

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC

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List of Documents:	Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014 Falkland Islands Safeguarding Annual Report 2016-17

1. Recommendations

Honourable Members are requested to:

- (a) Note the Annual report of the Falklands Islands Safeguarding Children's Board (FISCB)
- (b) That the Annual report be presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 29 May 2018.

2. Additional Budgetary Implications

None

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The FISCB is required to produce an Annual Report as a statutory requirement under the Children Ordinance 2014, section 84.

3.2 The FISCB has continued to operate to provide governance, direction and guidance in relation to the FIG's safeguarding responsibilities and support a culture of continuous improvement.

3.3 The Annual Report of the FISCB is produced by the Chair with contributions from members of the FISCB. The position of Chair of the FISCB is currently held by the Director of Health and Social Services.

4. Background and Links to Islands Plan and Directorate Business Plan/s

4.1 The report links to the areas of Health and Social Care and Safety and Security in the Islands Plan 2014 – 2018.

5. Options and Reasons for Recommending Relevant Option

5.1 Not relevant

6. Resource Implications

6.1 Financial Implications

None

6.2 Human Resource Implications

None

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The report in itself contains no further legal implications above those already within FIG's Safeguarding responsibilities and liabilities.

7.2 The production of an annual report is a requirement of the Children's Ordinance 2014, section 84

84. Safeguarding Children Board: annual reports

(1) At least once in every 12 month period, the Safeguarding Children Board must prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

(2) The Board must submit copies of the report to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly.

8. Environmental & Sustainability Implications

8.1 None

9. Significant Risks

9.1 There would be significant risks if a sustainable Safeguarding system was not maintained and developed continuously on the Islands.

10. Consultation

10.1 FISCB operates on an open basis except where personal and confidential information is concerned. The press and public are welcome to the 'open' section of all meetings (Part 1). Papers to be considered in the 'open' section of the meeting and the minutes of the 'open' portion of the meeting are available to the public.

11. Communication

11.1 The Annual report is recommended to go to Legislative Assembly as the next step in its public access.



FISCB Annual Report 2018

Falkland Islands Safeguarding
Children's Board

Mandy Whittingham
Director of Health and Social Services
March 2018





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Introduction

Welcome to the Falkland Islands Safeguarding Board Annual Report.

The board has met regularly throughout the year and has had good attendance across professional groups. The focus continues to be to protect and support young people living in the Falkland Islands.

This report provides a review of the work of the board over the last twelve months and an overview of our plans for the coming year.



Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board

Purpose

To properly safeguard children and young people, requiring key agencies to work together effectively and to co-ordinate their action. (FISCB ToR – Page 13)

'Child' and 'young person' includes persons under the age of 18 years.

Objectives

To co-ordinate the actions of all agencies represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Falkland Islands; and to ensure the effectiveness of these actions.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development, mental and physical;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances;
- enabling young people to enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection continues to be the core business of the FISCB, with a wider remit to include preventative work to avoid harm being suffered in the first place.

The FISCB meets four times a year and is open to the public. There are some items that need to be discussed in a closed section of the meeting due to likelihood to disclose exempt information under paragraph 8 *information about children* and paragraph 15 *Draft Papers for Executive Council and information about them* of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012 (Page 13). Minutes are taken and are publically available for the open portion of the meetings.



Membership

The membership of the FISCBS includes representatives from:

- The Legislative Assembly – portfolio holders for Health & Social Services and Education
- Representative of Government House – observer
- Director of Health & Social Services
- Director of Education
- Chief Medical Officer
- Chief Nursing Officer
- Head of Social Services
- Probation Officer
- Senior Police Officer
- Commanding Officer FI Support Unit
- Senior Social Work Practitioner – Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA)
- Attorney General’s Office – observer



Within the Falkland Islands

The Community

The Falkland Islands context is unique. The community is small and isolated geographically from other British territories and the UK itself and this presents its own challenges. It shares characteristics with other Overseas Territories; despite the population being small it still needs good infrastructure, especially in light of the need to be robust and resilient for future economic expansion of trade, but not large enough to be able to offer a full range of services for children locally in need of specialist services and placements. There is limited anonymity in the Falklands and this can adversely impact on the effects of abuse and domestic violence upon children and families.

Options for caring for vulnerable children are therefore limited and some have had to travel to the UK to have specialist needs met. It is not straightforward to recruit staff with the required skills to come to the islands on an ad hoc basis.

The small community also creates challenges in respect of confidentiality and also means that it is difficult for anonymity to be maintained for those receiving care and support, for example where children need to be cared for outside of their family.

On its own small scale, the Falklands has the opportunity to become a model of best safeguarding practice and a safe place in which children may live and thrive.

The Services & Staffing

The Social Services department includes:

- ✓ Head of Social Services;
- ✓ PA/Office Manager;
- ✓ 4 Senior Social Work Practitioners;
- ✓ 3 Social Work Assistants;
- ✓ 1 Probation Officer (this post is currently shared by two people on a job share arrangement);
- ✓ Young Person's Unit (YPU) Team Leader;
- ✓ 7 Residential Support Workers.

There are also staff who work on a casual basis when needed.

In addition to the team at Social Services other departments and services are committed to Safeguarding children in the Falkland Islands, including Education, Police and Health.



Police Staffing

The Royal Falkland Islands Police (RFIP) department includes:

- ✓ 1 COP - Superintendent;
- ✓ 1 Deputy COP - Inspector;
- ✓ 2 Uniform Sergeants;
- ✓ 12 Constables.

CID:

- ✓ 1 Detective Sergeant;
- ✓ 4 Detective constables (including 1 MASH officer).

Admin support:

- ✓ 1 Senior Clerk;
- ✓ 1 Casual Clerk;
- ✓ 1 Control Room Officer;
- ✓ 1 Licencing Officer.

Staff at the KEMH receive safeguarding training and include a Health Visitor and School Nurse who have a specific remit for the care of children and young people. The School Nurse has recently left at the conclusion of her contract and recruitment is underway for a replacement. Each school has a designated safeguarding lead.

On occasion it may also be necessary to seek advice or support from outside of the islands which would be on a case by case basis.

Training

The need for training to be provided at the appropriate level for different groups is recognized and based on the guidance provided in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

Training includes;

- Basic safeguarding and Child protection knowledge,
- Level 1/2/3 safeguarding (level 1 being the most basic level working up to level 3),
- Chile Sexual Exploitation Awareness training – PSV and Taxi permits,
- Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation.

In addition to the above courses facilitated by Social Services, Safeguarding training is also provided by Education and through the Training Centre.



There is currently a lack of Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) trained police as the only police currently trained in this area are connected to Operation Cinnamon. The need to provide this training has been acknowledged and this is being arranged through the police and will be available to both police and social services staff in 2018.

Public Awareness

There is work in progress to consider how best to monitor and address Domestic Abuse, and also plans to standardize how cases are reported.

Elements of Safeguarding and child protection are included within the local school curriculum.

The need for increased awareness of how to use the internet more safely is recognized and ways to address this are being considered.

We continue to be registered with the Internet Watch Foundation, which have not identified any concerns during this reporting period.

Legislation and Policy

In the past year the 'Protocol on Offenders Returning to Live in the Community' was circulated through the policy system.

Guidance on information sharing 2017, although not a legal requirement, has been promoted as good practice with a document that has been adapted from the UK version being shared here.

The 'Threshold Statement' which was adapted from the UK model has been adopted for use in the Falkland Islands.

The provision to use 'Special Guardianship Orders', and associated guidance are now on the statute book.

'Working Together 2015' was updated in 2017 and we have adopted the new version.

The 'Child Death Protocol' has been reviewed and updated.

There is still no legislation in place in respect of Early Years, this is currently in draft form.

Fostering Regulations, Care Regulations and Care Home Regulations are all currently with legislators and will be going to ExCo in 2018.



Safeguarding in the Falkland Islands

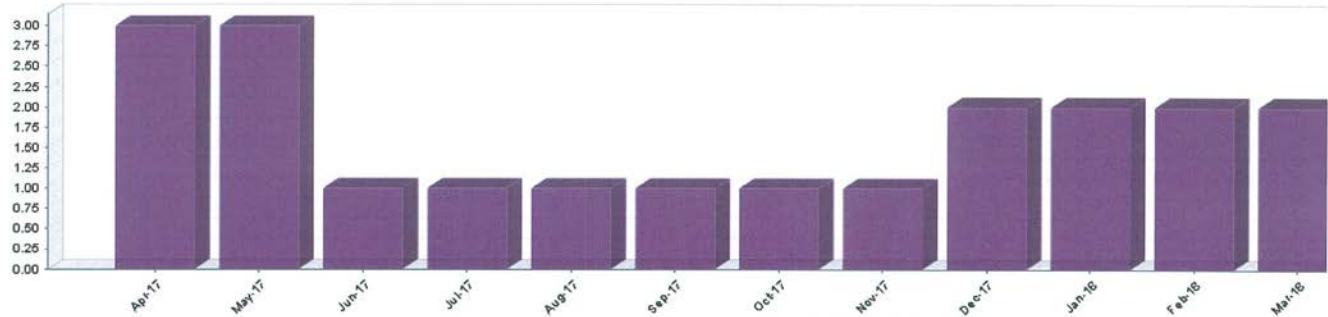
Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Safeguarding of Children

The below graphs provided by the local Social Services team shows their activity over the last 12 months.

Report ID:RCMS024
 Report Date / Time: 23/03/2018 10:44
 Report By: Abbie Heathman (Children's Admin)
 Date Format: DD/MM/YYYY

Number of Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan (Local VC24)

Period: 01/04/2017 to 23/03/2018
 Team: All



Month	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	As at today
No. Children Subject to a Child Protection Plan	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

Report ID:RCMS016
 Report Date / Time: 23/03/2018 10:36
 Report By: Abbie Heathman (Children's Admin)
 Date Format: DD/MM/YYYY

Number of Children in Need (CiN) (Local VC19)

Period: 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018
 Team: All



Month	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	As at today
No. of Children with a Child in Need (CiN) Plan	77	60	51	55	55	55	64	71	72	74	79	74	74



Analysis of the Emerging Themes in Referrals

Emerging themes in referrals this year have included 'sexting' and children being conveyed in vehicles by unrelated adults. There has also been sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, domestic abuse, mental health issues (child and/or parent) and alcohol misuse.

'Sexting' is the increasingly common practice amongst young people of sending, receiving or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs or images. This can be viewed as age related risk taking behavior that can have potentially devastating consequences for the young people involved. RFIP and social services have adopted a pragmatic approach that supports the victim and educates the young person responsible for forwarding or sharing these images. The Education Department has been proactive in informing children about the dangers and consequences of this behavior in routine ICT classes, and this has been supported in FICS via the provision of assemblies and tutor groups on the subject, including the sharing of Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) material.

The issue of children being conveyed in vehicles by unrelated young adults has been a concern due to the potential for child sexual exploitation and also they wider safeguarding concerns of risks of being involved in an accident, vehicle safety and the access to alcohol and cigarettes and exposure to passive smoking. The FISCBC wrote an open letter to the Penguin News to raise awareness on the subject. The police have implemented a disruption policy which has entailed stopping vehicles and contacting the parents of the children being conveyed in such vehicles. RFIP and social services have also spoken to young adults who repeatedly convey unrelated young people in their vehicles in order to highlight the risks to them. The Education Department have supported this strategy by running assemblies and tutor groups to discuss the subject and identify the potential dangers to make young people better equipped to make good decisions.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

MAPPA meetings are held monthly and include;

- Probation Officer, who chairs the meetings
- The Superintendent of the RFIP
- Police Inspector
- The Head of the Prison
- Head of Social Services
- The Senior Community Psychiatric Nurse

At the time of writing this report there are six people who are subject to MAPPA.

Child Death Review

Sadly there has been one death of a child in this reporting period. This was an expected death with an advance end of life plan in place.



Mental Health Awareness

Regular Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) clinics have been provided by the CMO supported by the School Nurse. There are currently four children/young people attending the CAMHS.

A visiting Child Clinical Psychologist has visited and assessed six children/young people. It is planned to include Child Clinical Psychologist visits into the scheduled Visiting Specialist Programme.

Operation Cinnamon

There are 174 master actions on the Operation Cinnamon account. These actions drive the initial contact with a potential victim of abuse.

Work currently assigned to the investigation team under twelve operation names.

There has been one trial by Judge alone where the verdict was not guilty, a second trial is scheduled to commence on 09/04/2018, four investigations have files with the AG's chambers, an appeal against a conviction/sentence is due in April 2019, charges have been authorized in two cases (one involving extradition from the UK), a suspect has been charged, a suspect is awaiting trial and another investigation is ongoing.

The Operation Cinnamon team has also dealt with a number of RFIP investigations. The reason for this is that RFIP have no qualified ABE interviewers. The need for local ABE interviewers to be available has been addressed in the training section of this report.

Given the interchangeability of Falkland Island residents with the UK, the investigation has been drawn into dealing with a number of UK based enquiries. This relates to victims, witnesses and accessing specialist services to process exhibits. While every effort is made to engage UK based police co-operation, the actual presence of an Operation Cinnamon investigator to complete actions in the UK becomes unavoidable.

Actions

Actions are the means by which work is generated, allocated and monitored to a conclusion. 174 master actions were derived from a social services document commonly referred to as the 166 report.

So far, 112 master actions have been filed, 34 remain for allocation, 15 are allocated and 13 are referred (this means that the Senior Investigating Officer has determined that no work will be undertaken for a stated reason).

Currently Operation Cinnamon staffing is going through a transitional phase, detailed below, and work on the remaining 34 actions has been suspended, with the focus very much on managing the 11 cases that are in various stages of progression through the criminal justice system.



Staffing

Currently staffing is as follows:

Supt – SIO – action manager/office manager

2 x DC – outside enquiry team

1 x DC reader/receiver

The Operation Cinnamon team has been re-profiled and moved from enhanced terms and conditions to standard overseas contract Terms and Conditions, from 30/06/18. This led to a number of staff leaving the project.

The Executive Council (ExCo) have approved the formation of a permanent CID being established, comprising 1 detective sergeant, 2 detective constables and 2 detective constables on a fixed term contract for 2 years.

Moving forward, one DS has indicated he will stay for another 2 years and he will fill the newly created DS post. A DC will fill one of the DC's posts and a PC will move from uniform duties to take up a detective role. 2 additional detectives will be recruited to complete the complement.

Further support has also been sought from the UK with the short term appointment of another DS to cover this transitional phase. Once the full team are in place, work will resume on the outstanding master actions. Once all these are completed, the operation will begin to wind down. A number of files require effective archiving. A final report will follow.

The Nurseries

The FISCBC has been concerned about the lack of legislation regarding nursery provision and is pleased to report that this is now in draft form. A comprehensive standards document has been produced and the Childcare advisory teacher has been working with the nurseries to follow this guidance.

Nurseries are working on their business plans with the help of Childcare advisory teacher and Project lead.

An ExCo paper is being prepared go to the Legislative Assembly in April 2018

Community Clubs and Groups

The FISCBC raised a query regarding whether appropriate safeguarding checks were being undertaken by youth groups. Investigations determined that organizations with overseas oversight had stringent recruitment process in place for volunteers, e.g. Girl Guides & Scouts are supported by safeguarding policies/processes in place. Currently local Community Clubs/Groups don't all have this. Some other groups such as the Conservation Watch Group, the Photography Club and the Hockey Club have good processes in place with supporting documentation based on the guidance provided by the NSPCC, (<http://www.thecpsu.org.uk/>). Support and guidance can be provided to all youth groups to improve in this area.



Looking Ahead

Key Strategic Priorities

As mentioned previously, Domestic Abuse and work to ensure the safety of nursery provision are key areas for the next twelve months. We will also be considering how the challenges relating to internet usage can best be addressed.

A funding request has been submitted to recruit a specialist police officer to co-work with the Social Services team. This model of joint working from a shared location known as a MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) has proved to be an effective way of working in the UK.

Although the Safeguarding Procedures 2014 provide us with procedures to respond to allegations raised in relation to professionals who work with children, there is no specific person who is identified to deal with these matters. 'Working together 2015' specifies the need for Local Authorities to have an individual or team to deal with allegations about professionals; a LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). It is recognized that there is not sufficient level of need to have such a post in the Falkland Islands, even if it were part time, however an appropriate system does need to be in place and this will be addressed in the coming year.

FISCB has asked departments to give further consideration as to how this role could be provided in the Falkland Islands context. It has been identified that the Safeguarding Procedures 2014 need to be reviewed to consider specifically how this matter would be dealt with if a concern was raised regarding a member of Social Services staff.

Additionally, to date the FISCB has not monitored allegations of abuse against professionals, staff members or volunteers in contact with children. The best way to capture and monitor this information will be identified and added to the routine work of FISCB in the coming year. There are no sources in the current document.

We aim to:

Prepare – Provide strong leadership, effective systems and working with partners to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Prevent – Raising awareness of CSE amongst young people, parents, carers, the community and potential perpetrators and provide help at the earliest opportunity. This includes building resilience with families and partners to understand and act together in preventing this form of abuse.

Protect - Safeguard young people by providing targeted support in order to achieve good outcomes for those who are at risk of or already victims of exploitation and support professionals to do so

Pursue – Disrupt, arrest and prosecute offenders wherever possible and appropriate

Serious Case Review

There has thankfully not been a need to conduct a SCR in relation to a child as yet. We will be undertaking a table-top review in 2018 (as recommended by LFF 2015).



Bibliography

Page 3:

Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board Terms of Reference

Public Folders: Government: Committees/Memberships/TORs: Committee Terms of Reference

Page 3:

Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012

Part 2 – Specific Categories of Exempt Information

Page 19; Section 8 - Information about children

Public Folders: Government: Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012/Guidance & Procedures

Page 3:

Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012

Part 2 – Specific Categories of Exempt Information

Page 23; Section 15 – Draft Papers for Executive Council and information about them

Public Folders: Government: Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012/Guidance & Procedures

Page 6:

Working Together Update 2017; Information Sharing

Public Folders: Health and Social Services: Safeguarding Children Procedures

Page 6:

Protocol on Offenders Returning to Live in the Community -

Risk Assessing Sex Offenders Pre and Post Custody

Public Folders: Health and Social Services: Policy: Social Services

Page 7:

Threshold Statement

Available from the Social Services Department

Page 7:

Child Death Protocol, December 2017

Public Folders: Health and Social Services: Safeguarding Children Procedures

Lucy Faithfull 2015 recommendations

Available from the Social Services Department