



# St Helena Government

## **St Helena Safeguarding Board**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Context**

The guidance below has been informed by existing legislation.

The Governor shall establish a Safeguarding Board (“the SGB”) for St Helena, to be known as the “St. Helena Safeguarding Board”.

The SGB shall include such persons or their representatives, and the representatives of such bodies, that exercise functions or are engaged in activities relating to children and vulnerable adults as the Governor in Council may by regulations prescribe.

The objective of the SGB is:

*To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body presented on it for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults on St Helena; and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes.*

The SGB is to have such functions in relation to its objective as the Governor in Council may by regulations prescribe (which may in particular include functions of review or investigation).

The Governor in Council may by regulations make provision as to the procedures to be followed by the SGB.

The funding of SGB shall be wholly funded by the St Helena Government.

The Government shall be responsible for providing, staff, goods, services, accommodation and other resources for the proper functioning of the SGB.

The Governor in Council may by regulations make provision as to the functions of the Portfolio’s in relation to the SGB.

The Government department or public officer shall, in exercising its or his functions relating to SGB, have regard to any guidance given to them for the purpose by the Governor in Council.

#### **Overall Purpose**

“The Children and Adult Safeguarding Board” (SGB) is a multi-agency strategic partnership made up of senior officers from Children’s Social Care, Adults Social Care, Education, Criminal Justice, Health, Police, voluntary organisations and service user representative groups. It coordinates the strategic development of the children and adults safeguarding system across St Helena and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies in the area”.

#### **Statutory Functions of the SGB**

The SGB’s statutory functions as described in SECTION 38, 39, 40 & 41 of The Welfare of Children Ordinance as outlined above are broadly summarised as:

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The Board must be able to form a view of the quality of local activity, challenge organisations as necessary and speak with an independent voice.

## **Aims**

The overarching aims of the Board are to:

1. Hold to account those organisations with safeguarding responsibilities.
2. Ensure partner agencies have preventative measures in place to lessen the likelihood of neglect and abuse occurring.
3. Ensure mechanisms are in place to raise awareness of safeguarding issues amongst the general public, parents, families, carers, service users, and voluntary and paid workers.
4. Assure itself that frameworks are in place so that, whenever abuse or neglect is suspected or reported, there is an effective and coordinated multi-agency response which is of consistent quality across St Helena.
5. Ensure that there are coherent, single, strategic multi-agency safeguarding policy and procedures in place which are adhered to by organisations working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
6. Provide a framework for inter-agency development of safeguarding policy, including lessons learned from practice across St Helena.
7. Ensure that the partnership develops effective links with other local and strategic partnerships and that work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people links with other partnership initiatives, in particular those aimed at enabling children and young people to live healthy, active and fulfilling lives.
8. The SGB will develop and publish a Strategic Plan for each financial year detailing how it will meet its main objectives and the actions to achieve these.
9. There will be an Annual Report published which sets out clearly the progress against these actions.
10. The Annual Report will also produce a summary report on the number of Serious Case Reviews and Learning Reviews undertaken by the SCR sub-group completed during the year.

## **Membership**

SGB members must have sufficient seniority and leadership within their own directorate/organisation to speak on its behalf, to commit resources and agree actions and to represent their directorate/organisation should the SGB need to hold it to account.

Members ideally should have attended safeguarding awareness training and have:

- an understanding of abuse and neglect and their impact;
- knowledge of local safeguarding services;
- personal commitment to the safeguarding principles; and
- a clear understanding of their role and that of their organisation within the SGB.

Each member of the Board is responsible for ensuring that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place within directorate/organisation.

Members agree:

- to play a strategic role;
- to promote safeguarding and people's independence, well-being and safety;
- to refer back to their directorate/organisation so that policy and practice can be developed;
- to disseminate within their own organisation;
- to contribute to sub-groups as required; and
- to undertake core Safeguarding training as set out by the training sub-group, including, but not limited to, Children's Safeguarding; Vulnerable Adults; CSE; Corporate Parenting; and any additional training required to undertake the function of membership of either the Safeguarding Board, or its sub-groups.

The Board will be chaired by the nominated chair and will include:

- The Directors (or their nominated representative) of
  - Children and Adults Social Care;
  - Health;
  - Education & Employment;
  - Police; and
  - Infrastructure and Transport.
- Other officers from the above named Directorates as required.
- Probation Service.
- The Chair of the Social and Community Development Committee.
- The Children's Champion.
- A representative of a youth organisation.
- A representative of a voluntary organisation.
- A representative from the office of the Governor
- A representative from the Human Rights Commission

Substitution of members and attendance by non-members may be permitted at the discretion of the Chair.

### **Functions of the Board**

The SGB will work to:

1. Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including Early Help services;
2. Assess whether SGB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations in relation to organisational responsibilities of Working Together
3. Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and

4. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multiagency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
5. Commission the development of policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in the area community, including policies and procedures in relation to the action to be taken where there are concerns about safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention.
6. Ensure that single agency and inter-agency training on safeguarding and promoting welfare is provided in order to meet local needs.
7. Ensure the co-ordination and effective implementation of measures designed to strengthen local private fostering notification arrangements.
8. Ensure legislation for children & vulnerable adults on St Helena is up-to-date & relevant taking into account local context

### **Sub-Groups**

The SGB will constitute the following sub-groups who will fulfil the operational functions of the SGB and provide measurable KPIs for the effective monitoring and reporting of the SGB functions:

#### **Corporate Parenting Board:**

To advise the SGB in relation to the governments requirement to be a Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers; to support the overall effectiveness of SHG's corporate parenting function.

#### **Training Sub-Group**

*Descriptor to be taken from sub-group TORs*

#### **Serious Case Review Sub-Group**

*Descriptor to be taken from sub-group TORs*

#### **Policy & Procedure Sub Group**

*Descriptor to be taken from sub-group TORs*

#### **SEND Sub-Group**

*Descriptor to be taken from sub-group TORs*

#### **Substance Miss-use Sub-Group**

*Descriptor to be taken from sub-group TORs*



**T McDermott**

**Chair of Saint Helena Safeguarding Board**

**May 2023**