

# Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership

Bailiwick of Guernsey  
Annual Report

2020



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States of Guernsey

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# Foreword

My second year as Pan Island Independent Chair for the Safeguarding Partnership Boards has been marked by a period of unprecedented challenge for children, young people, families and vulnerable adults along with all those who support them and keep them safe. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that agencies needed to adapt their practice to ensure abuse and neglect could continue to be identified and acted upon. Whilst bringing challenges, the pandemic has also brought opportunities to strengthen partnership working and find creative solutions to tackling problems- some of which will be maintained as a more flexible and responsive way of meeting needs going forward.

Front line staff, team leaders and managers have shown incredible commitment and tenacity -putting the needs of others before themselves and I would like to personally thank everyone who has played a part in this.

Despite the disruption of the pandemic, the ISCP has continued to drive multi-agency action to address needs across a range of work programmes. This includes the development of a child neglect strategy and participating in a multi-agency audit to develop practice in identifying and addressing harmful sexual behaviours. Towards the end of 2020 an adult safeguarding partnership was formed which going forward will enable a more joined up approach for families and vulnerable adults as well as focussing multi-agency attention on specific areas of risk.

Developing our approach to learning and improvement took a big step forward in 2020 with the development of a Professional Learning network, introduction of a Rapid Review process to learn from serious child and adult safeguarding incidents and preparations for the introduction of a Quality Assurance Framework from 2021. All of these developments help the ISCP ensure its work is informed by evidence, improve practice and strengthen line of sight on safeguarding work.

Although meetings of the ISCP largely took place remotely, this did not compromise planning arrangements to address current and future needs include an annual planning event held in December 2020 which identified addressing childhood trauma as a key development in 2021 to meet increasing presentation of more complex needs.

Looking forward, we already have a full work programme underway for 2021 which we hope will make a real difference to the lives of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults across the islands.

This includes strengthening our work with charitable and voluntary organisations who can help us hear directly from those at risk of harm and ensure our work is grounded in the reality of the daily lives of islanders.

Over the course of 2020, the ISCP welcomed a new business support team who have built excellent multi-agency relationships, refreshed training programmes and brought new ideas to tackle stubborn challenges for which I'm very grateful.

I would also like to thank the ISCP Board, practitioners and managers across all agencies for their energy, hard work and continuing support to ensure we have the best possible safeguarding arrangements for children, young people, families and vulnerable adults across the Bailiwick.



Pan Island Safeguarding Chair



## Section 1

# Local background and context

### Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark (Bailiwick of Guernsey)

Guernsey is the second largest of the Channel Islands. Along with Alderney, Herm and Sark, make up the Bailiwick of Guernsey. At present it is only Guernsey, Alderney and Herm who are subject to the legislation that underpins multi agency child protection practice in the islands; the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2008 (the Children Law), which was implemented in January 2010. Whilst the model of Child Protection shares similarities with England and Wales, the main difference is through the statutory footing (through the Children's Law) of the Office of the Children's Convenor and the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (the CYCT). The CYCT is a welfare-based system, modelled on the Scottish Children's Hearings system. It replaces the Court in the majority of cases where there is a need for compulsory intervention either to protect children and young people from harm or to support children and families to change harmful or risky behaviours. The CYCT therefore is an important part of the overall child safeguarding system, running alongside processes for early help, multi-agency support for children in need, child protection case conferences and the juvenile court.

### Population

At the end of June 2020 there was an overall joint population of **65,154** for the islands. (Guernsey and Alderney) The child population for the islands at the end of December 2018 (last figures available) was **11,466** (under 18) – 11,256 in Guernsey and 210 in Alderney. More information and analysis of population trends can be found on the States of Guernsey website: <https://gov.gg/data>.

### Purpose of the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership is formally known as the Islands Child Protection Committee in the Children Law. The values and intention of the ISCP can be summed up in that it is intended to:

*Improve the quality of life and opportunities for all children by working together and in partnership with parents, carers and the community to improve outcomes for children-keeping them safe.*

### ISCP Memorandum of Understanding 2019

It is anticipated that within the forthcoming revision of the Children's Law the partnership will be formally changed to the Islands Children's Safeguarding Partnership. The ISCP is made up of senior representatives from agencies working with children and families in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Its overriding purpose is to:

- Co-ordinate what is done by each agency represented on the Committee for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Promote effective co-operation between all persons involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Provide appropriate guidance to employees working with children in Guernsey and Alderney
- Review any case or incident where a child has died or suffered Serious Harm

ALDERNEY

HERM

GUERNSEY

SARK

FRANCE



# Highlighted achievements for 2020 include:

## Development of a practitioner learning network

We developed new ways of reaching professionals using technology and facilitating conversations around safeguarding issues.

## Trained 332 delegates with adapted delivery methods

Despite the pandemic impacting on the provision of training we managed to continue to provide a significant programme of training across the levels.

## Annual digital safety event

The online safety group contributed to the organisation and content of the Digital Ace Event in February 2020.

## Development of a Child Neglect Strategy

Following learning from an earlier Serious Case Review and Rapid Review, a multi-agency Child Neglect Strategy has been developed.

## Continued development of Rapid Review process with 2 serious child safeguarding incidents reviewed

Two cases were reviewed where there were felt to be a need for further learning to be identified. There were no Serious Case Reviews in 2020, undertaking a Rapid Review is the first step in evaluating whether a case needs a full review.

## Reviewing child deaths on a Pan Island basis

The importance of analysing, reviewing and sharing any issues relating to child deaths in Guernsey and Jersey was undertaken with a reformed Pan Island Child Death Overview Panel.

## Establishment of Islands Safeguarding Adult Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding, constitution and governance put in place and inaugural partnership meeting undertaken for the ISAP.

## Safeguarding children overview

There were 1624 enquires/referrals to the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) during 2020 - out of these a total of 1486 were discussed at MASH whilst 138 were not discussed. Enquiries are not necessarily accepted as referrals to MASH as they might not meet relevant thresholds or they could just be additional information from other agencies for referrals that are already accepted. The rate of re-referral into MASH which is defined as a repeat referral from the preceding 12 months, totalled 14.04% which is a slight increase from 2019 of 13.1%.

The pattern of enquiry and referral remained relatively consistent over the year, with 170 enquires/referrals in January through to 144 in December, although there was a significant dip in March (103) and April (93) that coincides with the Guernsey Lockdown. This reflects a pattern across agencies at the time of related safeguarding concerns being seen or reported dipping significantly. There was a noticeable upturn in enquiries from May 2020 onwards.

The Police continue to be the main agency referring with 26% of referrals followed by Education at 19%. Whilst Police and Education have traditionally been the main referrers, there has been a decrease in the overall percentage of referrals by these agencies and an increase from other agencies.

Within the Children Law a child is considered to be at risk if their circumstances might meet the grounds for compulsory intervention. These include those children who: have suffered or are likely to suffer physical or sexual abuse or significant impairment to their health or development; have misused drugs or alcohol; have committed a criminal offence or displayed behaviour that is violent or destructive; or, are not attending school without good reason.

Anyone who believes that compulsory intervention may be necessary to ensure the provision of adequate care, protection, guidance or control for a child can make a referral to the Children's Convenor. Where the grounds for compulsory intervention are met, the Convenor can refer the case to the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT). If the CYCT decide compulsory intervention is required they can make a legal order called a care requirement.

There was a decrease in referrals to the Children's Convenor in 2020, 218 referrals in relation to 161 children. Offence referrals reduced by 5% and non-offence referrals decreased by 60% in comparison to 2019. The number of offence referrals has decreased over the last 10 years with the number received in 2020 below the 10-year average.

There was an increase in both the number of children who were made subject to a care requirement in 2020 and those who were subject to a care requirement at the end of 2020.

There has been a slight decrease in regard to children on the child protection register at any point during the year, less registrations and more de-registration when comparing 2019 to 2020.

In 2020 the number of children on the child protection register at the start and end of the year remained at 69. There were 60 new registrations over the year and 70 de-registrations with a total of 139 children on the child protection register at any point during the year. This compares to 2019, where child protection registration over the course of the year ranged from 64 at the end of January to 81 by the end of December. There were 75 new registrations over that year and 63 de-registrations with a total of 144 children on the child protection register at any point during the year.

Children looked after are defined here as those who are accommodated by the Committee for Health & Social Care (HSC). Some children are looked after for short periods at a time while others are looked after on a long-term basis or go on to be adopted. Children can be looked after as the result of a Court Order or Care Requirement made by the CYCT, or on a voluntary basis, by agreement with their parents.

In total there were 59 children (average over the year) looked after during 2020 with 57 being looked after at the end of December 2020. This is a decrease on 2019 when 66 children were looked after (average over the year) and 61 being looked after at the end of December 2019. The general trend since 2010 is that there has been a decline in the number of children being looked after by HSC. This compares to a generally increasing trend for children looked after in all four UK nations. The number of children being looked after off-island continued to fall, in 2008 there were 28 children looked after off island, in 2020 there were only five looked after off island. This reflects significant efforts to meet demands in particular specialist foster placements on island and is reflected in the CYPP priorities given within the Corporate Parenting Plan.

One area of concern in relation to children in care was the increase of incidents of children being reported missing from care from 46 in 2019 to 169 in 2020. The increased incidents in 2020 are related to a small cohort of young people who have persistently gone missing (although none were missing for a protracted period) which has impacted on the statistics. Nevertheless, this is still a concern and has prompted more multi agency examination of how this can be addressed going into 2021.

Section 2

# Governance and accountability arrangements

Membership

The ISCP is made up of senior representatives from the main States Committee areas for safeguarding children, the Office of the Children’s Convenor as well as representatives from the private and voluntary sectors and the States of Alderney.

Since August 2019 the ISCP has been chaired by Sarah Elliott, who works pan-island and is also chair of the Jersey Safeguarding Partnership Board. To date this arrangement has worked well in fostering a more collaborative approach towards safeguarding when there is clear benefit and advantageous to do so. Recent examples include working jointly on work-streams such as harmful sexual behaviour and the pan island child death overview panel.

Sarah Elliott is a member of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for England which was formed in July 2018. She is also a special advisor with the Care Quality Commission, an Assessor with the College of Policing for senior policing appointments and a Trustee at a children’s hospice in Dorset.

Sarah’s role as Independent Chair is to provide leadership, challenge and effective scrutiny of safeguarding practice. Sarah reports directly to the ISCP Executive Group to discuss progress and issues raised through the ISCP. The Executive Group is chaired by the Chief Executive of the States of Guernsey and is made up of the Chief Secretaries of the Committee for Health & Social Care, the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture and the Committee for Home Affairs.

One meeting was cancelled in 2020 at the start of the Pandemic. There was a slight restructure mid 2020 whereby it was agreed that the Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse would attend on behalf of operational health colleagues, thereby accounting for the reduced attendance by Paediatrics, CAMHS and Primary Care. These services continue to sit on the Learning and Improvement Committee.

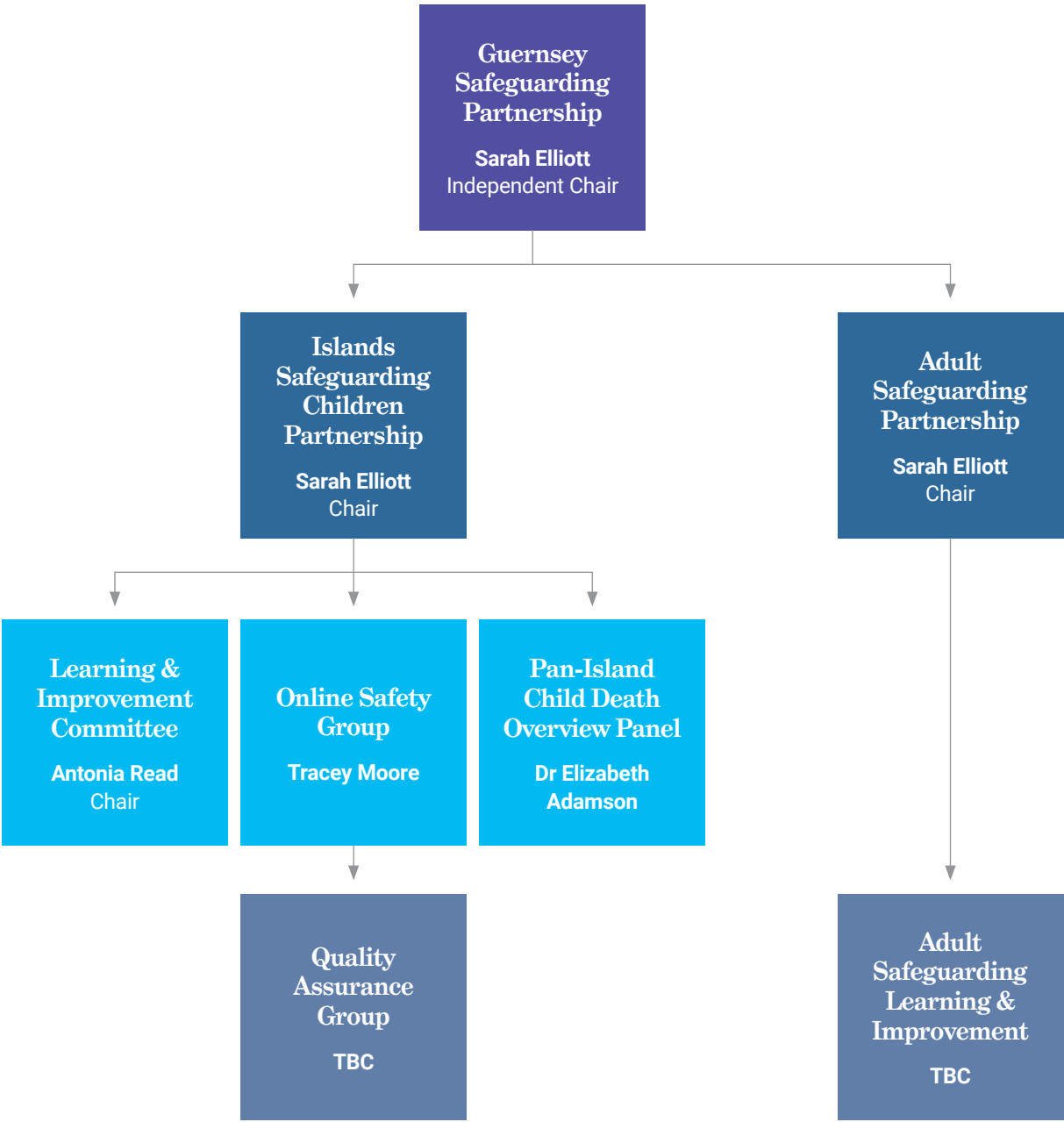
Anna Guilbert, Chief Probation Officer who had been a key contributor to the partnership since its inception retired in 2020 and the partnership has greatly appreciated her input over the years.

The Chief Executive of Alderney was absent on leave from his post for the majority of 2020 and did not attend any off the scheduled meetings. A new Chief Executive has been appointed for 2021 and it is anticipated that this will strengthen Alderney strategic involvement moving forwards in 2021.

Attendance

Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership Attendance at meetings 2020 (4 meetings in total)	
Dept/Organisations	No. of meetings attended
Independent Chair	4
Health & Social Care- Children and Families	4
Home/Probation	4
Police	4
Education, Sport & Culture	4
Alderney	0
Voluntary agencies	3
Paediatrician	1
Convenor	4
Primary Care	1
CAMHS	2
Advocate	2
Designated Dr for Safeguarding	4
Designated Nurse for Safeguarding	4

Proposed Structure of the ISCP 2020 –2021



## Business support and funding arrangements

The ISCP business support team consists of a full time Business Manager, an inter-agency training coordinator and an administrative assistant. In 2020, there were significant changes within the team, in January David Foote who had been in post as Business Manager for a number of years and was integral part in supporting and enabling the development of the ISCP left the post to set up a new and exciting initiative 'Stronger Families'. In February, Claire Wherry who had also been an integral part of the team as the ISCP administrator also left for pastures new and both were thanked and appreciated for their input and hard work over a

number of years. Gareth Kidd was appointed as the new Business Manager in January 2020. Without an administrator for the rest of the year and with the impact of a lockdown shortly afterwards at the start of March and the lack of remote IT capability initially, 2020 brought significant challenges in regards to the ability initially to carry on with 'business as normal. Positively, having had the interagency training coordinator vacant for over a year, Ali Coubrough was appointed in August. Ali brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise from her teaching background and worked to ensuring that a plan was in place to catch up on the training offer in the last quarter of the year, having been truncated up to that point due to the impact of COVID.

## Core budget expenditure

	Annual projection – 2020	Actuals – 2020	Variation from projection – 2020
<b>Contributions</b>			
HSC	-155,319	-155,319	
Home	-13,333	-13,333	
Education	-32,333	-32,333	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>200,985</b>	<b>200,985</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Independent Chair	21,000	17,126	3,874
Established staff	146,985	92,820	54,165
The Association of Safeguarding Partnership Association (TASP)	1,500	750	750
Website/procedures	300	0	300
Annual conference	5,000	695	4,305
Travel and accommodation	7,000	868	6,132
Incidental expenses	1,000	387	613
Venue hire	1,500	0	1,500
Catering	3,336	0	3,336
COW operational	4,000	0	4,000
COW legal	6,068	2,007	4,061
	<b>197,689</b>	<b>114,653</b>	<b>83,036</b>
	<b>3,296</b>	<b>86,332</b>	<b>83,036</b>

As the above table shows, there was a significant underspend that was reabsorbed by the States at the end of 2020. The largest underspend relates to staffing costs. The previous ISCP administrator resigned to take up a new post in February 2020, this post remained empty for the rest of 2020, however an appointment was made in January 2021. The Inter Agency Training Co-Ordinator post had been vacant since 2019, in August 2020 this post was successfully filled.

In regards to the way that the accounts have previously been presented, the Business Manager and Inter Agency training Co-Ordinator posts are directly employed through HSC. In order to

maximise transparency, these posts and costs have been amalgamated and reflected within HSC's contribution to the ISCP, which accounts for what initially looks like an increase in overall spend as compared to previous years.

In comparison to previous years, there was also less outlay in regards to commissioning independent external consultants for Serious Case Reviews or independent reports. In regards to membership of The Association of Safeguarding Partners (TASP), the Business Manager negotiated a joint membership deal with Jersey which resulted in the subscription fee being halved.

## Section 3

# Progress against the strategic and core business priorities for 2020

- Development of a Neglect Strategy including promotion of the Graded Care Profile 2 tool across agencies
- Joint programme with the NSPCC and Jersey Safeguarding Partnership on understanding and addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviours
- Develop the Islands Safeguarding Adult Partnership
- Development of a Contextual Safeguarding Framework with associated risk assessment tools
- A refresh of the Learning and Improvement framework with consideration of the Bexley Learning Hub model

The impact of the Pandemic on the business priorities for 2020 was significant and this has resulted in some delays in implementing work streams.

### Development of a Child Neglect Strategy including the promotion of the Graded Care Profile 2 assessment document across agencies

A steering group was formed in early 2020 with a view to putting together a Neglect strategy as this was identified as a key priority at the ISCP planning day in December 2019. The group has been led by Debbie Pittman, Service Manager for Child Health. The strategy has been finalised and will shortly be launched. A communications and awareness raising plan will be enacted as part of the launch of the document to ensure that Professionals, the Public and Politicians/Committees are aware and have knowledge of the impact that Neglect can have. The document is intended to be a key reference point and will be uploaded on to the ISCP website as well as being a key reference point in regards to monitoring outcomes over time as part of a new Quality Assurance Framework.

The Graded Care Profile 2 will be launched in 2021 and a training package for use of the tool and train the trainers' package will be implemented via input from the NSPCC who are overseeing the launch.

### Joint programme with the NSPCC and Jersey Safeguarding Partnership on understanding and addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviours

This programme was initially intended to be undertaken in the middle of 2020, however due to the impact of COVID what was initially planned as a face to face event to launch the framework resulted in the postponement of this programme until 2021. At the time of writing, the programme is well underway and is anticipated to be completed in July 2021 with a virtual dissemination event planned for September 2021.

### Developing an Adult Safeguarding Partnership - Islands Safeguarding Adults Partnership (ISAP)

The Bailiwick of Guernsey has an increasing population of adults at risk of harm and abuse including older people, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, people with a mental health condition and those with short- and long-term health conditions.

At present there is no legal framework for how agencies across the Bailiwick should protect the rights of islanders to live in safety - free from abuse and neglect. In addition, the regulation and inspection of the care system which should support the safeguarding system is only partially implemented.

In recent years, a number of steps have been taken by Health and Social Care, the Police and other organisations to strengthen safeguarding adult arrangements including the formation of a Health and Social Care Safeguarding Unit and a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for Adults. This has enabled developments in areas such as information sharing, training and referral pathways but previously, there has been no multi agency mechanism to formalise these arrangements. The ISAP is now established as a partnership and had its first formal meeting in December 2020.



The Bailiwick's Safeguarding Adults Partnership Framework will enable the following:

- Accountability for safeguarding adults across agencies
- A mechanism for escalation if agencies have not been able to resolve disagreements about safeguarding adult cases
- A mechanism for developing and approving safeguarding adult policies, procedures and assessment tools
- A mechanism to agree and formalise information sharing arrangements
- A mechanism for conducting reviews of serious adult safeguarding cases including domestic homicide reviews
- A mechanism to conduct multi agency safeguarding adult audits
- A mechanism for commissioning multi agency safeguarding adult training
- A mechanism to review and input in regards to the future legal framework for adult safeguarding

## Meeting core business needs

### Identifying and raising safeguarding concerns

Feeding up from the frontline in regards to emerging safeguarding themes and issues identified across agencies is a core part of the partnership's responsibility. There were two main themes that emerged both within case review and in regards to request for guidance and advice. The need for a reporting mechanism/appointed person to co-ordinate any concerns or allegations relating to staff who work with children and young people, this is often called the LADO post in England and Wales (Local Authority Designated Officer). There was also felt to be the need for an overall and defined multi agency safer recruitment policy.

During 2020, the Safeguarding Partnership introduced a Rapid Review process to identify learning from serious child safeguarding incidents, ensure this results in timely improvements back into practice and determine if a Serious Case Review should be commissioned.

In the event, there were no Serious Case reviews undertaken in 2020.

### Priorities not progressed in 2020

The development of a Contextual Safeguarding process in 2020 was not progressed over the year, however it will be incorporated in 2021 within the refresh of the Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol.

Following a briefing from Bexley Safeguarding Partnership regarding their approach to Learning and Improvement cycles, the ISCP had hoped to incorporate this approach in 2020 and is now being progressed as part of the new multi-agency Quality Assurance Process for 2021.

## Section 4

# Priorities for 2021

## Meeting our core responsibilities and strengthening our accountabilities

### COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the importance of effective multi agency working to ensure vulnerable children and families can continue to be protected. Early on in the first lockdown, the ISCP scheduled regular meetings with members of the ISCP Board to ensure that core responsibilities to meet the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children and adults could be maintained. This included ensuring MASH and referral pathways were maintained, overseeing adapted practice to keep sight of vulnerable children and adults, fostering a collaborative/problem solving approach and supporting communication campaigns to raise awareness with the public about the part they could play in looking out for signs of harm and access to advice and support.

During the pandemic and in periods of lockdown, the work of the ISCP has been largely maintained through virtual meetings. However, it has been important to be flexible and partners have had to prioritise operational working which has meant some programmes of work such as contextual safeguarding have been delayed.

### Quality Assurance

Quality assurance mechanisms are key to the ISCP understanding the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements including their impact on the outcomes for children and young people and how frontline staff are equipped and confident to address safeguarding needs.

During 2020, the ISCP has researched the approach it needs to achieve this and has agreed that the Learning and Improvement Sub-Group of the Board will lead on development of a Quality Assurance Framework based on the well-regarded *Research in Practice Building a Culture of Quality Improvement* framework. This will include developing a core data set, undertaking multi-agency audits and regularly seeking feedback from children and families who access safeguarding services along with practitioners working within this field.

### Chief Officers Group

The ISCP is well placed to identify priorities for strengthening safeguarding mechanisms across the islands and works with the Chief Officers Group to achieve this. Examples include representation on key issues such as developing an Island Designated Officer as part of arrangements to manage allegations against staff working with children, strengthening the criminal records checks for staff and Ministers with an enhanced check for those working directly with children or vulnerable adults and supporting proposals for the introduction of the SportsMark accreditation scheme to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements across the many sports organisations that exist across the islands. The ISCP will continue to use its influence to ensure these issues are addressed.

### Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents

The ISCP has a responsibility to review serious child safeguarding incidents where there appears to be multi-agency learning. Historically this has involved commissioning serious case reviews which often take months to be complete, are costly and may not be the most effective way to ensure learning gets back into practice. In 2020, the ISCP introduced a Rapid Review process so that relevant cases could be reviewed in a much shorter timescale with a more flexible approach to sharing learning including the introduction of 7-minute briefings and practice learning events. The learning and improvement section of the annual report will detail the key learning from the Rapid Reviews undertaken in 2020.

### Child Death Overview

In order to ensure timely review of child deaths across the Channel Islands, a review of governance for these arrangements was completed in 2020. This included addressing a small backlog of cases, developing the clinical review part of the process and exploring a collaboration with an off-island Child Death Overview panel to enable thematic learning from a larger population of child deaths.

## Meeting Needs

### Implementation of Child Neglect Strategy and Graded Care Profile 2

The Graded Care Profile 2 rollout is being undertaken by the NSPCC. Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is an assessment tool which helps practitioners measure the quality of care a child is receiving. The tool has been found to be effective in helping identify whether a child is at risk of neglect. During 2021 we will work with the NSPCC to ensure that we have practitioners trained in being able to use this assessment tool.

### Harmful Sexual Behaviour Audit

To raise awareness and identify clear and concise evidence of local need in addressing harmful sexual behaviours (HSB), the ISCP has commissioned the NSPCC to undertake an audit of the approach to prevention, identification and intervention on island. There will be an awareness raising session for professionals as to what HSB is along with a full debrief as to what the audit indicates with feedback on the island's response.

### Refresh of Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Protocol was originally launched by the ISCP in 2015. The Learning and Improvement Committee had identified that the protocol was not being followed in regards to responses to CSE. It is intended to fully refresh the approach to addressing CSE on island including ensuring that professionals are aware of the signs of CSE as well as ensuring that the multi-agency protocols in responding to CSE is reviewed and refined. It is also intended within the approach to addressing CSE to develop and incorporate contextual safeguarding approaches to addressing CSE and associated risks relating to harm outside the home.

### Developing a Trauma Informed Practice Approach

Building on momentum gained through the Learning Network there are several initiatives that seek to embed a Trauma Informed Approach in working with children and families. The ISCP intends to seek to look to formalise and agree across agencies what that approach will look like with the goal to seek to improve life chances and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

## Developing our influence/impact

### Developing and strengthening work with the third sector

To ensure that the Third and voluntary sector feel involved and confident in their safeguarding roles and responsibilities, it is intended to strengthen links through ensuring that they have access and are aware of safeguarding training available along with a number of engagement events to ensure that we are understood and respond to their safeguarding needs alongside promoting the imposition of the Islands Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The first engagement event is scheduled for July 2021.

### Improving Communication/Alignment

The ISCP will work to ensure that there is more communication and convergence with wider strategies and partnerships to improve impact and outcomes for vulnerable islanders. Greater co-work with the Children and Young People's Plan and the Domestic Abuse Strategy are two examples where there is ongoing and key areas for cross co-operation.

The ISCP website is in need of a refresh and overhaul and the coming year will be an opportune point to do this with the development and formation of the Islands Safeguarding Adult's Partnership. There will also be the opportunity to update policies and procedures and make these clearer and more accessible through the introduction of the Tri-X operating facility.

## Section 5

# Reports from Sub-committees

## ISCP Learning and Improvement Sub-Committee

2020, proved to be a year of significant change and challenge.

Firstly, a change in the Chair of the Learning and Improvement Committee (L & I) with Claire Cuthbert stepping down and Antonia Read, Deputy Children's Convenor taking the reins in February 2020. This was followed in August, with the appointment of Ali Coubrough as the ISCP Training Co-ordinator.

The challenge followed in the form of COVID 19 which stymied the efforts of the Sub-Committee due to the pressure on members to adapt to new ways of working to ensure their respective Services' provision. Meetings held "virtually" became the new normal; training schedules were impacted and most regrettably the Annual ISCP Conference cancelled due to the Island's restrictions on travel and large events.

However, this challenge also provided an opportunity to review and revise the Sub-Committee's terms of reference, structure and governance to maximise its resources, provide clarity on its objectives and ensure that it was an effective part of the ISCP structure and able to consider the needs of the ISAP as it develops. Of particular note, with the aim of improving communication across the Partnership, a regular Briefing Report was compiled for the Partnership Board detailing activity and raising any risks or issues. This approach is planned to be adopted by other Sub-Committee along with regular liaison meetings with Sub-Committee Chairs and ISCP Independent Chair.

Despite the challenges, the L&I Sub-Committee were able to complete the following activities:

### Reflective Practice

As part of the new procedures relating to the consideration of convening a Serious Case Review, the L&I Sub-Committee, was able to undertake two Rapid Reviews. A short, anonymised briefing for each of these cases was produced identifying the learning, which included:

- Importance of continuity in management of complex cases
- Risk of professional optimism
- Importance of child centred practice
- Avoiding criminalising children within peer to peer abuse cases
- Safeguarding of unregulated professionals
- Knowledge and skills of professionals in respect of perplexing presentations

Further, the Resolution of Professional Disagreements Procedure was used on one occasion ([link to the document](#)) and the learning from this case was incorporated into training delivery.

### Training

Following, the appointment of Ali Coubrough, her efforts, supported by a team of facilitators from partner agencies, significant progress was made to address the back log of training as a result of the impact of COVID on the planned schedule with 332 delegates on Level 2, 3 and 4 courses since August. Delivery methods within key course were also developed to include a greater element of delegate interaction. The effectiveness of this has been highlighted in feedback which is now collated and analysed after every delivery to continually assess the quality of training. This feedback has also identified potential future training needs.

The level 3 course was redesigned and work commenced to develop an e-learning package for level 1 adult safeguarding.

### Training Needs Analysis

A re-designed, online Training Needs Analysis (TNA) was undertaken resulting in a greater response than previous years. This was also an opportunity to extend our reach into the third/voluntary sector. As a result of this, uptake of training from this sector began to increase.

Work also began on sourcing and creating training based on the emerging safeguarding issues highlighted including contextual safeguarding, children of prisoners, safeguarding children who identify as LGBTQ+ and Fabricated or Induced Illness.



## Safeguarding Learning Network

The practitioner led Safeguarding Learning Network was established in December 2020 with a focus on trauma informed care and practice that was attended by professionals from across a wide variety of agencies, organisations and sectors in Guernsey, as well as representation from Jersey and the UK. Whilst in the early stages, further events are planned for 2021.

Despite the challenges of 2020, a significant number of achievements were made due to the endeavour of many within the L&I Sub-Committee and across partner agencies. In addition to the ISCP Business Support Team and L&I Members, particular thanks are expressed to Claire Cuthbert for her leadership during the early part of the year; Ali Coubrough for her innovation and energy to meet the challenges of Covid in delivery a training programme; and Linda Roberts, Melissa Guille and Emma Le Poidevin for their efforts to maintain training schedule whilst the post was vacant.

Whilst some progress has been made against the 2020 Business Plan Priorities, those relating to the re-refresh of the CSE Protocol and Contextual Safeguarding considerations are still progressing along with the development of a Quality Assurance Framework, which was tasked to the group in the latter part of the year and will form the basis of the 2021 priorities.

### Antonia Read

Deputy Children's Convenor

Chair, Learning and Improvement Committee

# ISCP Digital Online Safety Group

## Keeping children and young people safe in their digital world

### 1. Raising Awareness

The remit of the ISCP Digital Online Safety Group is keeping children and young people safe online. A key part of this work is the annual Digital Ace event which celebrates the excitement of technology whilst keeping safety at the centre. Over 55 providers showcase their work each year with key speakers sharing advice about how to keep safe online. In excess of 3,000 people attend each year.

### 2. Partnership

The strength of the group is the multi-disciplinary nature of the attendees with representatives from HSC, Education, the Police, Action for Children, Home Department, Safe and Secure Online, Safeguarding Partnership and the Digital Greenhouse.

A close partnership has been formed with South West Grid for Learning (UK Safer Internet Centre) who attend each meeting providing up to date advice and support.

We are delighted to have worked with all 3 phone providers to implement the Internet Watch Foundation's CAIC list. This means that child abuse images are blocked from coming into the Island by a filtering system. After this was put in place there were 11905 attempts to access this illegal content over Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man in the first year.

### 3. Training

Previously we have worked closely with South West Grid for Learning who have supported the training of social workers, EYFS providers, Foster Carers, Sports Commission, Magistrates and Teaching staff. Paul Beasley, Online Safety Adviser has now been appointed on Island to deliver the following outcomes in the CYPP:

- PO1 Provide access to online safety training in all schools.
- PO2 Provide access to training for services and adults that work with children.
- PO3 Work with the ISCP to provide advice and guidance about online safety to parents, professionals and the voluntary sector.

### 4. Policy Development

The committee meet 5 times a year, tasked with helping keep children and young people safe online.

Attendance at the group remains strong. This year we have welcomed Emma Jones, Lead Cyber Security Officer at The Office of the Committee for Home Affairs to the group.

The group have looked to find a solution to the lack of resources available on Island for Online Safety training. We are delighted to report that Paul Beasley has been seconded to the part time post of Online safety Advisor. He will work towards delivering the following objectives from the Children and Young People's Plan:

- PO1 Provide access to online safety training in all schools.
- PO2 Provide access to training for services and adults that work with children.
- PO3 Work with the ISCP to provide advice and guidance about online safety to parents, professionals and the voluntary sector.

Paul will work closely with South West Grid for Learning and his work will be vital in keeping children and young people safe in their digital world.

We continue to work closely with the UK Safer Internet Centre who attend our meetings and provide valuable updates into current trends as well as training and advice. Andrew Williams from South West Grid for Learning gave a presentation at the CYPP conference in November to raise awareness of the issues children face online.

The group has worked hard to secure engagement with the telecom providers and is proud of the partnerships now formed.

Earlier in the year the group raised concerns with the Chief of Police about the withdrawal of support for schools from the police for online safety. In response to this we have been informed that resources have now been moved around to allow support from officers to continue in schools.

This year the committee has considered the link between gaming online and gambling. Proposals have been drawn up to prevent gambling behaviours in children and young people and it is hoped to secure sponsorship in the near future.

### Tracey Moore

Headteacher

Chair, ISCP Digital Online Safety Group

# Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Guernsey and Alderney Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership and Jersey Safeguarding Children Partnership Board aim to meet together at least bi-annually to review the deaths of all children under the age of 18, excluding still births and planned terminations. The role of the panel is advisory. The panel considers the circumstances of all individual cases, contributory factors and preventability. It will then make recommendations for action and identifies any concerning patterns or trends.

Following a lengthy gap of around 18 months in the panel sitting, Dr Liz Adamson the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding in Guernsey took the helm. The joint islands CDOP has met three times in 2020 using a virtual meeting format. Dr Adamson has been proactive in leading the review and update of the processes involved in regard to governance and procedure. Dr Adamson has also fostered links with Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) CDOP. This is important given the close links that Guernsey has, in particular with Southampton General Hospital. The UK CDOP guidance is that CDOPs should cover a constituency that results in reviewing at least 60 deaths per year, combining across local authority areas if required to achieve this. The guidance is aimed at ensuring that CDOPs can draw reasonable conclusions about local trends and actions that are needed to prevent deaths or to improve services locally. Thankfully, whilst the number of child deaths across both islands is nowhere near this figure, the linkage with HIPS CDOP, being the nearest to the islands is the most logical larger CDOP to link with and share (anonymous) data and identify trends and any patterns of concern.

Data is now also submitted to the National Child Mortality Database and annual reports on analysis of these data are published. Local data from CDOPs can then be compared with the national data to strengthen local actions.

# Closing comments from the Chair

The Annual Report summarises a range of activities of the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership but can't possibly reflect all of the excellent safeguarding practice that takes place through individuals and organisations on a daily basis.

The safeguarding agenda for children and families is constantly evolving and the partnership needs to lead and shape multi agency safeguarding arrangements so they can continue to meet the needs of islanders. With the development of the Islands Safeguarding Adult Partnership, we now have the opportunity to consider safeguarding across the life course-supporting children and young people as they transition into adulthood.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges for vulnerable people and for professionals supporting them but it has also highlighted the value and importance of multi-agency working- thinking creatively, delivering services flexibly and learning together.

Improving the way we engage with the third sector/ charitable organisations ensures we hear about daily life for individuals and communities across the Bailiwick. This helps shape our plans for safeguarding and supports everyone in playing their part in keeping islanders safe.

I look forward to working with the Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership as we continue to further strengthen multi-agency safeguarding in 2021 and beyond.







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