

ISLE OF WIGHT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership 2020/21 Annual Report



| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Agenda Item | |
| Meeting | Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills |
| Date of Meeting | 9 th December 2021 |
| Author | Jane Leigh Partnership Manager |

1 Introduction

The Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of agencies across the Isle of Wight to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, set against a comprehensive analysis of the local safeguarding context in line with responsibilities under [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#). It covers the reporting period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

The Policy and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note that safeguarding and well-being of children on the Island have remained at the forefront of IOWSCP work, with a continued commitment to protecting children demonstrated across the partnership during the COVID –19 Pandemic.

IOWSCP agencies and their workforces continue to make positive progress in many areas of child protection. This includes maintaining robust and integrated front-line services in conjunction with the Children's Services partnership with Hampshire.

The Annual Report reflects the IOWSCP vision and partnership approach with:

- Child-focussed leadership which is effective and ambitious across the partnership
- Agencies that understand their roles and actively engage in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- An environment in which multi-agency practice can flourish
- Effective information sharing systems which professionals are confident and knowledgeable about
- Strong support and healthy challenge within the multi-agency system
- Creating a culture of continuous improvement and learning

Our priorities for 2020/21 are outlined in the Annual Report.

2 Relevant information

The Business Plan outlined the agreed priorities for the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership (IOWSCP) during 2020 – 21. The Business plan priorities are:

- a) **Part A** of the IOWSCP Business Plan contains **long-term strategic objectives** spanning the period 2020-2023. These objectives cover complex areas of children's safeguarding which require a deeper collective understanding to inform a targeted and coordinated partnership response to achieve real impact on the lives of children and young people living on the Isle of Wight. T
- b) **Part B** of the IOWSCP Business Plan contains several **shorter-term activities**, typically covering a reporting year. These have also been identified from the Partnership's existing scrutiny and learning review programmes and support the IOWSCP's statutory functions.

The IOWSCP has key principles and values running through all Business Plan priority areas:

- **The voice and lived experience of the Child** - to ensure that our work is child centred and we continually seek to engage and involve children and young people and their families.
- **Safeguarding children is everyone's business.** Safeguarding is only effectively delivered by strong, effective, pro-active, and collaborative partnership working across Safeguarding Partners and all Relevant Agencies.
- **Learning** from reviews and scrutiny and assurance activity is quickly identified and implemented in partnership working.
- **Enabling high quality safeguarding practice.** We will promote awareness, effectively coordinate, improve knowledge and work in a way that is characterised by an attitude of continuous improvement and constructive professional challenge.



- **Fostering a culture of openness and transparency.** We will enable IOWSCP partners to work openly together, to learn from collective and individual experience, and to seek and receive assurance on the overall effectiveness of work to safeguard and protect children on the Isle of Wight.

Progress made on the 2020/21 Business Plan Priorities

Part A.

Priority 1 – Safeguarding Adolescents

Actions Taken:

- Audit and surveys undertaken, and results used to evidence understanding of the range of complex and interrelated risks that impact adolescents
- Safeguarding Adolescents Strategy drafted
- Safeguarding Adolescents Toolkit materials for Professionals drafted

Areas for further development in 2021/22:

- Adolescent Strategy and Toolkit to be launched 9th December 2021
- Transitions Group set up across four SAB areas will inform the strategy and toolkit
- Training needs and workforce development programme developed

Priority 2 – Understanding and reducing the rates of IOW children who become looked after

Actions Taken:

- Multiagency group established to consider common factors associated with Looked after children on the IOW
- Mapping exercise undertaken of services children and their families receive on the IOW
- Consultation of key agency leads to seek their views on what the challenges are and how we might work differently
- Case file audit undertaken to follow the child's journey into care

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- This priority has been taken on by the Children's Trust at a strategic level

Priority 3 - Responding to Neglect

Actions Taken:

- Joint HSCP and IOWSCP Task and Finish group re established to review and update the Neglect Strategy and Toolkit
- Strategy Review work completed
- Neglect Strategy and Toolkit re launched in February 2021 with additional materials included
- Training offer revised to include scenario-based activities

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- Once the new materials and training are embedded, they will be evaluated in terms of impact on practice

Part B.

Priority 1 - Evaluate the impact of IOWSCP Initiatives and programmes

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- In collaboration with HIPS LSCP's, evaluate the impact of the Lurking Trolls online safety campaign following the launch in October 2021 when it will be embedded into practice.
- Evaluate the understanding and application of the updated Unborn/ Newborn Baby Protocol post-implementation.



Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership 2020/21 Annual Report

- Conduct a first-phase evaluation of the IOW Every Sleep Counts campaign by the end of the year and undertake a professional and public evaluation of impact of the ICON programme on the IOW.

Priority 2 – Improved and effective dissemination of and communication channels across IOWSCP safeguarding partners and relevant agencies

Actions Taken:

- IOWSCP published its Learning and Improvement Framework and Communications Strategy outlining use of social media and how information and initiatives will be shared with agencies and frontline professionals. IOWSCP has worked with communications colleagues in partner agencies to develop communication plans for core initiatives and key information dissemination to professionals.

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- IOWSCP member agencies to evidence how they have incorporated learning from IOWSCP activity into messages and policy for their workforce and report on the impact to the IOWSCP.

Priority 3 – Effective safeguarding of unborn and newly born babies

Actions Taken:

- HIPS multiagency working group and action groups led by key staff from the Health economy, contributed to the fully revised HIPS Unborn Baby Protocol (UBB) and toolkits which were launched in March 2021 across the children's workforce. A wider Safeguarding Infants training package was developed to be rolled out in 2021.

Areas for further development in 2021/22

- IOWSCP to evaluate understanding and application of the updated Protocol, processes, and toolkit via a Health and Multiagency staff surveys and case file audits. 'Safeguarding Infants' multi-agency training will be rolled out in 2021

Contact Point: Jane Leigh jane.leigh@iow.gov.uk mobile: 07970009568