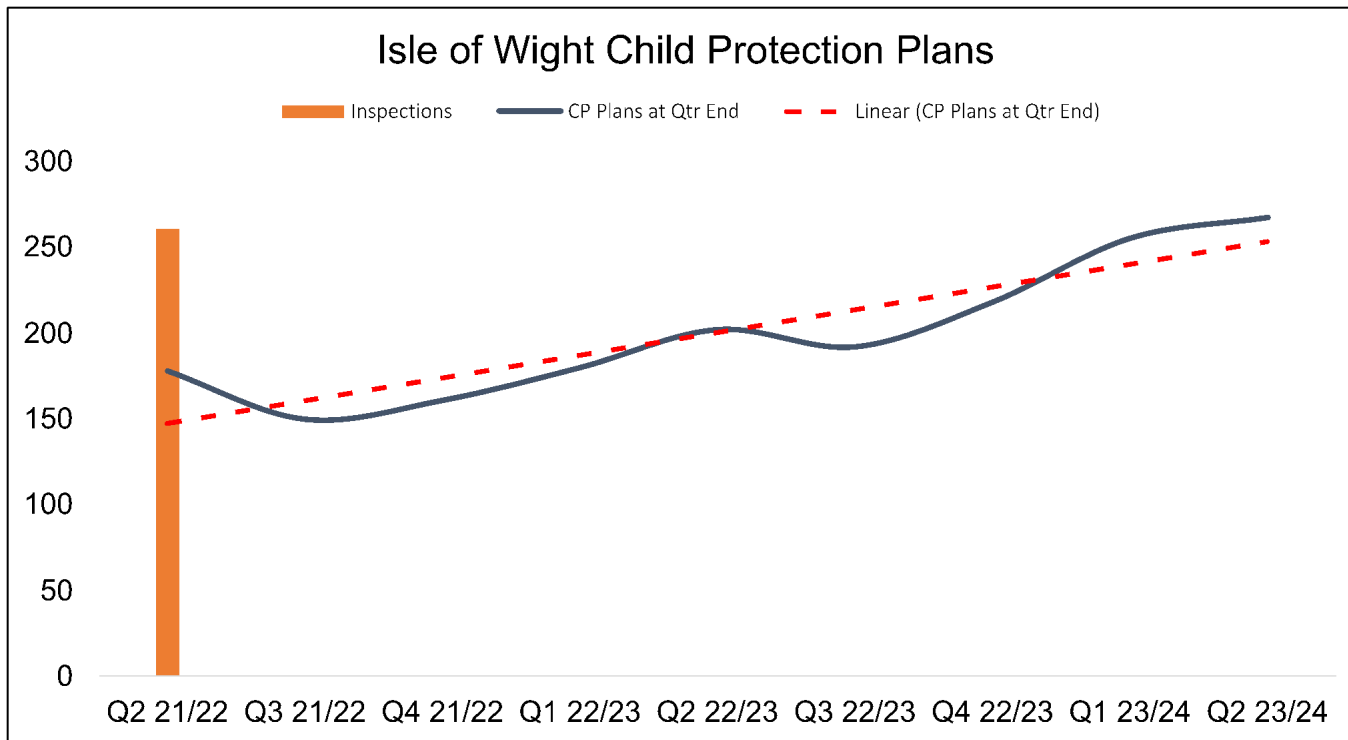
# Performance- timely response

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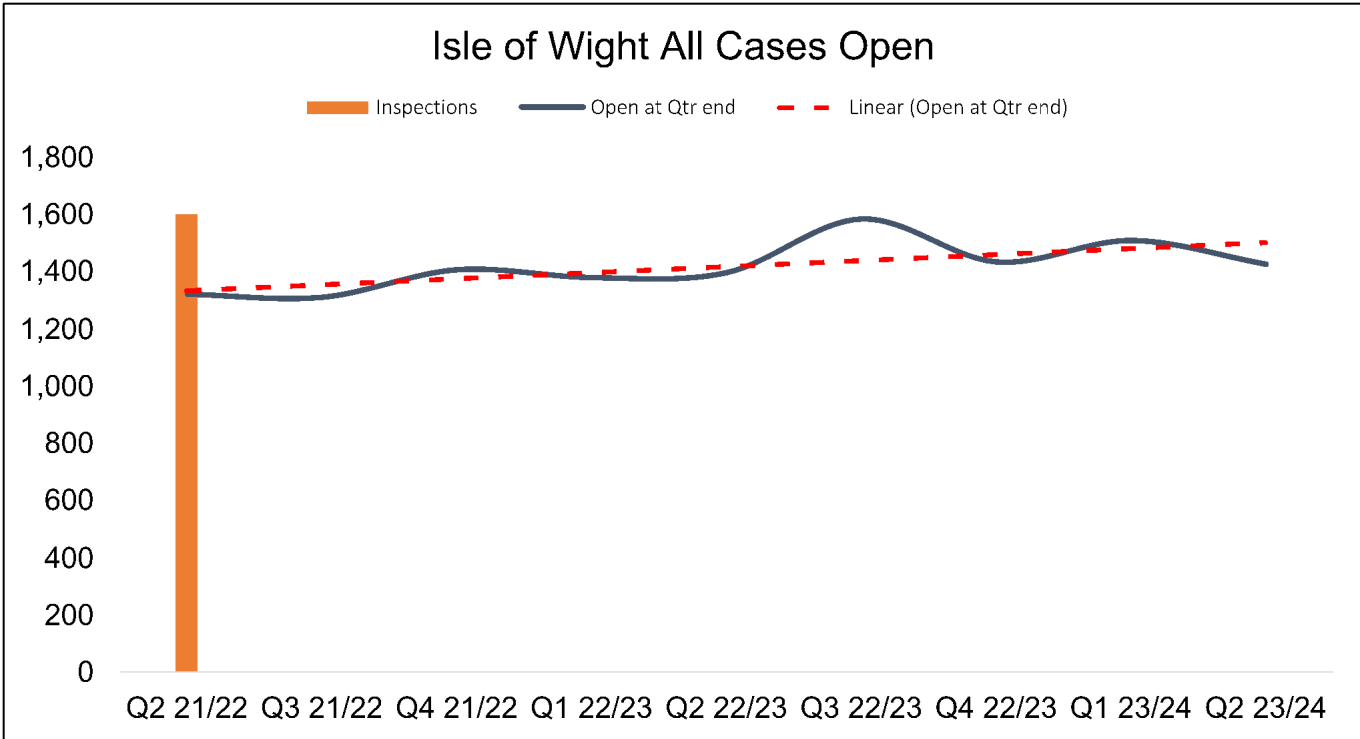


# Children subject to child protection planning

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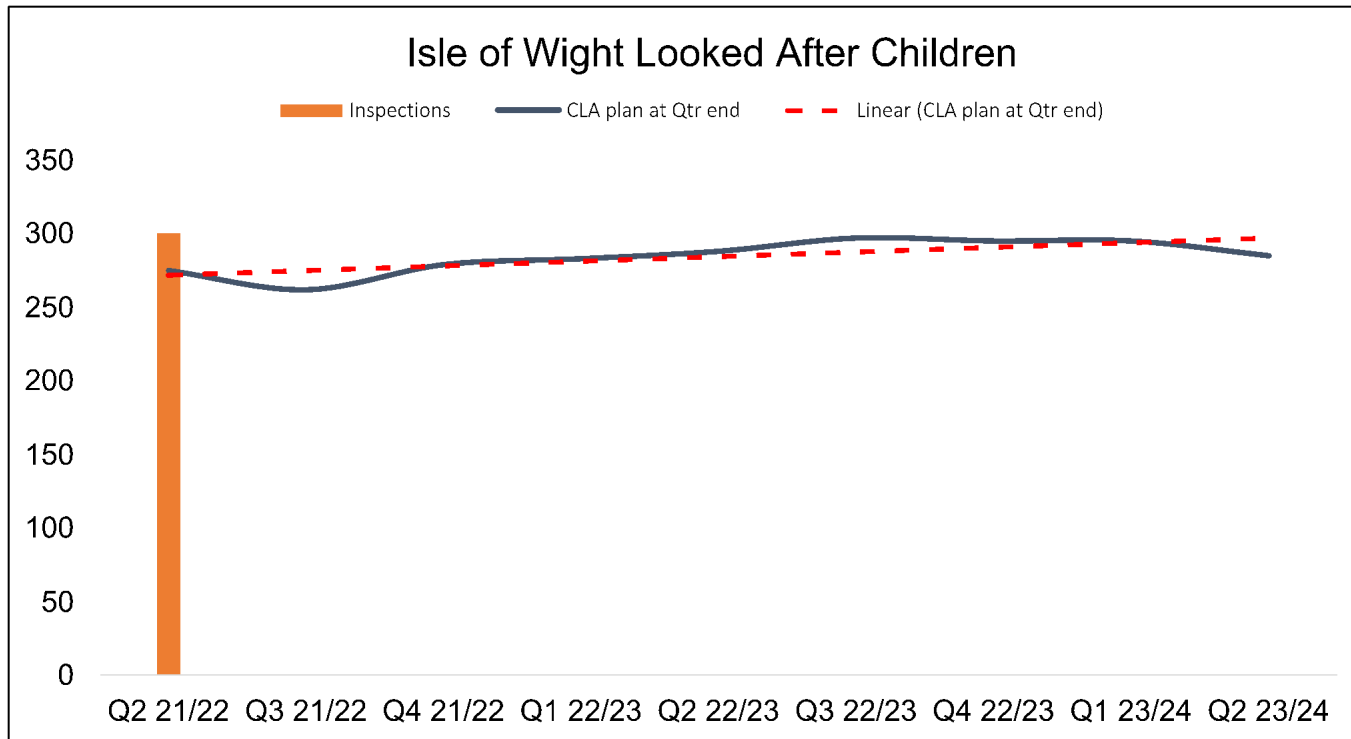


# Children in need



# Children Looked After (CLA)

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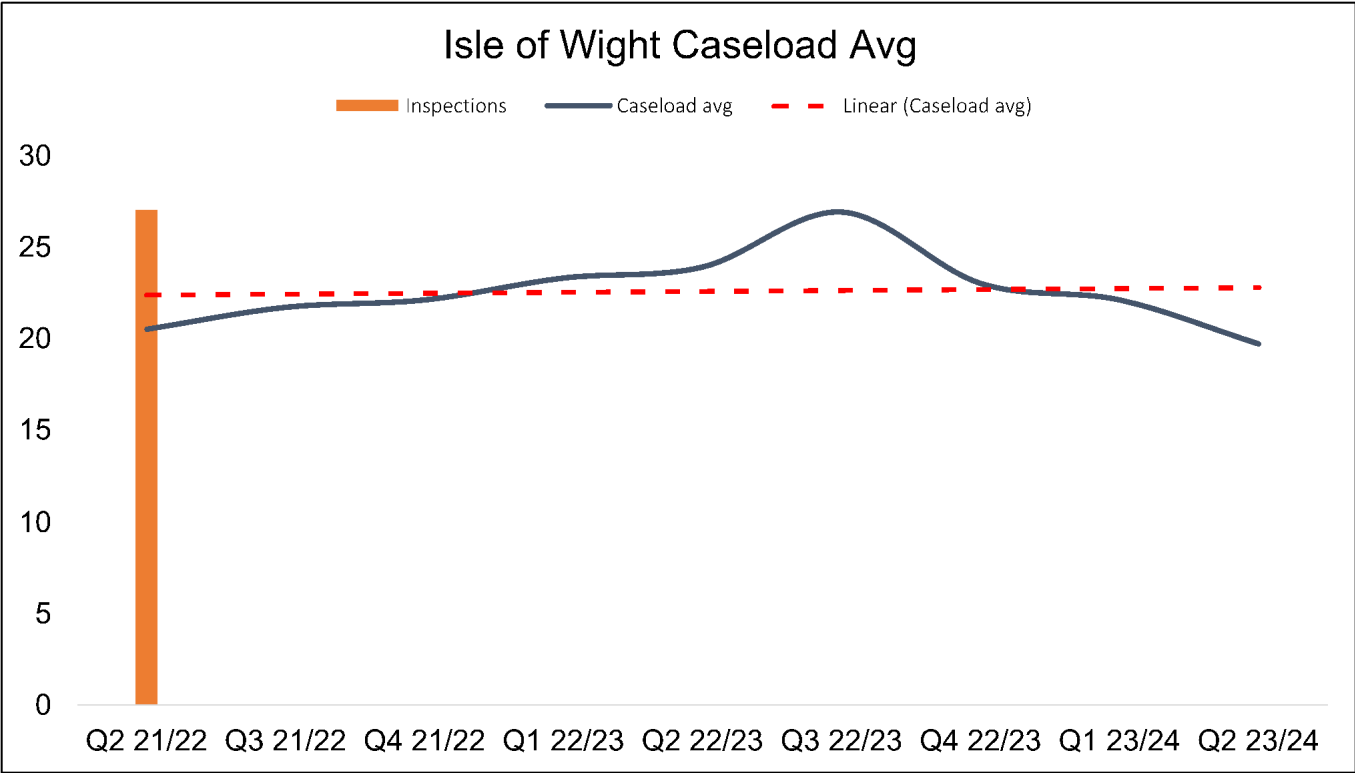
# Increase in Child Protection Plans

- We have seen the numbers of children subject to child protection planning, increase at a higher rate particularly since January 23.
- Our analysis shows that this as a result of a slight increase on children going on to plans in line with increased demand and children being on plans longer.
- Children going onto a CP plan who have been on a plan before has decreased and the numbers of children in care is not increasing at a higher rate. This indicates that whilst it is taking longer our Child protection work is effective.

# Caseloads

- We have worked hard to recruit staff and manage caseloads enabling us to meet timescales and improve performance with families in this area.
- We temporarily disbanded CAST 1 due to the higher level of vacancies in this team over the summer whilst we recruited to the team.
- We re-established CAST 1 in October when staff had been recruited to make the team as resilient as the other three teams.

# Caseloads



# Quality Assurance

- Case file auditing undertaken every month by ATMs and TMs.
- In quarter two, 35 case audits were undertaken
- Evidence of practitioner analysis which influences decision making in 97% of cases.
- Evidence that the assessment has informed the intervention/plan in 97% and evidence of positive outcomes for the child/young person in 97% of cases.
- Evidence of multi-agency engagement in planning in 94% of cases, with evidence that this has improved outcomes for the child in 97% of cases.
- Up to date case summaries reflect progress and positive changes for the child/young person in line with the assessment and plan in 96% of cases.
- There is evidence of management decisions in 97% of cases, with decisions evidencing appropriate direction in the case to protect and improve outcomes for the child/young person 97%.
- Evidence of supervision as per policy in 76% of cases.



# Children in Care

- Children in care numbers decreased from Q1 to Q2. There were 285 children in the care of the Isle of Wight local authority at end of Q2, a reduction of ten from 295 at the end of Q1.
  - Despite the challenges in finding placements for children the number of children with three or more moved has remained below target.
- Page 37
- Good understanding of placement movements and the needs of children and skills of carers and providers means that good matches can be made which reduces the need for placement moves. There is good work between the placement team, fostering and children's teams to enable matches to be strong.
- Children in care and care experienced adults are consulted with on a regular basis about the service they receive, and feedback is generally good.

# Placement Sufficiency

- The Isle of Wight Council have recruited six new general foster carers so far this year with three resignations, one of these was a retiring foster carer and the other two do not wish to continue fostering.
- We have 3 additional foster care assessments in progress for general carers.
- We have worked with independent placement providers to increase the provision on the island and our current children's home provider on the island is opening a new four bedded home and are in the process of obtaining their registration.
- Work is underway to propose the necessary changes to improve support to foster carer in order to increase numbers of in house foster carers in the Modernising Placements Programme (MPP)

# Placement Cost

## **Financial cost is significant.**

Residential and Secure Placement Forecast Outturn = £6.1M

Purchased Fostering (IFA) = £2M

Supported Accommodation = £1.8M

Total = £9.9M

At the end of the period IOW have 18 children aged 16/17 years old in supported accommodation all these providers are in the process of being registered by Ofsted.

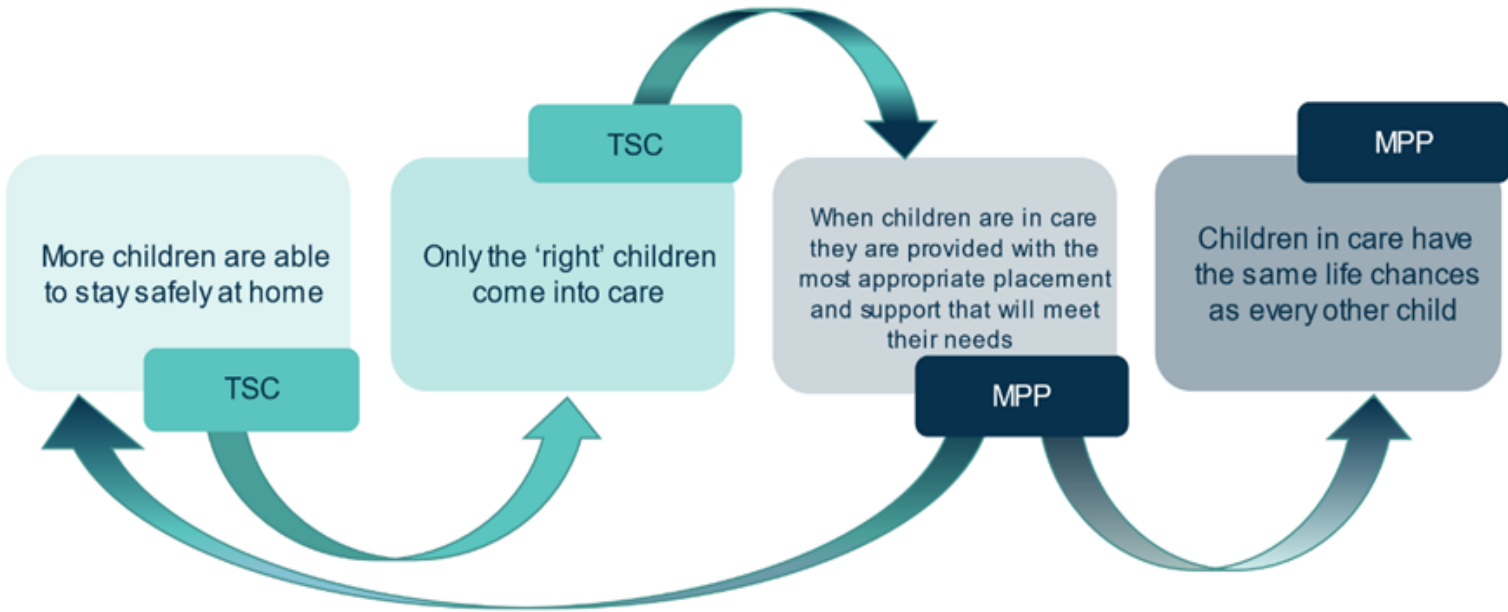
17 of these are on the Isle of Wight and with contracted providers who have provided evidence of their eligibility as part of the tender process.

Due diligence checks and risk assessments are carried out for all unregulated placements.

# Modernising Placements Programme

MPP is a transformational programme within Children's Services, part of which is to increase the number, choice and quality of homes for children in care to live. The Isle of Wight is benefiting from the experience of Hampshire who are delivering MPP for the Isle of Wight and work is being undertaken and planned for the IW to take forwards.

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# Education and Inclusion Headlines

- The September guarantee was 98.3% compared to national average of 94.6%. This is the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds given an offer of education, employment and training.

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- 78.9% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) were produced within 20 weeks for the last quarter. National average is just under 60%.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

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- Proportion of schools graded good or better by Ofsted is 73% for all phases.
- Number of children being electively home educated was 619.
- Proportion of families that electively home educate that have engaged with the Local Authority during 2022/23 is 93%.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

Data published by the DfE shows:

- Number of permanent exclusions in 2021/22 is 7 (10 in total in 2020/21).
- Number of suspensions in 2021/22 is 1265 (1105 in total in 2020/21).
- Final attainment data for 2023 is published in January 2024 and will be brought to Policy and Scrutiny Committee next term in a full attainment report.

# Education and Inclusion Headlines

Attendance statistics have been produced for the Autumn Term 2022/23

- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Primary** was 92.4% (compared to 93.7% nationally)
- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Secondary** was 89.2% (compared to 91.2% nationally)
- Isle of Wight attendance rate in **Special** was 88.9% (compared to 86.6% nationally)
- Isle of Wight % of **persistent absence** was **32.8%** (compared to 24.2% nationally)
- Isle of Wight % of **severe absence** was **2.1%** (compared to 1.7% nationally)





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Purpose: For Information

## Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Topic	<b>ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (IOWSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23</b>

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 It is a statutory responsibility for all partners to fulfil their safeguarding obligations. The core purpose of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership is to protect children from harm, and the risk of being harmed, and to support their recovery from harmful situations. The annual report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of agencies across the Isle of Wight to safeguard and promote the welfare of children for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

### 2. Focus for Scrutiny

- 2.1 What successes have happened within the last year?
- 2.2 What challenges have been faced in the last year and what are the lessons learned?
- 2.3 What improvements have been identified and what are the timelines for improvements or actions?
- 2.4 How can the committee support the IWSCP moving forward?

### 3. Approach

- 3.1 The Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, Scott MacKechnie, to present the report.

### 4. Document(s) Attached

- 4.1 Appendix 1: IW Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23

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ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP  
**Yearly Report 2022-23**





## FOREWORD



After joining the partnership during the latter half of the year, it is my pleasure to introduce the Yearly Report for the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership for 2022/23.

I am very aware the year continued to be shaped by the impact of COVID-19, other world events and the cost-of-living crisis being felt across our communities. Partner agencies continued to face additional challenges as a result. Senior leaders from the statutory safeguarding partners remained visible and engaged, and worked collectively to ensure we effectively safeguarded and promoted the wellbeing of our most vulnerable children, their families, or carers. Our

wide range of partners maintained a clear focus on safeguarding children and continued to deliver the partnership's priorities and active workstreams. Our priorities reflected the issues facing children and their families: neglect, sexual abuse, exploitation, online abuse, and non-attendance and exclusion from education, with a focus on adolescents and the impact of our collective activity.

July of this year saw a significant change take place for one of the statutory safeguarding partners - NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups were restructured to form a single Integrated Care Board across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This year saw the launch and publication of two key collaborative strategies, the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton (HIPS) Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and toolkit and the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy 2023-26. 2023/24 will see ongoing work to understand the impact of these strategies on outcomes for children. It is important that alongside our daily work to safeguard children, we continue to cooperate and develop our safeguarding practice as a multi-agency safeguarding system. These strategies are a testament to this ambition.

The current landscape is challenging, and this is likely to remain, impacting the children and families we work with, alongside the practitioners who provide support and services. There will be changes ahead in terms of government strategy and direction, coming from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care; National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, the national review relating to children with

complex needs and disabilities; and changes anticipated to the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People". I will remain resolutely focused on ensuring local multi-agency safeguarding practice remains effective for our children, their families or carers during any changes that may result.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S MacKechnie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott MacKechnie, Independent Chair and Scrutineer



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# THE PARTNERSHIP

## THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS AND THE PARTNERSHIP

This yearly report is published as part of the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership's (IOWSCP) statutory responsibilities under Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). It provides evidence of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children, with a focus on impact, evidence, assurance, and learning. It draws on information collated from the activity of subgroups, learning and development evaluations, learning from multi-agency case reviews and audits, as well as assurance and monitoring activity.

Our core purpose is to protect children from harm and the risk of being harmed and to support their recovery from harmful situations. The IOWSCP continues to develop and improve safeguarding services through effective strategic oversight, holding each other to account and continuous professional development.

### The IOWSCP safeguarding partners 2022/2023:

**Stuart Ashley/Steph How – IOW Council, Children's Services Department**

**Rob Mitchell/Amanda Horsburgh – Hampshire and IOW Constabulary**

**Louise Spencer/Katherine Elsmore – Hampshire and IOW Integrated Care Board**

In the latter half of this year, we formally introduced the role of independent chair and scrutineer to our safeguarding partnership arrangements. This important function ensures that we, as safeguarding partners, are leading our partnership arrangements and remain focused on safeguarding children at risk of abuse and neglect. The independent chair and scrutineer has agreed with the safeguarding partners how the scrutiny function will be deployed in the coming year.

The safeguarding partners consider the IOWSCP to be a mature and effective safeguarding partnership. This is evidenced in the support and challenge across the partnership and the positive engagement of our partner agencies in regular assurance and scrutiny activity, workforce development and learning events. As safeguarding partners, we recognise and work together on the challenges faced. We continually strive to evidence the impact of our partnership arrangements on improved outcomes for children. Looking back at 2022/23, we have responded to the continued and sustained demand across services in responding to the needs of the Island's children. The continued impact of the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis is evident.

2022/23 has seen the formation of the Integrated Care Board, which sits within the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and is the statutory organisation responsible for

setting the strategic plan for the NHS to deliver its part of the health and care strategy. A number of inspections have taken place in relation to partner agencies. Information from these developments and critical inspections are shared at an Executive and Board level, which adds an additional layer of assurance to the multi-agency safeguarding system.

As a partnership, we provide support and guidance to our multi-agency practitioners through a range of mechanisms. This year, we have developed and updated a range of resources, including our Neglect toolkit, which continues to remain a significant area of need locally. We align our auditing cycle to our strategic priorities to ensure evidence of embedded practice and identify actions that need to be taken to strengthen safeguarding practice across all of our agencies.

Looking forward to 2023/24, we will seek to develop our local response to the changes anticipated in Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance and to the government response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

Finally, as safeguarding partners, we recognise the tireless work of all colleagues across our partner agencies, who work to keep children on the Island safe from abuse and neglect. Ours is a learning partnership, working to continually improve multi-agency safeguarding practice, predicated on respectful challenge and mutual support.



## PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The IOWSCP [local safeguarding arrangements](#) provide details about how safeguarding services are arranged and supported to meet the needs of the Island's children and families.

Relevant agencies listed in this report (as specified in the [Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency \(England\) Regulations 2018](#)) support the implementation of local and national learning including learning from serious safeguarding incidents.

## THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR AND SCRUTINEER

This year, the scrutineer aspect to the role of the independent chair was embedded in the job description and person specification. The Independent Chair and Scrutineer role ensures a clear focus on seeking assurance on the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and this includes arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The Independent Chair also ensures that safeguarding partners and relevant agencies are challenged and supported in their roles and work collaboratively to meet the safeguarding priorities identified by the partnership.

The Independent Chair and Scrutineer chairs the Executive Group of the IOWSCP, which is effectively the “engine room” of the partnership, and collectively, the Executive Group maintains effective oversight of decision making and progress. In addition, the Independent Chair and Scrutineer has carried out a range of functions:

- Chaired the Partnership Board meetings
- Provided scrutiny for the safeguarding partners in fulfilling their statutory obligations and the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements
- Scrutinised the performance management and quality assurance processes of the partnership
- Encouraged and facilitated an open culture of mutual, respectful challenge and support
- Maintained oversight of the Section 11 organisational self-assessment process responding to the Children Act 2004 (Keeping Children Safe)
- Worked with safeguarding partners and subgroup chairs to scrutinise progress and review impact of the 2022/23 Business Plan

- Met with a range of partnership board members to offer scrutiny, support and challenge

## OUR SHARED PARTNERSHIP VISION

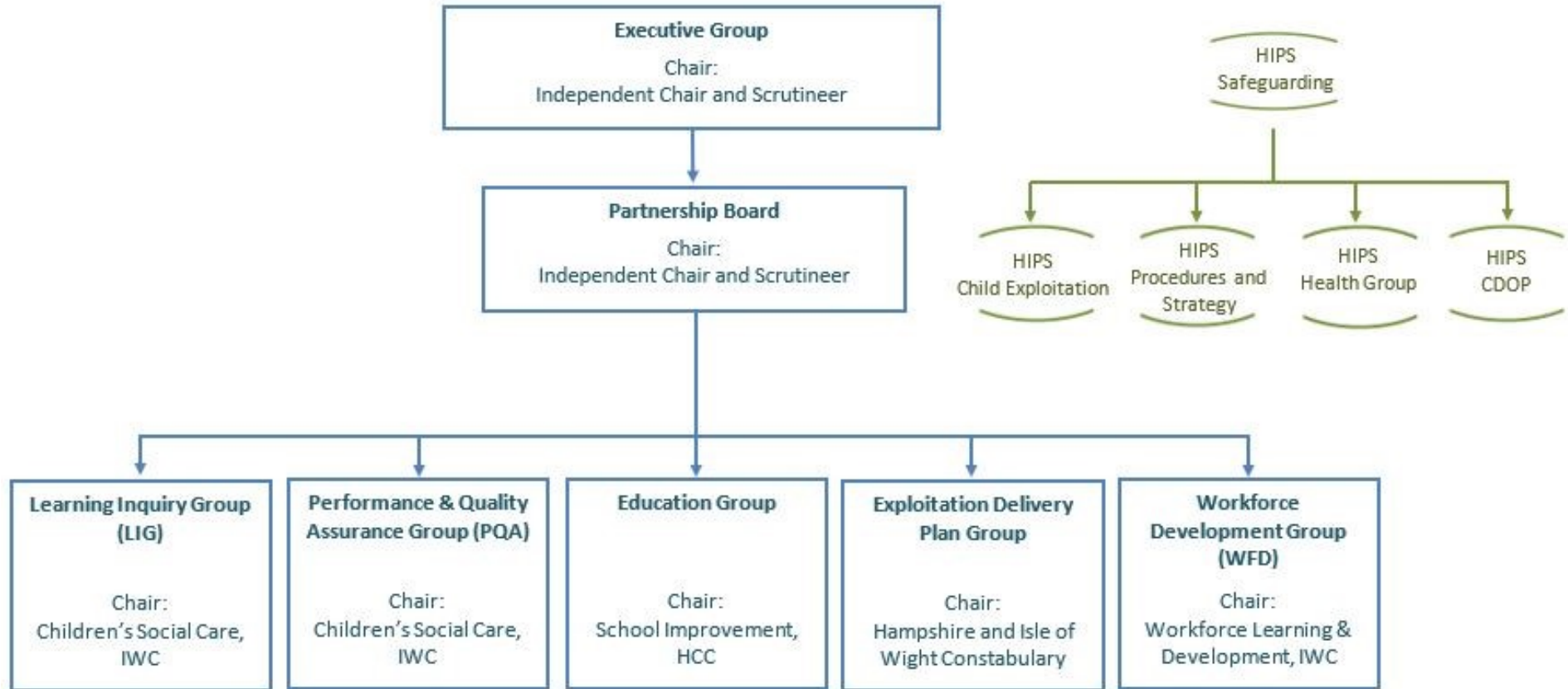
The IOWSCP independent chair and scrutineer, safeguarding partners and partnership members are committed to:

- Child focused leadership which is effective and ambitious across the partnership
- Ensuring agencies understand their roles and responsibilities through active engagement in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Ensuring an environment in which multi-agency safeguarding practice can continuously improve
- Supporting effective information sharing in systems which ensures professionals are confident and knowledgeable about vulnerable children
- Facilitating and delivering high support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency safeguarding system
- Creating a culture of continuous learning and development



**THE ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGAURDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE**

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Functional Links		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Trust Board</li> <li>• Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)</li> <li>• Community Safety Partnership (CSP)</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Board</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse Partnership Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Justice Board</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)</li> <li>• IOW Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)</li> <li>• Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)</li> <li>• Office of Police &amp; Crime Commissioner (OPCC)</li> <li>• Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)</li> </ul>

## THE HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PORTSMOUTH, AND SOUTHAMPTON (HIPS) PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The IOWSCP works collaboratively with Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships and this collective is known as HIPS. The HIPS partnership provides opportunities for working together across borders on strategic issues and common themes. This arrangement supports each LSCP area to retain a focus on local priorities. The HIPS Executive Group consists of the safeguarding partners from each LSCP area and is chaired by Scott MacKechnie, as independent chair and scrutineer.

The HIPS Executive Group works to ensure:

- ✓ Greater co-ordination, in particular for agencies that work across the local authority borders within the HIPS region
- ✓ Reduction in duplication of effort
- ✓ Shared learning regarding effective practice
- ✓ Shared learning arising from reviews of serious safeguarding cases

The HIPS Executive group has four standing subgroups:

### HIPS Health Group

This group co-ordinates safeguarding business across the HIPS wide integrated care system. The group leads on the promotion and implementation of effective practice and learning, including revision to protocols and procedures from the perspective of the HIPS health economy.

### HIPS Strategic Child Exploitation Group

This group leads on the development and shared implementation of the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategy. Working to develop a shared understanding of the exploitation risks and responses to children, which may include organised exploitation. This year has seen the development of the [HIPS Child Exploitation and Extra-Familial Harm Strategy 2023/2026](#).

### HIPS Procedure and Strategy Group

In quarter 4 of 2022/23 the HIPS Executive Group agreed to extend the terms of reference of this group to have oversight of implementation of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and for updating the associated toolkit. This group also develops and reviews all HIPS wide multi-agency safeguarding policies and

procedures that inform single agency policy and procedure across the HIPS areas. This is maintained via a shared [HIPS Procedures](#) website.

### Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews all child deaths determining if there were modifiable factors that contributed to the death and what action may be required to reduce/prevent such deaths happening in the future. CDOP also considers trends and themes in data and may refer cases to the SCP where there is cause or belief that neglect or abuse may have been a factor in the child's death. In quarter 3 of 2022/23 it was confirmed that accountability of CDOP would move to the HIOW Integrated Care Board. This is planned for 2023/24. The HIPS Executive Group will continue to receive the CDOP Annual Report and thematic briefings.

## LINKS TO OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

The IOWSCP has formal links with other IOW and Pan-Hampshire strategic partnerships. IOWSCP Board members bring information to IOWSCP meetings from other partnerships, enhancing information sharing and planning and maximising opportunities for shared work. Examples include:

- **Health and Wellbeing Board and Corporate Parenting Board** – protocols in place to ensure shared commitments in strategies and Business Plans between the Boards and the IOWSCP
- **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** – work on shared projects and joint workforce development opportunities
- **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board** - awareness raising and learning and development opportunities
- **PREVENT Board** – awareness raising and learning and development opportunities
- **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)** – violence reduction work around criminal exploitation and knife crime
- **Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership** - creating joint toolkits, resources and sharing learning and development opportunities

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

The IOWSCP website contains safeguarding guidance and information for professionals, parents/carers, children, and a newly created volunteer/community page. The website signposts to local and national resources; houses key documents and forms; provides links to toolkits and HIPS procedures; and has a training page detailing the IOWSCPs comprehensive learning and development course programme.

There is a [Communications and Engagement Strategy](#) in place to ensure effective

communication with safeguarding partners and relevant agencies.

Following each IOWSCP Partnership Board meeting, a newsletter is produced with information about decisions made, presentations and links/signposts to key documents and articles. The Education Group provides a briefing for all education colleagues following each meeting and each quarter a HIPS Exploitation Group newsletter is shared. The induction pack for new Partnership Board and subgroup members continues to be an extremely useful document and is always well received.

## THE PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO BRING CONCERNS TO THEIR ATTENTION AND TAKES ACTION TO RESOLVE THEM

Examples:

CONCERN RAISED	ACTION TAKEN	OUTCOME/IMPACT
There is a 39% increase in referrals to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). 50% of the subsequent assessments Children's Social Care have undertaken determine that social work interventions are not required. What is driving this increase in referrals?	A group was commissioned in MASH to look at where there has been an increase in referrals, and identify where these should not have been referred in.	Findings were reviewed at a partnership meeting. It was noted there was no single source across the partnership for these referrals. It was suggested that there may be an increase in professional concern regarding risk following the national Star and Arthur reviews and Ofsted inspections, where schools understand the advice is to refer every concern. There hasn't been a correlated increase in children subject to child protection plans or children becoming looked after.
Questions were raised about the increase in reporting of cruelty and neglect seen in the quarterly datasets Police share with Partners.	An evidence-based approach was taken to evaluate and test the hypothesis that cruelty and neglect is increasing across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and identify if this is a result of improved training and crime recording across the force or if there is an emerging issue or risk.	Hampshire and IOW Constabulary presented a Cruelty and Neglect Police Analysis report. The Constabulary have a 94% compliance rate for recording crimes which demonstrates confidence in reporting and recording. It was noted where there are no formal Constabulary outcomes, this reflects where a crime is recorded and through an agreed multi-agency framework, it is a single agency response, generally Children's Services.
Members of Performance & Quality Assurance subgroup queried the data on children attending A&E following accidents and how best to collect and review this.	IOWSCP Partnership Team, Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, (IOW NHS Trust), the Interim Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Looked after Children (ICB) and Public Health met to discuss how best to progress this.	The indicator will be removed from the dataset and instead public health will provide an annual report to PQA, which indicates themes arising from the data, comparison with national data and what work is being undertaken in response to this. This will provide a better overview and assurance of any response required. The Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children will raise any exceptions arising during the year.



## FINANCE

The three safeguarding partners agree levels of funding for the IOWSCP functions with additional contributions from the National Probation Service. Wider partners generously give their staff time for learning and development delivery, subgroup and task and finish group attendance and activity. Funding arrangements are regularly reviewed at the Executive Group and reported to the Partnership Board. The financial challenge for many frontline services across the safeguarding partnership is one of increasing demand, with reducing income from central government.

The IOWSCP wider partner agencies have expressed their commitment to cross-agency support and continued to demonstrate a shared responsibility for funding and supporting safeguarding activity during 2022/23 ensuring that the IOW's innovative and robust partnership is sustained.

FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS 2022/2023	
<b>Total partner contributions for 2022-23</b>	<b>£176,919</b>
Isle of Wight Council	£120,325
Clinical Commissioning Group / Integrated Care Board	£40,576
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary	£13,616
National Probation Service	£830





There are a total of **24,850 children** on the IOW

**17.7%** of residents are children

**663** Early Help assessments were completed on the IOW in 2022/23, compared to **508** in 2021/22

0 - 5 year olds 6,854  
 6 - 11 year olds 8,383  
 12 - 16 year olds 7,061  
 17 - 18 year olds 2,552

(ONS Census 2021)



IOW covers 146 miles

Population: 140,461

**60%** of land is rural

**57.6%** of the population live in 6 main towns: Newport, Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin, Cowes and East Cowes (ONS Mid 2020 estimates)

**547** per 10,000 children were a Child in Need (CIN) at the end of March 2023 on the IOW, compared to **283** per 10,000 in the South East

**118** children per 10,000 were Looked After Children (LAC) at the end of March 2023 on the IOW, compared to **58** per 10,000 in the South East.

**89** children per 10,000 were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) at the end of March 2023 on the IOW, compared to **43** per 10,000 in the South East.

**5.4%** of pupils on the IOW with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in 2022 compared to **4%** England average

**17,838 children** attending IOW schools

**577** children Electively Home Educated (EHE) - end of March 2023

IOW schools\*:

- 39 Primary schools
- 6 Secondary schools
- 3 Through schools (2 private)
- 3 Special schools

\*www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk



**47** Early Years Settings



Children with English as an additional language:

**3.8%** of Primary children  
**3.2%** of secondary children  
 (Gov.uk LAIT)



Free school meal entitlement:

**23.7%** of primary-aged children

**21.2%** of secondary-aged children

(Gov.uk LAIT)

The IOW was ranked **96** out of 317 Local Authority areas for average rank, in 2019 on the indices of multiple deprivation

**12** areas on the IOW are among the 20% most deprived in the country

(Gov.uk IMD 2019)



# WE ARE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

## PART A: WE HAVE CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE THRESHOLDS, ASSESSMENTS, PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

The Hampshire/IOW Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is well-established and has been positively recognised in inspection outcomes, most recently the July 2021 Hampshire Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). Decision making across both the Children’s Reception Team (CRT) and MASH is regularly reviewed and monitored. The IOWSCP undertake annual multi-agency case file audits. The application of thresholds is consistently applied, and all contacts are reviewed within a reasonable timeframe. Where referrals don’t meet thresholds, early help services are offered.

### CONTACTS, REFERRALS AND ASSESSMENTS

During 2022-23, there was a continued rise in demand as more families struggled due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. The latest South East quarterly data (Q3) has the rate of contacts per 10,000 0- to 17-year-olds as 1,764 for the Isle of Wight, compared to the South East average of 808.

CONTACTS / REFERRALS / ASSESSMENTS	20/21	21/22	22/23
Total number of contacts to the Children’s Reception Team (CRT)	12,556	14,167	16,309
% contacts progressed to referrals	40.62%	43.47%	42.6%
No. of child in need referrals	5,575	6,508	6,953
% of re-referrals to CRT / MASH	36.85%	39.30%	41.8%
Assessments completed within timescales	93.8%	96%	89.4%
Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) held within timescales	79.45%	77.90%	65.2%
No. of referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	168	80	226
No. of referrals to the LADO that met criteria	86	71	163
% of closed Early Help Plans where improvements were seen	74%	43%	61%
Total number of children open to social care during the year	1343	1407	1434

Isle of Wight data for re-referrals to CRT MASH includes all second or subsequent referrals, regardless of the outcome of the first referral. This ensures every child, and their circumstances are considered every time. The reasons for the re-referrals are monitored by managers; some re-referrals are as a result of families not initially feeling ready to have children’s services involvement.

The number of referrals continues to rise, and this has been challenging. To respond to the sustained increase, there has been an investment in staffing to support additional recruitment. The increase in demand for Early Help, indicates there were more families in need of support post pandemic, and the cost of living crisis continues to impact families.

### Feedback on Early Help services from children and families:

Parent A (as reported): *“You told us your relationship with your Lead professional is really good. You said that your son also gets on really well with your Lead Professional. You told us you feel very involved and very listened to. You feel as a family you are involved. You have been impressed with the steps put into place. You gave an example saying that your child is not getting as many behaviour points or getting into trouble as much. You are no longer receiving phone calls from school all day and it is just a lot easier to handle life.”*

Parent B (as reported): *“You told us that you find the Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings really helpful, you can talk through all your problems. You told us about the other professionals that attend your TAF meetings. You said that you cannot fault the help put into place and you feel listened to, involved and supported. The Early Help Plan has definitely been helpful for you. TAF meetings set aside time to speak and all of the people involved can suggest further services and help with referrals.”*

#### CHILD PROTECTION (CP) PLANS

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Number of children subject to CP Plans</b>	188	161	<b>218</b>

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December, the Isle of Wight rate per 10,000 of 0-17 year olds who were subject to a Child Protection Plan was 81, compared to a South East average of 44. Children’s Social Care are investigating this further by reviewing the decision making on a sample of children.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Number of unborn babies subject to Child Protection plans</b>	22	26	<b>24</b>

All cases with an identified safeguarding risk are assessed using the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol. All unborn babies subject to child protection are discussed at the multi-agency psycho/social meetings held every two weeks. Community staff access supervision where cases can be discussed, and escalation supported should it be required. Training and support have been provided to upskill community midwives.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Percentage of repeat Child Protection conferences held in time frames</b>	98.3%	94.4%	<b>97.4%</b>

Despite there being more children subject to a plan, there is improved timeliness of reviews.

### Voice of the family:

*“Thank you for being such an amazing social worker, you really are a credit to your team. It’s so nice to know that there is a social worker out there that wants to make a positive impact on a family’s lives.”*

Compliment from a parent to the CP Chair, thanking the CP Chair for, *“helping them to realise how damaging their acrimonious relationship was for their children, with both parents making significant improvements in how they communicate with each other.”*










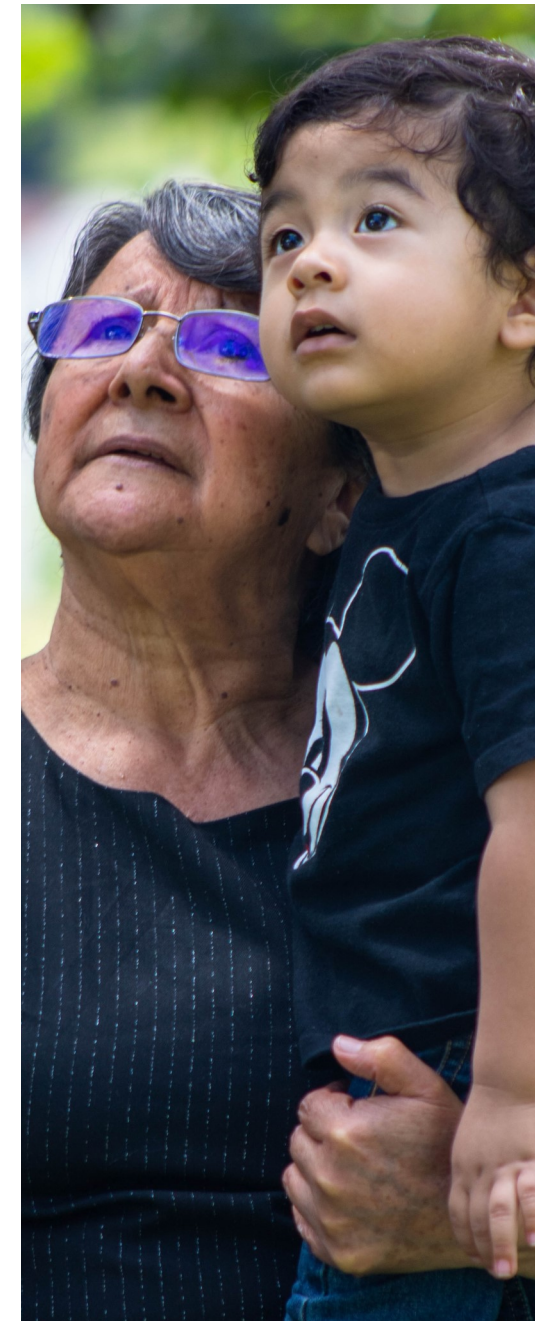
#### MAIN CATEGORY OF RISK CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Emotional Abuse	26.6%	21.7%	<b>10.6%</b>
Physical Abuse	2.7%	9.3%	<b>2.8%</b>
Sexual Abuse	7.4%	5.6%	<b>7.8%</b>
Neglect	63.3%	63.4%	<b>78.9%</b>

The percentage of children subject to physical or sexual abuse remains low. The number of children experiencing emotional abuse rose during the pandemic, possibly because of the multiple stresses’ families experienced. It has decreased since. Children experiencing neglect has increased.



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Total number of Looked After Children</b>		272	279	295
	<b>Number of children in care per 10,000 during the year</b>	110	114	118
<p>The number of children who leave care is in line with the South East average but the number of children becoming looked after continues to be higher. Work is being undertaken to ensure that children remain safely at home, wherever possible, and that reunification is considered and progressed as appropriate.</p>				
	<b>% of looked after children reviews completed in time frames</b>	89.2%	83.6%	87.9%
<p>Children and Families teams and Independent Reviewing Officers have worked together to ensure that children are reviewed in a timely way. This performance is tracked in the reporting to the Children and Families Management Team.</p>				
	<b>% health reviews completed in time frames</b>	81.9%	83.9%	91.2%
<p>Strong working practice has been developed between social workers and nursing teams to ensure that health assessments are prioritised. There is a clear escalation process to ensure notification of a child becoming looked after is shared quickly with health partners.</p>				
	<b>% of vaccinations for looked after children completed in time frames</b>	84.4%	74.7%	69%
<p>Following Covid, the vaccination programme has a backlog. Whilst vaccinations are continuing, they are sometimes administered later than before so are showing as late.</p>				
	<b>% of dental checks for looked after children completed in timeframes</b>	24.5%	52.85%	47%
<p>Similar to the national picture, getting a dentist is a challenge. This has been addressed but there is a lag whilst recording catches up with practice.</p>				
	<b>% of care leavers 18+ in suitable accommodation at year end</b>	75.2%	85.7%	79.3%
<p>The number of young people in suitable accommodation has reduced and in Q3 was 83%, which is below the South East average of 90%. Work is ongoing across the council to increase suitable, affordable housing for care leavers.</p>				
	<b>% of care leavers 18+ in employment/education/training at year end</b>	59.6%	74.3%	75.7%
<p>In Q3 this was 68%, higher than the South East average of 59%. Close working relationships with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and good engagement with our care leavers has enabled this to increase.</p>				



## PART B: WE ARE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DATA	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
School attendance rate during the year (Primary)	96.6	94.2	94.4*
School attendance rate during the year (Secondary)	94.2	90	89.8*

*\* Indicative data from the Department for Education may be subject to change*

Indicative data suggests attendance rates in primary schools are slightly below the national average (94.7%). Secondary school attendance rates are below the national average (91.1%). The gap between IOW and national rates has reduced throughout this academic year. The Education and Inclusion Service (EIS) continues to work with other agencies and schools to implement a range of strategies to improve attendance and reduce the barriers to school attendance which can be multi-faceted and complex for some children. Specific and targeted work has been completed to improve attendance in Year 11, due to concerns with the attendance of this cohort and the important time this is in education.

CHILDREN ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATED (EHE)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of children leaving school to become EHE during the year (Primary)	111	58	68
Number of children leaving school to become EHE during the year (Secondary)	125	102	116
Number of children returning to school from EHE during the year (Primary)	57	69	43
Number of children returning to school from EHE during the year (Secondary)	49	50	62

Locally and nationally, the Covid pandemic triggered an increase in the number of electively home educated pupils. On the IOW, the last academic year (2021-22) saw numbers stabilise, but numbers have started to increase again. At the end of March 2023, there were 577 EHE pupils, representing 3.6% of school age

population. There has been a 21.5% increase since the start of this 22/23 academic year. There has been a proactive multi-agency focus on identifying unregistered Elective Home Educated/Children Missing Education pupils led by the Education & Inclusion Service, with information obtained from NHS partners and other partner agencies including IOW College, Children's Social Care and other Local Authorities. This has led to an increase in the number of registered EHE pupils.

100% of parents who opt for home education are contacted on registration and sent information. The overall engagement rate of families (those who respond to requests for review visits or provide EHE reports, within timescales) is 91%. This is very positive and has increased on last year due to temporary staffing arrangements in place.

CHILDREN SUSPENDED OR EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Primary children suspended from school (Fixed Term) during the year	140	165	138
Secondary children suspended from school (Fixed Term) during the year	709	880	967
Children excluded from school (Permanent) during the year (Primary)	1	0	0
Children excluded from school (Permanent) during the year (Secondary)	18	8	10

Whilst there are fewer primary school children being suspended this academic year, there has been an increase in the use of suspensions in primary schools. This may reflect the complex challenges a small number of children are facing which is impacting on their behaviour. The EIS are working with other agencies to support all schools in reducing the use of suspension while maintaining high standards of behaviour.

CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION (CME)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Missing from Education during the year (Primary)	26	18	78
Missing from Education during the year (Secondary)	23	18	50

The number of CME referrals has increased significantly in both phases this academic year. There has been an increased focus on multi-agency partnership working arrangements to proactively identify CME. There has also been an increase in families moving overseas, which can result in schools submitting CME referrals, and this is due in part to Ukrainian refugees returning to Ukraine. There have also been changes in how cases referred in by other Local Authorities are recorded as CME to ensure consistency and accuracy.

### CHILDREN AT RISK OF, OR EXPERIENCING EXPLOITATION

The HIPS Child Exploitation Strategic Group ensures that the HIPS SCPs implement best practice to protect children from all forms of exploitation. The group also considers the multi-agency response to children who go missing. Closer working through a 'hub and spoke' approach across HIPS is being explored and will be progressed, as agreed, in 2023.

In March 2023 the HIPS Child Exploitation and Extra-Familial Harm Strategy 2023-26 was approved by the HIPS Executive. This strategy sets out how partner agencies work together to identify and protect children at risk of exploitation and extra familial harm across the HIPS. The HIPS Child Exploitation Strategic group is supported by each LSCP coordinating their own local delivery plan and a HIPS Operational group that collaborates in delivering the strategy, providing a forum to ensure learning opportunities are shared. This has resulted in multi-agency webinars and learning and development packages being delivered virtually. Two members of the Youth Commission attend and feed into the Strategic Group.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ASSESSED AS AT RISK OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) / CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE) DURING THE YEAR (CSC DATA)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Low risk during the year	146	118	105
Medium risk during the year	64	81	37
High risk during the year	76	101	57

An IOW multi-agency Missing, Exploited, Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC) group chaired by the Police meets regularly to review all children identified as at 'high' risk of exploitation. Each child is considered by the multi-agency group and actions identified to reduce risks and safeguard the child. Children identified as 'medium' risk are reviewed by Neighbourhood Teams.

MISSING CHILDREN	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of missing episodes during the year	636	348	428
Number of children who went missing during the year	127	140	116
Number of children missing from care during the year	48	42	36

Missing episodes have increased overall but less children are going missing, both as a whole cohort and those missing from care. Work has been undertaken to increase the take up and recording of return conversations. It is anticipated that this will reduce repeat missing episodes.



## MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO EXPLOITATION

- ➔ Philomena Protocol: A Police project to improve collaborative working with partners to support looked after children who are reported missing and are committing minor offences. The aim is to prevent unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children.
- ➔ Operation Salvus: A Police initiative now embedded in practice to identify the highest risk missing children, ensuring that Police officers who respond to these missing episodes engage the child in a consistent and child-centred way and ensure a support plan is in place to negate further risk to them. Evaluation outcomes from a dip sample showed the frequency of missing incidents have nearly halved. There is still scope for improving responses regarding medium and low risk children.
- ➔ Operation Endeavour: Supports Police information sharing with a focus on ensuring schools are aware when a child has been missing.
- ➔ The Youth Commission: Provides a voice for young people who feel affected by exploitation in its various forms and want more accessible support with a focus on digital exploitation, and clear guidance on where to go to for help and how to support friends experiencing these issues.
- ➔ A variety of multi-agency learning and development events considering different aspects of child exploitation.
- ➔ Modern Slavery Partnership: Reviewed and refreshed in 2022/23 with a new strategy in development.
- ➔ Violence Reduction Unit (VRU): The VRU mission is to build a collaborative courageous and sustainable partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence. The VRU centrally funds interventions including Choices, a transition programme for year 6 and 7 pupils, Navigators in A&E and RESET (custody Navigators).
- ➔ Regulatory Services: The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy has been updated to ensure it meets the new safeguarding standards set out in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (“the Standards”) issued under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 published in July 2020. Licensing provide mandatory bespoke safeguarding learning to taxi drivers, new and old on local and national safeguarding issues.
- ➔ One full time UTurn worker is embedded within the Isle of Wight 0-19 Early Help contract and referrals are received via METRAC. 1-1 work is undertaken with the child to address exploitation

## CHILDREN AT RISK OF, OR IN, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Children at risk of, or in, the criminal justice system during the year who the Youth Offending Team (YOT) worked with	204	225	259

The numbers of children who offend whilst subject to a YOT statutory intervention continues to reduce. The actual numbers per quarter is in single figures, which allows us to undertake some in depth understanding about what these children need.

## CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total number of referrals received into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at year end	671	907	773
Total number of cases open to CAMHS at year end	384	528	513

The number of referrals received by CAMHS reduced in 22/23, however, the complex needs of the children and young people referred to CAMHS increased. There was an increase in referrals for children and young people who were experiencing an eating disorder. In response, CAMHS expanded the eating disorder team over the last two years and introduced a Holistic at Home Treatment Team, which has enabled CAMHS to reduce admissions to the children’s wards and reduce admissions to tier 4 beds. The eating disorder team has had no admissions to the children’s ward since September 2022 and no young people have needed a tier 4 bed between September 2022 – April 2023.

The CAMHS team has expanded significantly, with recruitment into additional roles. They have recruited a new high intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) therapist to the CAMHS team, which has enhanced the offer of CBT to children and young people. Feedback has been positive. The team endeavours to work jointly with other services, in particular Children’s Services. It’s paramount to ensure that if young people are admitted to hospital with self-harm or suicidal thoughts, that they can be discharged into a home environment where they feel safe and secure.



## CHILDREN WHO ARE PRIVATELY FOSTERED

There were less than 5 children privately fostered in the year 2022-23. It is anticipated that this may increase if language schools on the Island restart.

Posters have been shared to promote the need for private fostering arrangements to be referred to Children's Services, however numbers remain low. A further awareness campaign with language schools is planned for next year.

## CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNG CARERS

CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNG CARERS	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total number	305	336	390

The Young Carers Project is run by the YMCA as part of the recommissioned Family Centre offer from Barnardo's. The Young Carers service on the Island is categorised into two tiers of intervention: Standard or Intensive support. Young carers receiving standard support are provided with one 1:2:1 support session each week. Young carers receiving intensive support are provided with keeping in touch phone calls or group activities per month in addition to the one 1:2:1 support session.

All registered young carers on the Island are offered respite. Young carers open at respite have a team around them already (for example through Early Help) as they have been assessed as having low-level caring needs.

## CHILDREN LIVING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE

PERCENTAGE OF CHILD PROTECTION PLANS WHERE DOMESTIC ABUSE WAS A SECONDARY CATEGORY AT REVIEW CONFERENCES	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Emotional	14.9%	8.1%	5%
Physical	2.7%	4.4%	1.4%
Neglect	14.9%	14.9%	16.5%

The distribution of cases across the categories shows a decrease over time in children with a second category of domestic abuse, where the primary category is emotional abuse and a slight increase in the percentage where the primary category is neglect. Children's Services contribute funding to the integrated commissioning of Paragon to ensure support and intervention for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. The High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) process is in place on the Island and offers a whole family approach to multi-agency information sharing where there are concerns about high risk domestic abuse.

2022/23 has seen the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which recognises children who experience domestic abuse are victims. The IOWSCP works closely with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to ensure the provisions of the Act are implemented locally. This has included contributing to the review of the HIPS Safeguarding Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Procedure which is due for ratification in quarter 1 2023/2024.

Safeguarding children where they experience domestic abuse remains a cross cutting priority for the IOWSCP in 2023/24, recognising the short and longer term impacts on children's welfare and wellbeing.



## AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS

### SOLENT NHS TRUST SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Within the Solent NHS Trust Safeguarding Team, there are regular conversations, within the antenatal and postnatal period, covering a range of topics to reduce accidental injury in under 1's; these include [Every Sleep Counts](#) and [ICON](#). The Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol is regularly circulated to the 0-5 service, keeping the protocol at the forefront of practice.

Solent Sexual Health services have access to the IOWSCP strategies and toolkits and use these to inform decision making for safeguarding referrals. The Neglect Strategy and toolkit and the Family Approach Protocol is encompassed in Trust wide training. Solent staff groups also access learning and development available through the IOWSCP and this is widely promoted to staff to increase their knowledge, confidence and competence. Multi-agency learning and development provided by the IOWSCP, facilitates building professional relationships, the use of a common language and enables a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities.

Solent NHS Trust ensures safeguarding learning is disseminated via a range of avenues. The safeguarding team are members of the HIPS Health Group and are actively involved in working parties and workstreams. Our Chief Nurse or Head of Safeguarding attend the IOWSCP Board meetings and cascade information via our safeguarding steering group; these meetings are a standing item on the agenda. Our Named Nurse has been actively involved in supporting HIPS assurance and work streams in relation to the national child safeguarding practice review for Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star Hobson and the resulting learning and recommendations.

### BARNARDO'S

Messages and information for parents regarding reducing accidental injuries in under ones have been disseminated to all staff across the IOW and followed up. The Safeguarding Adolescents and Neglect Strategies have been disseminated, and managers and workers reflect on the linked toolkits during case discussions. Quotes from the toolkit/threshold charts are used within referrals, Child in Need and Child Protection reports.

Our practitioners have a good understanding of the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) and are trained to recognise and act when signs of exploitation are observed. They support wider colleagues from schools, for example, to consider exploitation and support with the completion of CERAFs. Our UTurn worker shares information regarding child exploitation geographical areas of concern on the Island so that our practitioners are mindful and consider exploitation when working with children and parents, which enables robust decision making in terms of appropriate level of support for families.

Learning and development has had a direct impact on practice. For example, practitioners now ensure recording uses the term "Was Not Brought" instead of "Did not attend". New staff in the Mental Health Support Team bring specific questions to their clinical skills supervision group following IOWSCP courses and this leads to meaningful discussions amongst the team. Through neglect learning and development, practitioners are now aware of the revised strategy and toolkit and feel confident in accessing it. Children's Reception Team (CRT) & Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) training provided new practitioners with an understanding of the role of the CRT and MASH, the team supporting them and an understanding of the importance of being efficient and accurate when reporting concerns.

Learning from IOWSCP audits is disseminated to senior managers and staff teams. NSPCC and national child safeguarding practice reviews are shared with teams where relevant – for example learning from the Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes review resulted in senior managers ensuring a referral to CRT MASH was made for a child which shared similarities to the concerns missed regarding Star's mother and partner. Other areas of multi-agency work which have had an impact on our organisation include working with the IOW Supporting Families panel, and the Frankie and TrustTalk2 counselling services, which work exclusively with young people who have experienced childhood sexual abuse/exploitation, and/or Female Genital Mutilation. The development of the multi-agency supporting families panel this year has resulted in a multi-agency case discussion regarding all referrals for early help. Up to date information as well as the sharing of the most recent assessment for the family has enabled the panel to ensure timely and appropriate interventions are offered to families.

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Isle of Wight Children's Services consider the HSCP & IOWSCP Neglect Strategy and toolkit as a key resource for our staff and those across all partner agencies working with children on the Island. The toolkit provides key practical tools to help professionals in their direct work. For example, the '[A day in the life](#)' tool provides a rich, granular source of evidence of the child's lived experience and the impact of neglect. This evidence is used to support parents' understanding and work with the child and family.

Children's Services are core partners in the multi-agency response to children at risk of exploitation on the Isle of Wight and are a member of the IOW Exploitation Local Delivery Plan Group and the HIPS Child Exploitation Strategic Group. Operationally, Children's Services work closely with other agencies to ensure an effective response to missing, exploited and trafficked children through the Missing Exploited Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference (METRAC).

Signposting to the IOWSCP workstreams, multi-agency learning and development and toolkits is embedded throughout safeguarding training for early years, schools and front-line Children and Families (C&F) staff. The IOWSCP courses upskill social care staff and external providers as well as providing local knowledge, emerging issues and changes in legislation and guidance, following case reviews and auditing. Children and Families Practice Educators and Learning Development Officers attend the IOWSCP courses to update their knowledge on contemporary safeguarding issues, new research outcomes, policy and procedures as well as available tools to include in our learning and development sessions for our newly qualified social workers. The Isle of Wight Principal Social Worker is a member of the IOWSCP Workforce Development Group and ensures the IOWSCP annual learning needs analysis is reflective of our service needs in a multi-agency context.

We prioritise attendance and chairing of IOWSCP multi-agency audits as required. Senior managers from the IOW Children's Service have led multi-agency learning events and the Deputy Director chairs the Learning Inquiry Group. We ensure feedback and learning is disseminated to frontline staff. The Area Director for the Isle of Wight chairs the Performance, Quality and Assurance Group on behalf of the partnership, taking a lead role in ensuring the effectiveness of multi-agency case file audits. We chair and coordinate the multi-agency Safeguarding Leads meeting, attended by senior managers to consider cases collaboratively and have presented to the Headteachers forum with colleagues from MASH. We also deliver training to partners as part of the IOWSCP learning and development

offer such as the 'Introduction to CRT/MASH.

Other areas of multi-agency work that have had great impact within Children's Service include:

- [The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Approach](#) – this is our practice framework and we have liaised with partner agencies to share the journey and help streamline the multi-agency approach to safeguarding.
- [High-Risk Domestic Abuse \(HRDA\)](#) - a local, multi-agency, whole family focused process where information on the highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies is shared.
- [Corporate Parenting Board \(CPB\)](#) – which includes health commissioners, the Virtual School and adult services. The CPB has been able to use its position to influence policy beyond the Council, for the benefit of Children in Care and Care Leavers. Work is underway to ensure that the voice of children and young people is central to the CPB and that they are actively involved with the Board. We have HYPE (Hearing Young People's Experiences) Junior for Children in Care and HYPE for older children and care-experienced adults.
- [Complex Case Panels](#) - there are a number of multi-agency meetings for partners to work together and resolve issues and obstacles at a senior level and to develop early insight into systemic issues that may arise. These include the 'Complex Children's Panel', for children with multi-agency involvement, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight C&YP Escalation Panel for those who either require tier 4 provision but cannot access it or need to be discharged from tier 4 provision but have no safe place to be discharged to.
- [Homes for Ukraine](#) - working alongside community partners on this scheme for the Island, and our Resilience Around Families Team (RAFT) continue to assess and review hosts for Ukrainian families.

## EDUCATION

The Neglect, Safeguarding Adolescents, Child Exploitation and Family Approach strategies and toolkits have been shared with primary, secondary schools and the IOW college. Through feedback from the Education and Inclusion Service (EIS), schools have greater awareness of exploitation risks to children, especially when considering suspensions/exclusions.

The IOWSCP Keeping Children Safe in Education Self-Assessment identified the need to have a consistent way of reporting physical abuse and bullying behaviours.

A small working group developed a new 'Recording Behaviour' guidance sheet for schools. An IOWSCP multi-agency case file audit highlighted a need to review policies and procedures regarding vulnerable children missing education for medical reasons or illness, ensuring a multi-agency approach to ensure education is delivered. This work is well underway and due for completion by September 2023.

Lurking Trolls resources (a campaign designed to help protect children from online harm) have been introduced into primary schools and special schools. The impact of these resources has been evaluated in 2022/23 and the evaluation and recommendations shared at the education subgroup.

Other areas of multi-agency working include strong links between the Education and Inclusion Service (EIS) and HIOW Constabulary regarding school absence and suspensions/exclusions, considering risks linked to child exploitation. The scoping of this in 2022-23 has led to a 2023-24 IOWSCP priority around the impact of disrupted attendance. Links between EIS, health providers and GPs are being strengthened, including through attendance at team meetings, group supervision and Mental Health Support Teams.

### HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (HIWFRS)

The workstreams of the IOWSCP provides guidance and clarity to HIWFRS personnel who work with children and young people and support HIWFRS to ensure our actions are appropriate and proportionate. This is relevant for the safeguarding adolescents workstreams. HIWFRS safeguarding procedures and guidance documents are developed in accordance with IOWSCP documents.

HIWFRS mandatory level 1 and 2 safeguarding training is in accordance with guidance outlined by the IOWSCP. Other learning and development provided by the IOWSCP is regularly promoted to, and accessed by, key HIWFRS personnel who work with children and young people and supports them to build their skills and knowledge in specific areas, such as Brook Traffic Light Tool; Family Approach to Parental Mental Health, Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse; Safeguarding Adolescents.

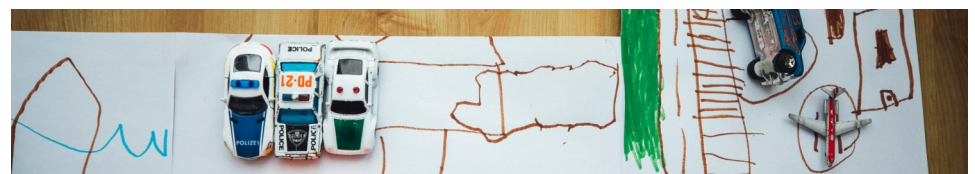
Partnership working is embedded in all HIWFRS safeguarding procedures and practices, and is regularly reviewed in internal quality assurance activity, case reviews and safeguarding development days. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and audits are reviewed by the HIWFRS safeguarding team to identify the

relevant learning which is then cascaded to all relevant staff through regular community safety updates. The HIWFRS safeguarding team reviews and amends any HIWFRS safeguarding procedures and practices in response to identified learning; updates resources / training from the IOWSCP.

### INCLUSION IOW

Inclusion IOW is a service open to all age groups on the Isle of Wight who are using or affected by someone else's use of alcohol or drugs. Inclusion IOW utilises the Neglect and Safeguarding Adolescents Strategies and toolkits to inform referrals to CRT / MASH. The midwife in the Inclusion team works across agencies, including making referrals to MASH using the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol and the HIPS Threshold Chart. If an assessment is deemed appropriate, Inclusion will support the family through the process using the Family Approach Protocol with early intervention; practical help; advice and emotional support with a non-judgemental approach. This has been recognised by clients and their families as being significant in them accepting the support and changing their behaviours in preparation for parenthood. The continuity in supporting clients open to Children's Social Care throughout the safeguarding process; attending Child Protection conferences; Core Group meetings and Child in Need meetings helps to develop a relationship that achieves the best outcome for the parent and baby.

Inclusion have a strong partnership with the Youth Offending Team (YOT), schools and youth organisations and regularly work with housing providers, especially ones with placements of looked after children. Through the implementation of the Neglect Strategy and learning provided by the IOWSCP, children's needs are met, and support provided, or if necessary, interventions made. The Substance Misuse Midwife attends the psycho/social meetings every 2 weeks with the Maternity Safeguarding Team, Community Team Lead Midwife, Health Visitor Clinical Team Coordinator, Assistant Team Manager (CSC) and Substance Misuse Midwife. This encourages good multi-agency working and frequent sharing of information, as was evidenced in the IOWSCP multi-agency audit of the HIPS Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol.





## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary worked in collaboration with partner agencies to develop the HSCP/IOWSCP 'supporting your adolescent' toolkit for parents/carers. This tool has been widely used and actively promoted.

The Constabulary worked in partnership to develop the HIPS Child Exploitation and Extra Familial Harm Strategy 2023-26. In addition, we have a centralised Missing Exploited Team (MET) that engages with partners, both statutory and non-statutory, to address issues and identify those at risk using the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF). On the Island, we have a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who sits within our High Harm Team, and they contribute to wider multi-agency work with children considered to be at medium risk of exploitation. This arrangement works well and provides consistency.

The IOWSCP promotes the Constabulary's Safe4Me website, which supports educators, service providers and parents to keep children and young people safe by providing signposting to professional services (including the IOWSCP learning and development platform) and offers resources and toolkits that are current and align with the national PSHE/RSE curriculum.

The work of the IOWSCP influences our strategy regarding Public Protection Notices (PPN), and feeds into our own in-house training programmes. We conduct monthly multi-agency scrutiny panels to dip sample PPN's as part of the quality assurance process.

Constabulary representatives are members of each IOWSCP subgroup, chairing the Child Exploitation Local Delivery Plan group, and participate in the multi-agency auditing and scrutiny programme. As subgroup members they provide assurance to areas that require improvement and monitor recommendations to ensure learning is embedded in practice.

The IOWSCP learning and development programme provides valuable information and awareness to our officers and staff. Multi-agency working has influenced our approach and by listening and engaging directly with children and young people, this has led to capturing their views to support change, as set out by our Child Centred Policing (CCP) strategy.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY DIVISION, IOW NHS TRUST

The IOW NHS Trust Mental Health and Learning Disability (MHLD) teams routinely access the IOWSCP tools provided locally. This ensures consistent

practice and a unified language and terminology, which helps improve communication between teams and organisations. The resources provided ensure that our teams maintain a proactive and early intervention approach to supporting children and families.

The MHLD division forms part of the wider Trust Joint Safeguarding Group (JSG) which enables sharing across disciplines, early identification of risk and shared learning. The division provides information and support to the IOWSCP's auditing and scrutiny programme with key staff attending learning reviews. The divisions clinical quality lead provides information to the local MARAC and HRDA meetings and ensures that risks that may concern a child or family are shared in with the relevant teams when required.

## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health is fully engaged in the IOWSCP and this includes, where appropriate, being members of task and finish groups; bringing a population health perspective to help develop strategies and toolkits and supporting the development of consistent, high-quality resources that will result in improved outcomes for children and families e.g., the Safeguarding Adolescents toolkit.

The Public Health function in the Isle of Wight Council is to lead and commission a range of specialist areas including public health nursing, sexual health, substance misuse, domestic abuse services, weight management, and smoking cessation services. Providers of these services enable their staff to access and use IOWSCP resources, strategies and toolkits. For example, the Public Health nursing services routinely use and comply with the HIPS Unborn Baby Safeguarding protocol, Protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising in infants who are not independently mobile, ICON and Every Sleep Counts. These are monitored through robust quarterly quality reporting.

The use of these workstreams, strategies and toolkits enable Public Health commissioned services to follow consistent high-quality protocols and policies within the delivery of their respective services to children and families, enabling effective identification and assessment of needs and keeps the safety of the child and family at the centre of service delivery.

Public Health safeguarding leads continue to deliver annual safeguarding learning and development opportunities for the wider HIOW Public Health team and teams are informed of the IOWSCP learning and development through safeguarding updates disseminated from the Board.

Public Health works in partnership with the providers of commissioned Public Health services, but also across the wider children's health and care system. For example, the Public Health team leads both the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards (chaired by the Director of Public Health). These Boards oversee the strategy for domestic abuse to reduce abuse, increase safety and protect children.

Public Health nursing workforce recovery has presented a significant challenge this year but through robust partnership with the provider, alongside working with wider agencies such as Health Education England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), a clear transformation plan has been agreed. This will support service delivery through skill mix, whilst continually striving to increase the numbers of nurses that can be trained to become Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (health visitors and school nurses) thereby aiming to mitigate risk of reduced identification and assessment of need.

The Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership work collaboratively to prevent and reduce the harm associated with substance misuse (to individuals, their families and communities) and increase the opportunities for recovery for those who are dependent on drugs/alcohol. The national drugs strategy has provided an opportunity to focus on reducing the demand for drugs and alcohol, which has included a clear approach on early intervention and signposting for children, young people and families most at risk of substance misuse (identifying hidden harm) and providing targeted interventions thereby reducing the escalation of use and harm to young people.

## INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

As a safeguarding partner, we have ensured health representation on the Partnership Board, Executive, subgroups and task and finish groups and supported the development of the partnership business plan and workstreams which includes: the development of strategies, performance assurance, review of serious safeguarding cases and learning and development programmes. The workforce capacity challenges, and reduced resources, are recognised within the system and therefore the workstream of the partnership provides an opportunity to navigate and prioritise safeguarding.

IOWSCP tools and workstreams have supported staff to safeguard children and their families: strategies and toolkits being reflected in training; designated and named professionals working closely with the EIS to improve outcomes for

children missing from school due to for medical reasons; named GP for safeguarding children providing audit findings and recommendations to primary care; named GP working with the police to develop and deliver child exploitation training to GPs across HIPS. In addition, the HIPS workstreams encourage equity across the wider system, for example, the launch of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse strategy and toolkit.

The designated professionals, named GP, named nurses and the ICB project officer support the delivery of multi-agency training events, such as the IOWSCP conference, looked after children staff training, foster carer training, child exploitation training and the safeguarding adolescent training.

The multi-agency training supports staff development to work confidently with children, young people, their family and other professionals within partner agencies. Effective knowledge allows them to be able to manage complex cases using professional judgement regarding risks to ensure the safety of children, for example case discussions at primary care safeguarding supervision and safeguarding leads meetings.

National, regional, and local learning is used to update the ICB safeguarding standards for health providers and are shared with Public Health to ensure equity of standards in commissioning and assurance. Learning from reviews is also reflected in our safeguarding training and disseminated to colleagues through the NHS England designated professionals meeting. Examples include the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy task and finish group and the learning from the Learning and Inquiry Group.

The ICB has supported various workstreams during the reporting period. These have included: the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol audit and Vulnerable Children Missing Education for Medical Reasons or illness audit; improving the quality of looked after children initial health assessments; development of CSE training for primary care with Hampshire Constabulary and supporting HIPS CSE webinars; HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy development and launch in March 2023; Safeguarding leads meetings and case discussions; scrutiny of the IOWSCP PQA safeguarding dataset. Additional workstreams include place of safety meeting – working with partners to understand the role of partners and health in place of safety; the IOWSCP Child Exploitation Delivery Plan Group; Child Death Overview Panel and Corporate Parenting Board.

## ISLE OF WIGHT NHS TRUST

The Family Approach Protocol and toolkit are used by maternity staff when assessing and planning care for pregnant people and their families, ensuring they get the right support at the right time. The Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol is a key part of all supervision sessions with community midwives and helps support practitioners when assessing risks, ensuring as many babies as possible are protected from harm. ICON and Every Sleep Counts are delivered to all expectant and new parents and the resources available in the toolkits support practitioners to deliver these messages in bespoke ways to families with learning difficulties or challenges. The Protocol for the management of actual or suspected bruising in infants who are not independently mobile is well known and embedded in our emergency department, children's ward, maternity and Special Care Baby Unit.

IOWSCP toolkits and strategies are linked from our Trust intranet safeguarding children page, and we refer to these when completing supervision with front-line staff. Staff are encouraged to access training through the IOWSCP to further develop and improve their skills in specific areas. Attending training through the LSCP allows staff to learn alongside partner agencies and gain a greater understanding of the wider resources available to them when working to protect children from harm.

The Trust participates in multi-agency audits with learning outcomes disseminated to front line staff in relevant departments through training, newsletters and supervision. Specific actions are tracked through our Joint Agency Safeguarding Strategic Group. Leads review all National Panel Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and review current practice and guidance to ensure any changes are made to reflect the national recommendations. The IOWSCP subgroups are attended by members of the Integrated Safeguarding Team and learning and actions from these subgroups is fed back to the Trust via our Joint Safeguarding Strategic Group.

The named midwife for safeguarding children chairs the multi-disciplinary Psycho/Social meeting every 2 weeks. All high-risk cases are discussed, and multi-agency support plans agreed. This allows for effective information sharing and safety planning for our most at risk families. The effectiveness of this approach was highlighted in a recent IOWSCP multi-agency audit.

The Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children worked closely with the IOWSCP and YOT to deliver 2 workshops regarding Case Joe. These workshops encouraged debate and discussion and practitioners left really considering their current practice and how this could change.

The IOWSCP Unborn Baby Safeguarding Audit, which was chaired by the Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children, was also a good example of multi-agency work. It was a well-attended audit, which generated healthy discussion and debate. Recommendations were made which will make a difference to practice and outcomes for babies and their families.

## YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

The Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team (YOT) works with children and families from the ages of 10 to 18 and is a statutory partnership between police, probation, local authority, education, health, and central government, therefore, there is a governance and infrastructure which supports partnership working. The team has a seconded Police Officer, a CAMHS practitioner and a part-time Probation Officer.

As a service, we routinely use the Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and toolkit as it is at the heart of what we do. YOT's overall objectives are to prevent offending, re-offending and to safeguard children. We use this toolkit mostly when the safeguarding risk is not within the home.

The child exploitation workstream is also fundamental to our practice. Child exploitation can bring children into the criminal justice system, and we need to balance the risk to others and the needs of the child. For example, we routinely complete CERAFs and incorporate them into our own assessments. Therefore, this workstream is key to having successful outcomes. It supports us in planning with the child and family on how their needs are addressed.

During 2022/23, the IOWSCP learning and development programme supported new staff inductions and existing staff were encouraged to undertake refresher training. In addition, the Head of Service is part of the Workforce Development group and has undertaken observations of courses to monitor quality. They were also part of the Child Joe learning review.

Staff including the Head of Service, Team Managers and practitioners attend a range of partnership groups and meetings. These reflect both the criminal justice and safeguarding element of the role. Examples include IOWSCP subgroups and main board; meetings to discuss specific children, and community safety partnerships.

The networks, which result from involvement in partnership work, are invaluable to achieving better outcomes for individual children.

# BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES 2022-23

The 2020-23 IOWSCP Business Plan sets out strategic priorities for Partnership work over a three-year period, as well as shorter one-year priorities. Business Plan objectives are identified from themes arising from existing scrutiny and quality assurance programmes and findings from local and national learning reviews. Progress on Business Plan priorities is monitored through the Executive Group as well as outcomes and impact of the work. 2022/23 was the final year of the current IOWSCP Business Plan.

## PART A — LONG-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### Priority: Safeguarding Adolescents

The Safeguarding Adolescents Group was set up to explore partnership understanding, responses and provision for safeguarding adolescents. The group aimed to identify gaps and strengths in practice and develop a partnership response through a strategy and toolkit. The aim is to ensure adolescent children and their families receive the right level of support and intervention at the right time by skilled professionals.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ HSCP and IOWSCP Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy and toolkit for practitioners and parent/career toolkit published on the website following the launch
- ✓ Workshop with young people for their input on a children and young persons' version of the 'Safeguarding Adolescents' toolkit
- ✓ Developed multi-agency workforce development opportunities on safeguarding adolescents
- ✓ Monitored recommendations from the 2021/22 Child Sexual Exploitation case file audit
- ✓ IOWSCP annual conference with the theme 'Safeguarding Adolescents – What Works?'

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ Learning and development has been well received - 100% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed that the training met its learning outcomes and they understood how to apply the learning to their day-to-day role
- ★ Children's voice and perspective included within the adolescent toolkit (to be launched quarter 2 2023-24)
- ★ Agencies provided assurance that professionals leading case planning and review meetings routinely send revised plans and meeting notes to family members and professionals involved in the cases in a timely way
- ★ Agencies circulated the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral process chart to promote understanding and effective use of the NRM
- ★ 100% of attendees at the 2022 IOWSCP Annual Conference - 'Safeguarding Adolescents What Works' strongly agreed or agreed that the topics were relevant to them





- ★ Feedback from conference attendees:
  - ◇ "Very interesting and useful conference with good ability to network"
  - ◇ "Excellent conference, very informative and enjoyable"
  - ◇ "Supporting your adolescent toolkit has been informative for our Child Abuse Investigation Teams, Response and Patrol and Neighbourhood Teams"

### Priority: Responding to Neglect

The Neglect Strategy and toolkit addresses the need for professionals to understand, identify and work effectively together to achieve better outcomes for children experiencing neglect. The aim of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Neglect Strategy and supporting toolkit is to prevent and reduce the impact of neglect and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The strategy, which provides the framework under which ongoing multi-agency work will be undertaken, was revised and re-launched in February 2021 and a revised course offer put in place.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Case file audit September 2022: 'Children referred to MASH where neglect is the presenting issue'. This audit looked at cases referred to CRT MASH and their journey from the point of referral, through assessment, and decision-making processes, to the actions taken and the outcomes reached by the multi-agency partnership. The audit included a frontline practitioner survey
- ✓ Multi-agency Neglect Task and Finish group re-established to evaluate the impact of the revised materials and course training
- ✓ Evaluation of the Hampshire and IOW training offer

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ New case studies added to the toolkit
- ★ Hampshire and IOW training slides have been revised to reflect changes to the toolkit
- ★ Information, resources and links to the strategy and toolkit reviewed and updated
- ★ Multi-agency training 'Understanding and Responding to Neglect' continued, to encourage referring agencies to use the tools and resources in cases of neglect, and has been well received with 100% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed that the training met its learning outcomes and that they understood how to apply the learning to their day-to-day job
- ★ IOWSCP offer further workforce development opportunities on the use of the thresholds document, how to complete an effective referral (IARF) and MASH processes



### Priority: Child Sexual Abuse

The HIPS Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Strategy has been developed to support a coordinated approach to preventing child sexual abuse, and to improve the identification, protection, and support for victims, survivors, and their families. It has been created to improve the ways in which children's needs and risks are understood, recognised, and responded to at all stages.

The successful implementation of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy will be achieved through continued cultural change in which the workforce, communities, and families develop the confidence to “think the unthinkable”, recognise the signs that abuse might be occurring, and have brave conversations.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Multi-agency consultation through the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy Task and Finish group to finalise the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy
- ✓ Multi-agency cooperation and coordination through the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy Task and Finish group to develop materials for a Child Sexual Abuse toolkit
- ✓ Publication and launch of the HIPS Child Sexual Abuse toolkit
- ✓ Development of multi-agency workforce development opportunities around child sexual abuse to raise professionals' awareness

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ Child Sexual Abuse Strategy published, appropriate for public and professional audiences
- ★ HIPS Child Sexual Abuse toolkit created to support professionals with identification, reporting, assessment, prevention of child sexual abuse, local and national support services and case studies
- ★ HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy key performance indicators in development
- ★ Multi-agency participation in HIPS wide launch of the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and toolkit (66 IOW participants)
- ★ Agreement to develop a parents and carers toolkit focused on prevention, identification and support



## PART B — SHORT-TERM STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### Evaluate the impact of IOWSCP initiatives and programmes

- The IOWSCP, via delivery of various initiatives, can evidence positive impact on IOW children and families.
- Staff in relevant agencies to understand, recognise and respond to safeguarding risks to unborn/new-born babies and follow agreed multi-agency procedures to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements at the earliest opportunity

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Evaluation report on the impact of the Lurking Trolls online safety campaign
- ✓ Multi-agency case file audit on the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol completed
- ✓ Set up a Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish Group

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish group will oversee the first phase evaluation of ICON and Every Sleep Counts programmes, completed in quarter 1 2023/24
- ★ Clarification sought from the HIPS Unborn Baby Strategic Group around the responsibility of sharing of information within the protocol
- ★ Recommendations from the multi-agency case file audit on the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol approved by the IOWSCP Executive and implementation monitored through the IOWSCP PQA group.



### Promoting the work of the IOWSCP

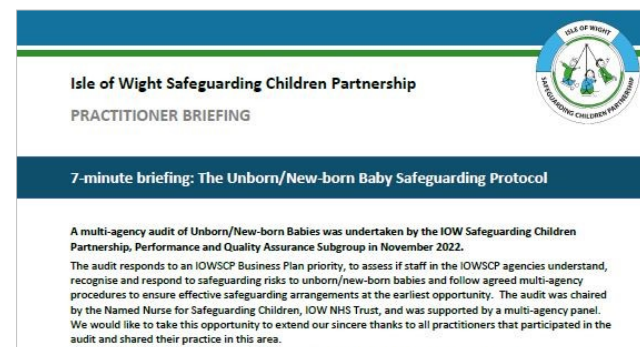
- Improved and effective dissemination and communication channels across the IOWSCP Safeguarding Partners and Relevant Agencies.
- Staff in relevant agencies are aware of, know where to go to find information on, and are fully utilising information and opportunities provided by the IOWSCP.
- Learning and practice improvements highlighted by the IOWSCP's work is effectively disseminated and embedded in relevant agencies.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Continue work on the IOWSCP website to ensure child friendly information, and align the content of thematic sections for practitioners and parents/carers
- ✓ Practitioner's briefing paper supporting the learning from the Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol audit

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ Multi-agency feedback regarding the effectiveness and reach of the IOWSCP toolkits, strategies and resources to support work within their agencies and when working with other agencies



### Scoping the scale of the problem of non-attendance and exclusion of vulnerable children

The Partnership wished to better understand the issue of non-attendance of vulnerable children at school, to include post-Covid return of children to school and reasons for non-attendance; children excluded from school; children with reduced timetables; and school attendance (including children missing school for medical reasons).

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Multi-agency audit of cases where vulnerable children are missing school due to medical needs and how these are managed in line with local policy
- ✓ Monitoring/assurance of recommendations from the Q2 multi-agency case file audit for vulnerable children missing school due to medical needs

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ School attendance of vulnerable children taken forward as a strategic priority for the IOWSCP business plan 2023-24 with a thematic audit planned for quarter 1 2023/2024
- ★ Innovative good practice shared on the use of AV-1 Robots to ensure children with medical needs remain engaged in education and have a presence in the classroom



## PART C — SHORT-TERM CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

### Reducing non-accidental injuries in under 1s

Promote public and professional awareness of safeguarding children under 1 including non-accidental injuries (NAI) and the key triggers leading the NAI.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Create a data line for confirmed NAIs annually via Children's Social Care
- ✓ Safeguarding Infants Task and Finish Group agreed by Executive
- ✓ Unborn/new-born baby audit completed
- ✓ Safeguarding Infants e-learning progressed and in its final sign off stage
- ✓ Frontline practitioner and professional lead surveys sent as part of the first phase evaluation of Every Sleep Counts and ICON campaigns

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ Practitioners Briefing from Unborn Baby Safeguarding audit approved by Executive, including links to e-learning and promotion of toolkits and resources
- ★ Recommendations from Unborn Baby Safeguarding Protocol audit monitored through the PQA group
- ★ First phase evaluation completed end quarter 4 2022/23 in preparation for Safeguarding Infants Task & Finish Group with recommendations to consider and progress





## Keeping children safe online

The Partnership aimed to develop a multimedia campaign aimed at parents/carers to encourage greater understanding of the need to parent children both online as well as offline; describe ways to parent children online; and provide key resources and contacts for help

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ✓ Analysed data in Public Health survey and Safeguarding in Education 157/175 audit to understand the needs of children
- ✓ Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner survey of parents/carers completed
- ✓ Cyber Ambassadors in schools continue to be recruited and to promote effective online safety messages
- ✓ Lurking Trolls campaign launched, and copies sent to schools and the EHE community via public libraries
- ✓ Online safety focus in Safeguarding in Education 157/175 audit

### OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS:

- ★ OPCC training for parents/carers developed and promoted to schools
- ★ Evaluation of the Lurking Trolls campaign shared with the education subgroup. Recommendations included continuing to promote the Lurking Trolls resources as part of online safety awareness



## Books & audiobooks



## Meet the trolls



# LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

## INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY AND ASSURANCE

Partners maintain the Learning and Improvement Framework, annually scrutinise and challenge performance, identify, disseminate and embed learning and engage with IOW children and their families.

Scrutiny and assurance activities include consideration of decision making, risk assessment, consistent application of thresholds, the voice of the child and practice is reviewed through:

- ★ Quarterly data sets and reports, to evidence safeguarding practice and impact
- ★ Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) and case reviews
- ★ Examination of research, local and national reports and National Panel reviews
- ★ Themed multi-agency case file audits
- ★ Keeping Children Safe organisational self-assessments
- ★ Workforce learning and development evaluation and analysis of outcomes

### THE VOICE OF THE CHILD

HYPE (Hearing Young People's Experiences) is a forum for young people in care and care leavers. The group meets monthly to discuss issues relating to the services they receive. They identify what is working well and areas for improvement, which are then discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board (local issues) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for children in care and care leavers (national issues).

The Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) comprises of members and officers from across frontline services. The group usually meets quarterly, and the voice of young people is a standing agenda item enabling them to raise issues. In 2022/23 there were 3 CPB meetings and 4 young people attended. The CPB action plan is regularly reviewed and based around the pledges made to children in care and care leavers. There is a high level of scrutiny from councillors by incorporating the pledge into the running of the CPB in this manner.

Early Help services are engaged in the corporate parenting effort to increase how

included our Island children feel within their local communities. Existing local support and provision is being mapped and there is potential grant money available for any gaps to be filled.

Care Leavers receive enhanced support from their Personal Assistants (PAs), they have been offered multiple vouchers for food and have been able to request further support regarding their utilities to avoid any risk of fuel poverty. Council tax payment is also waived. A savings policy has been drafted to ensure best practice is standard, with young people's increased knowledge of their savings, how to add to and access it.

### CORAM VOICE

In 2022, 33% of children in care on the Island, aged 4-18, responded to the 'Your Life, Your Care' survey, which provides children the opportunity to form a collective voice. The Bright Spot survey for children in care is made up of four well-being domains: relationships, resilience, rights, and recovery.

The local authority is then provided with a detailed report exploring their children and young people's responses. From these, statistical comparisons can be made against other local authorities, those of their peers in the general population and against previous results. Relationships with carers were highlighted as strong in the report, with 90% of children surveyed reporting that 'they always felt safe where they lived' – a higher percentage than peers in the general population.

Child's voice:

*"It is good. 100% great. My foster family is family"*

*"I just want to stay with my nanny and grandad. [My social worker] says I will be staying with them forever and that makes me happy"*

## SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS YOUNG PERSONS WORKGROUP

After the successful launch of the professionals and parent/carer safeguarding adolescents toolkits, 15 children from the IOW Youth Trust Taskforce met as a workgroup to provide feedback on agencies submissions. The young people involved valued the experience and provided some insightful comments and suggestions which are reflected in the resources being developed for our young people.

EXAMPLES OF HOW FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SOUGHT AND USED			
AGENCY	FEEDBACK SOUGHT:	CLIENTS SAID:	AGENCIES DID:
Barnardo's	Young people's experience of mental health services, including their feedback regarding the use of technology and the service model moving forwards	<p><i>"My whole life is on my phone"</i></p> <p><i>"The internet [google and/or social media] is often unhelpful. Having a dedicated space such as a private app reduces the risk of finding something triggering on the internet."</i></p> <p><i>"Contact from someone to check in and remind me to use "bridging the gap resources" e.g. self-help, helps"</i></p>	<p>Informed the service model written in a tender bid.</p> <p>An app developed by the Barnardo's innovation lab is being piloted across Barnardo's' young people mental health services as an aid/adjunct for therapy.</p> <p>'Safe wait protocol' updated to ensure all families on waiting lists have periodic contact to provide assurance, safety checks and signposting.</p>
Children's Social Care	<p>Bright Spots survey of children in care 2022</p> <p>Views of children and their families as part of the Children's Social Care annual participation action plan</p>	<p><i>"Coming into care was the best thing that ever happened to me. It's given me so many opportunities."</i></p> <p><i>"My foster family is family."</i></p> <p>Care leaver parents fed back that they would like to be able to access more social activities together.</p>	<p>Children's Social Care now run activities for care leaver parents with their children as part of 'Have your say' week. These feature fun activities children choose, for them, their families, workers, senior managers, and elected members. Families are asked what they feel is working and what can be done to improve practice.</p>
Hampshire & IOW Fire & Rescue Service	Feedback/evaluation of the experiences of the young people participating in the 12-week Prince's Trust Team programme	<i>"They always helped me immediately when I came to them with a problem. They're very attentive and always checked up on me afterwards. They're empathetic and overall, very good at their jobs."</i>	Enables us to review our practices regarding safeguarding young people who are on the Prince's Trust programme to ensure they are supported, listened to, kept informed and are safe.
Inclusion Isle of Wight	Care Opinion used to collect feedback on experiences within the service.	<p><i>"Thank you for all the work you have done with N and our family as a whole. You are the first professional he has ever opened up to"</i></p> <p><i>"Out of all the professionals that ever worked with my family you are the only one that has ever believed in L. That means a lot – thank you."</i></p>	<p>Regular review of individual practitioners' development plans.</p> <p>We organised a consultation event for families – feedback from this event is currently being reviewed</p>

EXAMPLES OF HOW FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SOUGHT AND USED			
AGENCY	FEEDBACK SOUGHT:	CLIENTS SAID:	AGENCIES DID:
IOW NHS Trust and Integrated Care Board	<p>Transformation workshops - young people's views are gathered on what health subjects are important to them</p> <p>Friends and Family Test – feedback from patients accessing their service</p> <p>Looked after Children's Service – feedback from the children and young people is sought via HYPE (Hearing Young People's Experience)</p>	<i>"The children in care nursing team are always approachable and supportive"</i>	Feedback is used to shape the service delivery and what areas need to be adapted to effectively meet the needs of the children.
IOW NHS Trust Mental Health and Learning Disability (MHL D)	Inpatient services work with the Carers IW team to ensure this captures the voice of the child/family wherever possible.	<i>"We just wanted to say a massive thank you to you for everything that you have done for us as a family. You got the ball rolling when it comes to professional intervention, without you I think we would still be stuck and struggling."</i>	We have increased our lived experience and peer support staff, all of whom have attended additional 'think family' training sessions. The team are working to ensure that we have representation at all levels of service development, and they work in partnership with third sector organisations to make sure that we reach across the demographics of young people on the Isle of Wight.
Youth Offending Team	Standard continuous feedback	<p><i>"YOT was good. It kept me out of trouble. (They) made me think of all the consequences of my behaviour."</i></p> <p><i>"I found that YOT helped me in numerous ways, by helping me stay out of trouble and making sessions interesting."</i></p>	Informs our service delivery plans
Public Health	<p>Engage with local communities through the Insight and Engagement team for specific pieces of work</p> <p>Public Health team, through Hampshire Health in Education and PEACH (Partnership for Educational Attainment and Children's Health) use data gathered from children and young people through school surveys to identify local needs.</p>	Engagement within the first 1,001 days report (still in development).	<p>Information is used in a wide variety of ways including to inform transformation plans, routine continual improvement of service delivery, identifying local needs and supporting bids.</p> <p>It also informs service planning and system thinking.</p>

## MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING DATA

Our Performance and Quality Assurance Group (PQA) consider a six-monthly report from data submitted by partner agencies. It highlights trends and questions for the Executive to consider and action. Two data reports were considered by the Executive during 2022/23 and the following points/questions posed:

QUESTIONS / MATTERS RAISED		RESPONSES
There is a significant increase in CAMHS' case load. Is the pandemic responsible for the increase in child mental health issues, how is CAMHS meeting the higher demand for services?	➔	The number of referrals is possibly due to the pandemic; the national picture also shows this trend. The complexity of the needs of children has risen, and children and young people are presenting with more severe mental health concerns, requiring more intensive intervention. In 2022 IOW CAMHS was given investment to expand the team, aiding their ability to assess young people in 4 weeks and treat within 18. The number of eating disorder referrals has also risen significantly over the last two years. CAMHS received additional funding for an eating disorder service, allowing them to recruit an additional nurse, family therapist and physical health nurse. Furthermore, a team has been set up who offer intensive support at home for children (and their families) who are suffering with an eating disorder. It is hoped this will reduce the need for Tier 4 inpatient admission beds.
The number of Early Help Plans open longer than 12 months has increased. Are waiting times for early help services being monitored?	➔	Parenting programmes through Barnardo's are often held half termly. Intensive Family Support (IFS) sessions have some operational issues as the allocated time for IFS was also being used as family time. This is being rectified and waiting times should reduce. This is being monitored. Currently there is a 4-6 week waiting time, target is for a 3-week waiting time.
Access to dental provision for looked after children continues to be a significant concern. Are there any addition plans in place to ensure looked after children are having dental checks within timescales?	➔	The DentAid bus (a mobile dental unit provided by DentAid – a charity that provide dental care and oral health advice) will not be returning to the Island however some dental practices on the Island are now offering dental appointments to Looked After Children.
For schools that do not have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place, how do we assure ourselves of attendance practice that relates to safeguarding?	➔	The EIS continue to monitor school attendance for schools without an SLA in place. From September 2023 there will be a statutory requirement for schools to share their attendance data with the local authority.
What percentage of children in care go missing?	➔	Data for November 2022 is 2.1% of children in care go missing against 4.3% in November 2021. The target is 4% of the cohort or less. Many episodes are because the child returned home late.
There was a significant number of Child In Need referrals in quarter 2022 (936) and 65 Early Help assessments stepped up to Children's Social Care. That leaves 871 referrals – are we confident early help is reaching the right families at the right time?	➔	CSC analysis found that of the 1,031 Child In Need referrals in quarter, 101 were step ups from early help and an additional 315 families were known to Early Help previously. It was noted this data should be seen in the context of the increase in demand - there had been a 39% increase in demand on MASH.
The number of adults assessed for mental health where there is a child/children in the household rose significantly between 2021-23	➔	The current data shows people with associated children – this may include children not living at the same address. Since providing this data, a clinical lead has been recruited to ensure a new electronic patient record system is set up to capture and report all risks including safeguarding risks.



## LOCAL AGENCY ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports were presented to the PQA group in 2022/23 to provide assurance about agency approaches to safeguarding children, and to further develop a shared understanding of services and how they operate. Examples of questions raised by the group and agency responses:

AGENCY	QUESTIONS / MATTERS RAISED		RESPONSES
<b>Private Fostering</b>	From July 2022, unaccompanied minors are permitted to apply for a visa and stay with an adult known to their family	➔	These situations will be considered as private fostering, so numbers are expected to increase. A campaign to raise awareness of private fostering is under way.
<b>LADO</b>	Why are there a high number of unsubstantiated referral outcomes?	➔	This is normal for allegations against people in positions of trust. Numbers are in line with Hampshire and other South-East Local Authorities.
<b>MAPPA</b>	The numbers of those subject to MAPPA continues to increase each year. How are police responding to this challenge?	➔	The Police MET team are undertaking more work around sexual harm prevention orders and non-convicted persons of interest and are recruiting in a regional capacity for an orders officer.
<b>Early Help</b>	What's being done to address the issue of child development being a presenting factor for early help?	➔	Barnardo's are commissioned to provide the school readiness programme and are working with Public Health to support parents to sign up.
	Is the cost-of-living crisis a factor in referrals?		It is a factor and Early Help work with the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide support.
<b>Education and Inclusion Service (EIS)</b>	Is the voice of the Electively Home Educated children captured?	➔	EIS try to capture this through feedback from parents. It is an area EIS wish to develop.
	Is there an increase in the number of Electively Home Educated children experiencing mental health issues?		A third of children coming off school roll were noted for reasons of emotional/physical health. There is a dedicated EHE School Nurse in place.
	Have any schools received GP fit notes for children?		There has been a large increase in this and EIS are working on this with CAMHS. The ICB have offered to support EIS team on this issue.
<b>Cafcass</b>	Is it possible to hear more of the voice of the child within the report for the IOWSCP?	➔	Cafcass has limited interaction with children, so this is difficult to capture locally, however they have a national team who gather the voice of the child, and this steers their direction
<b>Beaulieu House (children's residential and respite service)</b>	How do you plan for recruitment so the workforce can return to full capacity?	➔	A recruitment drive is planned for spring for the remaining positions. The induction process has changed to encourage and develop new staff.

## LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS (LCSPR) AND LOCAL LEARNING EVENTS

The Learning and Inquiry Group (LIG) considers serious safeguarding cases referred to determine whether a local child safeguarding practice review (LCSPR) is appropriate and proportionate. Where the criteria for a LCSPR are not met, but the LIG agrees there is multi-agency learning, a multi-agency local learning event may be undertaken, led by members of the LIG.

### Serious safeguarding cases are those in which:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and
- The child has been seriously harmed or died

The Group also discuss and share local learning from single agency reviews and other LSCP and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

The purpose of any case review conducted by the IOWSCP, or nationally, is to identify learning and whether improvements to safeguarding practice are necessary, through a better understanding of what happened and why things happened as they did.

During 2022/23 LIG received two referrals for consideration and members agreed that the referrals did not meet the criteria for a child safeguarding practice review and a local learning event was not required.

Following completion of a local learning event and subsequent report in 2021, two workshops were held with practitioners to share the learning in this reporting period.

These included:

- ➔ The importance of listening to children and gathering their views, including relaying explanations to a child about their expectations and wishes.
- ➔ Understanding that the child's voice goes beyond what they actually say and includes other aspects of their presentation such as their behaviour, body language, observation of the child and their interaction with others.
- ➔ Understanding the child's experience from their point of view.
- ➔ The importance of understanding the fundamental difference between signposting and referring for services. Signposting should not be relied on when working with families with vulnerabilities and in particular if it is known there is a history of poor engagement with services.
- ➔ When a practitioner refers to another service, the referring practitioner

should be informed if the service is not taken up. This can be followed up with the family.

- ➔ Child/adolescent to parent/carer violence and abuse (CAPVA) is where a child/adolescent is physically aggressive, emotionally abusive, or controls a parent/carer through coercion. There are a range of services on the Island that can support:
  - IOW Youth Offending Team "Who's in Charge" CAPVA course for parents, also delivered by Barnardo's
  - IOW Youth Offending Team Youth Crime Prevention service and Parenting Officer
  - Recovery Toolkit Programme - where behaviour is a response to trauma
  - Referral to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (for over 16s) if they are perpetrating violence to parents/adults
  - Hampton Trust Independent Domestic Violence Advisors can support parents
  - Paragon – Support for children and adult victims/survivors
  - MASH referral can be made and access to the Resilience Around the Family (RAFT) team for support

## EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOPS

All participants strongly agreed or agreed they understood how to apply what they have learned in their day-to-day work.

Participants identified changes to their practice as a result of the workshop and this included:

- Focusing more on the child's voice not just being verbal communication
- Make sure staff are fully aware of CAPVA
- Making sure all staff members have a good understanding of the difference between sign posting and referring
- Making sure that any referrals that are made are followed up
- Ensuring every aspect of the child is captured in 'child's voice' whether verbally or non-verbally
- A greater understanding in CAPVA and how to support and signpost
- "The information and training from this workshop will influence how I proceed with a child and family I am working with"

## RESEARCH, REGIONAL/NATIONAL REPORTS AND NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

HIPS managers share learning from their case reviews to support identification and response to common or emerging themes, with opportunities to maximise learning across the region.

The IOWSCP team ensure that national reviews are shared across the partnership. In 2022/2023 this included the Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star Hobson review. This was considered at Executive, Partnership and LIG level.

Phase one of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review panel's review regarding children with disabilities and complex needs identified three urgent actions for the Directors of Children's Services (DCS) to co-ordinate the response to. The DCS for the IOW expanded the scope of the request to include a number of children with disabilities and complex needs and reported to the IOW Executive and Board the findings from the urgent actions undertaken. No serious or significant concerns were identified for any of the children reviewed.

The national panel have published papers in respect of the management of bruising in non-mobile infants and multi-agency safeguarding and domestic abuse. Both papers have been shared with the Board and considered within both the Learning and Inquiry Group and the Performance and Quality Assurance Group.

## MULTI-AGENCY CASE FILE AUDITS

Thematic multi-agency case file audits are undertaken by the PQA group as part of the IOWSCP's scrutiny and quality assurance work. They are led by a multi-agency panel, chaired by a Service Lead and practitioners involved in the cases participate in an open reflection of the work undertaken, arriving at agreed strengths and areas for further development in practice.

In 2022/23, 3 of the 4 scheduled case file audits went ahead, but due to winter pressures, the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) dry run in Q4 was postponed to Q1 23-24.

### CASE FILE AUDIT 1

#### Vulnerable Children Missing Education for Medical Reasons or Illness

★ 10 cases audited, with 33 staff attending

Purpose: Provide information on how well schools and partner agencies are recognising and responding to children with illness or medical needs that impact on their ability to access education.

### Key strengths:

- ✓ Some schools reacted swiftly and creatively to keep children and families engaged and maintained regular contact through a key person
- ✓ Young Carer referrals made when appropriate
- ✓ There were examples of excellent multi-agency working and information sharing
- ✓ Some schools challenged parents regarding their children's attendance and the drive to keep education in place for the child was strong
- ✓ CAMHS demonstrated trauma informed practice in working flexibly with children in their homes

### Key development opportunities to strengthen practice:

- ➔ The Local Authority "Policy for access to education for school age children and young people with medical needs" is not being used fully by schools and needs revision, together with clear referral and assessment forms to prompt schools through the process
- ➔ School Nurses involvement at the earliest opportunity in completing Health Needs Assessments to inform planning. These should cover physical and mental health
- ➔ The voice of the child needs to be captured and recorded to inform interventions
- ➔ Consideration should be given to the completion at an earlier stage of Early Help Assessments
- ➔ There needs to be full and thorough information sharing between agencies with regards to cases so that schools are clear about the adaptations needed to ensure access to education
- ➔ Professional's meetings should be utilised where there is a need to share information about a case and decide how best to engage families in getting their children back to school
- ➔ There is a need to explore wider issues that may be contributing to the child's absences as well as the medical issues, such as domestic abuse, neglect, adult mental health needs, adults living in the home, and fathers not living in the home and how they might support the child



**CASE FILE AUDIT 2****Cases referred to the Children's Reception Team (CRT) / Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for Neglect**

- ★ 6 cases were audited by a panel of 9 professionals

Purpose: Examine current practice with regards to cases referred to CRT / MASH where neglect was the presenting issue and examine their journey from the point of referral to CRT MASH, through assessment, and decision-making processes, to the actions taken and the outcomes reached by the multi-agency partnership.

In addition, a frontline staff survey was conducted, and the results analysed to inform the audit.

Key strengths (in all cases):

- ✓ The referrals contained clear and detailed reasons for the referral
- ✓ There was good management oversight
- ✓ The threshold applied to the cases was consistent and appropriate
- ✓ The case outcomes were reached within agreed timescales

Key development opportunities to strengthen practice:

- ➔ MASH staff had not consistently used the Neglect Strategy or toolkit to assist with their assessments in each case. 19 of the 63 staff survey responders indicated that they had used the Strategy, toolkit or Thresholds Document in their referrals
- ➔ Police information was sought in 1 of the 6 cases. In 3 of the other 5 cases, Police information should have been requested and might have influenced outcomes
- ➔ In 6 cases there was no description by referrers of the level of concern and outcomes being sought. Further training may be required to encourage this level of analysis
- ➔ Checks for parent/carer health records remains an issue, since they are not readily available and in one case child health checks were made and returned but not reflected on the Integrated Care System
- ➔ Of the 6 cases audited, 1 referrer received referrer feedback from CRT MASH, 1 from CAST (Children's Assessment Safeguarding Team) and 2 didn't receive feedback from either teams. NB: feedback is not provided for Public or Police referrals.

- ➔ Results of the staff survey showed that regarding referral feedback from CRT MASH or CAST, 6 people said they always received feedback, 70 said they sometimes received feedback, and 46 said they never received referrer feedback

**CASE FILE AUDIT 3****Unborn/New-born Baby Safeguarding Protocol**

- ★ 10 cases were audited, with 22 staff attending

Purpose: To provide information on current practice, including recognition and responses to safeguarding concerns about unborn/new-born babies.

Key strengths:

Referral to CRT/ MASH:

- ✓ In 90% of cases the referrals for services for the unborn/new-born baby were clear and timely.
- ✓ In 90% of cases the referrals considered SCP protocols and procedures, notably the Unborn/New-born Baby Safeguarding Protocol.
- ✓ In 70% of cases referrer feedback was provided (or not required).

Assessment:

- ✓ In all cases the recording in assessments was clear and concise and in 90% of cases the concerns for the unborn/new-born baby were fully described.
- ✓ Multi-agency information, full history of the case, overview of key events, concerns recorded and used to inform decisions, was apparent in 80% of the cases.
- ✓ In most cases, the assessments demonstrated analysis of the needs of the baby, risk factors, short and longer-term impact of risks and the likelihood of change within the family.
- ✓ Views of parents/carers/key professionals and the voice of the unborn/new-born baby were captured in 70% of the assessments.
- ✓ In all relevant cases, assessments considered risks to the unborn/new-born baby where child protection concerns were identified for older siblings
- ✓ In 90% of cases the assessment was completed in a timely way to ensure effective pre-birth planning

Planning:

- ✓ The majority of plans in place identified the nature, source and severity of the risk to the unborn/new-born baby and family members.

- ✓ 80% of the plans were clear and concise, with clear objectives that were focused on the unborn/new-born baby
- ✓ Where a discharge planning meeting was required, this had happened in all cases
- ✓ In all cases, interventions and services were appropriate
- ✓ In 7/9 cases there was evidence of partner engagement in the planned work.
- ✓ Continuity of key worker was an area of strength, and particularly evident from Midwifery and Health Visiting

#### Review:

- ✓ Where plans were reviewed, the perspective/voice of the unborn/new-born baby and parents and carers were actively sought and recorded

*Across the three areas of assessment, planning and review, the panel noted 6/10 positive examples of the inclusion of the father's history in determining strengths, needs and risks.*

#### Challenge and Management Oversight:

- ✓ There was evidence of safeguarding supervision and case management decisions being recorded in the majority of cases and is noted as an area of strength for Children's Social Care
- ✓ There was evidence of professional challenge and escalation where required
- ✓ In all cases, it was agreed that the unborn/new-born baby's needs had been met and they were currently safe

#### Further Strengths:

- ✓ Regular Psycho/Social meetings between midwifery, maternity, health visiting and substance misuse midwife held
- ✓ Professional's persistence and flexibility in engaging parents in support from agencies
- ✓ Positive examples of effective multi-agency working, including professional meetings and effective information sharing using the Child and Family Assessment
- ✓ In 70% of cases information regarding ICON and safer sleep had been shared with the parent(s)

#### Key development opportunities to strengthen practice:

- ➔ Information sharing at the point of referral AND at subsequent meetings.

- ➔ A multi-agency Pre and Post-birth Safeguarding Plan for Vulnerable Babies template should be completed by 34 weeks or at the earliest opportunity for all unborn babies
- ➔ Planning - The protocol highlights the responsibilities for distribution of the plan and provides a template for this including details of all professionals involved
- ➔ Challenge and management oversight - Supervision was noted as an area for assurance for some health services, including Maternity and the 0-19 service
- ➔ Missed opportunities - While missed opportunities were noted in 4/6 cases, these ranged from more intensive work being undertaken perinatally which was impacted by engagement of the parent, to lack of robust evidence of meetings taking place, and the history of parents being fully considered in the assessment and plan



## SECTION 11 AUDIT

Following discussions with partners, and in recognition of the pressures on agencies over the winter period, the timing of the Section 11 Keeping Children Safe organisational self-assessment was moved on a permanent basis to quarter 1 of each financial year (April-June). This change was intended as a supportive measure to facilitate engagement in the self-assessment process. This will take place in quarter 1 2023-24.

The safeguarding partners were aware this would leave a short gap in assurance during the transition to the new time frame. Therefore, agencies were asked to raise by exception any issues relating to the Section 11 standards they would want the IOWSCP safeguarding partners to be sighted on, including any issues associated with their workforce, emerging safeguarding risks and any mitigation.

## SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION AUDIT

Under section 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002, all schools are required to carry out an annual self-assessment audit to review their safeguarding arrangements for children. In 2022, 100% of IOW schools and colleges completed a self-assessment. The results of the completed tools were analysed, and a report produced with comparative data, for consideration by partners.

The self-assessment tool is updated annually in-line with legislation: [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) and [EYFS guidance](#).

RECOMMENDATION	OUTCOME
Work on expectations about challenging and reporting prejudicial language and behaviour (PLAB) into processes and school policies is needed.	The IOW Headteachers Inclusion and Belonging steering group meet regularly. Feedback from schools that have used the PLAB toolkit say that it has informed their practice going forward and they would like this to be promoted again at the district heads meeting. The IOW PLAB conference (30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023) will provide an opportunity to do this. The Equality and Rights Advocates (EARA) group meet termly, and the children and young people have been very active in sharing the work they have been doing in schools to challenge prejudice and discrimination. There are currently 7 secondary schools and 12 primary schools across the Island involved in the initiative.
Schools have requested more awareness around child-on-child abuse.	HMI (His Majesty’s Inspectors) have been invited to speak at the Headteachers forum in June 2023. Clarification on guidance around child-on-child abuse has been an agenda item in the Education subgroup and child-on-child abuse will be an agenda item at the HSCP/
IOWSCP raise awareness around the toolkits that are available to support schools.	There will be a joint HSCP and IOWSCP online Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Conference and bespoke IOW DSL half-day conference in June 2023. The focus of the IOW session will be around using the toolkits to support practice.

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Progress on individual school action plans from 2021 were reviewed as part of the 2022 self-assessment process. In the Autumn term, members of the Education subgroup undertook school verification visits to ensure that the process remains ‘fit for purpose’.

Key Data:

- Section 1 – Safeguarding information for all staff

96% of schools self-assessed areas in this section as being fully in place and 4% partly in place, with the later having development plans in place to address this.

- Section 2 – The Management of Safeguarding through School leadership (including recruitment and selection)

97% of schools self-assessed areas in this section as being fully in place, 3% partly in place and 1% not in place. 100% of schools had Safe Recruitment and Selection in place.

- Section 3 – Local arrangements

80% of schools self-assessed areas in this section as being fully in place, 16%

partly in place and 4% not in place. The Local Authority staff development agenda changed, and as such, schools were given access to the allegation managements e-learning, the school being aware of the IOW and HIPS strategies and online toolkits and identifying which toolkits and strategies are used in practice. Schools and colleges identified that 52% of areas within these sections are fully in place, down from 60% last year. By the end of 2022-23 financial year, the Managing Allegations and Working with the LADO e-learning has been completed by 192 users under the schools and early years organisation framework.

- Section 4 – Prejudicial language and behaviour

40% had this fully in place and 49% partly in place compared to 22% fully in place and 58% partly in place in 2021.

Overall, 93% of the areas were fully in place, 6% were partly in place and 1% was not in place. Schools where it was not in place had extensive action plans to address this.

## WORKFORCE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The joint Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and IOWSCP Workforce Development subgroup (WFD) is well established and there is synergy between the two workforce development agendas in terms of pooled budgets for areas of joint interest as well as separate courses that are relevant for the individual Board / Partnership. A cyclical process is in place for ensuring training meets the needs of the workforce.

Learning Needs Analysis is undertaken annually, with feedback from a staff survey of workforce development needs considered alongside course evaluations, attendance numbers and observations of learning delivered. Learning needs are also identified through the Partnerships' scrutiny and assurance programmes and learning reviews. Learning and development is delivered face-to-face, online or in an e-learning / briefing format. Some IOWSCP learning and development is shared with HSCP and HIPS.



A comprehensive list of 18 courses were offered during 2022/23, with 736 attendees from a wide range of agencies.

Data from the 2022/23 programme of learning and development showed that:

- ★ 99% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that training met its learning outcomes.
- ★ 99% of attendees strongly agreed or agreed, that they understood how to apply the learning in their day-to-day role

- ★ 91% of all attendees felt the style of delivery enhanced their experience of the event

Attendee evaluation included actions they intended to take in their workplace as a result of the learning. A selection is included below:

*"Very informative and extremely useful for working in my role"*

*"The course gave me a really good overview of the CRT/MASH team and the roles of the workers. The trainer was really knowledgeable and took the time to allow questions and to check the knowledge of the group. The interactive elements were good and really got me thinking about the workload and number of contacts/ referrals that the team receive"*

*"I thought the course was really well presented and the staff were amazing at delivering it"*

*"The two-day safeguarding course was most informative. The trainer was very knowledgeable, approachable and I am able to use a lot of the training to inform my day-to-day practice"*

*"Felt it was clear, conducive and helpful. Good engagement levels were held with the breakout activities and the information was delivered to a manageable level to learn from"*

*"I have a better understanding on forms of abuse and how to record safeguarding concerns and when to recognise there is a problem"*

*"The importance of multi-agency working. Having the confidence to challenge behaviour/actions. Sharing knowledge of safeguarding with peers"*

*"To not let my own opinions cloud my judgements. To be aware that there may be a bigger picture rather than just the information in front of me"*

*"Ensure that safeguarding forms part of the agenda for staff supervision - ensure that relevant questions re safeguarding are asked during caseload reviews. Ensure that learning from serious case reviews is regularly cascaded to staff"*

*"Focusing more on the child's voice not just being verbal communication"*

*"Providing clear resources to support practitioners with signposting parents and carers to a range of services for support and ensuring staff are aware of services available to provide early help and support for families before it reaches a referral stage. Ensuring staff are aware and understand the significance of a child's voice even for babies and children who may not have the vocabulary yet to fully communicate their needs"*

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023-24

This year, in light of the national child safeguarding practice review report of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, the Government consultation “Stable Homes Built on Love” and the anticipated changes from an updated ‘Working Together’, partners agreed strategic priorities for one year.

## PRIORITY 1: ASSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-AGENCY HIPS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA) STRATEGY AND TOOLKIT

1. Key performance indicators identified and reported (both HIPS/LSCP level)
2. Local delivery plan is in place identifying actions for the local area
3. Thematic audit of child sexual abuse quarter 4 2023/24
4. Multi-agency learning and development is in place

## PRIORITY 2: IDENTIFY, UNDERSTAND, AND RESPOND TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITH DISRUPTED ATTENDANCE

1. Undertake a thematic audit of vulnerable children, where there are features of disrupted attendance
2. Consider compliance with DfE guidance: Working together to improve school attendance / mental health issues affecting a pupil’s attendance
3. Develop a resource to identify and respond to “educational neglect”
4. Develop learning and development opportunities – multi-agency roles and responsibilities in supporting attendance

## PRIORITY 3: PROMOTING AND EMBEDDING THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

1. Establish a Comms and Development Group (joint with HSCP where possible)
2. Develop an IOW comms plan
3. Engage with the wider community organisations/voluntary sector to promote effective safeguarding of children and young people
4. Update and improve toolkits
5. Organising multi-agency staff surveys to understand workforce knowledge and confidence



# RELEVANT AGENCIES

- Adult Mental Health Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Child And Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCAS)
- Early Years Settings
- Education establishments (primary, secondary, independent, post-16 years provisions, special schools, pupil referral units)
- Faith Groups
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
- Healthcare providers (including those represented through membership of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Board (ICB))
- Housing Providers
- Inclusion IOW
- Isle of Wight Coroner's Office
- Isle of Wight Primary Care providers
- Isle of Wight Council, Adults Social Care (ASC)
- Isle of Wight Council, Childrens Social Care (CSC)
- Isle of Wight Council, Education and Inclusion
- Isle of Wight Council, Housing
- Isle of Wight Council, Public Health
- Isle of Wight Council, Regulatory Services
- Isle of Wight NHS Trust
- Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team (YOT)
- Language Schools
- Love 146
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- NHS England/Improvement
- Paragon
- Perinatal Mental Health, Southern Health
- Solent NHS Trust
- Sporting Organisations, via the Hampshire and Isle of Wight County Sports Partnership (Energie Me). This includes national sporting bodies who have branches operating on the IOW such as the Football Agency (FA)
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Voluntary Sector Organisations



# GLOSSARY

APPG — All-Party Parliamentary Group

C&F — Children and Families

CAFCASS — Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

CAMHS — Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

CAPVA — Child/Adolescent to parent/carer violence and abuse

CAST — Children’s Assessment Safeguarding Team

CBT— Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

CCE — Child Criminal Exploitation

CCP — Child-Centred Policing

CDOP — Child Death Overview Panel

CERAF — Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework

CIN — Children In Need

CME — Child Missing from Education

CP — Child Protection

CPP — Child Protection Plan

CPB—Corporate Parenting Board

CRT — Children’s Reception Team

CSA — Child Sexual Abuse

CSC — Children’s Social Care

CSE — Child Sexual Exploitation

CYP — Children and Young People

DCS — Directors of Children’s Services

DSL — Designated Safeguarding Lead

DWP — Department for Work and Pensions

EARA — Equality and Rights Advocates

EIS — Education and Inclusion Service

EHE — Electively Home Educated

HCC — Hampshire County Council

HIOW— Hampshire and Isle of Wight

HIPS — Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnerships

HIOWFRS — Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service

HMI — Her Majesty’s Inspectors

HRDA — High Risk Domestic Abuse

HSCP — Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

HYPE — Hearing Young People’s Experiences

IARF — Inter-Agency Referral Form

ICB — Integrated Care Board





ICON — Infant crying is normal, Comforting methods can help, It's okay to walk away, Never, ever shake a baby  
ICPC — Initial Child Protection Conference  
ICS — Integrated Care System  
IFS — Intensive Family Support  
IOW — Isle of Wight  
IOWSCP — Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership  
IWC — Isle of Wight Council  
JSG — Joint Safeguarding Group  
JTAI — Joint Targeted Area Inspection  
LAC — Looked After Child  
LADO — Local Authority Designated Officer  
LCSPR — Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review  
LIG — Learning Inquiry Group  
LSCP — Local Safeguarding Children Partnership  
MAPPA — Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements  
MARAC— Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
MASH — Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub  
MET — Missing, Exploited and Trafficked  
METRAC — Missing, Exploited, Trafficked Risk Assessment Conference  
MHLD — Mental Health & Learning Disabilities  
NAI—Non-Accidental Injuries  
NRM — National Referral Mechanism  
OHID — Office for Health Improvement and Disparities  
OPCC — Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner  
PA — Personal Assistants  
PCSO — Police Community Support Officer  
PLAB — Prejudicial Language and Behaviour  
PPN — Public Protection Notice  
PQA — Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup  
RAFT – Resilience Around Family Team  
RSE — Relationships and Sex Education  
SAB — Safeguarding Adults Board  
SCP — Safeguarding Children Partnership  
SLA — Service Level Agreement

TAF — Team Around the Family  
VRU — Violence Reduction Unit  
WFD — Workforce Development Subgroup  
YOT — Youth Offending Team





Purpose: For Information

## Agenda Item Introduction

Committee **POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

Date **7 DECEMBER 2023**

Topic **CHILDREN IN CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

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### 1. Background

1.1 Here, set out the narrative setting out the local or national factual and policy context and may remind Members of previous relevant decisions which have been taken.

### 2. Focus for Scrutiny

2.1 What successes have happened within the last year?

2.2 What challenges have been faced in the last year and what are the lessons learned?

2.3 What improvements have been identified and what are the timelines for improvements or actions?

2.4 How can the committee support moving forward?

### 3. Approach

3.1 A report to be provided.

### 4. Document(s) Attached

4.1 Appendix 1: Children in Care Annual Report 2022-23

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Purpose: For Information

# Scrutiny Report

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Topic	<b>CHILDREN IN CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23</b>
Report of:	<b>SERVICE MANAGER (ACTING) OF CHILDREN IN CARE</b>

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## **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the achievements, progress and challenges of the services provided by the Isle of Wight Children's Services to children in the care of the Isle of Wight Council. This report will focus on the work of the statutory social work teams.

## **Recommendation(s)**

2. The priority areas for Children's Services, Children in Care are supported by the council. These are :
  - Strengthen the voice of the Looked After Child and impact on service delivery.
  - Promote the effectiveness and efficiency of the health assessment process and service so that it meets the physical and mental health needs of Looked After Children (including dental and immunisations).
  - Improve the educational outcomes of Looked After Children and effectiveness of the process and service.
  - Improve placement stability and increase placement choice for Looked After Children.
  - Looked After Children will be safeguarded from harm including, all aspects of exploitation.
  - Increase opportunities for Looked After Children to safely live outside of the care system through SGO assessments and reunification where appropriate.
  - Ensure the needs of all UASC are understood and met through new service delivery.
  - Improve the training for all SW's for Looked After Children resulting in measurable impact.

## **Executive Summary**

3. Children in the care of the Local Authority are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. It is vital that the care we provide to children in care is of the highest standard and that everyone involved in supporting and providing that care is aspirational for all our children.
4. This report aims to assure that the Isle of Wight's children in care are well supported, and the needs of our children are known, and plans are reflective of the need to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.
5. The report will provide the characteristics of the Isle of Wight's children in care, the age and length of time in care, where children are currently living, the number of children in foster care, residential homes or other settings, the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and placement stability.
6. The report will also provide information about social worker caseloads to reassure that these are manageable and social workers are able to dedicate sufficient time to children, regardless of their needs.
7. The report will provide information on children who go missing to evidence how we are safeguarding them from harm and risk of exploitation. It will also provide information on the population of UASC who are being looked after by the Isle of Wight and how their needs are being met.
8. The report will detail how children and young people are able to express their views, wishes and feelings and how Children's Services know this. It also includes the work to improve how we are planning to strengthen and show the impact of the voice of the child on service delivery through the Corporate Parenting Board.
9. The report will outline the key areas of focus over the next twelve months.

## **Who are our "Children in Care"?**

10. Children in the care of the Local Authority is any child / young person between the age of 0 -18 years that have been in the care of the Local Authority for more than 24 hours. This generally means any child or young person that has been unable to remain living at home and there is a need to be looked after by foster carers, in residential homes or other relatives, this sometimes includes children living with their parents.
11. Children can become looked after because of a voluntary agreement by their parents, or because of a Care Order made by a Court.
12. Young people between the ages of 16-18 years old can provide their own consent to come into care and do not require the agreement from those with parental responsibility.
13. A continued significant priority for Children's Services to improve the quality of care that is provided, and crucially, that it is the right children, in care at the right time. This is reflective of the changing needs of children and their families and in recognition to the importance of family life and living at home being the right place for children and young people, if it is safe.

## Isle of Wight Demographic

14. Population 141,606
  15. 28% older than 65 (18% nationally)
  16. 14.6% under 15 (18.1% nationally)
  17. 97.3% White British
  18. 14,000 lone parent households
  19. 1 in 5 in children live in poverty
  20. Common pressures – council budgets, partner budgets, recruitment (SE profile)
  21. Partnership with HCC Children's Services ending on the 31 January 2024
  22. Coastal rural community with limited public transport and additional costs of Solent travel by ferry
  23. Low wage economy-seasonal
  24. Small Unitary Council – scales of economy
  25. Demographic profile-demand in adult social care
  26. Island Levy-impact on partner agencies
  27. Deprivation
28. All the above is relevant when we consider the care we provide our children in care and this has also reflected on the priority areas for children in care.

## The Virtual School

29. The Virtual School is responsible for improving educational outcomes for children who are looked after. The Virtual School was set up to monitor the progress and attainment of looked after children and provide support and challenge to the schools they attend.
30. The Virtual School team champions the educational needs of children in care on the Isle of Wight (and for children placed in other local authorities by the Isle of Wight Council). They work with other key services (admissions, education welfare and SEN) to prioritise the needs of looked after children to ensure there is minimal delay to appropriate education provision. The Virtual School Head oversees the pupil premium grant money and monitors how it is spent. The virtual school team will collaborate with schools to maximise the impact the pupil premium money has on improving educational outcomes.
31. The Virtual School support schools to identify needs and implement support to ensure children are safe, secure, and able to learn, allowing them to make good progress. Each looked after child should have a high-quality personal education plan in place that details their needs and how they will be supported to achieve the best outcomes possible.

## Data for Children in Care

32. As of March 2023, the Isle of Wight had 295 of its children in care, this being 1.2% of the Isle of Wight 0-17 population. The following table shows the gradual increase in numbers over the last 12-month period.

Date	CLA
30/04/2022	275
31/05/2022	280
30/06/2022	283
31/07/2022	279
31/08/2022	285
30/09/2022	288
31/10/2022	288
30/11/2022	293
31/12/2022	297
31/01/2023	295
28/02/2023	295
31/03/2023	295

33. The number of CLA has continued to increase over the last 12 months despite ongoing transformation programmes to keep more children safely at home and in the community, which has slowed the increase of children coming into care. As well as this, the work to reunify children home when safe and appropriate remains a constant focus to ensure that only the right children are in public care.
34. There has been a significant increase in UASC for the Isle of Wight from 12 in March 2021 to 23 in March 2023.
35. The age, gender, and time of placement for children in care:

Sum of Clients		Latest type of main placement													
Gender	Age Group	Family centre	Foster (CSD)	Foster (IFA)	Foster (rel or friend)	Indep living	NHS / Health Trust	Placed for Adopn.	Res home (IOW) childn	Res home (NCP) childn	Res home other	Secure unit	With parents	YOI or prison	Grand Total
Female	< 1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2
	1 - 4	2	1	2	4	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	6	.	17
	5 - 9	.	13	3	5	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	10	.	32
	10 - 15	.	14	13	16	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	6	.	56
	16 - 17	.	3	1	4	.	1	.	.	6	7	1	5	.	28
	18+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Female Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>136</b>
Male	< 1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
	1 - 4	.	6	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	15
	5 - 9	.	8	8	8	.	.	1	2	4	.	.	7	.	38
	10 - 15	.	17	11	11	.	.	.	6	5	.	.	8	1	59
	16 - 17	.	5	15	5	2	.	.	0	7	6	.	3	.	43
	18+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Male Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>295</b>

36. The above reflects where children and young people are currently placed and this shows our greatest proportion of children in care are between the ages of 10-15 years old, with significantly more males than females in care.
37. With regards to the main placement, it is positive to note that more children in care are placed with foster carers, and an increasing number being placed with Isle of

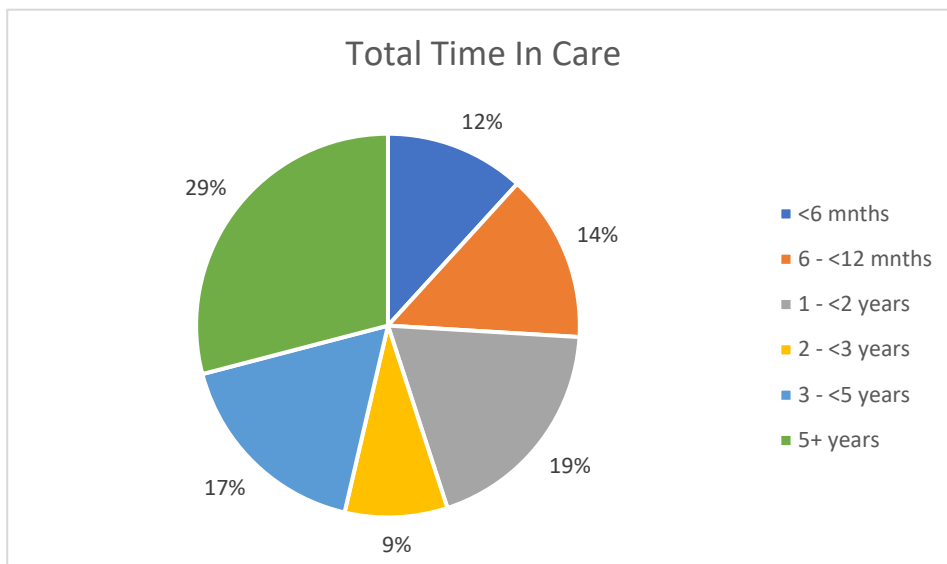


Wight carers, 69, which is reflective of the work to increase the number of in-house foster carers. There is also an increase in the number of children who are 16 and 17 years old over the last 2 years that live in supported accommodation, which is reflective of the work to promote their independence and transition to adulthood.

38. What is also significant to note, is the number of children placed with parents, the data reflects there were 51 children which means they are children subject to a Court Order but in their parents' care.
39. It is also of interest to note that there is an increasing number of children, (56) who are placed with family members or friends who have been approved as Connected Carers. All of these children are identified by Children's Services in our work to reduce this number of children in care but can continue to be supported under an alternative legal order such as a Special Guardianship Order.

### How Long Are Children In Care?

Time in care	Grand Total
<6 mnths	34
6 - <12 mnths	41
1 - <2 years	55
2 - <3 years	25
3 - <5 years	50
5+ years	84
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>289</b>

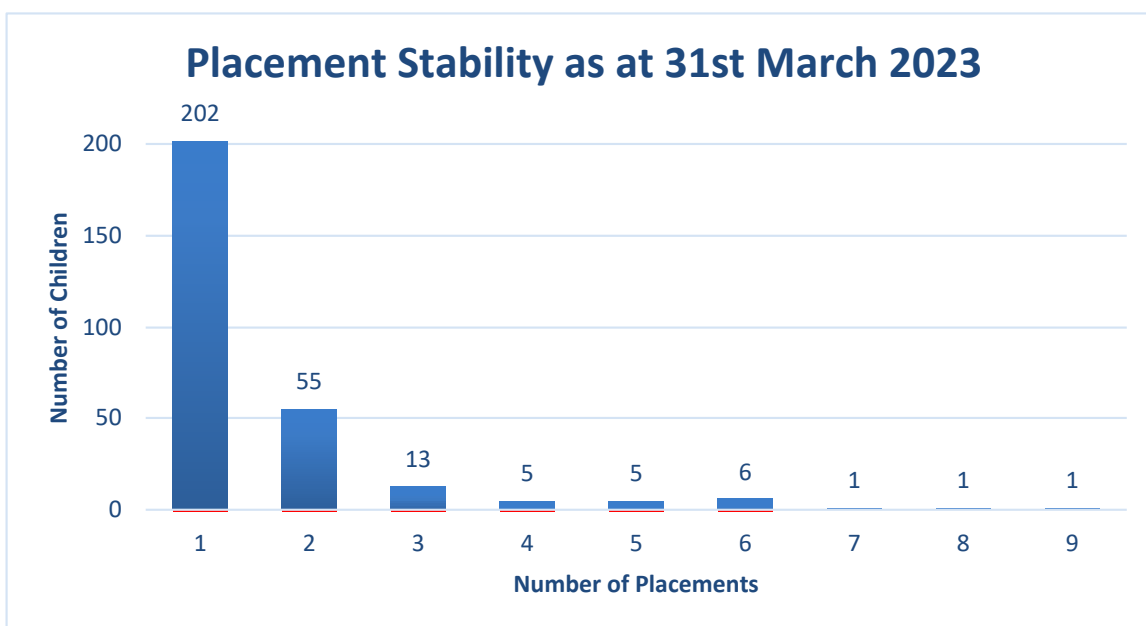


40. The data shows that most children are in care for over five years, with 29% of children being in this age bracket. The least number of children are in care are between 2-3 years at 9%.
41. This data cannot be taken in isolation, it serves to provide high level information and trends may change over time with the changes to practice meaning children are only in care for as long as needed. This is to be expected as matters placed before the Court should be concluded within 26 weeks, by which time a long-term plan will be

identified which could be for return home, to wider family under alternative orders, or a plan for adoption.

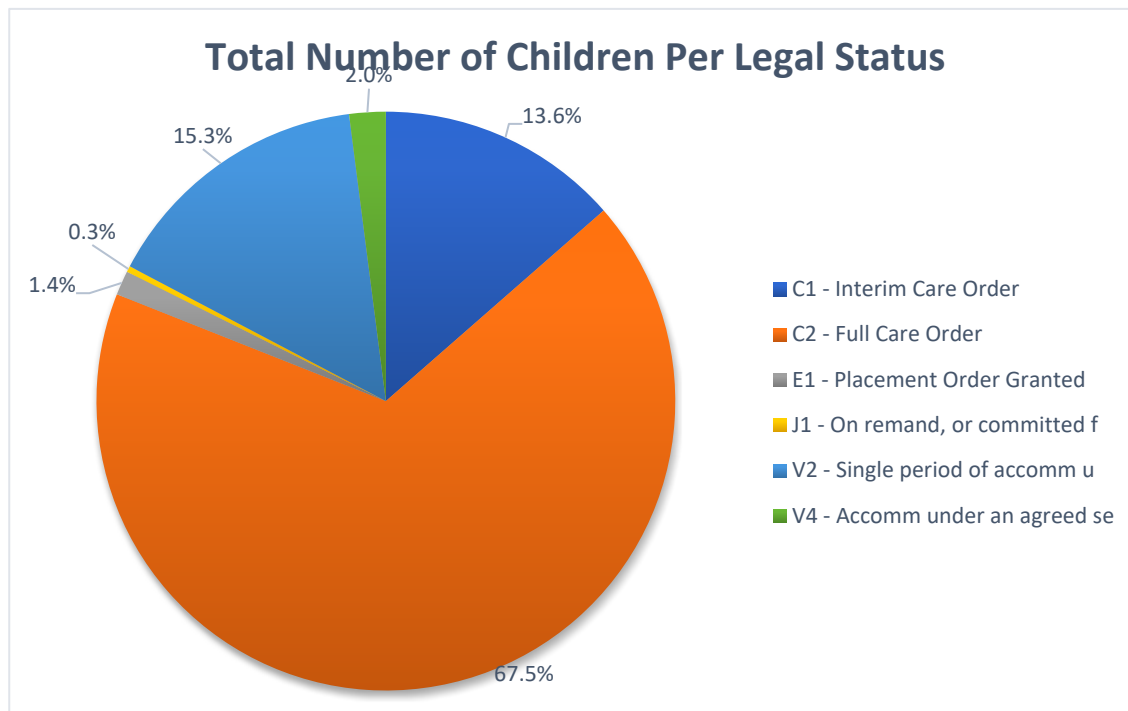
## Placement Stability

42. The below chart reflects the stability of children in care over the last 12 months. Positively most children remain in the same placement, 202 children, an additional 55 only having one move. A smaller number of children, 11 having had over 5+ placement moves over the year.
43. Placement moves can be for positive reasons, that children are returned to family, that children are able to transition from residential care to foster care. Equally it can mean that children's needs are not being best met in the current placement and there is a need to move. The important factor is that we know the reasons for the move.
44. An example of a child's journey where changes of placements are for a positive outcome could be a baby living in foster carer when the matter is placed before the Court and the conclusion of Care Proceedings is that the child's needs will be best met via adoption. The child then moves to the adoptive placement but initially remains a Child Looked After. Another example is a child initially being placed in a foster placement but after a period of two years being able to be reunified back to a parent. Both of these examples would mean that the child's care journey consisted of two placements.
45. Over the last twelve months the Isle of Wight fostering panel have approved:
- 11 connected carers bringing the total to 36 connected carers with a further 4 currently under assessment.
  - 10 new general foster carers bringing the total to 42 general carers
  - 1 supported lodgings carer
46. The Isle of Wight is involved in improving the fostering service under the Modernising Placements programme which will result in all enquiries being dealt within the consortium of local authorities, this should allow for a more centralised recruitment campaign and increase the number of foster carers on the Isle of Wight.



## Legal Status of Children in Care

47. The legal status of a child in care is important, it specifies who has legal parental responsibility for a child in care enabling decisions to be made. In respect of children who are in care under S20 of the Children Act 1989, the responsibility rests solely with the parent and when a Care Order exists, this responsibility is shared between parents and the Local Authority. All children who are in care, but living with a parent, will be subject to an Interim or Full Care Order.



48. The children who are looked after under a full or interim care order make up the greatest number, which is to be expected.

## Ethnicity of Children in Care – excluding UASC

49. This data has not altered significantly in the last 2 years with the majority of the Isle of Wight's children in care being White British, 93%.

Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
Black / Black British	1	0.4%
Any other Mixed Background	2	0.7%
Mixed White and Black	3	1.1%
White - Any Other	10	3.7%
White British	254	93.4%
White Irish	2	0.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## UASC – Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

50. The Isle of Wight currently have 23 UASC under the age of 18 years and currently in care. There has been a significant increase in UASC in IoW over the last few years, rising from 5 in 2020/1 to 10 in 2021/2 and as of 31 March 2023 now sits at 23. They

now make up 4.1% of IoW's looked after population. UASC are supported in specialist foster placements or in supported accommodation.

51. The majority of these continue to be 16 – 17 years old and from Afghanistan.

Age	Total	Percentage
14	2	8.7%
15	5	21.7%
16	13	56.5%
17	3	13.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

52. Count of UASC's Nationalities:

Nationality	Total	Percentage
Afghan	8	34.8%
Albanian	5	21.7%
Iranian	5	21.7%
Iraqi	1	4.3%
Kuwaiti	1	4.3%
Sudanese	1	4.3%
Syrian	1	4.3%
Egyptian	1	4.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

53. This figure is made up of children who have come through the National Transfer Scheme as well as children who have arrived spontaneously into the UK.
54. The number of UASCs has increased due to the mandatory quota moving from 0.07% to 0.1%. The Home Office is anticipating that there will be an increase the number of people arriving in the UK via small boats.
55. Hampshire has created a specialist Refugee team that supports children looked after by the Isle of Wight and Hampshire. Since the team went live at the beginning of March 2023, all UASCs that were open to the Children in Care Team on the Isle of Wight have been transferred.

### Disabled Children

56. On 31 March 2023 204 children were open to the Disabled Children's Team, of which 25 children were in care, 17 of these children were subject to Interim/Full Care Orders, 2 under single periods of accommodation with the remaining 6 are under Prog Breaks.
57. Of the 25 children, 7 children are in in-house foster care, 2 in family and friend arrangements, 1 is in a Secure Unit, 2 with Parents and 13 are in residential care.

Sum of Clients		Latest type of main placement							Grand Total
Gender	Age Group	Foster (CSD)	Foster (rel or friend)	Res home (IOW) childn	Res home (NCP) childn	Res home other	Secure unit	With parents	
Female	5 - 9	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
	10 - 15	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	3
	16 - 17	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
<b>Female Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>7</b>
Male	5 - 9	1	.	2	.	.	.	1	4
	10 - 15	3	.	6	.	.	.	1	10
	16 - 17	1	.	0	3	.	.	.	4
<b>Male Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>

### Children in Care Teams

58. The Isle of Wight has 1 Children in Care Team, comprising of a Team Manager, an Assistant Team Manager and on average 8 social workers (slight variation reflective of case numbers). The average caseload for a CIC social worker is 20 children per full time social worker.

### Placement Commissioning Team

59. The Children's Assessment and Support (CAST) teams, Children with Disabilities team and Children in Care team work closely with the Placement Commissioning team, with the purpose of ensuring that children are in the right provision for their needs. They ensure that the provider is accountable for targeted support to meet the young person's needs, that the focus is on promoting the needs of young people and encouraging their development.

60. Through the child's placement, outcome planning meetings are held with providers who are supported and monitored to remain on track with the Local Authority care plan, this enables children to move on at a time that is right for them.

61. The Placement Commissioning team also guide transitions which are required to enable children to move from residential placements back to family, connected carers or foster care. Linking closely with the fostering team and the independent fostering agencies.

### Reunification

62. The Isle of Wight introduced the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Approach as a method of social work intervention. This is a strengths-based approach focusing on building positive relationships with families, identifying strengths and using this to support change in other areas. For children in care, this has a significant impact around their plans, as children in care, are in care for as long as needed. Previously a permanence decision would be made for a child to be placed in care and it would be the plan until they reached the age of 18 years.

63. In recognition that family situations can change, there has been significant progress around working with children and their families to enable children to be safely reunified to the care of family over time. This is carefully considered and

uses the NSPCC Framework for Reunification to provide a robust assessment to progress plans.

64. The Isle of Wight have reunified 10 children to the care of their parents. All were previously in the care of the Local Authority.

### **Special Guardianship Orders**

65. It is recognised that children who remain placed within their family or with friends do better, they continue to remain within their family environment where their sense of belonging is maintained within the family.
66. On 31 March 2023 there were 84 children living with their Special Guardians on the Isle of Wight. In the period April 2022 to March 2023, 3 children who had been in care for 12 months or more, stopped being looked after as their carers became Special Guardians.
67. On 31 March 2023 there were 56 children living with their wider family or friends, but due to various reasons, the carers wish to continue to be Connected Carers and the children remain looked after. The Children in Care teams continue to review these regularly to see how we can support connected carers offering this vital support to become Special Guardians where appropriate. This would provide the carers with parental responsibility to enable them to make decisions for the child and give the child more security and prevent them from continuing to be a Looked After Child.

### **Children who go missing from care**

68. It is vital that we know the whereabouts of all children in care, this is closely tracked as it is known that children who go missing from care are at increased risk of child exploitation.
69. Exploitation includes:
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
  - Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
  - Modern Slavery
  - Trafficking
  - County Lines (drug running)
70. When a child is looked after and is missing, Children's Services will show the same concern as any good parent by taking the necessary steps to understand where children are going and why.
71. Over the past 12 months there have been 124 children reported missing. Some of these will be the same child, and we are aware which children frequently go missing and there is close monitoring of these. A risk assessment/safety plan will inform what support services and actions are required to prevent children and young people from going missing, and to judge when it is appropriate to report them missing to the police. For some high-risk young people, this would be immediately when out of visual sight of staff, for others this would be if they have failed to return home by the time agreed with their carer.

72. CLA missing children/episodes, any duration.

Event month	Children	Episodes
2022-04	10	16
2022-05	7	12
2022-06	11	14
2022-07	11	33
2022-08	8	36
2022-09	11	45
2022-10	11	40
2022-11	15	19
2022-12	10	20
2023-01	7	21
2023-02	10	36
2023-03	13	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>321</b>

73. There is a close working relationship with the police Missing, Exploited and Trafficked team who work with young people at risk of exploitation. CERAF's are completed for all children who go missing. CERAF's that indicate a child may be at a high risk of exploitation (scoring 11 or above) are reviewed by MASH and where relevant are referred for discussion at the monthly METRAC Meeting which is chaired by the police. There is a need for all agencies to work together around exploitation to ensure that there is an effective response.

74. For children who go missing from care they are offered a return from missing conversation and leaflets are provided to both children and their carers to provide further information which they read to increase their understanding of why we are worried when they are not where they are supposed to be.

75. There are different strategies in place to ensure that children in care have effective plans and support with issues around exploitation, below is an indication of just some of the work in place:

- Training – there is access for staff to attend training to increase their understanding around current issues regarding child exploitation.
- The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS), Child Exploitation Toolkit is available to all of the children's workforce to support them to work with young people who are at risk of exploitation including children who go missing.
- The Early Help team monitor any child who has been reported missing on a daily basis and ensures the allocated teams are informed of who is missing. The service managers and Area Director is included in this communication to ensure everyone is cited over who is missing and how long they have been missing for.
- High Risk Strategy Meetings are convened as appropriate where all relevant people involved in a child are present in order to give multi agency oversight and an input into all decision making.



- All children who have been reported missing are offered a return conversation in order to gather information as to where they had been and who they were with and how further missing episodes could be prevented.
- Operation Salvus – is a Police pilot operation that looks to ensure that specific children who are at high risk of exploitation or are priority missing will be considered as 'High Risk Missing' as soon as they are reported. This means that the police are able to use resources to locate the young people who are most at risk.
- CAWNS are also utilised when an individual is identified as being a risk to children or young people.
- CERAF (risk assessment tool used by professional to determine a risk level) – upgraded to review and score risk around all forms of exploitation including Missing.
- UASC Collaboration – A multi-agency pan Hampshire review of UASC children including long-term missing and trafficked children.
- NRM – (National Referral Mechanism) – a framework to identify potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring that they receive the correct support.

### **Children's wishes and views:**

76. The Isle of Wight is committed ensuring the voice of children and young people is evident in all that we do. As part of the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Approach all the recording in relation to children, all visits, assessments, plans are written to the child using strengths-based language that is appropriate to the understanding of the child. Practitioners integrate the voice of children and young people across all recording including supervision notes.
77. Strength based direct work tools ensures all voices are captured and inform the social worker analysis.
78. Children are involved in developing their My Life My Future plans, they do this directly with their social worker, their carer and some write it themselves. The child's perspective is embedded throughout the document and features age-appropriate scaling as both a direct work tool and also to demonstrate change over time. This has seen improved engagement from children around their care plan as they feel very much part of it.
79. Children are spoken to alone by their social worker on visits and their Independent Review Officer also ensures their wishes are understood in meeting with them alone and as part of their 6 monthly reviews.
80. Review participation performance for the Isle of Wight is 98% throughout the last 12 months. This evidences that a high percentage of young people have their opportunity to participate in their reviews and decisions being made about their future. IRO's have continued to seek children's views.

## Findings from 2022 Bright Spots Survey

81. Bright Spots is a national survey run by the charity Coram Voice which collates the voice of the child and their experience in care. This is a biannual survey, which was again completed in 2022.
82. Coram designate some findings as a Bright Spot. This is where children and young people are doing significantly better than children in care in other LAs or report the same or higher well-being than their peers in the general population.
83. All **four of the Bright Spots** awarded in the 2020 survey were awarded again in 2022. Having a pet, trusting carers, a trusted adult in your life and one social worker in the last 12 months.
84. An **additional 13 Bright Spots** were awarded for this survey:
  - Having fun and hobbies
  - Spending time outdoors
  - Access to the Internet
  - Feeling settled in placement
  - Feeling safe in placement
  - Liking bedrooms
  - Carers interested in children and young people's education
  - Carers noticing how children and young people are feeling
  - Regularly confiding in carers
  - Knowing who their social worker is
  - Knowing they can speak to the social worker alone
  - Having a good friend
  - Family time with siblings 'just right'
85. Areas of improvement identified included:
  - Children not liking school and feeling they were not getting help for bullying
  - They felt they were not included
  - Some shared that they did not trust their social worker
  - Some said they did not know the reasons why they were in care
  - Some reported that they were less likely to feel happy yesterday compared to other children.
86. These areas of improvement were turned into SMART actions and included in the participation action plan, the progress and impact of which on improvements in practice and service delivery is performance managed through the senior management team and Corporate Parenting Board (CPB).

## Participation

87. In recent years the responsibility for Participation has moved from a standalone role sat centrally, to every team within the service. The rationale for this shift is the recognition that participation is everyone's responsibility and that we should incorporate it in business-as-usual activity.
88. Local teams have continued to deliver a broad and varied range of participation events and activities throughout the year and a presentation on participation is presented at every CPB.

89. There are a significant number of examples of participation across our services This report aims to give a flavour of the breadth and impact of these events.

### **Care Leavers Events**

90. The Leaving Care team run events regular for care experienced young people to support them to feel less isolated and to be supported to take part in events held in their local communities.
91. HYPE is our participation group which meets monthly to enable young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, that are then raised with our Corporate Parents to provide resolution or explanations. Hearing the voices of our young people is fundamental in supporting the development of the what the team offers via the Local Offer and in enabling planning for the needs of care experienced young people.
92. Come Dine with Us is our monthly cooking group supporting young people to cook on a budget. The group provides support to learn new skills and to make friendships with other care experienced young people. Come Dine With Us takes place at the Isobel Centre and within the housing projects where our young people live and also supports the completion of the Independent Living Programme which is accredited by AQA Board.
93. Have Your Say week held twice a year supports care experienced young people to enjoy a variety of activities from bowling, swimming, barbeques, kayaking enabling them to come together for fun. The events also provide an opportunity to seek the views on the subjects care experienced young people have raised. The Bright Spots survey held this year provided areas of discussion resulting in an action plan to support changes.
94. This year the team launched Lunch Club for our care experienced parents funded by community grants. This project has proved very successful, and the group have enjoyed play dates, days out, throughout the year. The project provides a monthly meet up which has resulted in our parents now establishing friendships outside of the group.
95. Care experienced young people are also supported to attend food pantries funded by community grants for 12 weeks supporting them manage their income during the increased cost of living.

### **Children in Care team events**

#### Children in Care star Awards 2022

96. The star awards event is held annually. This year it was held at Northwood House in Cowes. This event is to celebrate and recognise children's and young people's achievements and progress.
97. All children and young people are nominated by their Social Worker and can also be nominated by their school or their carer/s. All children receive a certificate celebrating their success and some children who have made an exceptional achievement receive a prize as well. All looked after children are eligible to attend and invitations were sent to each team. This year we were pleased to have 49 children attend with their foster families.

### Have Your Say Events

98. Children's services hold a number of different events throughout the year in line with school holidays, these vary from Arts/Crafts to horse riding and trips to different events on the island. At the end of each event a questionnaire is completed to ascertain the views of the young people we are working with in order to listen to their views and act upon these as appropriate.

### Therapeutic story writing

99. This solution focused intervention uses story writing and metaphors. This programme runs for 10 weeks with a group of 6 children aged between 7-13 years. Groups can help children to process difficult feelings, develop social skills and improve children's engagement with writing.

### Story links

100. This intervention supports pupils with emotional difficulties. It uses therapeutic story writing to promote emotional well-being and reading skills. The intervention involves the child, parents/carers and the Teaching Assistant in co-creation of stories that address behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. This solution focused intervention runs over 10 weeks. It uses joint story writing and metaphors.

101. The Story Links project evaluation shows that the intervention:

- Supports children's emotional and social well-being
- Improves home/school relationships
- Improves involvement of parent/carer in their child's learning
- Improves child's behaviour and attitude to learning

### Junior Come Dine With Us Event

102. We hold a monthly cookery club for our young people to come along and join in with some staff in preparing and cooking a meal then afterwards they all sit down and eat together. These sessions allow for a more formal interaction between workers and the young people. Our looked after young people have a say as to what meals they want to cook at the next session. This event builds the confidence of our young people, and they can see that that they are not the only person who is the care of the Local Authority.

### Allotment project

103. The team have an allotment a well-established project based in Ventnor which offers young people, from across the service the opportunity to meet on a weekly basis to participate in the activities required to support the allotment and alongside this complete the AQA in horticulture.

### HYPE

104. Hearing Young People's Experiences, the purpose of the group is to gather young people's views. This can be as a result of particular questions put to them or to gather their views and opinions about things they would like changed. Young people can bring any concerns they want for discussion. This is then fed back through the Corporate Parenting Board.

### Youth Parliament

105. Meetings are held once per month and each meeting has a different topic for discussion. The meeting is attended by 8-10 young people. There is an elected youth

MP and deputy Youth MP and a chair of the meeting. The Youth MP attends the National youth events which is facilitated by the British Youth Council.

## **Conclusions**

106. This last 12 months has been extremely busy for Children in Care. It is a credit to all social workers that they have continued to fully engage children and young people in a way that they can participate in all visits and planning, to ensure that their voice is heard, they understand what is happening to them and a positive impact can be seen.
107. There is already work underway to improve the number of foster carers and this is being undertaken through the Modernising Placements Programme.
108. The department has continued to support children living with family and friends under alternative arrangements and without the need for them to be in care, where possible. For those children where care is necessary, This strengths-based way of working aims to improve outcomes for children by developing a continuum of care which can provide the right accommodation and support at the right time for our children in care, and to ensure that children in care have the same life chances as every other child; and they supported to achieve their goals.



Purpose: For Information

## Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	<b>POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>
Date	<b>7 DECEMBER 2023</b>
Topic	<b>SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23</b>

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The law states that religious education (RE) must be taught in all schools. However, RE is not part of the National Curriculum, it is a local responsibility. Every Local Education Authority (LEA) is required by law to have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) which supports the effective provision of religious education and collective worship in schools. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee receive an annual report that provides an overview of the work conducted by SACRE.

### 2. Focus for Scrutiny

- 2.1 What successes have happened within the last year?
- 2.2 What challenges have been faced in the last year and what are the lessons learned?
- 2.3 What improvements have been identified and what are the timelines for improvements or actions?
- 2.4 How can the committee support SACRE moving forward?

### 3. Approach

- 3.1 A report to be provided.

### 4. Document(s) Attached

- 4.1 Appendix 1: SACRE Annual Report.

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# **ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITY**

The Standing Advisory Council  
for Religious Education  
Annual Report

**SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023**

**SACRE ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**  
**Annual Report 2022/2023**

**CONTENTS**

1. Chair's Introduction and overview
2. Standards and quality of provision for Religious Education
3. Complaints about Religious Education
4. Standards and quality of provision for Collective Worship
5. Complaints about Collective Worship
6. Determinations
7. SACRE links with other bodies
8. SACRE contribution to supporting schools through events and training
9. SACRE's own arrangements

**Appendices**

1. SACRE membership
2. List of organisations receiving Annual Report

## **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

It has been my great privilege to represent the IOW Council on the Isle of Wight SACRE for a number of years now and, having been the Vice-Chair of the Isle of Wight SACRE for two years, I was delighted to step up and take on the Chair's role. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) supports the effective provision of religious and collective worship in schools. SACRE also advises the Local Authority on its provision of religious education.

The Isle of Wight SACRE membership draws from different faith and belief systems and I am proud of the diversity and inclusion that makes up our dynamic group who all have a passion for and dedication to Religious Education. SACRE seeks to ensure all our schools offer the highest provision to enable our children and young people to explore their own spirituality and develop their own thinking in a contextualised way that is relevant to them. We fully support the adoption of the "Living Difference IV" syllabus to provide an excellent framework for schools to use and adapt.

This year we have continued the important work of representing the Island both on a local level, being members of the South Central Hub of SACREs, and also nationally, with attendance at the National Association of SACREs conference in London, where it was a great opportunity to network with other SACRE members from across the country. At this year's National conference, our very own Harry Kirby was both nominated and recognised, in the special awards section, as being a SACRE member who has made a significant impact in our area. Harry, we thank you for all your decades of service.

We have met regularly in 2022-2023, and I am grateful for the support that we have received from the IOW Council Democratic Services Team who make all of the necessary arrangements when we go "on the road" for our SACRE meetings in various locations around the island. Our termly monitoring group, of which I am a member, meets to evaluate the provision for Religious Education in our schools in more detail and helps to shape the agenda and action plan for the SACRE meetings.

We promote the sharing of good practice through our teacher networks and also support professional development for island teachers in both Primary and Secondary settings and keep them up to date with Religious Education matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Isle of Wight SACRE for their continued enthusiasm and commitment to our children and young people. It really is a genuine privilege to work alongside so many passionate people who give up their valuable time to support the continued development of the subject in order to enable our children and young people to experience religious education in a way which has meaning for them and that they can carry forward into their adult lives.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of Justine Ball, our County Inspector for RE from the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service, whose dedication to us as a SACRE, our schools and our island children and young people goes above and beyond.

I am pleased to commend this report to you.

Debbie Andre  
Chair of SACRE

## **1. Information about SACRE**

### **1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE**

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, all Local Education Authorities (LAs) have been required by law to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.2 What does a SACRE do?**

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools<sup>2</sup> and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

### **1.3 Composition of SACRE**

There are four groups or committees, as below:

- A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- B: The Church of England
- C: Teacher and head teacher associations
- D: The Local Authority

### **1.4 Membership of SACRE**

The names of the SACRE members and the religious denominations for each group can be found at Appendix A.

### **1.5 SACRE Functions**

- To advise the LA on collective worship and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations).
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

<sup>2</sup> School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

## **Census data on the Isle of Wight 2021 shows that:**

43.9% had no religion  
47.7% are Christian  
0.4% are Buddhist  
0.2% are Hindu  
0.1% are Jewish  
0.4% are Muslim  
0.0% are Sikh  
0.8% are any other religion

## **2. Standards and Quality of Provision for Religious Education**

Within the Isle of Wight, advice is available to schools about RE in many different ways:

- The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV
- The Hampshire RE Moodle, which contains the syllabus, advice and both long term and medium term planning for all teachers who use the syllabus
- The SACRE RE Advisor and the Hampshire Secondary RE Teaching and Learning Adviser, who run training with teachers and are available for advice
- Regular CPD opportunities for RE, including Isle of Wight networks for both primary and secondary teachers
- The RE Curriculum site in addition to the RE Moodle, which Isle of Wight teachers are also able to use. The Curriculum site has further planning and resources which are all helpful to teachers in planning their curriculum.
- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors is also available for Isle of Wight schools to subscribe to.
- Other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference IV through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester, such as primary teaching packs on a large range of different units. Isle of Wight teachers can purchase these packs at a reduced price throughout the year.

The Locally Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of high-quality Religious Education provision for all young people throughout their school life, including non examination, core Religious Education for KS4.

A survey on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship was sent to Isle of Wight Headteachers in this reporting period. Of these schools, the SACRE noted that very low numbers of children were partially withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship. The schools all knew the reasons for withdrawal and the reasons were varied but often due to the religious belief of the family. Schools were very positive about the support they received for RE and Collective Worship.

### **GCSE Religious Studies examination results 2022 and 2023: overall findings**

The SACRE noted that only a small number of secondary schools had entries for GCSE Religious Studies in this reporting period, which was a drop in numbers compared to previous years. The results were below national and significantly below national at 1, 5 and 7+ indicators. The SACRE highlighted that teacher recruitment in general was problematic both nationally and on the Island, and that Religious Studies teacher recruitment was even more of a difficulty. The national campaigns for recruiting more

Religious Education teachers have been discussed at SACRE meetings and members informed about any initiatives that highlight the value of the subject in schools. During the year, the SACRE has discussed ways to increase awareness of the value of the subject for schools through briefings for senior leaders and governors. It was agreed that the SACRE would run training for governors on Religious Education during this year and this was done in July 2023 with governors attending from a wide range of schools..

The SACRE also discussed the possibility of bringing a youth voice to SACRE and how this was important in helping to raise the profile of Religious Studies as a GCSE option, as well as widening the discussion about the importance of the teaching of Religious Studies to a younger audience.

SACRE remains concerned about the low numbers of young people on the Isle of Wight who are entered for the full course RS GCSE and therefore are concerned to ensure through all means possible that young people are able to access their entitlement for religious education at Key Stage 4.

### **Training for SACRE members:**

Training is offered regularly to SACRE members by SACRE officers when there are enough new members to require this. SACRE members are regularly updated through NASACRE information, advice and training and the training programme for SACRE members is shared with members each term.

#### **a) The Quality of Religious Education provision in Isle of Wight Schools**

Religious Education network meetings and attendance at Inspector/Adviser courses indicates that most schools are developing their curriculum to ensure compliance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV. Time allocation for Religious Education in the primary phase is usually good. The syllabus recommends that teachers teach the subject and that it is blocked for effective teaching. This is checked on visits and on training or subject meetings with schools. In the secondary phase time allocation for all pupils in KS3 is generally good and is discussed at network meetings with advice provided. SACRE has continued to monitor the teaching of core Religious Education and public examination Religious Education at KS4 through network meetings and has offered advice and support on this to schools. It will continue to be a focus going forward. More monitoring visits and subject meetings to monitor this are planned this next academic year.

### **3. Complaints about Religious Education**

No complaints have been received about Religious Education during the period of this report.

### **4. Standards and Quality of Provision for Collective Worship**

Within the Isle of Wight advice is available to schools around Collective Worship in three ways:

- Hampshire's published advice on Collective Worship in schools (available from the Hampshire RE centre)
- The SACRE RE consultant and
- An annual collective worship course run by Hampshire CC

Monitoring Collective Worship is a focus area for the SACRE and during the period of this report it was decided to look at Collective Worship as well as RE on school visits. During this period, the SACRE also asked for training on Collective Worship to be available to schools in 2022-23 in person on the Island and this ran in the Spring term for all schools with a good attendance.

An action point to support and monitor Collective Worship across schools has been included in the SACRE's 3-year Action plan.

## **5. Complaints regarding Collective Worship**

There have been no complaints received regarding Collective Worship this academic year.

## **6. Determinations**

There have been no applications for Determinations in Collective Worship during this past year.

## **7. SACRE Links with other bodies**

The Island SACRE is a member of NASACRE and has access to the support offered by NASACRE in its annual programme of training.

The SACRE has close links with Portsmouth and Winchester Church of England Diocese and the local faith groups on the Island. For example, several members attended the Visit my Mosque initiative on the Island held in 2022.

The Island SACRE always attends the termly meeting of the South Central SACRE hub which has members from many of the South Coast's SACREs who meet together and share best practice.

The professional adviser has held the position of co-chair of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) during the period of this report, as well as the post of South East for the RE Hubs project. This ensures that SACRE matters and Religious Education locally are part of national discussions about the subject.

## **8. SACRE contribution to supporting schools through events and training**

During this period there have been many professional development opportunities available to provide high quality advice to support schools in their consistent implementation of the syllabus.

- The professional adviser and the HIAS County Inspector/Adviser for Secondary Religious Education have continued to run termly secondary and primary networks through this period. The network meetings have provided advice and support for the implementation of Living Difference IV and on managing and leading RE, assessment in RE and subject specific CPD. Secondary networks have been held virtually and the primary have been a mix of virtual and face to face meetings.
- SACRE members have conducted some face-to-face visits to primary and special schools during this period. This has been done with the professional adviser and reports are made to the monitoring group.



- The professional adviser has written a Religious Education newsletter to primary schools to help support them with implementing the new Locally Agreed Syllabus and has offered time to schools who need further help with the syllabus through email contact or virtual one to one short meetings.
- All Island schools have been able to access the Hampshire RE and Collective Worship courses that are available to support all RE subject leaders. Many of these are online and after school which has helped attendance at these.
- A face-to-face Collective Worship course was held on the Island for all schools and there was good attendance at this.
- During the summer term, an Island Governor briefing was held on RE and Collective Worship to raise the profile of the subject and to inform them about the work of the SACRE. This was well attended and it is intended to hold this again in the Spring term 2023.

## 9. SACRE's Own arrangements

SACRE has been supported by a LA clerk since the summer of 2021. In addition, SACRE is supported by a Professional Adviser for its activities and monitoring of the syllabus. Standards and quality of provision for Religious Education in Isle of Wight Schools are regularly reviewed by the SACRE monitoring subgroup which meets each term with the Professional Adviser. During 2022/2023, findings have been regularly submitted to the full SACRE at the termly meetings.

### Attendance at SACRE by Committee 2022-2023

#### Group A:

Faiths represented:

Church of England, Methodist, Free Church, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Bahai, Quaker, Muslim.

**Group B:** Church of England

**Group C:** Teachers Liaison Panel

**Group D:** County Councillors

#### Attendance

##### Autumn - October 2022

Group A = 80%	8/10
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 75%	3/4
Group D = 67%	2/3

##### Spring - March 2023

Group A = 40%	4/10
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 25%	1/4
Group D = 33%	1/3

## **Summer - June 2023**

Group A = 60%	6/10
Group B = 25%	1/4
Group C = 50%	2/4
Group D = 67%	2/4

During this year the SACRE has worked hard to find representatives for some of its vacancies. In particular, all four of the Church of England representatives have now been filled. The primary school Headteacher representative post has also now been filled. There have been resignations from some group A representatives during the period of this report, which will need to be filled in the next academic year. SACRE is still seeking a Hindu representative and is seeking a Sikh representative. During this year the SACRE has been without a deputy Chair and the SACRE are looking at this in the review of the SACRE constitution going forward.

### **Summary**

As last year, through continued links with Hampshire, SACRE has benefited from the support of the two Hampshire RE inspector/Advisers; one of whom is designated as the Professional Adviser to SACRE. Their expertise and advice continue to be invaluable in supporting SACRE fulfil its statutory duties.

The Clerk continues to act as a link between SACRE and schools and representatives of different faiths. SACRE members are engaged with visiting schools as well as supporting training for teachers. Church of England Diocesan networks also run on the Isle of Wight for subject leaders in Church Schools. Some of these teachers also attend the LA network meetings. All schools are teaching the Locally Agreed Syllabus Living Difference IV.

The Isle of Wight SACRE continues to have a strong sense of team spirit, commitment and cooperation. Meetings are held in an open, frank, manner. The four groups of SACRE ensure SACRE is able to meet its statutory responsibilities.

## **Annexe 1**

### **SACRE Membership**

#### **SACRE Membership 2022-2023**

##### **Committee A**

###### **Members representing the "Free Churches"**

Rev. Mike Hackleton (Methodist)

###### **Two members representing the Roman Catholic Church**

Sister Stella Kelly  
Mrs Alison Burt

###### **Members representing non-Christian faiths**

Dr. Lionel Alexander (Jewish faith)  
Mrs Anne Sechiari (Buddhist)  
Sylvia Clare (Buddhist)  
Mr Simon Bligh (Humanist)  
Mrs Norma Corney (Baha'i)  
Mr Ebrahim Jeewa/ Mr. Abdul Basith (Muslim)  
Mr Noel Wilde (Quaker)

##### **Committee B (4 members in total)**

###### **Representing the Church of England**

Mr Harry Kirby  
Mrs Beryl Miller  
Mrs Janice Wilmott  
Mrs Sue Rogers

##### **Committee C (4 members in total)**

###### **Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight. Nominated by appropriate groups.**

Secondary	Miss Beth Feltham	The Bay CE School
Primary	Mrs Rebecca Lennon	Brightstone CE Primary School
	Mrs Claire Carter	St George's school

##### **Committee D (4 members in total)**

###### **Representing the Local Authority. Two elected Members. Two nominated by the Director of Education**

Cllr Debbie Andre  
Cllr Claire Critchison  
Mr. Stuart Brenchley Christ the King College

##### **In attendance**

Sarah Philipsborn Clerk  
Justine Ball RE Inspector (Primary) Adviser  
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**Isle of Wight SACRE 3 year Action Plan for SACRE 2021, 2022, 2023:**  
to be reviewed at each monitoring group meeting and progress reported to each SACRE meeting through Monitoring Group Report. SACRE review  
Action Plan annually as part of annual report

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No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
1.	<b>Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness and Leadership</b>				
1.1	SACRE to meet once each term and be quorate	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.2	Representative appointments to all four groups of SACRE to be in place	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.3	Introductory training offered to new SACRE members	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.4	Regular training offered to all SACRE members regarding new national initiatives relevant to RE	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.5	SACRE Members appointed to attend South Central SACRE RE Hub once each term and NASACRE AGM and other events as deemed fitting by SACRE	SACRE Professional Adviser SACRE Chair and Vice Chair and SACRE Clerk	Various	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective and take active part in NASACRE and SACRE events in the region	Green
1.6	SACRE engage in monitoring Collective Worship across the county and identify examples of best practice in secondary, primary and special schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.7	SACRE monitor withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship and develop guidance for loW schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.8	Introducing new SACRE clerk to the SACRE and induction training developed for the role.	Professional Adviser and Chair and Vice Chair.	Reviewed once each term	For Clerk to feel supported by SACRE and to identify and meet any gaps in provision.	Amber

1.9	SACRE Self Evaluation	SACRE	Reviewed once each year	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
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No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>2.</b>	<b>Implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus : Living Difference IV</b>				
2.1	Monitoring Group to meet once each term and report to each following SACRE meeting	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
2.2	Monitoring visits to take place in schools	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	This and other data (e.g. annual ascertain provision of RE in Isle of Wight Schools & overall findings presented to SACRE	Green
2.3	Monitoring and reporting of GCSE results	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each year	Verified results to have been considered by Monitoring group once each year and findings presented to SACRE	Green
2.4	Monitoring in-service Professional Educational opportunities attended by teachers: (i) Feedback from teachers on need (ii) Uptake of loW RE Networks and other Hampshire courses (primary and secondary and special)	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of data including feedback from teachers on courses undertaken by inspector/Advisers	Green
2.5	Monitoring group reporting on Ofsted Visits to Isle of Wight Schools mentioning or inferring messages about religious education	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from Ofsted inspections of Isle of Wight Schools	Green
2.6	Monitoring group reporting on other HIAS visits made to schools revealing information about RE	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from HIAS school visits to Isle of Wight Schools	Green

2.7	Monitoring withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship through annual questionnaire – ensuring that this is received in schools by the right person to complete	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each year	Analysis of questionnaire reported to SACRE	Green
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No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
3.	<b>Meeting training needs of Isle of Wight teachers and school leaders</b>				
3.1	Review professional education offer through a questionnaire to teachers.	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	Spring term 2022	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision.	Amber
3.2	Be aware of professional education offer across partner and neighbouring SACREs.	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision	Green
3.3	Support on-going development of an annual pattern of professional education for: (i) New RE leaders in primary schools (ii) Experienced RE leaders in primary schools (iii) NQT, HoD and other specialist courses (iv) Courses for non-specialist secondary teachers of RE (v) special education teachers (vi) Subject booster opportunities available (vii) Governor training	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	ensure pattern of professional education is relevant and well timed	Green
3.4	Ensure a rolling programme of briefing for head teachers and separately for governors regarding Living Difference IV across the Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	For Isle of Wight teachers at all stages of their careers to have access to high quality appropriate professional education opportunities	Working through HIAS School Improvement Partner for the IoW

No.	Actions	Who	Target date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>4.</b>	<b>Resourcing Living Difference IV</b>				
4.1	Ensure teachers in primary, secondary and special schools have access to resources to support the teaching of Living Difference IV	Isle of Wight RE Inspectors/Advisers, Isle of Wight Curriculum RE Centre manager and SACRE members and teachers	Progress on these elements reviewed annually by Monitoring group	Relevant publications available for teachers at all key stages to enhance the teaching of RE with Living Difference III	Green
4.4	Review KS4 provision in secondary schools especially non examination courses in light of developments with GCSE	Isle of Wight County RE Inspector/Adviser		Ensure all young people have access to Good Quality RE at KS 4 and able to receive their entitlement for RE.	Amber
No.	Actions	Who	Target date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>5.</b>	<b>SACRE Youth Voice</b>				
5.1	Development of SACRE Youth Voice	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members	Ongoing through the period of this development plan		Amber
5.2	Summer SACRE Youth Voice conference to take place	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members			



## Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children’s Services, Education and Skills Workplan 2022-25

The committee assists Cabinet in the development and implementation of key plans, policies and activities set out in the Corporate Plan relating to the delivery of relevant services, including:

Children’s Services  
(including safeguarding)

Corporate Parenting

Special Educational Needs  
and/or Disabilities

Early Help

Education

Apprenticeships

Adult Learning

Date	Agenda Items	Description & Background	Lead Officer/Cabinet Member
<b>7 December 2023</b>	<b>Mentoring in Schools</b>	To hear from OUS Hampshire & Isle of Wight about the mentoring programme developed in Hampshire, and how it can be introduced on the Island	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Children's Services Transition</b>	To monitor the progress of the transition arrangements for the post-Hampshire Partnership	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Performance &amp; Budget</b>	To consider current performance trends and budget for 2023/24	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>IW Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Annual Report</b>	To consider the safeguarding boards annual report	Chairman of the Board
	<b>Annual Children in Care Report</b>	To receive the annual Children in Care report that links into an update from the Corporate Parenting Board.	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>SACRE Annual Report 2022-23</b>	To consider the work of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions

5 February 2024 - <b>INFORMAL</b>	<b>SEN Direction</b>	To hear a user's point of view on the issues with SEN services and what they think needs to change	
<b>7 March 2024</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>	To receive an update and action plan, to cover the next twelve months (to include place planning), in bringing Children's Services under the Councils control	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Children's Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	To explore, with Children's Services, NHS and Public Health, what actions can actively be done to improve children's health and wellbeing to positively impact upon attendance and attainment.	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing, Public Health and Homelessness Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Report</b>	To receive an overview of Early Years childcare sufficiency on the Isle of Wight.	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>School Attainment</b>	To consider the annual report on attainment	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Safety Valve - Update on Progress</b>	To review the progress of implementation of the Safety Valve programme	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
<b>June 2024</b>	<b>Performance &amp; Budget</b>	To consider current performance trends and budget 2023/24	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Fostering &amp; Adoption Annual Reports</b>	To consider the annual reports	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Social Worker Recruitment &amp; Retention</b>	To consider steps being taken to assist in the recruitment and retention of social workers within Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Children with Disabilities</b>	To review the expansion of services on the Island for Children with Disabilities	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Corporate Functions

<b>September 2024</b>	<b>Annual Complaints Report – Children’s Social Work</b>	To consider the annual report in accordance with best practice advice from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to ensure that lessons learnt are being implemented	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Children’s Services</b>	To monitor the progress of the transition arrangements for the post-Hampshire Partnership	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>School Attendance &amp; Exclusions</b>	To consider the latest position on attendance and exclusions.	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
<b>December 2024</b>	<b>Performance &amp; Budget</b>	Current performance trends and budget 2023/24	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>IW Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report</b>	To consider the annual report	Chairman of the Board
	<b>SACRE Annual Report</b>	To consider the work of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Annual Children in Care Report</b>	To receive the annual Children in Care report that links into an update from the Corporate Parenting Board.	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
<b>March 2025</b>	<b>School Attainment</b>	To consider the annual report on attainment	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions
	<b>Safety Valve - Update on Progress</b>	To review the progress of implementation of the Safety Valve programme	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Corporate Functions

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