

Isle of Wight ContactPoint News December 2008

Project Management

An additional Readiness Assessment, LARA 6c, has been requested by the DCSF. This has been submitted by the 20th November milestone deadline and focuses on our readiness to be organisationally accredited to have ContactPoint 'shielders'. The Local Authority remains 'green' according to the RAG analysis report that can be generated upon submission of the assessment. The South East Regional average score is 485, the Isle of Wight score is 504, the target score is 503. The South East Regional ContactPoint Implementation Coordinator congratulated us on our readiness return.

A readiness assessment specific to the area of work required for shielding records was also required by the DCSF by 27th November. This has also been submitted on time. The resulting report shows as 'green' with a readiness score of 190, the South East Regional score is 93.

Finance

The LA funding circular for 2009/10 has been received. Grant funding for the Isle of Wight is confirmed as £134,673. The grant remains ring-fenced. Funded activities must be associated with the required national project milestone dates. The [local implementation plan](#) has been re-mapped against these. The carry forward from the 2008/09 grant (currently limited to 5%) is being reviewed by the DCSF and is due to conclude by the end of November.

Organisational Accreditation

In order to become an organisation permitted to use and feed data to ContactPoint we must achieve 'Organisational Accreditation'. (As must our partners, in time). This is done through meeting 28 criteria confirming that we have the requisite policies and processes in place to manage ContactPoint.

An 'interim procedure manual' has been drafted to cover the pre-deployment period. This focuses on the procedures we need to have in place for employees undertaking operational management roles and responsibilities for ContactPoint, especially ensuring we have procedures in place for those undertaking shielding activity. This manual will support our organisational accreditation.

The local user and manager guidance drafted last month is being distributed to a number of managers and users to access its usefulness. This was at the request of the Integrated Working Board.

Shielding

It is a criterion for organisational accreditation that processes should be in place to ensure that the whereabouts of certain children are protected where such knowledge could result in the potential for significant harm to occur to them or their carers, e.g. in circumstances where they are fleeing abuse or domestic violence or who have protected status.

Activity is now being undertaken to collate a comprehensive list of records requiring shielding. The request for such records has been distributed to partner organisations for return in December. The shielding panel will meet in January 2009 to agree and finalise the list. Shielders have been identified and will attend the required training in January/Feb 09.

Data News

It has been confirmed by the Regional Implementation Coordinator that ContactPoint funding can be available to support local data source data cleansing. Discussions are taking place to consider how EMS and SWIFT data cleansing can be supported.

Adapter solutions for connecting data to ContactPoint continue to be developed by LAs and software suppliers – these are being monitored in order to assess the best solution for us locally.

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