



St Helena, Adults & Children's Safeguarding Board Annual Update Report, 2022

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FAIRNESS



INTEGRITY



TEAMWORK



Safeguarding Board update

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 of the board, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (Appendix B), includes:

The Board is chaired by an individual appointed from within the board 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

The St Helena Adults and Children's Safeguarding Board met 3 times in 2022. In February, August and November.

The May meeting was cancelled, primarily due to availability of members and the pressure on the Health & Social Care Portfolio with the planned reopening of the island.

2022 was a year of transition for the Safeguarding Board, with an interim Chair in place at the beginning of the year following the standing down of the previous Chair Susan O'Bey. H&SC Portfolio Director Michelle Wheeler took the Chair until her resignation from employment with SHG. Tracy Poole-Nandy acted as interim Chair for the August meeting, where Tim McDermott, Head of Clinical Governance, was nominated as Chair, and Pamela Ward-Pearce was nominated as vice chair.

Key achievements for 2022 include the creation of the Corporate Parenting Board, the TORs of which were tabled in August and ratified at the November meeting.

As part of a recognition that the safeguarding board had become more operationally focussed than it should be, a new strategic plan for the board was circulated to all members in December for comment ahead of the February 2023 meeting, with planned ratification and publication to occur at the May 2023 meeting. See appendix A.

Updated Terms of Reference for the Safeguarding Board will be ratified at the May 2023 meeting, reflecting the changes in membership and the creation of a new sub-group structure, intended to be in place in 2023. (See appendices B & C). This will offer clearer reporting lines to the board and will see the creation of a new Corporate Parenting Board, a Serious Case Review sub-group, supported by Hampshire County Council, and a Policy & Procedure Sub-group. These sub-groups will assist the



safeguarding board to have a more strategic oversight of safeguarding across the island.

The format of the annual report will change, driven forward by new sub-group KPI's that will be ratified during 2023 safeguarding board meetings.

Tim McDermott, Head of Clinical Governance, Safeguarding Board Chair

Partner Updates

Social Care

Children's Services 2022 update

Referrals:

The majority of referrals originate from professionals working within services such as the Police, Education and Health. All referrals are screened by the team manager and allocated with 24 hours depending on the identified need.

Number of referrals received in the last 12 months:

March 2022	28
April 2022	21
May 2022	33
June 2022	22
July 2022	8
August 2022	9
September 2022	13
October 2022	26
November 2022	23
December 2022	16

The types of statutory cases are as follows:

Single/Core assessment under Section 17 – statutory timescales for assessments to be completed is 45 working days.

Child in Need – again under Section 17 – statutory timescales are a minimum of 6 weekly review and statutory visits. Child in need cases can only remain open with parental consent.

Child Protection Planning – following the completion of a strategy meeting and section 57 – minimum statutory core group meetings and statutory visits are four weekly.

Looked After Children – this is where the Family Court had endorsed an Order for the LA/SHG to share PR with parents and make best interests decisions for the children. The interim order granted by the court is called an Interim Care Order and will be followed by care proceedings. Care proceedings will generally take a period of between 6 and 12 months to be completed.



The department also manages Private Law Proceedings re custody and residency disputes between parents.

Additional work:

Monthly MAPPA meetings are held between multi agency services in addition to MARAC. CSC also take the lead re multi agency Strategy Discussions and Section 57 safeguarding assessments, in addition to acting as a LADO when concerns are raised.

Categories of Abuse:

Neglect

Emotional abuse

Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Current cases:

██████████ *Section redacted to protect identifiable information*

Recommendations for the next 12 months:

Deliver safeguarding, Corporate Parenting and CSE training (this is booked in for the next 12 months)

Ensure KPI's and statutory time scales are maintained at 100%

Provide Mental Capacity training for Social Care Officers.

Continue to safeguard and support children to meet their global development needs.

Paul Brown, Children's Services Manager

Adults Social Care, 2022 update

Since March 2022, the Adult Social Care team have received 14 safeguarding referrals. The safeguarding policy currently in place is under review. In the absence of adult social care legislation on Saint Helena, the Adult Social Care team currently strive to operate to best practice consistent to UK legislation (The Care Act 2014).

These 14 cases would have been identified as meeting the threshold of the safeguarding criteria in that the individual have care and support needs (regardless of how these needs are being met), is experiencing abuse (or is at risk of experiencing abuse) and as a result of their needs, are unable to protect themselves. It is the role of the Team Manager to determine whether this criteria is met and whether a full safeguarding enquiry is required. On some occasions a full investigation might not be required; despite meeting the above threshold, if appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard the person at the referral stage. 10 of the 14 safeguarding referrals required a full safeguarding investigation. The categories of harm featured in these incidents are shown below. The outcome of each investigation and whether the alleged abuser is/was a staff member is also stated. Please note that some enquiries meet the threshold for more than one category of abuse:



Type of abuse	Total amount of cases
Physical	2
Psychological abuse	2
Financial or Material	1
Sexual	3
Neglect & Acts of Omission	10
Organisational Abuse	1

Enquiries are completed by one of two Senior Social Workers or the Team Manager. The majority of referrals originate from professionals working within services such as the Police, the hospital and care/support accommodations.

There is a theme around neglect and acts of omission. It is identified that the majority of these investigations did not find that acts of neglect were intentional or malicious. The outcomes are proportionate to this.

Recommendations for the next 12 months:

- Complete an Adults Safeguarding Policy relevant to Saint Helena
- Formalise Safeguarding procedure/process within Adult Social Care
- Work with police to identify when it is appropriate to refer to adult social care
- Provide better training all for SHG staff. This should include how to recognise a safeguarding concern and how to report a safeguarding concern.
- Provide targeted training for SHG staff who provide care and support. This should be moving and handling, medication administering and nutrition training.
- Provide mental capacity training for Social Care Officers and to staff within supported living environments.
- Raise awareness for safeguarding adults in the community. Safeguarding should be everyone's business.

Other comments:

- Resident on resident safeguarding concerns are frequently reported for those living in supported living. The outcome of these incidents is usually around the training needs of the support staff.
- It is alarming that safeguarding concerns are not reported by the public. This may mean that concerns go unreported.
- HR responses can delay safeguarding concerns which relate to staff conduct.

Angela Bevan, Senior Adults Social Worker



During the last twelve months, from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 the Probation Service has provided the courts with nineteen pre-sentence reports, an unusually low figure when compared with previous years (2019 – 20 = 39 reports, 2020 – 21 = 34 reports, 2021 – 22 = 44 reports), reflecting the reduced number of cases passing through the courts during this period.

At present, as of the end of March 2023, the Probation Service has oversight of forty-three sentences, twenty one of which are in custodial with nineteen in the community.

Community Service is the most frequently used community disposal, of the fourteen community sentences currently supervised ten include community service.

Community service now comprises weekly group sessions and individual placements, some of which are facilitated by partner agencies such as the National Trust and SHAPE. Failures to engage with community service as required are dealt with in a much more timely manner with absences being followed up and enforcement action taken within three working days (usually sooner). This includes returning orders to court in cases where the order has been breached through failure to comply. Attendance at community service is much improved with a number of people completing their hours in less time with anticipated.

In the past twelve months the Probation Service has overseen 1,924 hours of community service, an increase of almost five hundred hours compared to the previous year.

Laura Aston & David Brickland, Probation Officers

Public Guardian

Summary:

Since talking up post, the Public Guardian has reached out to some of the most vulnerable and prioritised his workload to accelerate the processing of applications, undertaking deputy supervisions and working closely with professionals and families for individuals considered to be at risk.

Partner agencies are becoming more aware of 'vulnerability', 'exploitation', and the principles underpinning mental capacity, or lack of. As a result, professional curiosity, and communication with the Public Guardian, has seen a growing increase in the number of referrals and applications received.

Cases processed and registered within the last 12 months:

Deputies registered	Number of clients	Number of Deputies
Care settings	28	40
Clients in the community	12	24



Total	40	64
Deputies pending		
Care settings	1	1
Cases submitted to Supreme Court	4	5
Total	5	6
Deputies discharged		
Care settings	8	11
Clients in the community	1	1
Lasting Powers of Attorney registered	Number of clients	Number of Attorneys
Care settings	11	15
Clients in the community	50	75
Total	61	90
Lasting Powers of Attorney discharged		
Care settings	1	1
Clients in the community	3	4
Total	4	5

Gavin Thomas, Public Guardian

Update from Housing & Infrastructure

The two Government Landlord Homes at Bottom Woods Comprehensive Development Area have been completed and tenants are now in occupation. Phase 1 of the CDA, which, in addition to the social housing has 10 plots for outright sale and one first time buyer plot. Future phases will be released depending on demand. The demand for 2 bedroomed social housing across Island remains overwhelming and future build at Bottom Woods will be of this size. Plans and funding are being explored to construct four, two bedroomed homes.

Having refurbished on property at RE Yard work was undertaken to explore the possibility of increasing the density of homes in the complex, but due to its historic nature this has not proven to be possible. Work is now underway preparing plans to create two bedroomed accessible homes in the complex, which, because of their



increase in size the number of housing units will be reduced but the end product will be better, accessible, more flexible homes.

The availability and demand for GLH continues to be a challenge. At the end of January 2023 there were 33 applicants on the housing register. These include 7 GLH transfer requests and 11 persons in temporary shared accommodation. Of these 1 household was in high priority need, 5 medium and 27 with a low need, i.e. the household were adequately housed but want to move to a new location or bigger home.

There remains significant need for cross portfolio working to coordinate approaches to the same client groups, who present as homeless with significant dependency and varying health issues. Helpfully explained in the Health section of this report with increased clinical referrals. Single parent households are another high demand group.

As a landlord Housing can provide a home but is unable to provide the wrap around services many clients need. The Service has historically used its social housing stock to house those accepted as homeless, reducing social housing available to existing tenants. New approaches to homelessness are being explored with Social Care which should improve the service to this group of tenants and how the housing stock can be managed, for example, the provision of a managed homeless hostel would free up houses currently being used for homeless and provide support for the individuals to play a meaningful part in Island society, rather than being on the fringes.

Although responsible for managing the tenancies, the Housing Service is not responsible for the maintenance of the homes and work is required with colleagues in Maintenance to improve the service to tenants and refurbish homes when they become vacant.

For several years the Housing Service has been understaffed, and remains so at the moment. However, it is currently appointing a Chief Housing Officer which will help to lead improvements in capability, capacity and professionalising housing as a key part of the Islands future.

Risks:

1. The role of social housing is not (fully) understood by colleague portfolios, resulting in properties being incorrectly used to resolve other problems. GLH is funded by tenants for tenants and (within boundaries) should not be used to provide accommodation that should be funded from other budgets, e.g. the placement of offenders, islanders with special needs. All of which reduces the social housing stock for tenants. It is recognised that St Helena is not the UK and this approach is currently necessary but not sustainable and cross portfolio approaches are needed that will best serve the islands various cohorts.
2. As in previous years lack of investment in the housing stock, an unresolved approach to homelessness and lack of inter portfolio working in the management of the same client groups, despite best efforts by all remains a risk.



3. The housing of vulnerable people, e.g. alcohol dependency, in shared accommodation without either housing management or specialist support is a risk to the individual concerned and neighbours
4. With a corporate hat on, dealing with disciplinary cases, where recommendations from the panel have not been progressed, despite chasing, that the culture of safeguarding is not embedded in SHG. .

Emerging risks:

1. Challenges of recruiting sufficient and capable staff, increased cost of building materials and the challenges of carrying out and managing the maintenance of homes.
2. Challenges of engaging construction contractors at reasonable costs.
3. The Maestro contract will bring with it some 40+ personnel, with the potential for future single parent families, with future burden on SHG, similar to Basil Read.

Ending on a positive note the Service has funding to build 4-5 new homes in the next two years.

John Holman, Head of Property

Update from Health

At the commencement of 2022 there was no prior documentation in health to start from.

1. On the basis that there is nothing prior to work from:
 - a. Training needs analysis (as part of the wider mandatory training programme) to assess which staff need adult and child and young people Level 1-5 safeguarding training (in progress)
 - b. Implement safeguarding training through NHS Health Education England e-learning for healthcare and other resources(as part of the wider mandatory training programme)
 - i. <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/safeguarding-children/>
 - ii. <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/safeguarding-adults/>
 - c. Implement a procedure for ensuring that all children 0-18 who attend the A&E department are flagged up to social care (in progress)
 - d. Implement a flag on the clinical information system to indicate children who are at risk (in progress)
 - e. Implement a flag on the clinical information system to indicate vulnerable adults (awaiting the development of the database below)
 - f. Implement the Sheffield Children's Hospital Neonatal and Pediatric Guidelines (implemented)
 - g. Develop a disease, disability, vulnerable person and cancer registry (in progress)
 - h. Develop an enhanced children's and young people's nursing service and enhance the paediatric training of our current nursing staff



- i. Bring a paediatrician to the island as part of the visiting consultant programme to review (amongst other duties) all looked after and vulnerable children

Dr Derek Burke, Director of Health

Mental Health

Much of our routine work is safeguarding vulnerable children and adults with mental health problems

- Ensuring access to healthcare both physical and psychiatric, including 24/7 on call service
- Working with other agencies particularly social care, education, housing and police to ensure holistic care
- Supporting vulnerable children and adults in the justice system particularly police custody and courts
- Identifying and treating prisoners with mental health problems
- Screening new patients for history of trauma/abuse. Providing specialist psychological treatment when required (remotely) and supporting individuals to disclose allegations to police if they choose to

August 2022 - Training was held with doctors, mental health team and social care in application of the Mental Health Ordinance

Working with UKOTs Prison Health Group on developing mental health care standards for prisoners

There remains a risk of not being able to provide adequate safeguarding interventions due to budget restrictions which can limit access specialist treatment and staff shortages.

Ian Rummery, Mental Health Team Lead

Update from Education/Employment

SAFEGUARDING BOARD UPDATE

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIO

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio is responsible for the education, training and development of our young people and for providing further education, professional training, professional development opportunities and career's guidance



to the wider community of St. Helena. Raising academic attainment and improving education for the benefit of the people of St. Helena is the reason for our existence.

The Portfolio works to the Education Ordinance 2008, supported by Education Regulations 2009; and the Employment Rights Ordinance 2010.

The business of the Portfolio falls under two sectors, Schools and Lifelong Learning. This is further separated into two categories; core services and non-core services. Core services are determined by law through the Education Ordinance.

Under Schools we provide the core service of full time education to all children on St. Helena who are of compulsory school age (5yrs to 16 yrs/Reception to Year 11). Schools are supported by our Inclusion Service which ensures that all children, no matter what their ability, circumstances or special educational need or disability, have opportunity to access mainstream education; and, our Teacher Training Section which supports the training and development of our Teaching Cadre. In addition, we offer non-core services which include Nursery Education for children aged 3 – 4 years old, opportunity for Post School learning (6th Form/Years 12 and 13) and access to Tertiary Education through Post School Scholarships. Within our current school system we have approximately 239 students in PAS and 312 across the three primary schools.

The Lifelong Learning Sector offers non-core services that cater for all other aspects of education for the benefit of the wider community of St. Helena. The St. Helena Community College (SHCC) facilitates academic learning, professional training and development of the adult population of St. Helena. This is offered through face to face training and teaching and on-line/distance learning opportunities. Career Access St. Helena (CA) offers careers support and guidance to all adults and includes a 6th Form Programme for 16-18 year olds. The St. Helena Research Institute (SHRI) has responsibility for managing and monitoring all research conducted on St. Helena to ensure that it is carried out in a responsible manner that protects St. Helena. The only core service provided under the Lifelong Learning sector is the operation of the Public Library.

To support the welfare of all within our organisation we have a range of policies and procedures in place. These include: Child Protection Policies, Anti-Bullying Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy, Positive Behaviour Management Policies, Safeguarding Policies, Staff Handbooks, Code of Conduct, Administering Medicines Policy, Health and Safety Policy (draft) to name a few.

We are in the process of developing our Code of Practice /Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy 2022 to support the work of Inclusion and our children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and or Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH). We have consulted with Hampshire Local Authority on this along with our Pupil Referral Unit Policy and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We are in the process of editing in line with the recommendations.



We recognize that some of our policies are overdue for review and updating. We are in the process of prioritizing these. We have referred the Child Protection Policy to the Policy Sub Group of the Safeguarding Board with a view to this piece of work being actioned there.

Concerns in regards to behaviours of students in school are on-going. These concerns range from disrespectful behaviour of students towards their teachers and peers, incidents of extreme violent behaviour which has resulted in a student being referred to an Alternative Education Programme outside of school, incidents involving misuse of the internet and concerns around the sharing of inappropriate images on mobile phones. For Academic Year 2012 – 22 there were 14 suspensions in PAS. To date for this year it stands at 16. It is noted that policies and procedures needed to support staff and also manage extreme behaviours are either out of date or not in existence. This is a piece of work that is the process of being actioned.

For Academic Year 2021-22 we were able to access Safeguarding Training for all staff (including the school bus drivers) which was delivered in PAS by Social Workers Amy Martin and Rosie Flatman. This was a long awaited face to face training session. Whilst there are safeguarding courses offered on line there are some of our staff who are unable to access this due to their limitations in using the technology and so prefer the interaction of the face to face training. Staff also find the face to face training gives opportunity for questions and further clarification.

We have seen an increase in the numbers of students in our school system with profound special needs. These students have a dedicated Teaching Assistant to support their learning and personal needs and requirements. Across our school system we have 25 Teaching Assistants who offer one to one support.

Our Inclusion Service supports our students with SEND and take the lead in management of Educational Team Around the Child (EdTAC) meetings where parents and professionals meet to discuss the holistic development of the child and to set targets for development. They also give support to school staff when addressing the learning and development needs of our children.

Over the last school year two incidents were reported regarding staff and safeguarding concerns. Both these incidents were officially investigated through the SHG Disciplinary Process. One resulted in a dismissal and the other resulted in redeployment. These incidents highlighted some areas of weakness in our reporting systems which we are now improving.

When concerns are raised in relation to a safeguarding then referrals are made to Social Care for their attention and guidance on next steps. All schools have a Safeguarding Lead who deal with these concerns and know the actions to take. We have some concerns in regards to school attendance but these are for just a few students. Schools try to work with parents/guardians where possible to address these.



We have concern around one particular student where attendance is a concern but due to a lack of confirmed parental responsibility/guardianship this matter continues to be a concern. It has been referred but as it does not fall within the threshold support is not forthcoming. Over the year three students (2 male and 1 female) presented quite challenging behaviours and disengagement with school. Through the work of Inclusion and that of the school the two males have reintegrated back into school (although they still present challenges) the female continued to be disengaged despite the support from the school and the parent and attendance at schools has been irregular.

The St. Helena Community College liaises with Health and Social Care and support the offer of on-line training and development courses in safeguarding. Our 6th Form Programme continues to offer training and academic development to all school leavers and this is well used. We currently support 49 6th formers.

Challenges for the portfolio include:

Catering for our students with SEND and SEMH

Regular CPD for Teaching Assistants and Teachers in specific area concerning and challenging behaviours

The threat and misuse of alcohol, drugs, cigarettes and monster energy drinks

For some parents a lack of understanding of how to administer discipline to children
Staffing shortages particularly in the key areas of English, Maths, IT and Science in
PAS Transport provision on school buses

Lack of requirement for identifying guardianship/parental responsibility for students whose parents are off shore

Decreased budget to be able to improve and develop our service offerings

Opportunities

Link with Hampshire Local Authority for support and guidance and training opportunities
Multi-agency working on St. Helena

Close links with most parents

Safeguarding Board and supporting sub-groups

Wendy C Benjamin Portfolio Director

Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio

Update from Police



Throughout 2022 Royal St. Helena Police have continued to play a key role as a member of the safeguarding board, being represented at main board meetings as well as playing an active role in a number of sub groups.

Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable members of our community remains a priority area of focus for the police service as demonstrated in our Police and Crime plan published in 2022.

The plan sets out six strategic priorities, one of which is to protect vulnerable people. This then identifies four areas for specific focus to help achieve this goal.



Identify and support victims of domestic violence

Unfortunately on St Helena and Ascension Island, as elsewhere in the world, domestic violence has traditionally been under-reported and this type of crime can affect anyone in our communities, irrespective of their age, gender or any other personal characteristic.

The reasons for this are many and complex but, in order to address this issue, it is vital that the police service retains the confidence of the community and that it is seen as being able, with partners, to support victims of domestic violence who seek help.

Undoubtedly, the best way to reduce domestic violence is by preventing it from ever happening in the first place, so the police will continue to work with partners to develop harm reduction strategies and to update our legislation to reflect international best practice.

Work with partners to protect children, young people and adults at risk

Children and young people are some of the most vulnerable people in society, as they are most at risk of victimisation, particularly when the crime involves coercion or manipulation, such as child sexual exploitation.

There is, therefore, a need to protect children and young people through working with partners, especially in the care system and where the child in question is missing from home.

Children must also not be the forgotten victims of domestic abuse and we should not underestimate the impact this trauma can have on them in later life. Identifying and referring children exposed to domestic violence will ensure that they receive the support they will need.



It is equally important that the police are able to identify, protect and support vulnerable adults and work with partners to identify and address any adult safeguarding or elder abuse issues.

Police officers and staff will also receive training to ensure that any such adults receive appropriate support.

Evolve community safeguarding through partnership working

The RSHP has been an active member of the local Safeguarding Boards since their inception and will continue to play a key role in this vital aspect of protecting our communities.

While safeguarding has been successfully adopted and embedded in some services, further development is required in other services and groups to ensure that appropriate policies and processes are in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. The police service will work with our partners to assist these organisations in developing their safeguarding procedures.

Identify and prevent exploitation of children

Our children are our most precious resource and also amongst the most vulnerable members of our communities. We will work with our partners to identify factors that place children at risk and to address these through education, publicity, access to specialist services and, where necessary, enforcement.

Providing police officers and staff with the expertise needed to address this critical issue will be vital, as continuous improvements are being made in the approaches to this area of work. Working with partners, both here and overseas, the police service will identify and implement best practice and ensure that the required training is delivered.

The objectives within the policing plan support the objectives of the safeguarding board and additionally the police have undertaken a training program for all new staff, supported the delivery of safeguarding training to outside agencies and members of the public and continue to actively recruit some officers with proven experience and internationally recognised training in the area of safeguarding and safeguarding investigation.

There have been a number of serious and complex investigations undertaken during the course of the year which have resulted in individuals being charged and convicted and in some more serious cases sent to prison for significant time periods. Often these have been conducted either alongside or with the support of partner agencies such as social care.

St Helena Safeguarding Board Sub-Group Updates

Training Sub Group

The training sub-group have developed a programme of training for the forthcoming period. Over the last 12 months they have confirmed that SHG will be offering the



following 5 individual training courses, commencing in April 2023 on a monthly basis through to March 2024.

Individual Training Courses:

Internet/cyber security – Delivered by G. Drabble

Children's Safeguarding – Delivered by Children's Safeguarding Service

Corporate Parenting – Delivered by Children's Safeguarding Service

Adult Safeguarding – Delivered by Adult's Safeguarding Service

Child Sexual Exploitation (*in order to attend this training session you must have already completed the Children's Safeguarding Training*) – Delivered by R. Flatman

Venue/Application:

All training sessions will be held at the Saint Helena Community College. Participants are to arrive at 9am, with a view to each training session starting at 9:30am. Applications for the individual courses need to be made to Saint Helena Community College using the relevant application form which will be provided by the Community College.

Feedback and certification:

Following the completion of each course, participants will be required to complete an evaluation form in addition to receiving a certificate confirming they have attended the individual training session.

Fees:

Training sessions for SHG employees is free.

Training sessions for charities, Childminders/Creche and other voluntary organisations will be free.

A £10 charge per individual training sessions will be charged for all other organisations.

SCR Sub-Group

The SCR sub-group has met to determine its ToRs following its formation in the February 2023 Safeguarding Board meeting. An update on progress will be presented to the board at the May 2023 meeting, and an annual update will appear in the 2023 report.

Policy & Procedure Sub-Group

The Policy & Procedure sub-group has met to determine its ToRs following its formation in the February 2023 Safeguarding Board meeting. An update on progress



will be presented to the board at the May 2023 meeting, and an annual update will appear in the 2023 report.

SEND Sub-Group

The SEND Sub-Group will present a ToR at the May 2023 Safeguarding Board meeting. An update on progress will be presented to the board at the next meeting, and an annual update will appear in the 2023 report.

Substance Misuse Sub-Group

- The Safeguarding Board decided on the establishment of a subcommittee to develop a Substance Misuse Strategy (SMS).
- Ian Rummery (Mental Health Team Lead) presented a proposed outline to the Safeguarding Board for a suggested approach to the development of a SMS in February 2023. This approach was approved by the Safeguarding Board.
- The approach suggested initially focuses on alcohol harm reduction, and is based on the [WHO SAFER](#) approach. The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with international partners, developed the SAFER initiative with the objective to provide support in reducing the harmful use of alcohol. The SAFER initiative focuses on five key alcohol policy interventions that are based on accumulated evidence of their impact on population health and their cost-effectiveness (see table).

The SAFER Interventions				
STRENGTHEN	ADVANCE	FACILITATE	ENFORCE	RAISE
restrictions on alcohol availability	and enforce drink-driving countermeasures	access to screening, brief interventions and treatment	bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship and promotion	prices on alcohol through excise taxes and other pricing policies

- The SMS SC held their initial meeting in March 2023, with representatives from Health (mental health, school nursing and health promotion), Social Care (Adults and Children), police and probation. The group discussed a draft terms of reference, including membership. It was decided that the Minister from H&SC and a representative from education would be invited to become members of the SMS CS. Additional partners would be invited to attend specific meetings when certain areas are discussed (e.g. judicial services, statistics and economic development). The draft ToR will be shared with the SGB for sign off in May 2023. The SMS SC are scheduled to meet monthly throughout 2023.



- The tax and revenue working group (TRWG) suggested certain tax increases to alcohol from April 2023, which was endorsed by ExCo. As part of the proposal it was suggested that tax options should be further explored in 2023/24, the SMS SC will include this work as part of their proposed outline based on the SAFER initiative.
- Health representatives from the SMS SC met with colleagues from the UKOT team in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the SM lead in OHID, along with the SHG chief economist and chief statistician to discuss the review on process for alcohol tax and other pricing policies in March 2023. The initial discussion focused on sources of data and modelling approaches based on the available data and small population size.

Corporate Parenting Board

Draft ToRs were presented to the Safeguarding Board in November 2022. Following the constituting of the board at the February 2023 meeting, the board will give its first report to the Safeguarding Board at the May 2023 meeting. Full update will be included in the 2023 report.



St Helena Safeguarding Board 5 Year Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028



**St Helena
Government**

*“Working together to promote the well-being and safety of
vulnerable children and adults in the community of St Helena”*



Foreword

As we look forward to developing our approach to the management of safeguarding here on St Helena, we should reflect on the huge strides that have been taken in recent years to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and vulnerable adults.

St Helena offers unique challenges, without doubt, but its small community and close working environments affords an opportunity to make meaningful and impactful changes to the way we care for and support the most vulnerable members of our society.

The focus of our strategic plan is to ensure that by working in partnership with all of our key stakeholders across the Island, we can provide a consistent approach to the way we apply the principles and practices of effective safeguarding for all.

We will look to standardise our approach so people can be assured that their loved ones are protected in whatever environment they may find themselves, be that engaged with statutory or care services, in education, or attending a sporting group.

We will build on the successful safeguarding education programme, and train more people in safeguarding and best practices, with a special focus on the impacts of the forthcoming fibre cable which will provide huge opportunities, but will also hold risks for those most vulnerable.

St Helena should reflect proudly on the significant steps it has taken over the recent years, and it is intended that this strategy will build on the positive work to align St Helena safeguarding practices with the very best international standards.



Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding and early help is everybody's business. Making sure children, vulnerable adults and their families are given extra help and support at the earliest opportunity when they need it is vital.

Improvements are required to drive services forward towards better outcomes for children, vulnerable adults and families on St Helena; this is everyone's responsibility.

It is important to recognise that St Helena is in a unique situation and these policies and procedures are designed to reflect the context in which they are applied. The key features of St Helena in relation to safeguarding are:

- a. Being such a small and remote community, it is inevitable that the children, vulnerable adults and their families that professionals on the Island deal with as patients, pupils and members of the public are also frequently acquaintances/friends/family. This presents particular problems for professionals and makes it crucial that adult safeguarding issues and child protection concerns are managed with scrupulous professionalism and confidentiality.
- b. On St Helena, functions and services which in a larger community would be delivered by a department of government are frequently vested in an individual. Policies and procedures need to ensure that key decisions are made on the basis of discussion and joint working rather than the subjective views of one person.
- c. There is an established history of St Helenians migrating to Britain, the Falkland Islands and Ascension for employment purposes. Many of St Helena's children and young people are cared for by people other than their parents at times in their childhood.
- d. It is a time of great change for St Helena and this creates both opportunities and anxieties which need to be acknowledged and discussed.

It is widely recognised that children and vulnerable adults are best protected when professionals are clear about what is required of them individually, and how they need to work together. Feedback from agencies on this strategy is essential to help shape improvements to services across the island.



The welfare of the child is paramount and the Government has a statutory duty under the Welfare of Children Ordinance 2008 to promote and safeguard the welfare of Children in Need and their families. Children in Need are defined as children:

- Who are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development; or
- Whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services.

It is important to point out that not all families with Children in Need require or request statutory involvement through a Social Worker or Social Care Officer. Promoting the welfare of children and providing additional services within the community can be co-ordinated through other agencies and services including multi-agency meetings which can be brought together by other service practitioners such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) or Education.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. It is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes;
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

For the sake of clarity it is important to point out that the term child refers to any child or young person under the age of 18, irrespective of whether they live independently or are in the armed forces.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults is the action that we take to protect vulnerable adults: that being adults with impaired capacity, physical disability or impairment, sensory impairment and the elderly, from abuse and harm.

- Protecting vulnerable adults from abuse
- Promoting independence
- Promoting choice



- Ensuring those vulnerable adults in receipt of care packages or residing in care settings have their needs met to a good standard
- Ensuring that all vulnerable adults health needs are met in line with their needs
- Ensuring all vulnerable adults have opportunities to live a fulfilled lives

2.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

The key principles in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults are:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility;
- for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part;
- a person-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children and vulnerable adults.

In line with all review recommendations in relation to the care and welfare of children and vulnerable adults on St Helena and within the previous working together 2016; all professionals should have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities to effectively safeguard.

St Helena has learnt lessons from all reviews and scrutiny of services and statutory functions on the island thus enabling improvements in responses and service delivery to the most vulnerable on island. Clear thresholds for intervention for both children and vulnerable adults have enabled the wider community and partner agencies to understand effective safeguarding. Better working together arrangements are visible and need to be maintained in order to maintain a safe response and greater protection for the most vulnerable people on St Helena.

The legal framework

- The Children Act 1989 (as amended by section 53 of the Children Act 2004) and in St Helena by the Welfare of Children Ordinance 2008. This Ordinance requires the Government to give due regard to a child's wishes when determining what services to provide, and before making decisions about action to be taken to protect individual children under section 57 of the Welfare of Children Ordinance. These duties complement requirements relating to the wishes and feelings of children who are, or may be, looked after (living away from home), including those who are provided with accommodation and children taken into police protection.



- Our Working Together 2016 (2019 update) document sets out the key principles in safeguarding children which are highlighted under Key Principles above. This document sets out the practical steps to be taken when there is a concern that a child is at risk and provides a structured framework for the effective multi agency management of suspected child abuse.
- The Equality Act 2010 (UK) which puts a responsibility on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity (although this Act is not part of the laws of St Helena at the moment, its principles must still be borne in mind). This applies to the process of identification of need and risk faced by the individual child and the process of assessment. No child, group of children, or vulnerable adult should be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access effective services which meet their particular needs.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is an international convention that protects the rights of children and provides a child-centred framework for the development of services to children. The UK Government ratified the UNCRC in 1991 and, in doing so, recognised children's rights to expression and receiving information.
- The Constitution of Saint Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan Da Cunha (2009) states "Every child shall have the right to such measures of protection as are required by his or her status as a minor, on the part of his or her family, society and the Government of St Helena, and which are appropriate and proportionate to the circumstances of St Helena". The Constitution also protects Human Rights including the right to family life and right to be protected from inhumane treatment. For children sometimes there is tension between their own rights and the rights of their parents. For example, if a child is at risk of significant harm from a/both parent/s, the child's right to protection and right to life may outweigh the rights of the parent.
- The Care Act 2014 (although not applicable in law in St Helena) provides a framework for core safeguarding duties and responsibilities relating to vulnerable adults. To stop abuse or neglect wherever possible. Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs. Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live. Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned. Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect. Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do



to raise a concern about the safety or wellbeing of an adult. Address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

ST HELENA GOVERNMENT VISION AND STRATEGY

'A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT that creates OPPORTUNITY and inspires SOCIAL and ECONOMIC PROGRESS ensuring a better quality of life.'

Altogether Safer

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger, and our older and vulnerable residents feel included, safe, and supported with choices to live independently. Areas of focus include:

- Ensuring that children, young people, and adults grow and thrive in a safe and secure environment;
- Protecting the wellbeing of all vulnerable members of society;

Outlined in the strategic objectives of:

SO.15. Ensure that children, young people, and adults grow and thrive in a safe, secure and inclusive environment

SO.16. Protect the wellbeing of all vulnerable members of society

Our Safeguarding Board Priorities

Our strategic priorities for are based on the **6 principles from the UK Care Act 2014**

The Care Act Principles and what these mean for the people of St Helena

Empowerment – “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding enquiry and these directly inform what happens”.

Prevention – “I receive clear and accessible information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs of abuse and here I can report it and get help”.

Proportionality – “I am sure that the professionals will work for my best interests as I see them and will only get involved as much as needed”.

Partnership – “I know that those who care for and support me treat any personal and sensitive information confidentially, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that people will work together to get the best for me.

Accountability – “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life”.

Protection – “I get help and support to report abuse. I get help to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent of which I want and to which I am able”.



Priority 1

Have safeguarding policies and procedures that are in line with best practice

Why?

To make sure we meet the needs of adults and children at risk of abuse, harm and neglect across St Helena now and in the future.

How?

- 1.1 We will ask all partners to tell us how they use the policies and procedures to keep adults and children at risk safe.
- 1.2 We will review partner's policies and procedures regularly to make sure they are effective and will recommend change and update when needed.
- 1.3 We will develop new policies and procedures to keep people safe and make sure these are in line with best practice.
- 1.4 We will share existing and new policies and procedures widely and openly publish them so they are available for all.
- 1.5 We will make sure the work we have done is working and is making a difference.

Priority 2

Work together effectively with partners and organisations

Why?

To have a strong joined up way of working to prevent abuse, harm and neglect.

To make sure people and organisations are doing the things they said they would to prevent abuse.

How?

- 2.1 We will strengthen the links between SHG portfolios, business, community groups, and our religious partners and focus on topics such as child sexual exploitation, financial abuse, substance misuse, and domestic violence.
- 2.2 We will carry out safeguarding adult and children reviews where appropriate.
- 2.3 We will identify and share learning with partners from our reviews.



2.4 We will ensure all partners and organisations have carried out their actions from reviews and can show the Board how they have done this.

2.5 We will collect and review better and qualitative safeguarding data and share information. This will help identify themes and trends and help to monitor, plan for and respond to any risks.

2.6 We will review substance misuse services to identify how effective these services are for adults at risk on St Helena.

Priority 3

Develop safer recruitment methods, induction and training to ensure a safe, skilled, professional workforce that can identify and respond to safeguarding concerns

Why?

We will safeguard and protect all children, young people and vulnerable adults by implementing robust safer recruitment practices across all partners.

How?

3.1 We will identify and reject applicants who are unsuitable to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

3.2 We will ensure all partners have process in place to respond to concerns about the suitability of applicants during the recruitment process.

3.3 We will ensure all partners process are in place to respond to concerns about the suitability of employees and volunteers once they have begun their role.

3.4 We will encourage all our partners to ensure that all new staff and volunteers participate in an induction which includes child protection and adults safeguarding training.

3.5 We will review, and look to deliver, awareness and training on safeguarding, child protection, CSE, cyber risk, and other related areas.



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

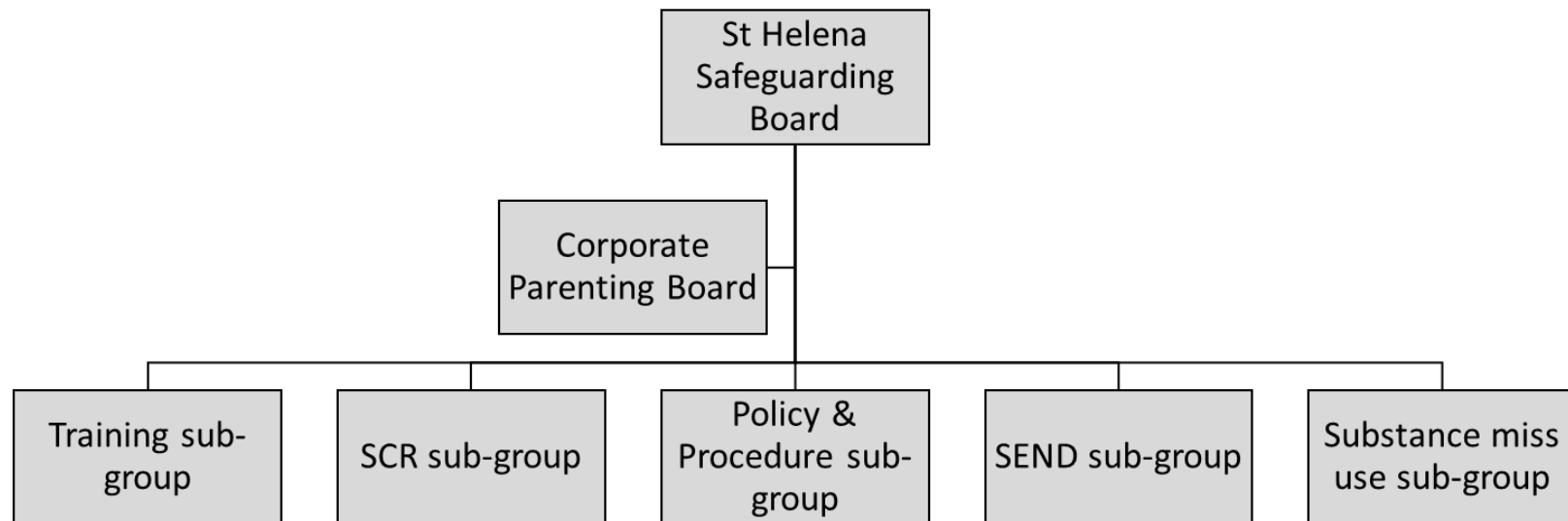
T McDermott

Chair of Saint Helena Safeguarding Board

May 2023

Appendix C – Safeguarding Board Structure

St Helena Safeguarding Board & sub-group structure



FAIRNESS



INTEGRITY



TEAMWORK

St Helena Government, St Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ

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