

Strategic Priorities

With the knowledge that a revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance was due to be published, Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) identified three key strategic priorities in 2023-2024. These were:

1. The multi-agency HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, the strategy and toolkit being in place and assuring effective implementation.
2. Identification, understanding and responding to vulnerable children with disrupted education.
3. To promote and embed the work of the partnership.

Alongside these three key priorities, we identified a number of cross cutting themes that would be part of business as usual, but also incorporated into the work that we do as a result of these priorities. These themes were:

- The voice of the child and family - making sure that the voice of the child is included in all toolkits, programmes of work via participation leads, case studies and national research.
- The cost-of-living crisis – the impact of the cost of living is considered in all audits, local learning events, local safeguarding child practice reviews and data sets.
- Diversity considerations – all audits and reviews include diversity considerations.
- Domestic abuse – working with the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership to receive data on domestic abuse as part of the scrutiny data set.
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health - engaging with and highlighting learning regarding emotional wellbeing and mental health with relevant partnership boards.
- Capability and capacity of the workforce considered as part of an annual update to the HSCP impact of the workforce capacity.
- Innovation, trial and develop different ways of sharing key safeguarding messages with partner agencies.

Focusing on those priorities:

Priority 1: The multi-agency HIPS Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and Toolkit and assurance of implementation.

We've developed a local delivery plan for the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, undertaken a thematic audit of child sexual abuse, including a range of data and information that includes practitioner confidence, case file audits, case reviews, training attendance and evaluation information.

We've developed multi-agency training and introduction to the Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Course. There's multi-agency training on child sexual abuse within the family environment. We've developed a toolkit on the child sexual abuse eLearning and multi-agency specialist child sexual abuse examination training, which is available to children's services and named professionals within health and police.

We also have training on harmful sexual behaviour and have recommissioned training for the multi-agency Brook Traffic Light Tool.

We've developed a Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Child Sexual Abuse Toolkit for parents and carers drawing on national evidence, incorporating learning from national and local child safeguarding practice reviews within the toolkits and the training that we deliver.

Priority 2: Identify, understand and respond to vulnerable children with disrupted attendance.

We've undertaken a thematic audit of children at risk of becoming persistent or severely absent, with a focus on vulnerable children. We've developed Hampshire and Isle of Wight educational neglect advice and a case study that forms part of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership Neglect Toolkit.

We've updated the day in the life tools to support understanding of the child's lived experience and the impact of parent-oriented issues, and we're developing training to build a collective awareness of multi-agency roles and responsibilities in supporting school and setting attendance for vulnerable children. We've scheduled on the 22 October 2024 a conference, Every Child's Education Counts, Safeguarding our Children Through Their Engagement in Education.

Priority 3: Promoting and embedding the work of the partnership

Our Communication and Development Group is now in place and operational. We've developed a plan which has been implemented by the group.

We've developed a Section 11 style audit for the community and voluntary sector.

We've begun updating the toolkits on a rolling basis.

We've made sure to include staff survey and focus groups, building them into thematic and evaluation work.

Strategies, toolkits and associated products are being evaluated in year three following their launches.