

Isle of Wight ContactPoint News November 2008

Project Management

The [new national timetable](#) for deployment has been announced. Deployment for Early Adopter Local Authorities will now be March 09. This is dependent on shielding having taken place in all Local Authorities for records of children where knowledge of their whereabouts would put them or their families at risk of significant harm. Isle of Wight remains in Deployment Slot 2. This means that we receive ContactPoint in June 09. However, the national timetable for training the local trainers means that we will not be able to give access to users until November 09. Realistically the bulk of potential users will not be trained until the first quarter of 2010.

The [local implementation plan](#) has been re-mapped according to the new national milestones and local readiness requirements. Local Authority Readiness Assessment (LARA) 6b has been submitted by the required deadline of 10th October. The resulting 'RAG' report is overall green.

An additional Readiness Assessment, LARA 6c, has been requested by the national ContactPoint Team. This is to be submitted by 27th November and focuses on our readiness to be organisationally accredited to have ContactPoint 'shielders'.

Finance

There are financial implications arising from the national delay to the ContactPoint Project. The 2008/09 grant was ring-fenced with a maximum 5% roll-over into 2009/10. It was expected that funding would be necessary to support the roll-out of training to users. However, this major activity now falls into the 2009/10 financial period. The National ContactPoint Team have requested the submission of an additional interim financial return (by Nov 7th 2008) from Local Authorities demonstrating their spending plans against project activities. This is to provide evidence to the DCSF that it is now unrealistic to be expected to spend the grant allocation in this financial year.

Organisational Accreditation

In order to become an organisation permitted to use and feed data to ContactPoint we must achieve 'Organisational Accreditation' (as must any of our partners who will use ContactPoint). This is done through meeting 28 criteria confirming that we have the requisite policies and processes in place to manage ContactPoint. There are a number of conditions associated with the achievement of each criterion. An IoW 'Evidence Profile' has been developed using the [national guidance](#) to demonstrate our compliance. This work will result in the production of a Local Authority, Children's Services Policy that sets out how we will ensure that we manage ContactPoint and authorised users according to the statutory regulations and guidance. Partners who wish to nominate users or supply data to ContactPoint will also be required to achieve organisational accreditation.

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. Following discussion at the Integrated Working Board, this work has been progressed. A draft policy and process has been development using guidance provided by the national ContactPoint Team. This includes the creation of a 'shielding panel' to review decisions to shield/unshield and 'break glass'. The policy also has an associated action plan to ensure we have identified records to be shielded locally before national 'go live' of Early Adopter authorities. The Local Safeguarding Children Board endorsed the policy on 22nd Oct 08.

Data News

Essex is developing tool for the extract of data from local sources to feed ContactPoint. Essex will be making this solution freely available to Local Authorities in the same manner as their Local Data Quality Tool. It is expected that the adapter will be available by deployment. Other commercial software suppliers are producing such tools, this is being monitored should the Essex solution not meet our needs.

A ContactPoint Data Administrator has been appointed. This is a crucial role in the ContactPoint 'team' being responsible for managing data and engaging with partners to supply data to ContactPoint from local sources.