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# NOTICE OF MEETING

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2019 AT 10.00 AM

**THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, THE GUILDHALL**

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith Democratic Services Tel: 9283 4057

Email: [joanne.wildsmith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.wildsmith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

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### **Health and Wellbeing Board Members**

Councillors Matthew Winnington (Joint Chair), Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE, Luke Stubbs and Rob Wood

Innes Richens, Dr Jason Horsley, Mark Cubbon, Dr Linda Collie (Joint Chair), Ruth Williams, Dianne Sherlock, Sue Harriman, Alison Jeffery, Andy Silvester, Siobhain McCurrach, Jackie Powell, Steven Labeledz, Frances Mullen, Mick Thompson, Sarah Beattie, Steve Burrige and Barbara Swyer

Dr Linda Collie (Joint Chair)

Plus one other PCCG Executive Member: Dr Elizabeth Fellows and Dr N Moore

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(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

**Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.**

## AGENDA

- 1 **Welcome to new members and introductions**
- 2 **Apologies for absence**
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**

**4 Minutes of previous meetings - 13 February and 20 March (Special) 2019 and matters arising (Pages 5 - 12)**

**RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Board meetings held on 13 February and 20 March 2019 be agreed as correct records.**

**5 New Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements for Portsmouth; Wider Partnership Working to Reduce Risk and Vulnerability (Pages 13 - 44)**

The report by Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education, seeks to:

- (i) inform the Board about new local partnership arrangements for safeguarding children as required under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (see paper at Appendix 1)
- (ii) outline to the Board existing broader partnership approaches to reducing risk and vulnerability in the City, and potential barriers to their success/further development; and
- (iii) invite reflection by the Board on ways in which joint working might be strengthened and how barriers might be overcome.

**RECOMMENDED that the Health & Wellbeing Board:**

- (i) **Note the proposed new partnership arrangements at Appendix 1 which balance economies of scale in terms of strategic/policy development at a pan Hampshire level with a strong focus on the quality and effectiveness of local services and joint working on the ground.**
- (ii) **note and consider the wider work undertaken in recent years to strengthen joint approaches to reducing risk and vulnerability, potential barriers to further progress, and how these might be tackled.**

**6 Draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 (Pages 45 - 72)**

The report by Paul Fielding, Assistant Director of Housing, seeks to present the draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy to the Health & Wellbeing Board for comment.

**RECOMMENDED that the Health & Wellbeing Board comment on the draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy for 2018-2023 (see Appendix 1).**

**7 Safer Portsmouth Partnership Transition - key community safety priorities (information/discussion item) (Pages 73 - 78)**

The handover letter dated 28 May 2019 from Superintendent Steve Burridge

as the outgoing chair of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership is attached.

**8 Code of Conduct (information item) (Pages 79 - 86)**

To note Portsmouth City Council's Code of Conduct for members, which also applies to the wider Portsmouth Health and Wellbeing Board membership.

**9 Dates and times of meetings**

If members are happy to continue Wednesday morning meetings the following dates are suggested for the rest of the municipal year:

25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

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# Agenda Item 4

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Wednesday, 13 February 2019 at 10.00 am in Conference Room A, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

### Present

Councillor Matthew Winnington (in the Chair)

Councillor Rob Wood  
Councillor Jennie Brent

Innes Richens  
Dr Jason Horsley  
Mark Cubbon  
Dianne Sherlock  
Tracy Sanders CCG  
Dr Nick Moore  
Mark Cubbin PHT  
Matthew Hall, Solent NHS

### PCC Officers Present

Kelly Nash  
David Williams  
Julia Katherine  
Ed Skinner

#### 1. **Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interest and Introductions (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Linda Collie, Jackie Powell, Siobhan McCurrach, Councillor Luke Stubbs and Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE.

There were no declarations of interest and introductions were made around the table.

#### 2. **Minutes of previous meeting - 28 November 2018 and matters arising (AI 2)**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Board held on 28 November 2018 be agreed as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.**

Matters Arising - Minute 63 - HIOW Sustainability Transformation Partnership - it was noted that the requested letter had been sent on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, signed by the Joint Chairs, on 4<sup>th</sup> December (as appended to the minutes).

### **3. Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board annual report (AI 3)**

Robert Templeton, Chair of Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB) presented their annual report. This was a statutory duty and their separate business plan would be circulated to HWB members after this had been approved by the PSAB in March. Their overriding duties were to ensure that partners work together to keep people safe and where there are failures to commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs).

Robert Templeton expanded on the safeguarding work that had been taking place in support of Portsmouth Hospital Trust (regarding the CQC rating), which Innes Richens had also been involved with, to look at serious incidents and agree a work plan. An improvement board had been established at QA hospital, including Children's Social Services, which had already seen changes in the culture in tackling issues there. Staff were receiving training on the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) to give greater understanding, with the use of a virtual ward to enact complex decision making scenario.

There was also the issue of pooled resources been the 4 safeguarding boards locally and working with partner organisations in areas or quality, workforce, common policy and practice. A challenge experienced nationally was the variation in responses to safeguarding matters and this was seen locally with the need to ensure a consistent approach in dealing with adults with learning disabilities. Therefore the reviews gave the opportunity to see common threads.

In response to questions the following additional information was given:

- There are close links with the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board, with meetings planned to take place on the same day as PSAB, so there is not a silo approach and the transition of children to adults is recognised.
- To ensure that safeguarding is well understood a public information film had been commissioned on what it means and where to get further advice.
- The "source of risk" in the table on page 5 of the report was the referral source, i.e. where the referral had come from, and whilst this showed low levels from domestic violence these referrals may come through other pathways.
- A peer review was planned for safeguarding practice which would look further at the collection and recording of data.
- How would the finding (page 9) regarding lack of communication be addressed? This would be covered in the business plan with recommendations from SARs (taking place only where appropriate) to challenge commissioners.
- The training on changes in MCA also included Liberty Protection safeguards, aiming for a common standard of training in Portsmouth

and across all 4 board areas (Robert also chairs the Southampton and Hampshire ASBs), introducing a common assessment tool for them.

- With the changing landscape Portsmouth's own pressures were seen to be different for those of the county, and the local relationships are important in understanding the needs of the community, so the peer review would be helpful to give the necessary focus here.
- Policy changes can be influenced through the LGA with Robert Templeton chairing the national network of chairs. There is also a regional group of chairs looking at SARs issues, such as families looking for "justice" in the outcomes and challenges to the legal status of the reviews.
- The importance of including the Third Sector was acknowledged to see what support is available via the voluntary sector and to celebrate the work taking place here (with awards, not just looking at where things go wrong) in treating people with dignity. This was welcomed by Dianne Sherlock who stated that Age UK Portsmouth had been well supported.
- Mark Cubbon was grateful for the work that had taken place at Queen Alexandra Hospital, with the benefits of sharing knowledge being seen, although there was still more to do to ensure consistency between Portsmouth and Hampshire processes which lead to pressures for hospital staff.

Councillor Winnington, as Chair, thanked Robert for presenting the annual report and for the work taking place arising from this and the business plan.

**The PSAB annual report for 2017-18 was noted.**

#### **4. Tobacco Harm Reduction (AI 4)**

Dr Jason Horsley introduce this report which set out the concerns of illicit tobacco being in circulation which worked against the council's efforts with this getting children hooked on smoking and having links to criminality and the product is even less healthy than other tobacco. The price and taxing of tobacco is not the only way to tackle health issues. The report summarised the work taking place by public health and trading standards officers with limited resources.

In response to questions the following additional information was given:

- Matthew Hall reported that those with mental health issues are 3 times more likely to use tobacco, and as health providers in Portsmouth Solent NHS Trust have smoke-free venues and offer interventions, but find the take-up is low.
- The PCC wellbeing service encouraged and helped with quitting smoking but it is hard to reach all and specific groups need to be targeted. The Public Health funding would not be known for 2020 until late 2019 which makes it difficult to plan services.

- Current work was taking place to try to de-normalise tobacco use and encourage smoke-free spaces - Dianne Sherlock welcomed the smoke free children's play park in Fratton, but raised the issue of enforcement and links with organised crime.
- There is research available on the tipping point of the economy of illicit tobacco with a pack of legitimate cigarettes costing £9 and illicit ones nearer £3.
- Dr Horsley was concerned by the high profile of e-cigarette sponsorship for motor racing.
- Work was taking place at the International Port to ensure Portsmouth is not a soft target, by Trading Standards officers. Ed Skinner further reported on the local intelligence based interventions and the use of specialist detection dogs.

Councillor Winnington thanked the officers for the report which he had requested to this meeting due to its cross-portfolio relevance, and due to the challenges being experienced locally (Portsmouth being the second highest in South East for purchasing of illicit tobacco) and this was also being raised with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The contents of the information report were noted.

## **5. Health and Wellbeing Board - Revised Constitution (AI 5)**

Kelly Nash and David Williams presented the report by PCC's Chief Executive. This was an update from previous discussions regarding the expanded terms of reference to include the Children's Trust and the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP), with meetings having taken place with their representatives. The SPP had requested a small amendment to allow the forming of sub-groups. David Williams thanked all involved in this work which was part of the broader journey of integration, which would help to effectively lobby in the future, and open up dialogues with other HWBs.

It was noted that whilst the Voluntary Sector was within the membership it was not reflected within the aims, which could be addressed.

Tracy Sanders reported that this would be going to the March CCG Board for adoption and to ensure that there is proper discharge of CCG functions.

Councillor Winnington, as Chair, welcomed the broader scope as outlined and this would also be considered by the City Council.

**RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board support the changes to the constitution for the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the report.**

## **6. SEND Strategy and self-evaluation (update/information report) (AI 6)**

Dr Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion, presented the update report



(the associated full SEND strategy was too large to include with papers but is available on the Portsmouth local offer website:

[www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org](http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org)).

She summarised the six key strands of work:

- i) Inclusion - recent developments include a definition of Inclusion that has been co-produced with parents and young people (as appended to the report) and an 'Ordinarily Available Provision' document to explain what support children can expect to be able to receive in any mainstream school in the city.
- ii) Implementation (of the SEND Reforms) and performance - looking at improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND in the city and their families.
- iii) Joint Commissioning - delivering the new statutory duty to jointly commission services across the local authority and health partners.
- iv) Participation and co-production - to empower young people with SEND and their parents and carers to participate, co-produce and review services and support available to them.
- v) Early Identification and Early Support for SEND - across health, education and care services.
- vi) Preparation for Adulthood - to ensure access to services during the transition from children's to adult services and into adulthood, for education, training and employment opportunities (Portsmouth is a pilot area for work on this)

A local area SEND inspection is due within the next 2 years by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, and as part of this there is a self-evaluation which has been completed and which Health & Wellbeing Board members should be familiar with.

There had been very positive feedback from the annual parent and carer survey with 85% of the 501 parents who responded reporting that they felt listened to. A report on the findings was being finalised. Section 3.4 of the report set out the identified areas of strength, with 98.4% of new assessments being completed within the 20 week statutory timeframe (Portsmouth was above national averages).

Areas for development (Section 3.5) included increasing school attendance and reducing exclusions, with a current publicity campaign. It was known that children with special needs are over-represented in both groups likely to be excluded and those likely to be absent from school, so this was being targeted. Similarly educational outcomes for pupils with lower level special needs was another area of focus. Portsmouth has been successful in receiving funding for provision of a special free school for pupils with autism to open in September 2021.

In response to questions raised the following additional information was given:

- Recording systems are being developed as currently there are different recording systems for education, social care and health

- The previous review did not accurately reflect the on-going input of health colleagues but the robust strategy and action plans are in place and reflect the multi-agency assessment process
- The publicity campaign to encourage attendance '#missschoolmissout' needed further circulation to GPs (Julia Katherine would liaise with Dr Nick Moore to access the GP Target group).
- Dr Horsley raised the links shown in studies between health problems and prematurity, and joint work was taking place with health colleagues to tackle smoking, with improvements expected to take several years to filter through.
- For Portsmouth there are around 4000 pupils with SEN, of these, 1500 have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan (around half of whom have their needs met in mainstream schools), and the main increase in SEND numbers are for more complex needs rather than low level.

Dr Katherine was thanked for her informative report, the contents of which were noted.

## **7. NHS Long Term Plan (AI 7)**

Innes Richens presented the information report which set out how health and public care work together and their long-term plan signalled a move towards NHS integrating care systems. This raised the issues of commissioning functions, addressing health inequalities and public health functions. This covered the integration with local authority roles but there was further guidance regarding GPs. Innes' view was that the city was in a strong position to deliver this long-term plan.

It was asked whether this represented a genuine increase in funding and asked how Portsmouth would retain a local focus in these proposals? A lot of work had already taken place by both PCC and CCG to increase integration and strengthen local working, so there would be a clear voice for the city and also through the hospital's network of service. It was noted that the Primary Care Networks were also looking at changes in contract work for GPs. The relationship with QA Hospital would remain key and there would also be opportunities to make progress independently.

HWB members would keep abreast of developments and updates would be brought to future meetings.

## **8. Date of next meeting (AI 8)**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 pm.

Councillor Matthew Winnington, Chair

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Wednesday, 20 March 2019 at 12.00 pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

### Present

Councillor Matthew Winnington (in the Chair)  
Dr Linda Collie  
Dr Nick Moore CCG  
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE  
Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Councillor Rob Wood  
Councillor Jennie Brent (non-voting)  
Jackie Powell  
Innes Richens  
Dr Jason Horsley  
Alison Jeffery

### Officers Present

Kelly Nash

#### 9. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Dianne Sherlock, Mark Cubbon and Siobhain McCurrach.

#### 10. Declarations of members' interests (AI 2)

None.

#### 11. Receive Term of Reference from Council (AI 3)

Innes Richens, Chief Operating Officer CCG and Director of Adult Services PCC, presented the report by PCC's Chief Executive that had been approved by the City Council the previous day. This was part of a broader review of partnership arrangements in the city. Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager PCC, reported that these were the same set of terms of reference that had previously come to the Health & Wellbeing Board, with the amendment requested to give further reference to the voluntary sector in the membership.

Siobhan McCurrach had submitted Healthwatch Portsmouth's written support of the proposed changes to the terms of reference.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Leader of PCC, regretted that at the Council meeting the opportunity had not been taken to raise extending political membership to include each group, and he hoped that the Labour

Group could be included during the next municipal year as well as the 2 main parties. This change had not been made by Council but the option still remained for co-options to the Board.

Councillor Winnington, Joint Chair, welcomed this approach and suggested that the arrangements be reviewed in a year's time to ensure they are effective.

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families & Education, would bring a report regarding Safeguarding Arrangements for Children to the newly constituted Health & Wellbeing Board due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> June, which would cover child crime issues.

**RESOLVED - the Health & Wellbeing Board accepted the new terms of reference as agreed by the City Council.**

**12. Terms of Reference for Health and Care Portsmouth Commissioning Board (sub-board of HWB) (AI 4)**

Innes Richens introduced the report on behalf of the PCCG, assisted by Kelly Nash for PCC. This set out the proposed terms of reference for the sub board as a first step; this would evolve with the forthcoming changes in NHS.

Councillor Luke Stubbs welcomed the approach and asked about how public involvement would be accommodated. Innes Richens anticipated these meetings being in public as much as possible, but with mechanisms to allow commercially sensitive information to be protected where necessary. Kelly Nash reported that the sub group was not being established as a decision making body at this stage, but would be used to formulate policy to report to the main Health & Wellbeing Board and other partnership boards. Consideration could be given at a later stage as to extending its powers.

Jackie Powell suggested that thought be given to possible conflicts of interest.

(A typographical error at 1.4 of Appendix 1 was pointed out - the last word of this section had been omitted and should read "city")

**RESOLVED - the Health & Wellbeing Board approved the proposed terms of reference for the establishment of the Health and Care Portsmouth Commissioning Board as a sub-committee of the Health & Wellbeing Board.**

The meeting concluded at 12.22 pm.

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Councillor Matthew Winnington and Dr Linda Collie  
Joint Chair

# Agenda Item 5



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

Agenda item:

**Title of meeting:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date of meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Subject:** NEW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR PORTSMOUTH; WIDER PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO REDUCE RISK AND VULNERABILITY

**Report by:** Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

**Wards affected:** n/a

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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## 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is threefold:

- (i) To inform the Board about new local partnership arrangements for safeguarding children as required under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (Appendix 1)
- (ii) To outline to the Board existing broader partnership approaches to reducing risk and vulnerability in the City, and potential barriers to their success/further development; and
- (iii) To invite reflection by the Board on ways in which joint working might be strengthened and how barriers might be overcome.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note the proposed new partnership arrangements at Appendix 1 which balance economies of scale in terms of strategic/policy development at a pan Hampshire level with a strong focus on the quality and effectiveness of local services and joint working on the ground.
- (ii) note and consider the wider work undertaken in recent years to strengthen joint approaches to reducing risk and vulnerability,

potential barriers to further progress, and how these might be tackled.

### **3. Background and context**

#### **3.1 New Safeguarding Partnership arrangements**

Attached as Appendix 1 are the new safeguarding partnership arrangements, which are being presented for decision to the Lead Member, Children and Families on 28 June 2019. Essentially the legislation in 2017 was liberalising, removing specific requirements for a local Safeguarding Board with an independent chair in favour of a requirement on three key partners ( local government, the NHS and Police) to set out agreed arrangements for each local authority area, with a requirement for "independent scrutiny" of local services/cooperation as part of these arrangements.

3.2 In Portsmouth we have taken the opportunity to strengthen our joint working with Southampton, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, creating a new Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Executive Group which will oversee the development of common policies and strategy around safeguarding children and young people, building on our existing joint protocols. At the same time we have maintained a broad inclusive partnership Board for Portsmouth, which will focus particularly on holding the mirror up effectively to local practice through a programme of "deep dive" reviews every year. These will look not just at case records and performance data but also the views of children, young people and families and of front line staff about what is working well and what needs to be improved. As part of strengthening our cooperation we have worked with Southampton to recruit a single independent Chair and Scrutineer for both cities, Derek Benson. A core task for the new Chair will be to report to us on how well we are closing the learning loop - ensuring that where our deep dive reviews identify actions we need to take, those actions are taken promptly and their impact reviewed again.

#### **3.3 Wider partnership working currently to tackle risk and vulnerability in children and young people**

Effective safeguarding arrangements for children and young people need to be part of a broader preventative, systemic approach; it is not sufficient to focus only on the needs of those most at risk. The importance of early intervention has long been recognised, not just for keeping children safe but also for their well-being more generally. There is also increasing interest across the UK in "trauma informed" approaches, which recognise and respond to the impact of early adversity and trauma on children and young people.

- 3.4 There is not space in this paper to map in detail all the ways of which partners in Portsmouth work together to promote early intervention, or how far understanding about trauma informed practice is embedded. The paragraphs below summarise, however, some key developments in recent years.
- 3.5 **Co-located Multi Agency Teams (MATs):** In 2016 arrangements were made for children's social workers, health visitors and Police to be brought together into three "Multi Agency Teams" covering coterminous areas of the City: North, Central and South. In the North all three agencies are co-located. For the Central and South areas social workers and health visitors are co-located within the Civic Offices while Police are based elsewhere. There are regular network meetings for each MAT area through which staff offer each other advice and coordinate their work; schools are also invited to these meetings. The co-location of social workers and Police in the North locality has been particularly effective in terms of promoting close joint working. One of the aims of the initiative was to try to ensure that whenever a family needs support, they receive it promptly, with those supporting them able to draw on skills within the team without the need for repeated specialist threshold assessments. To some extent this has been achieved through the implementation of a "Team Around the Worker" practice model, which reduces the number of different workers supporting a family.
- 3.6 **Restorative Practice :** At the same time as the MATs were introduced, restorative practice was adopted as a unifying practice model for all agencies working with families. Over 700 practitioners have been trained in this "high challenge, high support" approach designed to repair relationships and work "with", rather than doing "for" or "to", families. Ofsted reported in September 2018 that they could see restorative practice (RP) was well embedded in Portsmouth children's services. The steering group for the implementation of RP across children's services including schools has worked closely with Portsmouth Mediation Service which is promoting the concept of Portsmouth as a "Restorative City". The City Council has since included a commitment to working restoratively in its corporate priorities. In addition NHS England is investing in multi-agency restorative practice workforce development across the Wessex area, with around £60,000 allocated for Portsmouth in 2019/2020.
- 3.7 **The Integrated Prevention and Early Help Service:** In 2017 we created an integrated Prevention and Early Help Service under a single manager, bringing together Solent NHS Trust's health visiting service and the City Council's targeted early help service (created through a restructure of prevention services across public health and children's services). Planning also began for a new enhanced health visiting service for the most vulnerable families, which began in 2018. The Enhanced Child Health Offer (ECHO) provides up to 30 home visits starting with up to 4 ante natal visits and continuing to age 5. ECHO is an innovative development drawing on approaches used in the Family Nurse Partnership Programme (which also continues in Portsmouth) and has attracted national interest. The Service also includes support for early years settings; a recent comprehensive multi agency early years strategy includes a strong focus

on speech, language and communications which will be reviewed later in June by an expert peer review team from other authorities and the national Early Intervention Programme.

- 3.8 ***The Portsmouth Education Partnership Inclusion Quality Mark:*** The Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) was created in 2016 to bring together Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) working in the city with maintained schools and the City Council under the banner “Pulling together; achieving more”. In addition to raising standards of achievement, a key aim of the Partnership is to promote consistent, effective, inclusive practice across schools in the city, to support the well-being and success of vulnerable children. Over the last year the Partnership has developed an Inclusion Quality Mark as a basis for self-assessment by schools of their practice, and for peer review. The standards in the Quality Mark are designed to promote best practice and effective inclusion of all children and young people in education. Currently outcomes vary across schools, even with similar demographic profiles. A small number of schools account for a large proportion of the fixed period exclusions and permanent exclusions in Portsmouth, and high levels in those schools are driving an overall increase across the city, particularly in the secondary phase.
- 3.9 ***Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and school links:*** Colleagues from the CAMHS service have worked with the PEP Inclusion Group on the Inclusion Quality Mark. In 2015/2016 the CCG also funded the development of a comprehensive strategy to promote emotional well-being in education, the implementation of which has been driven by the PEP Inclusion Group. All schools now have a named lead contact in CAMHS and a named lead in school for emotional well-being. With support from colleagues across the Partnership the CCG recently applied for national funding for two Schools Mental Health Support teams; the teams will provide a combination of direct work with children and support for staff in schools doing that work. In preparation for this development, and as part of our strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), an exercise is currently taking place to review the coherence of the support for individual children and young people, whole school culture and practice, and staff in schools with particular responsibilities in this area.
- 3.10 ***The Missing Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group; strategy to combat exploitation:*** Police, children’s social care and NHS colleagues meet regularly to share intelligence and coordinate support for individual children and young people at risk of, or currently experiencing, sexual and/or criminal exploitation. A recent “Project Bridge” event on exploitation brought together community and voluntary organisations with statutory services around the development of clear messages for the community around the threat to children and young people and how it can be combatted.
- 3.11 ***Family safeguarding:*** Children and adult services have been working together on plans to implement in Portsmouth a “family safeguarding” model under which the challenge and support for adult family members to make positive changes will be further strengthened. The aim is to help families repair relationships and



change behaviours so that they can continue to care for their children, and to maintain support so that where children need alternative care they can return to their families afterwards, as soon as possible. The model involves adult mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse workers working even more closely alongside children's social workers. Another "Project Bridge" exercise recently looked at how a wide range of local organisations could contribute helpfully, particularly around the reunification of children with their families after a period of alternative care.

- 3.12** ***Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and "trauma-informed" practice:*** Hampshire Constabulary has initiated partnership discussion at county level about how we promote wider awareness across all agencies of research findings about the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and adopt ACE-informed/trauma-informed practices. This is about moving from blame to understanding, and providing restorative support and challenge for young people and adults which fully takes into account the impact of their experiences and provides opportunities for them to build connections with other people and develop their sense of self esteem and efficacy. This is still at an early stage of development and while there is a strong consensus on the importance of recognising the impact of ACEs and providing early intervention support, there is not yet a clear, detailed, common language and practice across agencies in terms of the best response to children and young people who have experienced significant trauma. A recent report by the Wave Trust, an independent think tank devoted to campaigning on evidence based practice around the impact of early trauma advocates social pedagogy approaches and the creation of "trauma informed communities". The report also draws attention to key research findings which have started to inform Government publications, particularly the Government's Serious Violence Strategy in 2018. These include the importance of whole family support and in particular the significance for young people of having in their lives at least one "always available adult (AAA)", who provides unconditional support and high expectations. The Police and Crime Commissioner has funded two additional "trusted adult" posts in Portsmouth, based in the voluntary sector (adding to the 38 targeted early help workers in our Prevention and Early Help Service) together with some training in trauma-informed approaches to front line practice. The City Council has also provided additional funding for open access youth provision, linked both to the trusted adult programme and the existing Housing Department funded youth service.
- 3.13** The Hampshire wide partnership discussions led by Hampshire Police will be considering at the county level what key commitments should be encouraged by different agencies. In Portsmouth the work referenced above to look at our approach to promoting effective responses to social, emotional and mental health needs across the city also provides an opportunity to enhance professional consensus and coordination in this complex area.

#### **4. Potential Barriers/questions**

- 4.1 Currently there are a number of barriers - perceived or actual - to the implementation of an effective response to vulnerability and risk across the city, and/or key questions, which it would be useful for the Board to consider and start to problem solve where possible. These include:
- (i) The need for an even clearer, more detailed shared practice framework across different agencies and professions in terms of both understanding the impact of adversity and, building on that, the most effective responses. The commitment to restorative practice is growing: how do we embed this further alongside understanding of the best trauma-informed practice?
  - (ii) Resources and capacity for staff development. As budgets come under pressure across all agencies, resources for staff development may not be prioritised. There is also mixed take up of available good multi agency training, eg through the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board. Is there scope for stronger coordination of staff development across the city on a multi-agency basis, and perhaps better sharing/use of in-house expertise across agencies, looking more at coaching style development rather than old fashioned "training"? Could we build on the NHS England and Police and Crime Commissioner funding to develop a more comprehensive approach?
  - (iii) Do we need to make more flexible use of resources for children and adults services respectively in order to provide more joined up whole family support in line with research evidence? Do our current budget management arrangements, in different agencies, work against this flexibility?
  - (iv) How can community and voluntary sector resources be drawn on to even better effect, recognising the significant contribution which they already play? The Hive and the Project Bridge initiatives provide an important vehicle. Could a clearer practice framework provide a platform for using this vehicle to enhance their impact?
  - (v) The fragmentation of national policy and funding mechanisms. While the Serious Violence strategy is underpinned by a recognition of the importance of ACEs and elements of evidence based practice, there are currently a number of different Government initiatives and funding streams relevant to local areas, from NHS funding for school mental health teams, to Home Office funding for Police and Crime Commissioners for tackling serious violence. A major current Government funding stream for early intervention, the Troubled Families programme, is currently due to end in March 2020; there is significant lobbying for the programme to continue but this is part of the broader Comprehensive Spending Review.

4.2 Views from Board members on other issues it would be helpful to address would be welcome.

**5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

5.1 There is no requirement for a full EIA at this stage.

**6. City Solicitor comments**

6.1 The basis and legality for the discussion is set out in the body of the report.

**7. Head of finance’s comments**

7.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from the paper.

.....  
Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - New Strategic Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: Name and Title

# Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership Arrangements 2019 - 2020



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## Foreword

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP) has been developed out of the previous LSCB and in response to Working Together 2018. The PSCP seeks to build on the previous strong work of the local LSCB in developing and delivering effective multi-agency arrangements for keeping children safe from harm.

Ever since the new arrangements were proposed by central government, the new statutory safeguarding partners have been committed to running a partnership in Portsmouth that is inclusive - recognising that safeguarding children continues to be 'everybody's business'. The clear successes we have had in Portsmouth in keeping children safe have undoubtedly been down to the strong relationships and partnerships that have been developed over the years in the city. This will continue. The new arrangements have however provided a timely opportunity to look hard at our effectiveness. Through a number of conversations during 2018 and 2019, we have sought to develop strategic safeguarding arrangements that will continue to drive excellent safeguarding practice and process across all agencies that come into contact with children, young people and families in the city. We have sought to keep the best of what works well, whilst also adopting new arrangements to ensure we are even more effective.

Of particular note is, firstly, our commitment to working more effectively across a wider geographical footprint across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton - known as the 'HIPS' safeguarding partnership. Secondly, we are committed to 'shining the light' more sharply on front-line practice to identify both good and effective practice, and areas where we need to improve. As a result, we are adopting a new model of 'deep dives' - three per year - into areas of safeguarding practice and ensuring that we as statutory and relevant partners celebrate effective practice and make changes where needed.

The Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership will hold itself true to two key principles;

1. To place the welfare and safety of children at the heart of everything we do. We will ensure that the impact on children and families will inform every conversation we have, every piece of work we do, every decision we take and every change we make.
2. To routinely 'hold the mirror up' to our practice with children and families. We will be challenging of ourselves and of each other, whilst equally taking a shared responsibility approach to improvement. As Portsmouth continues its journey to a 'restorative city', *high challenge and high support* will define how we work together.

Our Partnership will be defined by these principles and will be judged on the improvements we make to keeping Portsmouth's children safe from harm.

**Steve Burrige on behalf of Hampshire Constabulary**

**Alison Jeffery on behalf of Portsmouth City Council**

**Tina Scarborough on behalf of the Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group**

## 1. Introduction and Context

We believe that effectively safeguarding children is achieved by putting them at the centre of the system, and working together to protect them, promote their welfare and to build their resilience. This requires every individual and agency to play their full part. Successful safeguarding partnership arrangements depend on children and their families having access to the right support at the right time; and a commitment from organisations to work together in a culture of transparency, mutual respect and dedication to learning in order to continuously to improve. The partnership is committed to a model of front line practice evaluation that proactively seeks the views of children, families and the workforce, to inform practice, policy and strategy developments.

This document describes the arrangements through which the statutory safeguarding partners and those named as relevant agencies in the city, will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Portsmouth. The statutory and relevant agencies are listed in [Appendix 2](#). If your organisation is not named and you think it should be, please get in touch with the PSCP by emailing [pscb@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:pscb@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) to discuss this.

This is a key reference document for everyone who works with children and young people in the city. You need to be familiar with these arrangements and ensure that you comply with them.

These arrangements cover the period 2019-2020 and will be reviewed in 2020 to ensure they are fit for purpose after the first year of operation.

### Legislative Context

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 removed the requirement for all areas to have Local Children's Safeguarding Boards (LSCBs) and instead introduced a new duty on three statutory partners to make arrangements with other partners (as locally determined), to work together in the local area to protect and safeguard children and young people. The Act requires that these arrangements should identify and respond to the needs of children in the area; and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance in relation to the area.

The Government's statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018" explains that the three safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area are defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) as:

- the local authority
- a clinical commissioning group for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area
- the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area

### The three statutory safeguarding partners

For each of these three partners, Working Together 2018 defines the lead representatives from each as "the local authority chief executive, the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group and a chief officer of police".

For Portsmouth the lead representatives for 2019-20 are:

David Williams	Chief Executive	Portsmouth City Council
Dr Linda Collie	Accountable Officer	Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group
Tony Rawlinson	Chief Superintendent	Hampshire Constabulary

As set out in Working Together 2018, the lead representatives are able to delegate their functions although they retain accountability for any actions taken on behalf of their agency. In Portsmouth the lead representatives have identified the following senior officers in their respective agencies who have responsibility and authority for ensuring full participation with these arrangements for 2019-2020.

Alison Jeffery	Director, Children, Families & Education	Portsmouth City Council
Tina Scarborough	Deputy Director of Quality & Safeguarding	Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group
Steve Burridge	Portsmouth District Commander	Hampshire Constabulary

The senior officers have delegated authority to speak on behalf of the safeguarding partner they represent, make decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing or practice matters, and hold their own organisation or agency to account on how effectively they participate in and implement the local arrangements.

#### Relevant agencies

The strength of local partnership working is predicated on safeguarding partners working collaboratively together with relevant agencies, whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The PSCP arrangements will engage local organisations and agencies to collaborate and provide targeted support to children and families. The local approach also enables joint identification of, and response to, existing and emerging needs, and to agreeing priorities to improve outcomes for children.

The relevant agencies for the PSCP arrangements are named as:



- All mainstream, special, independent and free schools based in the Portsmouth unitary authority area
- All early years settings
- Post-16 education and training providers
- Portsmouth Hospital Trust
- All Portsmouth GP Practices
- Care UK
- South Central Ambulance Service
- Portsmouth Primary Care Alliance
- Solent NHS Trust
- Armed Forces Safeguarding Team
- Portsmouth Diocese and other faith organisations
- Portsmouth Voluntary Sector Alliance
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Hampshire Probation Trust
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight CRC
- Sports clubs

All schools are named as relevant partners. There will be school representation at both Headteacher level and at Designated Safeguarding Lead level on our local PSCP Board. There are no youth custody facilities within the geographical boundaries of the partnership and no independent residential homes. Residential homes are managed by the local authority, one of the safeguarding partners. The Lead Member for Children (Portsmouth City Council) will be a participating observer of the PSCP. This includes routinely attending meetings as an observer and receiving all its written reports.

All new PSCP members will participate in the induction process and the role description for members is at [Appendix 4](#).

#### Pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight collaboration

In Portsmouth the statutory safeguarding partners have agreed to work in partnership with the statutory safeguarding partners for Southampton, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to ensure coherence in safeguarding arrangements across the wider geography. The arrangements for Hampshire and Isle of Wight wide collaboration are set out in [Appendix 1](#) to this document. The description of arrangements in Portsmouth in the paragraphs below need to be read alongside the description of the collaboration arrangements in Appendix 1.

#### Purpose of the safeguarding partnership arrangements

The purpose of these local arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;

- Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively;
- There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
- Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice;
- Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families

### Key principles

Members of the Partnership endeavour to work separately and together in accordance with the following key principles: core objectives of the PSCP are to:

- Effective safeguarding may on occasion require action beyond usual institutional and agency constraints and boundaries, and practitioners will place the needs of children first and foremost at all times in their decision making;
- Effective protection of children is founded on practitioners developing lasting and trusting relationships with children and their families, and using those relationships to empower families to make lasting and sustainable changes to their lives
- Thresholds (see below) will be used to ensure that the right response is made to the differing needs of children and families but not to deny any help at all. Whatever the needs of families, some help will always be offered if only advice, guidance and/or signposting. Wherever it is possible for practitioners to provide more active help that help will be offered, in accordance with the child or family's needs.
- The response to a child or family, from all partners, will always take any account of any known adverse experiences they may have had and the impact which research indicates that experience will have had on them.
- The response from practitioners to children and families will always aim to be restorative, offering both high challenge and high support through honest, respectful, assertive and empowering approaches.
- The work of the Partnership will at times respect the principles of restorative practice so that practitioners and leaders can learn and improve effectively in the context of a join working culture which is supportive, insightful, and reflective

### Thresholds

The safeguarding partners will oversee the updating and dissemination of the Portsmouth Thresholds Document. Regular multi-agency audit of the Thresholds will be undertaken.

### Functions

The PSCP will:

- Develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
  - (i) The action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
  - (ii) Training of persons who work with children or services affecting the safety and welfare of children
  - (iii) Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
  - (iv) Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children
  - (v) Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
  - (vi) Co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners
- Communicate to persons and bodies in Portsmouth the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the PSCP partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve
- Participate in the planning and commissioning of services for children in the area of Portsmouth to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account
- Undertake reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- Ensure there is a coordinated response by the PSCP partners and others to an unexpected death
- Engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives

## Governance & Accountability

The PSCP will have a Board made up of the statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. The Board will have an independent chairperson to act as a 'scrutineer' of local arrangements. The statutory safeguarding partners in Portsmouth have agreed to appoint a chair jointly with Southampton partners who will chair both the Portsmouth and Southampton Partnerships.

Each statutory Board member agency will set out their agency's responsibilities and a clear line of accountability, including delegated functions, for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

The PSCP is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of work undertaken by local agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, but it is not accountable for their operational work. Each agency retains their own existing lines of accountability for their services.

The PSCP does not have the power to direct other organisations, however it will bring concerns to the attention of the agency concerned and the Board

The PSCP has a clear work programme, including measurable objectives, and a budget. The PSCP publishes an annual report which enables the work of the PSCP to

be scrutinised by the City Council, local authority, the Children's Trust, and by other local partners and key stakeholders as well as by the inspectorates. This annual report will be in two parts: a part relating to work undertaken through collaboration across Hampshire and a part relating specifically to work undertaken in Portsmouth only.

### Offices of the Partnership

- Chair (Job Description available on request)
  - (i) The Chair will be somebody independent of all partner agencies acting as an 'independent scrutineer' for all agencies
  - (ii) The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority for the effectiveness of their work as PSCP Chair, but the Chair is not a decision-maker.
  - (iii) The purpose of the role is to:
    - ensure the Partnership fulfils its statutory obligations
    - operates effectively in promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of children
    - scrutinise the effectiveness of the partnership
    - Acts as an independent voice for the PSCP
    - ensure the Partnership establishes and fulfils effective challenge and support to other partnerships in the city
- Vice-Chair
  - (i) The PSCB Vice-Chair is appointed by the PSCP Chair in consultation with Board Members
  - (ii) The Vice-Chair will deputise where the Chair is unavailable or where such decision making has been delegated to the role by the Chair of the PSCP
- Safeguarding Children Partnerships Manager (Job Description available on request)
  - (i) The Manager is not a member of the Partnership, but is employed to facilitate the business of the PSCP and its committees, including attending those committees
  - (ii) The Manager will take a lead role in liaison between partner agencies and with neighbouring Partnerships
- Safeguarding Children Partnerships Coordinator (Job Description available on request)
  - (iii) The Coordinator is employed to administrate the PSCP and its committees

### Operation of the Partnership

#### Frequency of Board meetings:

- a. PSCP Board meeting dates, including development days, are agreed at the start of each calendar year. There will be four PSCP meetings per year and an additional development day

- b. The PSCP Board may be convened for an extraordinary meeting at any point with a period of notice of not less than 10 working days
- c. If any urgent decision is required on any matter the Partnership delegates responsibility to the Chair (or Vice Chair) in consultation with the Manager and as many members of the Partnership as practicable, including all three statutory safeguarding partners. Wherever possible, consultation with full Partnership Members should be undertaken. Urgent decisions are defined as any decision relating to any matter of PSCP business which is required at less than 10 days' notice.

#### Quoracy

- d. Any meeting of the PSCP Board will be quorate if there is attendance by all three statutory safeguarding partners.

#### Attendance

- e. Each agency will be responsible for ensuring regular and consistent representation at meetings. Each member will be responsible for having a designated deputy to attend in their absence
- f. It is expected that the named representatives will attend no less than 75% of PSCP meetings (minimum four per year). It is expected that the nominated deputy should be in attendance to enable 100% attendance
- g. When attending a meeting the designated deputy is entitled to the same participation and voting rights as the nominated representative
- h. In the event of persistent non-attendance by a Partnership Member or their nominated representative, the Independent Chair will make relevant enquiries and challenge where appropriate
- i. Attendance will be reported upon in the Annual Report and monitored within meeting minutes

#### Reports to the Partnership

- j. Reports to the Partnership must be produced using the PSCP template and in accordance with the PSCP report guidance notes ([Appendix 5](#)).
- k. Reports must be submitted a minimum of three weeks in advance of the meeting. Any amendments to the report requested by the Chair or Manager must be completed and submitted a minimum of one week before the meeting date

#### Agenda and minutes

- l. The Executive Committee will plan the PSCP agendas
- m. Items may be added to the agenda at any time with the permission of the Chair or Vice-Chair. Items to be considered may be submitted to the Manager up to two weeks prior to any scheduled meeting and will be considered by the Executive Committee by correspondence.
- n. Members will receive an agenda and papers at least one week in advance of each meeting
- o. Minutes will be taken by the Board Administrator, or delegated administrator, and circulated within two weeks of the meeting
- p. Disputes to minutes or decisions should be formally raised with the Chair within two weeks of receipt of the minutes

## Actions

- q. Each agency will be responsible for ensuring that all allocated actions required of representatives are carried out
- r. Each agency must have procedures for considering reports from its representatives in order to identify any action necessary by the agency or the PSCP
- s. The Chair will challenge and escalate matters where non-completion of an action by an agency representative is a cause for concern
- t. The three statutory safeguarding partners will together monitor implementation of actions against a tracker

## Decision-making

- u. Ordinary decision-making will be by consent following discussion and with contrary views being fully aired and considered.
- v. In the unlikely event consensus is not reached, majority consensus of members will prevail, with dissenting views clearly recorded in the minutes of the meeting, provided all three statutory safeguarding partners are in agreement
- w. In the event of a split decision or failure to reach a decision on a matter that should not be deferred the Chair will escalate issues to the lead representatives of the three statutory safeguarding partners

## Confidentiality

- x. All members are expected to sign at each Board meeting that they agree to abide the Portsmouth PSCP Confidentiality Agreement

## Delegation

- y. The PSCP may delegate functions as it considers appropriate to its Executive Group, group or committees

## Committees, Networks and Groups within the Partnership

In order to undertake the range of work required, the Board is supported by Committees, Networks and Groups as part of our approach to have an inclusive, diverse and engaged Partnership aimed at keeping children safe from harm.

For 2019 - 2020, there are six key multi-agency groups:

### 1. The PSCP Executive Committee

The Executive brings together the three statutory safeguarding partners to ensure the PSCP works effectively in discharging its responsibilities under Working Together 2018, and ensuring strategic coherence with the HIPS Executive. The Executive will oversee planning for the rolling programme of "Deep Dives" into practice including the selection of topics and the processes to be followed for each Deep Dive review.

### 2. Learning from Cases Committee

The Learning from Cases Committee will ensure the local and national system learns from serious incidents, near misses and good practice. See Section 3 below.

3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Scrutiny Committee (MESC)

The MESC will manage the detail of the scrutiny and assurance work of the Partnership, reporting to the Executive, including the rolling programme of 'deep Dives' into practice, the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Compact and the learning from the PSCP dataset in lines with Working Together 2018.

4. Designated Safeguarding Leads Network (DSLs)

The PSCP will ensure there is an effective DSL network, including training and professional support, recognising the critical role that nurseries, schools and post-16 education providers have in safeguarding children.

5. The MASH Steering Group

The MASH is a key function in the system for keeping children safe from harm. The MASH is overseen by a multi-agency steering group which itself will report into the PSCP arrangements (via the Executive).

6. Missing Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group

Whilst strategic arrangements for tackling child exploitation will be developed across the wider HIPS arrangements, the local Portsmouth operational safeguarding and disruption arrangements will make up part of the PSCP structure.

The three safeguarding partners will take responsibility for leading (including chairing) the committees, networks and groups of the PSCP.

Membership of committees, networks and groups will be made up of staff from the statutory safeguarding partners and the relevant agencies where appropriate. Other sub-regional and national bodies may be co-opted to ensure that each group has relevant expertise and knowledge to undertake the range of business.

Each committee, network or group will have a clear working mandate, in line with the PSCP Business Plan, which is set out within their respective Terms of Reference.

Committees hold responsibility for the planning and implementation of information gathering and analysis in order to recommend courses of action to the Partnership or Executive Committee. Decisions which impact on the quality of safeguarding practice, process or delivery can only be taken by a committee with the specific agreement of the Executive Committee.

## **2. Partnerships**

The PSCP will be independent and will not be subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures.

The PSCP will work alongside other strategic partnership work undertaken locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adult Safeguarding Board, Channel Panel, the Local Family Justice Board, MAPPA, and other bodies in Portsmouth in order to influence the effective development and commissioning of services for the benefit of children

There is a clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities of the PSCP and the Children's Trust Partnership. The PSCP's role is to scrutinise and challenge the work of the Children's Trust partners.

### **3. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

To deliver on these key functions, the partnership will oversee a Learning from Cases Committee. The Committee will consider cases in line with Working Together 2018;

- Serious child safeguarding cases that raise issues of importance to the local area;
- 'Near misses'
- Cases where there has been good practice

The Learning from Cases Committee will recommend the notification of incidents to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

All safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will be expected to refer cases to the Committee for consideration, to provide case file information to any case under review and to participate in learning events including reflective practice sessions.

The Learning from Cases Committee will report quarterly into the Executive and the Board with summary information on all the cases considered, its analysis of findings and its recommendations for improvement. It will also provide detailed analysis of findings for the Annual Report. The Learning from Cases Committee will work on a family model - extrapolating learning for safeguarding work with children and adults.

Findings from case reviews will be shared with sub-regional safeguarding Partners through a standing item on learning from reviews at meetings of the HIPS Executive.

The Learning from Cases Committee will make recommendations to the Board for the dissemination of learning through multi-agency training and professional development.

### **4. Scrutiny and Assurance**

The PSCP will oversee and manage an annual multi-agency programme of scrutiny and assurance so that the Partnership has a clear sight of good and effective practice and areas for improvement across the system.

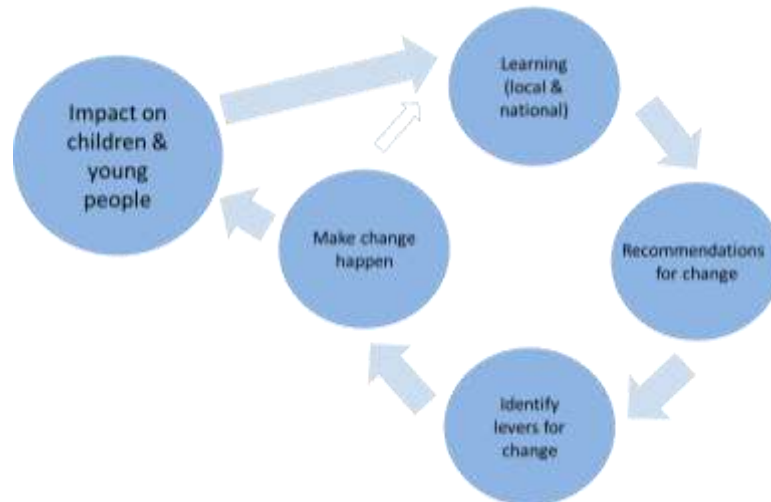
At the heart of the scrutiny programme will be a rolling programme of 'deep dives' into specific areas of safeguarding practice. The topics for the 'deep dives' will be agreed at the Partnership Board on the recommendation of the Executive and will be aligned with work across the HIPS area. 'Deep dives' will include multi-agency audit of cases, evaluation of key relevant data, engagement with practitioners across the system and activities designed to elicit directly the views of children and families.

The findings of the 'deep dives' will be reported to the Executive and the Board and recommendations for improvements will be agreed and carried out by statutory



safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. Findings will be shared with HIPS Exec Group as set out in [Appendix 1](#).

## PSCP Learning & Improvement Cycle



## 5. Performance Data and Intelligence

The partnership will maintain a comprehensive dataset of safeguarding children information, updated and analysed quarterly and regularly reported to all partners.

All safeguarding partners and relevant agencies will contribute to the collation, analysis and corresponding improvement activity

Datasets will be developed with sub-regional Safeguarding Partners to make it easier for agencies with larger geographical footprints to contribute.

## 6. Multi-Agency Training

The PSCP will oversee the delivery of multi-agency training including directing the work of a dedicated training manager working alongside a pool of multi-agency trainers.

All partners will promote multi-agency safeguarding training as the primary form from which professionals learn how to effectively safeguard children in Portsmouth. Training will be delivered in using a modular approach covering the full span of early help and safeguarding and be informed by local learning, priorities and practice. The PSCP will contribute trainers to the training pool wherever possible.

## 7. Voice and Engagement

The voice and experience of children and families will be central to how safeguarding arrangements work effectively. We will ensure that in all our scrutiny work (deep dives, case reviews and data analysis) we elicit, and take central account of, the views and experiences of children, young people and families. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the journey of children through the service system and ensure that we understand what that system looks and feels like from a child's perspective.

Children's voices will be captured and reflected in the training we provide, in the way that we set priorities ('doing with' not 'doing to') and in our annual report.

## **8. Funding Arrangements**

A budget will be agreed each year and details contained in the Business Plan. Contributions should, wherever possible, be agreed on a rolling three-year basis to allow for forward planning. The figure should be agreed for each agency six months in advance.

The Local Authority will provide legal and financial advice to and for the PSCP where required

## **9. Annual Report and Review**

The Partnership will present its annual report to Council Cabinet, the Health & Well-being Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Board in line with the local protocol to ensure effective joint-working between these bodies. The Partnership will also present the report to Portsmouth Council Cabinet and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

Through the annual report the PSCP will provide a comprehensive analysis of safeguarding in the local area. The report should challenge the work of the above boards and partners to ensure the necessary overarching structures and processes are put in place to ensure that children are fully safeguarded.

## Appendix 1

### Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group Arrangements

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. Working Together 2018 (WT2018) allows more flexibility for safeguarding arrangements to operate across larger areas/multiple local authority boundaries. Early discussions in the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCBs) across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight indicated that each local authority area will retain responsibility for their own local safeguarding arrangements, under the auspices of the three new safeguarding partners (local authority, police and health via the CCG).
- 1.2. It was acknowledged however that for many agencies and professionals who work across more than one of the local authority areas, there would be benefit in greater joined-up working on strategic issues and common themes.
- 1.3. Given that each local area was keen to retain some degree of local arrangement, partners agreed to form a new Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) Executive Group, supported by some specific four-area subgroups, to work alongside the four local partnerships.

#### 2. Desired outcomes

- 2.1. The overarching outcome of the new arrangements is that **children in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight should be safeguarded from harm**. More specifically, the intention is that new ways of working are based on the following principles:
  - be designed to ensure that services are delivered in the best interests of the child
  - not duplicate existing work, but provide strategic direction and challenge to enable enhanced co-ordination of activity and understanding of impact
  - provide a clear route for escalation of any system-wide issues and an agreed forum for the Safeguarding Partners to collectively fulfil their statutory duties
  - ensure that we make the best use of collective resources
  - be established within the existing resources (both financial and in people hours terms) and should not incur additional cost to agencies.
  - local partnerships can continue to identify their own priorities in addition to any identified at a strategic level by the HIPS Executive.
  - local areas are able to directly ensure that the voices of children and families are clearly represented in local partnership work

### 3. **Role of HIPS arrangements and relationship with Local Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The role of the HIPS Executive Group is to provide strategic direction and coordination of safeguarding activity across the region, to promote best practice and implement local and national learning, and to identify issues requiring strategic intervention by the Safeguarding Partners across the HIPS area.

### 4. **Membership and frequency of 4LSCB Executive**

4.1. In order to support this role and relationship of mutual accountability, the membership of the 4LSCB Executive will be focussed to the three Safeguarding Partners across each of the four LSCB areas, namely:

- Directors of Children's Services from each of the represented local authorities. Directors of Children's Services will represent education establishments (those who are maintained by the Local Authority), including Early Years services.
- Hampshire Constabulary, represented through the Chief Superintendent with lead safeguarding responsibility.
- Health, represented by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) of West Hampshire CCG, Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG, Portsmouth CCG and Southampton CCG. Clinical Commissioning Group representatives will represent the health sector in their local area. They will ensure dialogue with other health commissioning bodies across the HIPS area, namely NHS England (South East) and NHS England Specialist Commissioning.
- The Safeguarding Partners have also invited the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend the group to represent Academy educational establishments.

4.2. The Safeguarding Partners will act as the conduits and facilitate the flow of information and business between the HIPS Executive and the local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

### 5. **Chairing of a HIPS Executive**

5.1. The HIPS Executive will be chaired by an Independent Chair newly recruited by the Safeguarding Partners for this role.

### 6. **Related groups**

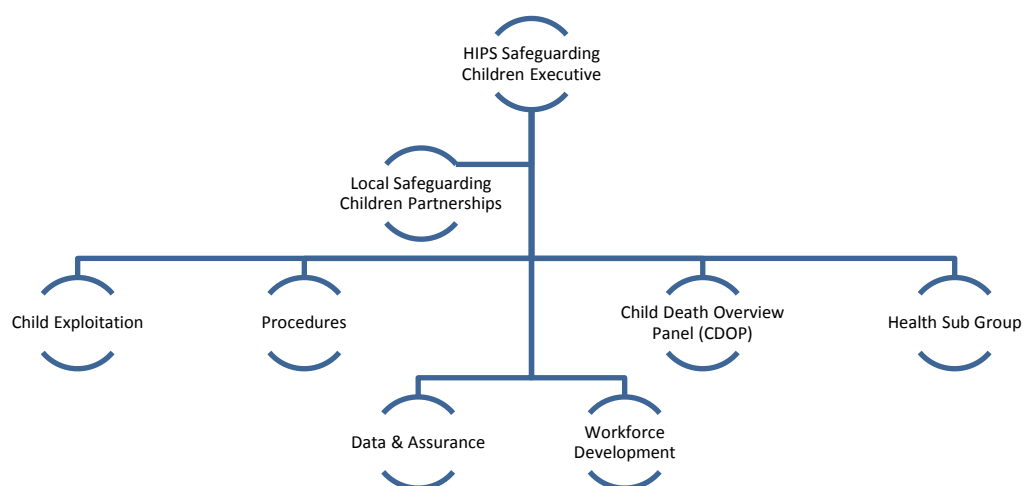
6.1. The HIPS Executive will convene four standing subgroups where there is a clear benefit to coordinating specific areas of business across the HIPS area:

- **Health group** – This group will coordinate safeguarding business across the health economy in the four HIPS areas. It will take the lead on the promotion and implementation of any best practice and learning for the health sector. It should be noted that the Isle of Wight will continue to hold its local Health Subgroup across Children and Adults but core members from that group, including the Chair, will attend the HIPS Health Group to ensure alignment and cross-communication of health themes.

- **Child Exploitation group** – The purpose of this group is to develop a shared understanding of the threat/need in respect of child exploitation, including patterns of activity that may reflect the organised exploitation of children; identify risks requiring strategic intervention and operational issues that can be dealt with more appropriately through the existing local structures; to drive forward the response to child exploitation through a tasking system that maximises the specialist skills and experience of staff across the pan-Hampshire area; to ensure that the vulnerabilities and risks associated with children who go missing are understood and incorporated within a consistent and robust multi-agency response across the pan-Hampshire area.
- **Procedures group** – This group will develop all common multi-agency policies and procedures that inform single agency policy and practice across the HIPS area and lead on the Section 11 self-assessment audit.
- **Child Death Overview Panel** - This Group will perform the functions of the Child Death Overview Panel as outlined in Working Together 2018. It should be noted that this group will report to the HIPS Executive until such time as the Pan Hampshire and Isle of Wight *Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)* is fully established, at which point the governance and reporting functions will transfer to the STP.

6.2. Other workstreams, e.g. Quality Assurance, Workforce Development, and specific areas of business will be undertaken via Task and Finish or project focussed groups. The partners remain committed to undertaking the Section 11 Audit process on a Pan Hampshire and Isle of Wight basis. The arrangements are shown in Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1**



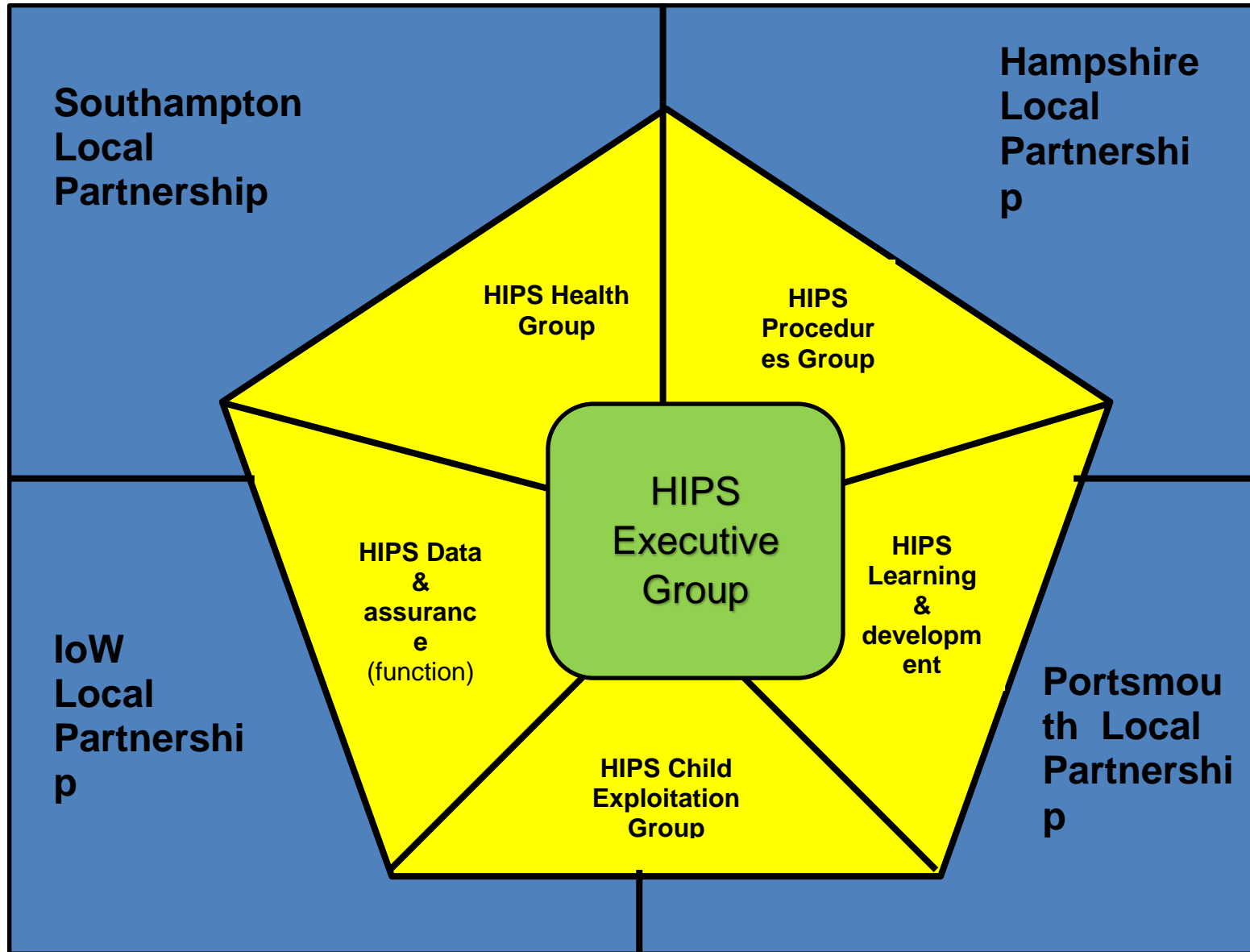
## 7. Case reviews and learning

7.1. Local Partnerships will commission and carry out their own local learning reviews. The learning and good practice arising will feed into both the local partnerships and the HIPS Executive to allow themes to be reviewed across the broad area and inform future initiatives.

## **8. Review**

8.1. The implementation and effectiveness of the new arrangements will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Partners in September 2020.

Figure 1. Illustrative proposal of collaborative working arrangements across the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships



## Appendix 2 - List of relevant agencies

These are the agencies that are being named as Relevant Agencies under the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements and will therefore be expected to contribute to the work of the Partnership.

### Health

NHS England  
South Central Ambulance Service  
Solent NHS Trust  
Portsmouth Hospitals Trust  
Care UK  
Portsmouth Primary Care Alliance (PPCA)  
Craneswater Group Practice  
Derby Road Group Practice  
Drayton Surgery  
East Shore Partnership  
Guildhall Walk Centre  
Hanway Group Practice  
John Pounds Medical Centre  
Kirklands  
Lake Road Surgery  
Lighthouse Group Practice  
North Harbour Medical Group  
Portsdown Group Practice  
Sunnyside Medical Centre  
Trafalgar Medical Group Practice  
University Practice

### Educational Establishments

Mayville High School (and nursery)  
Portsmouth Grammar School  
(senior/junior/nursery)  
Portsmouth High School & nursery  
St Johns College (and nursery)  
ARK Ayrton Primary Academy  
ARK Dickens Primary Academy  
Arundel Court Primary  
Beaconview Primary School  
Bramble Infant School & Nursery  
College Park Infant School  
Copnor Primary School  
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School  
Cottage Grove Primary School and nursery  
Court Lane Infant School  
Court Lane Junior Academy  
Craneswater Junior School  
Devonshire Infant School  
Fernhurst Junior School  
Flying Bull Primary School and nursery  
Gatcombe Park Primary School  
Highbury Primary School  
Isambard Brunel Junior School  
Langstone Infant School  
Langstone Junior School  
Lyndhurst Junior School

Manor Infant School  
Medina Primary School  
Meon Infant School  
Meon Junior School  
Meredith Infant School  
Milton Park School  
Moorings Way Infant School  
Newbridge Junior School  
Northern Parade Infant School  
Penhale Infant School  
Portsdown Primary School and nursery  
Solent Infant School  
Solent Junior School  
Southsea Infant School  
St George's Beneficial CofE Primary School  
and Nursery  
St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School  
and nursery  
St Judes CE Primary School  
St Paul's Catholic Primary School and nursery  
St Swithun's Catholic Primary School  
Stamshaw Infant School  
Stamshaw Junior School  
Victory Primary School  
Westover Primary School  
Wimborne Infant School  
Wimborne Junior School  
Madani Academy  
Harbour School - All sites  
Admiral Lord Nelson School  
Charter Academy  
King Richard School  
Mayfield School  
Miltoncross Academy  
Priory School  
Springfield School  
St Edmunds RC School  
The Portsmouth Academy  
Trafalgar School  
UTC Portsmouth  
Cliffdale Primary Academy  
Mary Rose School  
Redwood Park School  
Willows Centre for Children  
Highbury College  
Portsmouth College  
Military Preparation College

### Early Years Settings

YMCA - Portsea Nursery and Whale Island  
Nursery



Abacus Pre-school  
 All Aboard Pre-School Ltd.  
 Alphabet Corner Nursery - (linked to Little Alphabets)  
 Apple Tree Day Nursery  
 Ark Alpha Nursery  
 Baffins Nature Nursery  
 Binstead Childcare Services (Little Bumbles)  
 Brunel-Meredith Pre-school (Portchester Road)  
 Bunny Warren (Wrap-around)  
 Busy Bees @ Portsmouth Compass Road  
 Canoe Lake Nursery  
 Carousel Nursery  
 Castle Pre-school  
 Drayton Daisy Chain Pre-school  
 Dysart Nursery  
 Farlington Day Nursery  
 First Steps at ROKO  
 Fledglings Pre-School  
 Get Set Go Nursery  
 Goldsmith Day Nursery  
 Good Manors Day Nursery  
 Highbury College Bumblebees and Honey-pot  
 Highbury Primary Nursery & Daycare  
 Izzies Day Nursery  
 Jack & Jill Pre-school  
 Jumping Jacks Pre-School  
 Langstone Community Nursery  
 Leapfrog Nursery School (Merlin Centre)  
 Leapfrog Nursery School No 10 and No 13  
 Little Admirals Pre-School  
 Little Bears Forest Pre-School  
 Little Bounders Pre-school  
 Little Learners Day Care Ltd at Park Lodge  
 Little Paws Nursery  
 Little People Day Nursery  
 Little Spinnakers  
 Little Stars Pre-school  
 Little Sunbeams Pre School  
 Little Whale Nursery (YMCA)  
 Manor Infant School Nursery  
 Milton Park Pre-School  
 Monkey Puzzle South (Little Minds Big Dreams Ltd)  
 Mulberry Court Pre-School  
 Naval Under Fives - Peacock/Pipit/Puffin  
 Noah's Ark  
 Parade Community Pre-school  
 Pebbles PreSchool (PreSchool Learning Alliance)  
 Port Solent Day Nursery  
 Portsdown Primary School & Children's Centre  
 Portsmouth High School Nursery  
 Puddleduck Nursery  
 Rainbow Corner Nursery School  
 Roberts Day Nursery (NNI)  
 Rose Lodge Nursery School (South Parade)  
 Springwood Pre-school - Copnor and Paulsgrove

St Johns College Nursery  
 St Jude's Church Nursery  
 St Nicholas Pre School  
 St Paul's Nursery  
 Stepping Stones Nursery School  
 Storytime Nursery School  
 Stubbington Lodge-Good Manors  
 Swishers flc (Wrap)  
 Teddy Bears Nursery School  
 The Brambles Nursery School and Children's Centre  
 The Corner Pre-School  
 The Elizabeth Foundation (Wrap-around)  
 The Haven  
 Tiddleywinks Pre-School  
 Top Tots Day Nursery (and Mountbatten)  
 Tops Day Nursery - Lakeside  
 Tops Day Nursery - QA  
 Turtles Day Nursery  
 Twinkle Cottage day nursery  
 Twinkle Star day nursery  
 University Of Portsmouth Nursery  
 Westover Pre-School  
 Wind in the Willows

#### **Other**

Royal Naval, Royal Marine Welfare  
 UK Border Force  
 National Probation Service  
 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company  
 All Faith Groups  
 Society of St James  
 YMCA Fairthorne - Daycamps and after school clubs

#### **Voluntary and Community Sector**

Portsmouth Children's and Young People's Alliance  
 Active Communities Network  
 Barnardo's  
 Connors Toy Library  
 EBP South  
 EC Roberts Centre  
 Home-Start Portsmouth  
 Learning Links  
 Motiv8 South Ltd  
 PARCS  
 Pompey in The Community (PITC)  
 Portsmouth Autism Support Network  
 Relasing Potential  
 Relate  
 The Bivol Trust  
 All Saints

### Appendix 3 - Agencies and Organisations Attending the PCSP Board

The PSCP Board is an inclusive arrangement with membership made up of the three Statutory Safeguarding Partners and a representative set of colleagues from key relevant agencies.

Membership of the Board includes:

- The Independent Chair (scrutineer)
- The Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
- The Safeguarding Children Partnership Co-ordinator
- Portsmouth City Council
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Portsmouth CCG
- South Central Ambulance Service Representative
- Solent NHS Trust Representative
- Portsmouth Hospital Trust Representative
- Portsmouth Voluntary Sector Alliance Representative
- NHS England Representative
- 2 x Headteacher Representative
- Post-16 Education Representative
- Royal Naval, Royal Marine Welfare Representative
- National Probation Service Representative
- Hampshire & IoW Community Rehabilitation Company Representative
- Representatives from Inter-Faith Forum

## Appendix 4 - Agencies and Organisations with a duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key individuals and bodies, including partners, to ensure that their functions are discharged to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The application of this duty will vary according to the nature of each agency and its functions. Chief Executive and senior managers in all organisations will take the necessary steps to ensure that their responsibilities under [S11 Children Act 2004](#) and section 175 and 157 of the [Education Act 2002](#) are carried out. This duty applies to:

- Local authorities and district councils that provide children's and other types of services, including children's and adult social care services, public health, housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services;
- NHS organisations and agencies and the independent sector, including NHS England and clinical commissioning groups, NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts and General Practitioners;
- The police, including police and crime commissioners and the chief officer of each police force in England and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in London;
- The British Transport Police;
- The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies[35];
- Governors/Directors of Prisons and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs);
- Directors of Secure Training Centres (STCs);
- Principals of Secure Colleges;
- Youth Offending Teams/Services (YOTs).

## Appendix 5 - PSCP Board Members Role Description

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership Board is made up of both the three statutory safeguarding partners and some of the key relevant agencies working with children and families in the city.

PSCB Board members have a key role in overseeing the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements - supported by an independent Chair who acts as an additional 'scrutineer' to our local arrangements.

All Board members have a key set of responsibilities which include:

1. To attend the Board regularly and contribute to discussion and decision-making
2. To represent their agency or sector
3. To feed back key decisions to their agency or sector
4. To provide restorative challenge and support to each other in the interests of keeping children safe from harm
5. To be open to learning, ensuring that children's interests - rather than organisational limitations - inform how learning is received and acted upon
6. To unblock barriers to the full participation of relevant agencies in the work of the PSCP
7. Contribute where possible to the PSCP training pool as a multi-agency resource



<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy, 2018-2023
<b>Report by:</b>	Paul Fielding, Assistant Director - Housing
<b>Wards affected:</b>	n/a
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy for 2018-2023 for comment.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a. Comment on the draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy for 2018 - 2023 at Appendix 1.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires housing authorities to publish a homelessness strategy. This strategy develops on from the previous homelessness strategy and its focus on preventing homelessness in Portsmouth. It defines a clear model of intervention and support: 'Accommodation First, not Accommodation Only' (see p.8, Fig. 1). This model of approach promotes the need to fully understand the individual circumstances which cause homelessness and offer a tailored response to support people to resolve their housing need, and sustain accommodation. The fundamental premise of the model is to ensure that life events do not result in having nowhere to live.
- 3.2 The strategy demonstrates the city council's understanding of, and approach to, responding to the complexity of homelessness, recognising both the causes, and potential impacts, of its consequences on individuals and their families.

3.3 Five strategic aims are identified:

- Prevent homelessness
- Reduce rough sleeping
- Relive homelessness
- Sustain tenancies
- Direct the strategy

3.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and comment on the draft strategy, before it is finalised for approval by the Cabinet Member.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 -2021 identified an objective to make improvements for marginalized groups fastest, including our most vulnerable children, young people and adults. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes a commitment from the Board to support work, led through the strategic group on homelessness and rough sleeping to ensure services and support are in place to support people who are struggling, with a principle of preventing situations early, and intervening as soon as possible.

#### **5. Equality impact assessment**

5.1 An EIA will be completed on the strategy as presented to the Cabinet Member.

#### **6. Legal implications**

6.1 Legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

#### **7. Director of Finance's comments**

7.1 Not sought. These will be included in the report to the Cabinet Member.

.....  
Signed by:

**Appendices:**  
**Draft Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:


Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by:

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# **DRAFT:** Portsmouth Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023

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"Working together to prevent  
homelessness"

## **Executive Summary**

Welcome to Portsmouth City Council's draft Homelessness Strategy for 2018 - 2023.

This strategy maintains the commitment to prevent homelessness in the city and should be read in conjunction with the Street Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2020. The council plans to review and combine both strategies on expiry of the Street Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy.

With new duties placed on local authorities by the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017), the city council aims to work closely with its partners to be able to prevent homelessness whenever possible. This approach aligns with the city council's corporate priority, which outlines the desire to:

"Make Portsmouth a city that works together, enabling communities to thrive and people to live healthy, safe and independent lives"

In line with the corporate vision, and in response to the problems of rough sleeping, the city council has developed a model ('Accommodation First, Not Accommodation Only') and a strategy (the Street Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Partnership Strategy 2018-2020) that informs the approach to supporting anyone facing homelessness in the city. This strategy recognises that people often need more than just a place to live to be able to live healthy, safe and independent lives.

It is vital to work together to tackle the causes and effects of homelessness. This model captures the commitment evident across the city already to provide help and support through the various agencies and community support available. The city council want to build on this to enhance, support and co-ordinate the city to work together to prevent homelessness.

To achieve this, five key aims of the strategy have been identified:-

1. Prevent Homelessness
2. Reduce rough sleeping
3. Relieve homelessness
4. Sustain tenancies
5. Direct the strategy

The city council is committed to working together to prevent and relieve homelessness in Portsmouth wherever possible.

## **Consultation**

Consultation on this strategy took place between 30<sup>th</sup> January- and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The primary channels of communication were

- Placing a copy of the draft strategy on the city council's website
- The decision to approve the draft strategy was made at a council meeting open to the public and promoted
- Creating a monitored email address for responses
- Promoted by the Tackling Poverty steering group which brings together a range of groups to talk about poverty issues within the city.
- Proactive emails to a range of organisations who would be considered to be likely to have an interest in the strategy

The city council asked to hear from anyone who has an interest in the issues surrounding homelessness in the city, either in response to this draft strategy, or with other constructive information which could have been used to form the final strategy and action plan.

The main three questions posed to all consultees was as follows:

1. Are the five strategic aims of the strategy, set out in Part Two of this document, correct and fit for purpose? If not, why not and what should they be?
2. Are the actions in the draft action plan correct? What further actions should be considered and why?
3. What oversight and monitoring structures should be in place to ensure that this strategy is delivered? We are interested to hear from organisations who believe that they have a role to play in supporting this function

The council received eight substantive responses, of which three came from other functions within the city council.

The council received no responses in writing.

## 1. Overview

- 1.1. Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires housing authorities to publish a homelessness strategy. This strategy develops on from the previous homelessness strategy and its focus on preventing homelessness in Portsmouth. It defines a clear model of intervention and support: 'Accommodation First, not Accommodation Only' (see p.8, Fig. 1). This model of approach promotes the need to fully understand the individual circumstances which cause homelessness and offer a tailored response to support people to resolve their housing need, and sustain accommodation. The fundamental premise of the model is to ensure that life events do not result in having nowhere to live.
- 1.2. The strategy demonstrates the city council's understanding of, and approach to, responding to the complexity of homelessness, recognising both the causes, and potential impacts, of its consequences on individuals and their families.
- 1.3. Across England, homelessness has significantly increased over the last decade (ref: National Audit Office). Between 2009 and 2017 local authorities experienced a 48% increase in statutory homelessness, a 60% increase in the provision of temporary accommodation and 169% increase in people sleeping rough (ref: The Homelessness Monitor: England 2018) across its towns and cities.
- 1.4. A national cross party parliamentary enquiry into causes of homelessness report published August 2016 concluded 'Homelessness is not caused by any one single issue, and tackling it therefore requires a multi-faceted approach and collaborative leadership'. Causes can be roughly divided into those that are structural/societal and personal/individual.
- 1.5. Events that could lead to homelessness, such as a relationship breakdown or a tenancy coming to an end, are everyday life experiences that anyone could face. However, not everyone has the necessary resources or social support networks available to them to resolve their situation and avoid homelessness. Individuals who do not have the means to immediately respond to these events or who have additional vulnerabilities and needs that leave them overwhelmed by the experience of facing or being homeless, find it much more difficult to resolve their own situation.
- 1.6. Prevention continues to be the driving force of the city council's strategy to tackle homelessness, recognising the financial impact of dealing with the consequences (Ref: DCLG report 2012) of homelessness and also in

prevention's ability to create positive outcomes for those affected by homelessness.

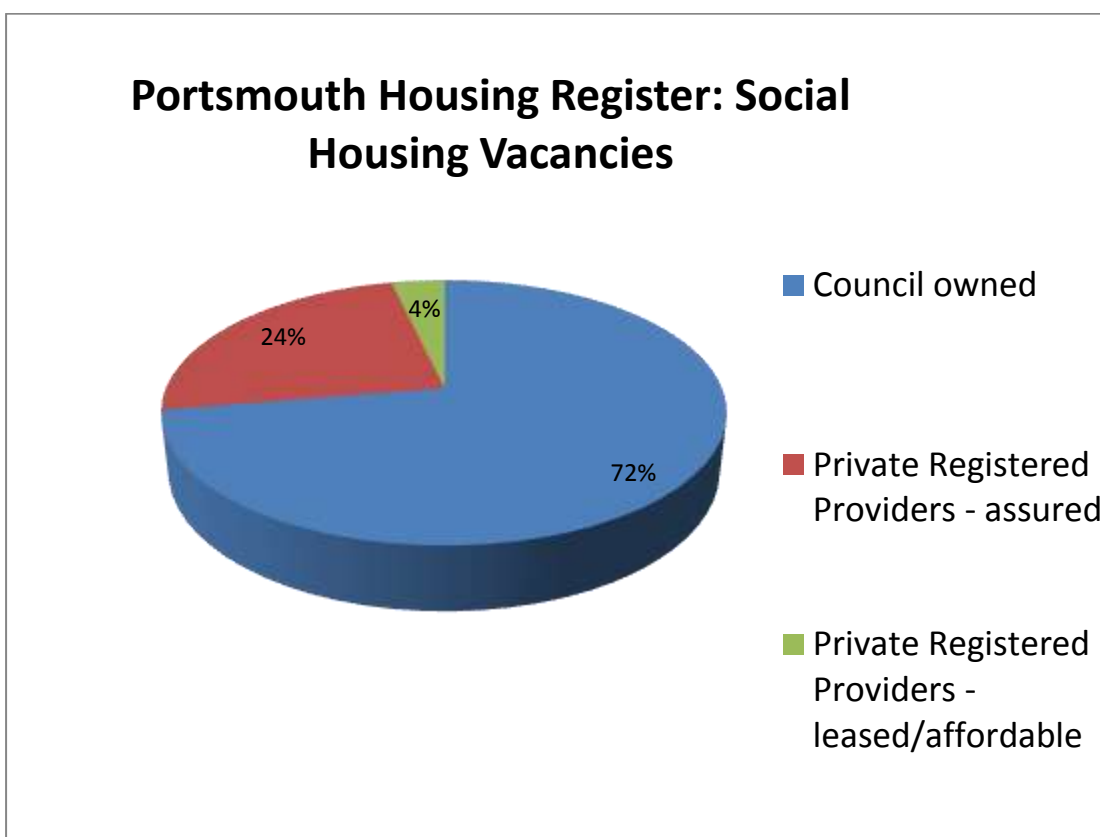
- 1.7. The focus on prevention has been further supported by the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017), which was implemented in April 2018. The Act asserts the role and responsibility of local authorities to prevent and provide early intervention for anyone facing homelessness. This includes a 'Duty to Refer' (ref: HRA 2017) requirement for many of the statutory partner agencies (for example probation, health, social care) to ensure that help and support can be offered to anyone facing homelessness at the earliest opportunity, which came into force in October 2018.
- 1.8. The success of this strategy is not without its challenges, particularly in ensuring there is sufficient availability of suitable and affordable accommodation. Provision of and access to accommodation remains a significant strategic component to the city council's ability to achieve its aim of preventing homelessness.

# PART ONE

## 2. Portsmouth: HOMELESSNESS IN CONTEXT- The Local Picture

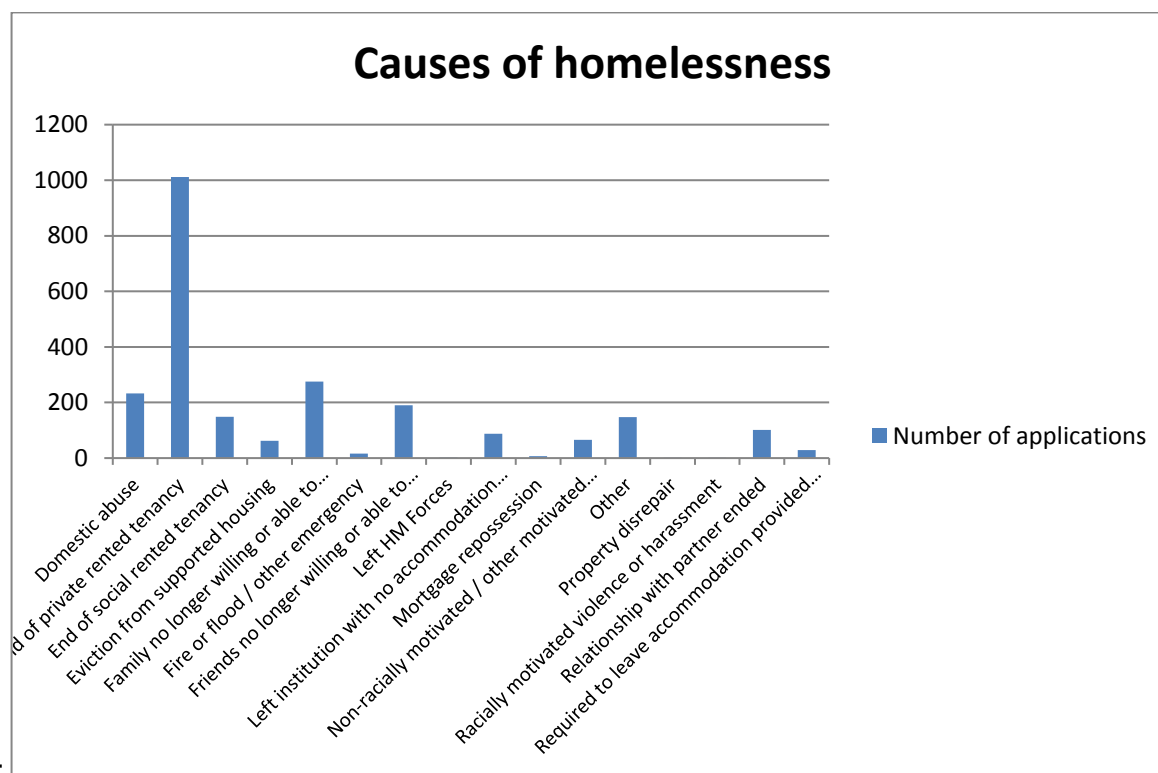
2.1. Between April 2016 and March 2018, the increase in the number of people approaching the city council's Housing Options team for help has highlighted the increased challenges faced by residents to meet or respond to changes in their housing circumstances.

2.2. The city council's housing register received 2,384 social housing vacancies to let between April 2016 and March 2018, a decrease of 355 properties from the previous 2 years. It has also seen a rise in the number of people applying for social housing over the last two years. In August 2016, 1677 people were waiting for an offer of a home. At the time of writing this strategy, 2,374 applications are waiting, equating to a 41% increase in demand for social housing.



2.3 Between April 2016 and March 2018 Portsmouth took 2382 homeless applications from people threatened with, or who were, homeless. For almost half

of those applications, a privately rented assured shorthold tenancy coming to an end was the reason that homelessness was being faced.



#### 2.4 Of these:

- **256** homeless situations were prevented with advice, help and support that enabled them to stay in their existing home, or to secure somewhere else to live
- **964** homeless households were accepted and resulted in the provision of long term, settled accommodation
- **1162** either did not qualify for assistance, disengaged from the process or required advice only.

During the assessment process:

- **683** were provided with emergency accommodation

**76** homeless households were provided with long term self-contained temporary accommodation while settled accommodation was found .

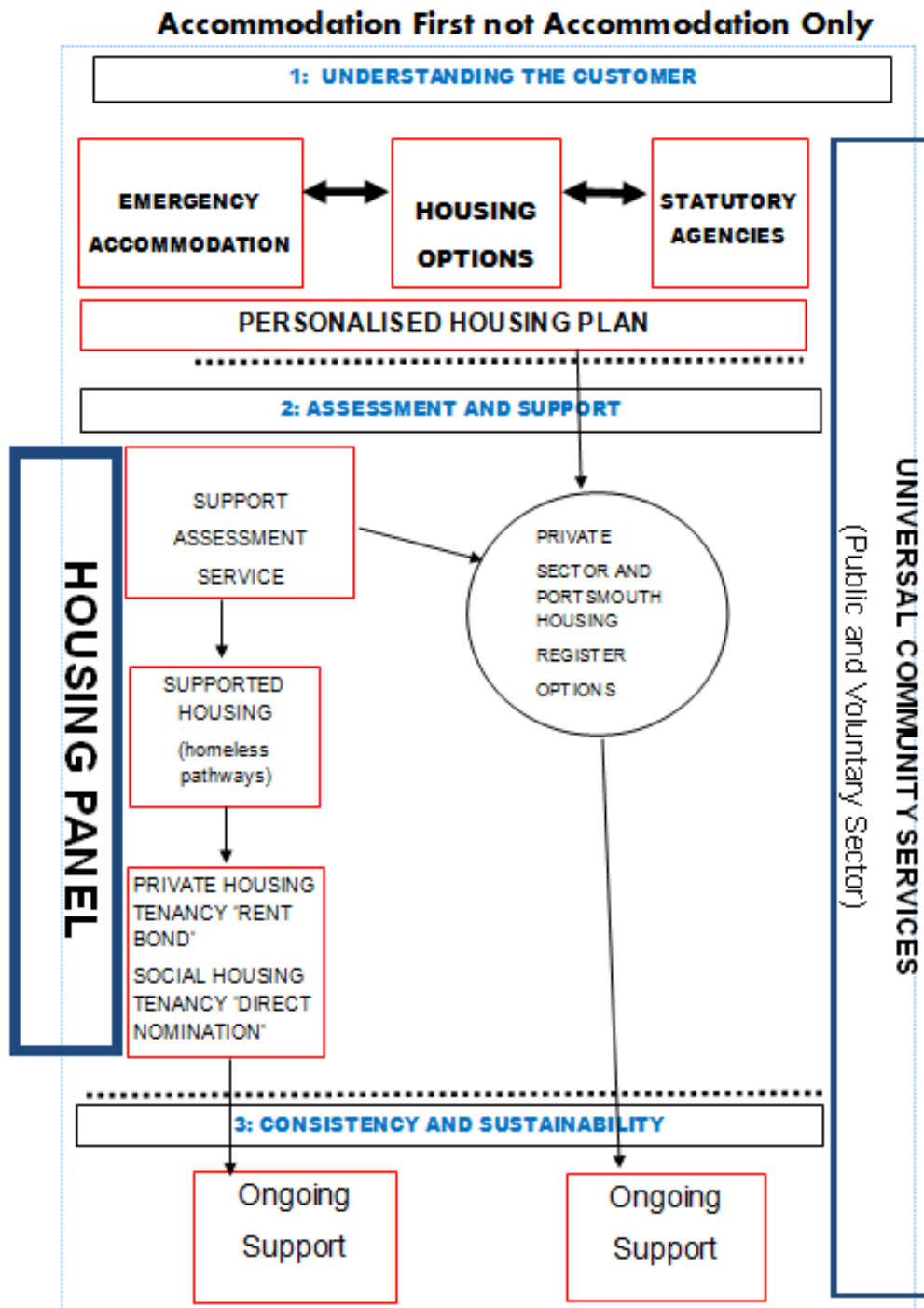
The annual national Rough Sleeping Count identified **37** individuals sleeping on the city's streets in **2016**, increasing to **42** individuals in **2017**.

2.5 In April 2017 a Homelessness Working Group was established in Portsmouth to understand the increase in the numbers of people becoming homeless. This coincided with a period where Portsmouth was experiencing a marked increase in the number of people sleeping rough on its streets. In response the Group

undertook a review of homelessness, with a particular focus on the needs of single adults.

- 2.6 The review incorporated the 'Complex Needs' work-stream, led on by the Safer Portsmouth Partnership, and the Supported Housing Review developed by Housing Options. The Complex Needs and Supported Housing Review work informed the Group's review and identified the need to develop a Street Homeless and Rough Sleepers Partnership Strategy which was endorsed by the city council in September 2018 and is currently in the process of consultation. This strategy seeks to develop a co-ordinated response across the city, recognising the need for a collaborative approach across statutory and non-statutory services in both understanding the needs of and appropriate response to help prevent rough sleeping in Portsmouth.
- 2.7 The Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) launched its national Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy\\_WEB.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf)) with a commitment to halve the number of people sleeping rough by 2022 and eliminate it by 2027.
- 2.8 The city council was one of 83 local authorities to be awarded additional funding as part of the national strategy's Rough Sleeping Initiative, to support local plans to reduce rough sleeping. The funds will expand the support on offer to people at risk of or who are sleeping rough in line with the Accommodation First not Accommodation Only model approach to homelessness.
- 2.9 The Street Homeless and Rough Sleepers Partnership Strategy 2018-2020 also outlines the working model 'Accommodation First not Accommodation Only'. This model (Fig. 1) has been further developed to underpin the prevention focus of this strategy, ensuring that a cohesive offer of help is available for anyone facing homelessness.
- 2.10 Additional challenges come in the form of the supply and affordability of accommodation for those on welfare benefits or on low incomes. Homelessness as a result of eviction due to rent arrears is often due to the affordability of the accommodation.



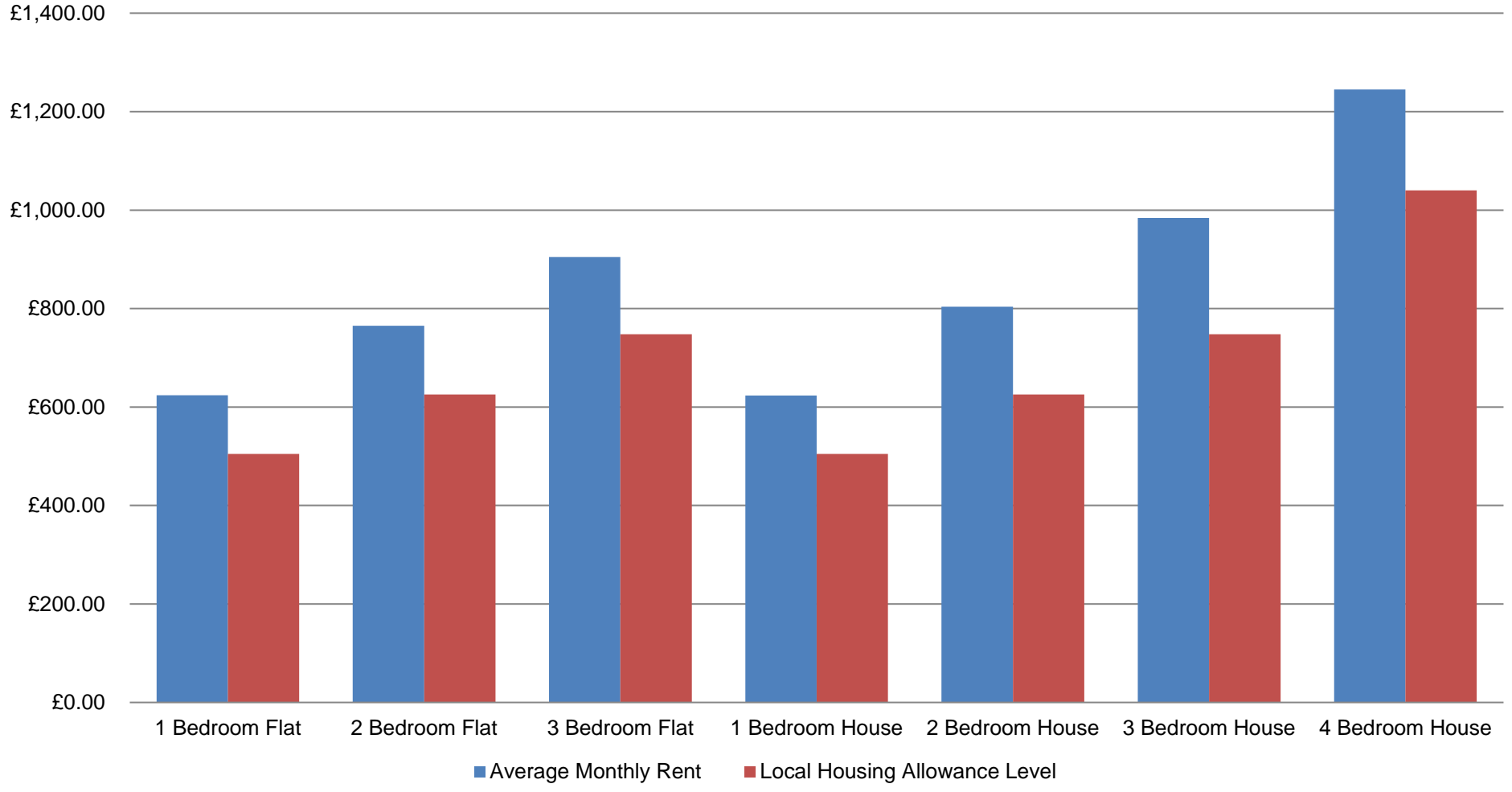


**Fig 1** 'Accommodation First not Accommodation Only' schematic

### 3 Portsmouth's Housing Market

- 3.1 Portsmouth is the most densely populated city outside of inner London, with 205,100 residents. Of the 87,000 households in the city, a fifth live in social rented housing and there is a higher than average amount of terraced housing. It also has a University which caters for 23,000 students.
- 3.2 Historically there has been approximately 2,000 identified empty properties in Portsmouth. Once the circumstances surrounding each empty property had been explored, only 180 properties were identified where the city council had any legislative powers to take action and bring those properties back into the housing market (purchase or rent). Legislative rules and regulations restrict the number of empty property situations where the local authority can take enforcement action to address. The city council currently have an Empty Properties Strategy which was published in the first half of 2019. This strategy looks to explore ways to enhance the authority's advice and support offer to owners of empty homes to encourage them to take steps to make the property available for occupation. This could be through sale to get it back into use through the home ownership side of the market, the private rental market or through leasing the property to the council.
- 3.3 Working in collaboration with its partners, the city council takes a 'Portsmouth First' approach to property investments, as outlined in the city's corporate priorities. Attention is also being given to making sure there are more good quality homes that local people can afford, including council homes.
- 3.4 The city council also seeks to utilise all opportunities to develop further accommodation to increase the availability of housing to meet the needs of the city.
- 3.5 Rents in the private sector have increased and most landlords require a rent deposit, rent in advance and a guarantor. This creates a barrier for households on welfare benefits or a low income in accessing the private market.

### Average private sector rent in Portsmouth based on property size (March 2018)



## 4 Household income and Poverty

4.1 The city includes some of the most deprived areas in England. Research by Bramley and Fitzpatrick\* has found that: "*Poverty, particularly in childhood, is by far the most powerful predictor of homelessness in early adulthood. Health and support needs, such as serious drug use, also contribute to the risks, but their statistical explanatory power is less than that of poverty*". 38(1).

Postal area	Number claiming HB	Of which, how many...		
		are in employment	have a rental liability greater than their HB entitlement	have been awarded DHP to help meet their rental liability
PO1	4195	868	1726	118
PO2	3407	982	1924	128
PO3	985	331	562	32
PO4	2216	648	1377	70
PO5	3088	621	1331	85
PO6	2609	661	1307	87
PO7	268	19	85	3
PO8	428	63	114	5
PO9	2216	340	856	69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19412</b>	<b>4533</b>	<b>9282</b>	<b>597</b>

4.2 The Private Rented Sector is now larger than social housing provision. Affordability of housing has therefore become a significant feature of both the options available and causes of homelessness in Portsmouth, with rent increasing while incomes are at risk from welfare reform. The city council's Tackling Poverty Strategy recognises the significance of financial deprivation for many households across the city. The impact of welfare reforms for Portsmouth residents has significant consequences for low income households in terms of their ability to meet essential costs relating to housing, energy and food (Bill Sargent Trust; 2013). This reinforces a key consideration for this strategy being the availability of affordable private rented sector accommodation, and to work with landlords to address the shortfall between Local Housing Allowance entitlement and rental charge.

4.3 The three priorities of Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy (2015-2020) that closely align with the focus of this strategy are:

- Priority Three - Helping residents to be financially resilient
- Priority Four - Helping people move out of immediate crisis, but also helping them to solve their problems longer term.
- Priority Five - Improving residents' lives by recognising the links between poverty and health inequalities.

4.4 Housing plays a significant part in the health and wellbeing of our residents. It remains vital that the strategy to prevent homelessness is aligned with the Health

and Wellbeing strategy for the city to help residents resolve health challenges, ensuring the provision of good quality accommodation that promotes and supports wellbeing.

4.5 Portsmouth's Health and Wellbeing Strategy highlights the feature of homelessness alongside a multitude of circumstances for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Learning from the Complex Needs work concludes that severe and multiple deprivation (SMD) means homelessness co-exists alongside adverse childhood experiences, substance use and mental health needs for a number of people, which makes resolving their housing needs more challenging.

## **5 PORTSMOUTH: HOMELESSNESS ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

5.1 Portsmouth's Housing Options service is the central point for anyone seeking help and advice in respect of a housing issue/ need. The Local Authority's statutory responsibility to assess the needs of residents who are experiencing homelessness has been further extended, following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) (2017). This offers the opportunity to look at options to prevent and relieve homeless situations at the earliest opportunity, whilst retaining the long standing statutory duty, where prevention or relief options are not achievable, to reach a decision about any other statutory duties the Local Authority may owe a homeless applicant.

5.2 The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) has extended the Local Authority's responsibilities to prevent people becoming homeless. The Act amended Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 to include duties for the prevention and relief of homelessness which emphasises the duty to 'help to secure' accommodation for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. This does not mean that the Local Authority has a duty to directly find and secure accommodation but involves the Local Authority working with people to agree reasonable steps that will be jointly taken to find and secure suitable accommodation.

5.3 Key to the success of this preventative focus is early identification and early help. The Homeless Reduction Act outlines a 'Duty to Refer' requirement for public authorities, which includes many of the partner agencies including hospitals, prisons social care and the Job Centre. Portsmouth has joined a Hampshire wide protocol, recognising the cross boundary use of many of these services and institutions to ensure we are working closely with our partner agencies and neighbouring local authorities to identify and respond to information about a Portsmouth residents housing need at the earliest opportunity.

5.4 The city's Private Registered Providers (PRP) are embracing a 'Commitment to Refer', to mirror the Duty to Refer requirement of specified public authorities. They have responded to this by developing Prevention Teams to work closely with the local authority as they seek to support their tenants to avoid eviction action becoming necessary.

5.5 Portsmouth Housing Options has made additional funding available to enable officers to work flexibly and creatively with individual circumstances in developing Personalised Housing Plans (PHP) to prevent homelessness.

5.6 To enhance its early help offer, particularly to families and young people, the city council's Housing Options service has started working collaboratively with the city council's Children's Social Care service to identify, at the earliest opportunity, families and 16/17 year olds who need some additional help beyond

accommodation needs. Arrangements are in place to refer households with children to Early Help services where preventing homelessness is possible with specific identified support.

5.7 The Portsmouth Staying Close Project has been set up by Children's Social Care, with funding support from the Department for Education. The project has been developed from research which shows that young people who have been in care experience far poorer life outcomes than their peers. The purpose of the project is to enhance the development of life skills for young people, better preparing them as they progress on to living independently of support and sustaining accommodation.

5.8 The council are also exploring opportunities to prevent homelessness as a result of inpatient admission or any resulting change in health circumstances affecting suitability of housing.

5.9 The Homelessness Reduction Act's duty to refer and PRP's commitment to refer will further enhance our Housing Options service's in responding proactively to situations.

5.10 The city council commissions a service, Advice Portsmouth, for its residents to obtain advice and support, particularly with regards to financial difficulties. This offers the opportunity to prevent these difficulties escalating and impacting on housing circumstances. Alongside this commissioned service, there are a number of voluntary agencies, for example Citizens Advice Portsmouth, who work proactively in offering advice, guidance and support to people facing difficult circumstances that could result in homelessness.

- Prison release. Portsmouth has developed and maintains a good working relationship with probation and CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company) services, particularly in working together to support individuals who have served long custodial sentences or are considered high risk offenders. However, there are challenges where prison release planning relates more to lower risk individuals and those on shorter sentences.
- Care leavers. To prevent young people leaving the Local Authority's care and finding themselves with nowhere to live, the Staying Close Project will provide accommodation to support young people through the transitional period as they leaving care plan progresses.
- Veteran Outreach Support. There is a Veterans Outreach Support (VOS) provision based in Portsmouth, offering a monthly drop in for people to access advice on a variety of issues, including health, finances and employment. Working closely with this service provides the opportunity for the Local Authority to identify people who require

support to prevent homeless situations from arising or explore options to relieve homelessness.

5.11 Portsmouth has a well-established supported housing provision which forms three pathways,

- families,
- young people and
- adults

5.12 A review of the adult pathway highlighted the need to develop a different approach to understanding individual circumstances and providing support to promote the long term sustainability of accommodation and break the cycle of repeat homelessness.

5.13 Voluntary Sector services in the city have established Circles of Support. This offer of support is provided through outreach or via six main foodbanks in the city, and is available to anyone in crisis and facing hardship in relation to circumstances including debt and homelessness.

5.14 Additional services for single people at risk of or who are sleeping rough are available through our Homeless Day Service, which is commissioned by the local authority as an extension of the Housing Options service with a specific focus on providing advice and support to people with additional/complex needs associated with rough sleeping. This service includes outreach work for individuals who find accessing services difficult. The day service is currently supported with the provision of a Homeless Night Service, which offers 45 overnight bed spaces.

5.15 Portsmouth City Council is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant; a promise to people who serve or have serviced in the British military that they will not be disadvantaged by their service. In 2016, the Solent Armed Forces Partnership Board (SAFPB) was formed to oversee local delivery to meet needs. In respect of the issue of homelessness, whilst there has been a reduction in the number of street homeless ex-service personnel, the SAFPB highlights that some veterans struggle to secure suitable, affordable housing after service.

5.16 The existing MOD housing offer is scheduled to transform to the Future Accommodation Model (FAM), a model that will offer a broader range of housing opportunities to align the provision with that of the general population in terms of finding accommodation and meeting housing related costs. It is not yet clear what this change in approach could impact on local housing demand or support to prevent homelessness.



- 5.17 The Portsmouth Housing Register is an option available to anyone who is eligible to make an application and has a housing need, and where it is assessed as a reasonable option to help someone find and secure a home and access to this is outlined in the city council housing Allocations Policy. However, Portsmouth experiences demand that is greater than the supply of social housing and is therefore often a barrier to this being a realistic option to relieve homelessness.
- 5.18 Portsmouth City Council works alongside the private rented sector to explore housing opportunities to prevent and relieve homelessness. To develop opportunities to enhance this relationship, Portsmouth has developed 'Rent it Right', a website for landlords and tenants providing information and advice, and the facility for accredited landlords to advertise their properties. We are in the process of developing a variety of offers for private sector landlords to help remove the current barriers for some homeless households in accessing the private sector. This may include a letting agency service, a full property management service, or a rental top-up arrangement for some households on benefits. Rent it Right will be the platform for working in partnership with private sector landlords and for advertising landlord offers.
- 5.19 As outlined already in the Accommodation First not Accommodation Only model approach, support to sustain accommodation forms a key element to this approach to prevent homelessness from re-occurring, which historically has been a regular pattern of their housing cycle. Portsmouth City Council has well established supported housing pathways in the city for young people, adults and families. The supported housing review of the contract and commissioning of existing supported housing provision for adults has led to a different approach to the offer of support within this context.
- 5.20 Using the Rough Sleeping Initiative funding, 'floating support' provision has been enhanced, to reflect the Accommodation First not Accommodation Only ethos for adults who secure accommodation in the private rented sector and need additional support to sustain the tenancy.
- 5.21 Portsmouth City Council's Housing Management teams have undergone a process of change over the last decade, evolving the approach to social housing tenancy management to understand what tenants need to help them sustain their tenancy.

## **6 Current context of homelessness in Portsmouth: A summary**

6.1 Rough sleeping, the increased need to usage of utilise emergency B&Bs accommodation for the homeless households and limited availability of permanent housing are significant issues for the city, highlighting the need to enhance our prevention work as well as making more homes available.

6.2 A settled secure home is the basis from which other support can be achieved and maintained. Alignment with the Tackling Poverty and Health and Wellbeing strategies facilitates the opportunity for residents to have a stable housing situation from which to improve their wellbeing and financial resilience.

6.3 It is from gaining a full understanding of the context of homelessness in Portsmouth that the following strategic aims and priorities have been formed.

## PART TWO

Strategic Aims:

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Prevent</b> Homelessness  | - DEMAND           |
| 2. <b>Reduce</b> Rough Sleeping | - DEMAND           |
| 3. <b>Relieve</b> Homelessness  | - AVAILABILITY     |
| 4. <b>Sustain</b> Tenancies     | - SUSTAINABILITY   |
| 5. <b>Direct</b> the strategy   | - REVIEW/CHALLENGE |

### **Priority One - Prevent homelessness (DEMAND)**

Developing meaningful personalised housing plans with people, working flexibly and creatively with individual circumstances.

Working collaboratively with our partners in being able to identify and be responsive to housing need at the earliest opportunity.

Exploring initiatives that can provide responsive joined up arrangements where people are leaving environments such as the armed forces, hospital, prison or care.

### **Priority Two - Reduce Rough Sleeping (Demand)**

Working together as a city to take an 'Accommodation First Not Accommodation Only' approach to support and safeguard anyone sleeping or at risk of sleeping on the streets of Portsmouth.

### **Priority Three - Relieve homelessness (Availability)**

Developing meaningful personalised housing plans with people that work flexibly and creatively with individual circumstances to relieve homelessness.

Ensuring that social housing accommodation is utilised as effectively and equitably as possible.

Building on 'Rent It Right' and its collaborative approach between the Local Authority and Private Landlords to develop opportunities to provide good quality, affordable accommodation across the city.

Align the Local Plan with this strategy to maximise the contribution to reducing homelessness of all new housing and redevelopment.

**Priority Four - Sustain tenancies (Sustainability)**

Putting our learning into practice to inform how we commission and contract support provision to help people sustain accommodation.

Developing collaborative/multi agency working relationships that help people build resilience.

Extending the reach of the approach of social housing tenancy management to the private rented sector; understanding what help tenants need to sustain their tenancy.

**Priority Five - Direct the strategy (Review/Challenge)**

By coordinating a collaborative group to provide direction and oversight for the strategy, to agree the action plan and support those with the political, strategic & operational responsibility for delivery.

Responding to changing needs and issues by reviewing the priorities of the strategy as required.

## PART THREE

**An Action plan will be agreed and developed by the partnership group to progress the priorities.**

This document only proposes a number of actions that currently are, or could in the future, support the delivery of a successful strategy. Further discussions are needed to identify timescales, what success will look like, and how partner organisations could support in the delivery

<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Priority One</b>	<b>Priority Two</b>	<b>Priority Three</b>	<b>Priority Four</b>	<b>Priority Five</b>
1. Reduce the use of B&Bs for emergency accommodation through the increased provision of alternative self-contained temporary housing options			✓		
2. Develop our working relationship with partner agencies in gaining a full understanding of individual circumstances to inform and develop practical and effective Personalised Housing Plans (PHPs) to prevent or relieve homelessness.	✓				✓
3. Work with advice services to make sure more residents at risk of homelessness are identified at an early stage, when support could prevent homelessness.	✓	✓			
4. Work more closely with Welfare Benefit team to be able to work proactively in the prevention of homelessness situations arising. For example, data held by Housing Benefit will identify opportunities to reach out to households at risk of homelessness and ensure that relevant advice, help and support is offered.	✓				
5. Identify and develop collaborative working opportunities with statutory services. For example: Staying Close Project. Housing and Children's Social Care are developing this project, working together to identify suitable, affordable and settled housing options for young people leaving				✓	

care.					
6. Rent It Right - Working with private landlords registered with this scheme, we can better understand the issues they face and explore how additional advice, support or guidance could increase the availability of affordable privately rented accommodation			✓	✓	
7. Explore ways to increase funding to increase the availability of homes for people in the Private Rented Sector. This is particularly relevant to those families and single people who are identified as a low income household, or subject to benefit caps due to household size or age			✓		
8. Use our learning from the review of supported housing services for single homeless people to inform the contract and commissioning process ' of all supported housing services for young people,families,people with enduring mental ill health and people with learning difficulties.				✓	✓
9. Develop working relationships between different partner and stakeholder groups, including policies and procedures, to work together to help prevent homelessness or sustain accommodation.					✓
10. Explore the potential to extend the Local Authority housing tenancy management approach to offer similar support in the private rented sector. For example, the first time a tenant misses a rent payment the reason for this should be fully understood and appropriate advice or assistance given to prevent escalation.	✓				
11. Increase the signposting of the rent deposit schemes available to those who become homeless, and look to expand the council's own scheme	✓		✓		

12. Greater use of guarantors to help homeless people access the private rental sector	✓		✓		
13. Increase information for landlords and tenants on good tenancy management with the aim of reducing homelessness, ensuring private sector landlords are included as partners in the strategy	✓			✓	

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Civic Offices, Floor 2  
(Core 2 – 3)  
Guildhall Square  
Portsmouth

PO1 2AY

Telephone Direct Dial

Fax Text Relay

Email Address

Our ref: PH/SB/GK/004  
Your ref:

May 28, 2019

Dear Cllr Winnington

**RE : Safer Portsmouth Partnership - Transition**

I write to you in my capacity as the outgoing chair of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership.

In line with the recommendations of the city wide partnership review, the final meeting of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership took place on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. At this meeting partners agreed that there should be a 'seamless transition' between partnerships and that as the outgoing chair, I have been asked by partners to prepare a 'handover' document setting out the key community safety priorities to be presented for discussion and agreement at the first meeting of the new Health and Wellbeing Board on 19<sup>th</sup> June. I therefore recommended the following items are adopted by the board:

- **The Community Safety Plan 2018-2020** - the plan is due to be refreshed next year based on the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2019/20 (see below). Until this time, it is recommended that the board adopt the four local and two national priorities set out in the plan. The plan is available on the SPP website (see below also <http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/our-plans/>). A six month progress report is available on request (see appendix 1).
- **Community Safety Strategic Assessment** - most members will be aware that this document is a statutory requirement. Partners have jointly funded the development and production of this key document over the years. It is produced by a dedicated researcher (Sam Graves) with support from a range of officers across the partnership providing regular data and analysis. A 'lite' version of this document is being prepared now for review by the board in October and previous documents are available on the SPP website here: (<http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/our-research/>)



- **SPP website and communications plan** - partners have jointly funded the design and development of a dedicated website for many years. Partners jointly fund a dedicated resource (Rachel O'Reilly, 10 hours per week) to maintain the website and this resource is available to develop a similar website for the new board if required. It is recommended that the website and SPP branding remain in place.
- **Research and Analysis Programme** - this programme arises from the findings of the strategic assessment where further research is required and agreed by partners. Additional pieces of work can be added to the list with agreement from the partners. This programme includes the bi-annual **Community Safety Resident's Survey**, produced in collaboration with the University of Portsmouth, which is also available on the SPP website here: <http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/community-safety-survey/>
- **Review of domestic abuse services** - this work was commission in January 2019 and is due to report in July/August. A draft progress report was presented to the Domestic Abuse Steering Group on 1<sup>st</sup> May. See appendix 2 for more details
- **Actions from the final meeting of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership on 4<sup>th</sup> April** - see notes attached at appendix 3.

In addition to the above, a partnership response has been prepared to the current Home Office consultation on a new duty in relation to taking a multi-agency, public health approach to tackling serious violence which will form part of Alison Jeffery's report to the board on children's safeguarding

### **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**

A good working relationship exists with the Office of the PCC including some joint commissioning of domestic abuse services. I am aware of a number of bids being submitted to the latest PCC grant funding round, one of which is to support the production of a substance misuse demand profile which will help partners understand more about the drugs market in the city and the possible impact on young people at risk and levels of serious violence.

The grant round opened on 7<sup>th</sup> May and closed on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Alan Knobel will be leading the development of a joint bid with Southampton City Council. Partners will meet with the OPCC on the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> June to agree which bids to support locally although the final decision rests with the OPCC.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all the members of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership, including the support officers and analysts whose work was vital in coordinating all the good work. A success factor has been the ability to quickly share information and work with partners, community and business representatives beyond the statutory frameworks. When the board has settled it would be useful to reassure ourselves that these vital links and agreements have successfully carried forward to the new arrangements. As such perhaps I could ask for this to be recorded as an action?

My colleagues and I look forward to joining you on the board and taking this work forward as well as developing a strong collaborative relationship in the coming months and years.



Yours sincerely

Steve Burrige  
Superintendent  
Portsmouth District Commander

cc. Cllr Lee Hunt



[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For crime and community information [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)



## Appendix 1 - Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2018-20

The SPP plan was published in September 2018 and endorsed by the council on 12<sup>th</sup> October, sets out two national priorities and four local priority themes:

### *National*

1. Preventing violent extremism - led by the Director of Children's Services, reports into the Portsmouth Safeguarding Adult Board.
2. Serious Violence - the local response to the Serious Violence Strategy is picked under young people at risk (see below).

### *Local*

1. Young people at risk - focus on early intervention and prevention
2. Anti-social behaviour - focus on improving outcomes for adults with complex needs
3. Substance misuse - focus on harm reduction
4. Violence - focus on domestic violence and abuse

A six-month progress report was presented on 4<sup>th</sup> April and as agreed, the partnership support team will continue to coordinate delivery across a range of sub-groups and partner organisations.

## Appendix 2 - Review of Domestic Abuse Services

Discussions at the SPP on 13<sup>th</sup> December and again at the Domestic Abuse Steering Group on 14<sup>th</sup> January suggest a review of services and resources in relation to domestic abuse would be helpful and timely.

### Scope and process

It was agreed in discussion with Children's Services Directorate Management Team<sup>1</sup> that a light touch review of services across the city was the preferred option. This would consist of four individual pieces of work carried out under the banner of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership, covering all service provision in the city (as opposed to only services provided/commissioned by PCC). The pieces of work are:

- Structured interviews with users of specialist services
- Evaluation of 'Is the Love' campaign in schools
- Map specialist services and associated resource
- Multi-agency workshops and updated pathway schematic

The final report will draw together the findings from the four pieces of work above and present recommendations. A draft report will be delivered to the Domestic Abuse Steering Group at the end of July 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Feb 11 2019



In addition to the above, a separate piece of qualitative research with children and young people will be undertaken by specialist researchers and be delivered separately.

### **Appendix 3 - Actions from SPP meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April**

AGREED: that the strategic assessment would be a 'lite' version with a focus on most serious violence and that data would be included to triangulate police recorded knife crime from A&E, Ambulance and schools.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Lisa Wills to draft SPP hand over for first H&WBB
- Bruce Marr/Lisa Wills revisit the Domestic Abuse workplace pledge
- Barbara Swyer to send Sam Graves data from 'Building Better Relationships'
- SPP plan progress report to be uploaded on SPP website
- Lisa Wills - further research in relation to knife carrying in schools to be undertaken and included in the SA 'lite'



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# Agenda Item 8

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

### Part 1: General Provisions and Interpretation

#### Introduction

This Code of Conduct is adopted by Portsmouth City Council ("the Council") pursuant to its statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members ("Members") of the Council. This Code applies to all Members of the Council, and all members of the Health & Wellbeing Board (excluding a person who is an employee of the Council).

This Code is based on and is consistent with the following principles:

**SELFLESSNESS:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

**INTEGRITY:** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

**OBJECTIVITY:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

**OPENNESS:** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**HONESTY:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**LEADERSHIP:** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

#### General obligations of Members ("member")

1. You must treat others with respect.
2. You must not bully any person.
3. You must not intimidate, or try to intimidate, anyone who has complained about you or who may be involved with a complaint about you.

4. You must not do anything which compromises the impartiality of the Authority's officers.
5. You must not disclose confidential information (other than in very limited circumstances permitted by law, and following consultation with the Authority's Monitoring Officer).
6. You must not prevent a person from gaining access to information to which they are entitled.
7. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or Authority into disrepute.
8. You must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage.
9. You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Authority, act in accordance with the Authority's reasonable requirements, and ensure that the resources are not used improperly for political purposes.
10. When reaching decisions, you must have regard to relevant advice from the Authority's officers, and give reasons for decisions.
11. You must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986 or otherwise<sup>1</sup>.
12. You should not lobby other members where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter.

## **2. Scope**

This Code applies to all Members of the Council when acting in their official capacity, or when giving the impression that they are acting as a representative of the Council.

Where a Member is a member of more than one local authority, but acting on behalf of the Council, such Member is, for the avoidance of doubt, bound by this Code of Conduct.

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<sup>1</sup>

"Code of recommended practice in local authority publicity" issued under Section 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 1986. From 30th March 2014 the Secretary of State has power to require specified local authorities to comply with the Code.



## Part 2: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests ("DPI")

### 1. Introduction

A DPI is an interest falling within the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below of:

- 1.1 Yourself; or
- 1.2 Your spouse or civil partner, or someone you are living with as if you were husband and wife or civil partners, where you are aware that that other person has the interest.

### 2. Interpretation

In the Schedule set out at Paragraph 3 below, the following words or expressions mean as follows:

- 2.1 'the Act' means the Localism Act 2011;
- 2.2 'body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest' means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;
- 2.3 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;
- 2.4 'land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;
- 2.5 'member' includes a co-opted member;
- 2.6 'relevant authority' means Portsmouth City Council of which the councillor is a member;
- 2.7 'relevant period' means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which the councillor gives a notification for the purposes of Section 30(1) or Section 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;
- 2.8 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2001 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

### 3. DPI Schedule

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Prescribed description</b>
----------------	-------------------------------

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation  
Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Sponsorship  
Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the councillor in carrying out duties as a Member, or towards the election expenses of the councillor.

This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992(2).

Contracts  
Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:  
(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and  
(b) which has not been fully discharged.

Land  
Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.

Licences  
Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.

Corporate tenancies  
Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge):  
(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and  
(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.

Securities  
Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:  
(a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either:  
(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  
(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

### **Part 3: Registration and Disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests ("DPI")**

#### **1. Obligations**

- 1.1 You must, within 28 days of taking office as a Member of the Council, supply the Council's Monitoring Officer with details of any DPI as set out at Part 3 of this Code.
- 1.2 You must also, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new DPI notify Portsmouth City Council's Monitoring Officer of any change.
- 1.3 If you have an interest included on the Register of Members' Interests, you must disclose this interest at any meeting of the Council, its Committees or the Cabinet at which you are present and participating in the business. Where an interest is a 'sensitive interest'<sup>2</sup> you need only disclose the fact that you have a DPI in the matter being considered and do not need to disclose details of the interest itself.
- 1.4 If you have not yet registered a DPI, then you must also disclose the interest to any meeting of Portsmouth City Council, its Committees or the Cabinet at which you are present where you have such a DPI in any matter being considered.
- 1.5 Unless a dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any meeting where that DPI is required to be disclosed (this would include making a deputation), discussed, voted on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a DPI and must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held, unless a dispensation has been granted by the Council's City Solicitor. If acting as a single Cabinet member you may not take any further steps in relation to the matter other than for the purpose of arranging for the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by yourself. Nor may you make a deputation at the meeting.

### **Part 4**

#### **4. Personal interests**

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<sup>2</sup> A 'sensitive interest' is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest (disclosable pecuniary interest or otherwise), and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority's monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.

- 4.1 You have a personal interest in the business of the Council when it relates to or is likely to affect:
- a any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council.
  - b any body:
    - i exercising functions of a public nature;
    - ii directed to charitable purposes; or
    - iii one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management
  - c any employment or business carried on by you other than for profit or gain;
  - d any person or body who employs you, or who has appointed you, other than for profit or gain;
  - e the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 in the last three years;
- 4.2 You also have a personal interest in the business of the Council when a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person (as defined at paragraph 4.3 below), to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral ward within the administrative area of the Council affected by the decision;
- 4.3 In Paragraph 4.2, a “relevant person” is:
- a your spouse or civil partner, or someone you are living with as if you were husband and wife or civil partners, where you are aware that that other person has the interest; or
  - b another member of your family, or any person with whom you have a close association, where you are aware that that other person has the interest; or
  - c any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
  - d any person or body in whom to the Member’s knowledge such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000: or
  - e any body of a type described in paragraph 4.1a or 4.1b above.

## Part 5

### 5. Disclosure of Personal Interests

- 5.1 Subject to paragraphs 5.2 to 5.3 below, where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council you must disclose this interest at any meeting of the Council, its Cabinet or Committees (including joint committees and sub-committees) at which you are present. Such interest should be disclosed at the commencement of consideration of the business or when the interest becomes apparent.
- 5.2 The requirement to declare a personal interest only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.
- 5.3 Where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision (portfolio holder decision notice) records the existence and nature of that interest.

## Part 6

### 6. Prejudicial Interests

#### 6.1 Definition of Prejudicial Interest.

Subject to paragraph 6.2 below, where you have a personal interest in any business of the Council, you also have a prejudicial interest in that business when the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

#### 6.2 Limitation on extent of prejudicial interests

You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Council where that business-:

- a does not affect your financial position, or the financial position of a body or relevant person as described in Part 4 of this Code; or
- b does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or a body or relevant person as described in Part 4 of this Code; or
- c relates to the functions of the Council in respect of:-
  - i housing, where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;

- ii statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of or are entitled to the receipt of such pay;
- iii an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
- iv any ceremonial honour given to Members; and
- v setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## **Part 7**

### **7. Effect of Prejudicial Interests on Participation**

- 7.1 Unless a dispensation has been granted by the Council's Standard's Committee, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a personal interest which is also a prejudicial interest (as set out at Part 6 of this Code), and must as soon as it becomes apparent that you have such an interest (save for in circumstances set out at paragraph 7.2 below) withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held, and must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business. If acting as a single Cabinet member you may not take any further steps in relation to the matter other than for the purpose of arranging for the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by yourself.
- 7.2 Without prejudice to paragraph 7.1 above, where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Council (including any meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council) you may, notwithstanding such prejudicial interest, attend such meeting for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to such business, provided members of the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.
- 7.3 For the avoidance of doubt the procedure in paragraph 7.2 above cannot be used by the member where the interest comes within the statutory definition of a DPI.
- 7.4 In any case where paragraph 7.2 above applies, you must withdraw from the room immediately after making representations, answering questions, or giving evidence.