

## **Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board (FISCB)**

### **Terms of Reference Revised September 2022**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children Board (FISCB) is established under the Children Ordinance 2014 to co-ordinate work in the Falkland Islands to safeguard children and to monitor and challenge the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children in the Falkland Islands.

#### **2. Purpose**

The FISCB has the following specific roles in terms of safeguarding children;

- (i) Co-ordinate what is done by FIG departments and services participating in the FISCB for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the Falkland Islands.
- (ii) Promote understanding and the need and means to protect children from harm; and
- (iii) Monitor and ensure the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems that are in place in the Falkland Islands.

#### **3. Membership**

- (i) The FISCB will appoint a Chair from among its members. The Chairperson will be appointed for a period of 2 years and is eligible for reappointment. The FISCB will also appoint a Vice Chair from among its members.
- (ii) The members of the board represent local agencies and departments who work with children in the Falkland Islands. The membership is set out in the Children Ordinance 2014 and must include;
  - The elected members of the Legislative Assembly with portfolio responsibility for Health, Social Services and Education.
  - Director of Health and Social Services
  - Director of Education
  - Head of Social Services
  - Chief Police Officer
  - Chief Medical Officer
  - BFSAI
  - BFSWS
- (iii) Representatives from:
  - Nursing
  - Social Services
  - Probation
  - Attorney General (as Advisor)

- (iv) The FISCBC may also include representatives from
- The Governor or their Deputy(as observer)
  - Any other representatives from one or more organisations with a role relating to the welfare of children or families.

Board members or their representatives should be able to represent, make decisions and commit resources on behalf of their agency or department. They are required to demonstrate leadership, be informed about and take responsibility for the actions of their staff who are providing services to children in the Falkland Islands. Where new local services are considered, Board members should consider how the delivery of these services would take into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

#### **4. Values**

The FISCBC will ensure that the following values are reflected in all aspects of its work:

- Multi departmental and agency working to include the private sector
- Inter department / agency partnership
- Promotion of policing with safeguarding in mind
- Promoting partnership with service users, family and carers
- Anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice
- Confidentiality and data protection
- Promoting strength based approach (Signs of Safety)

#### **5. Accountability and Administration**

- (i) Meetings of the FISCBC will take place a minimum of 4 times a year.
- (ii) Members may request items for the agenda to the Chair in good time prior to the circulation of the agenda. Any late items will be included at the discretion of The Chair.
- (iii) The agenda and associated papers will be circulated by email at least 5 working days before the meeting.
- (iv) The Chair must preside at any meeting of the FISCBC however in the absence of Chair the Vice Chair will chair that meeting only.
- (v) To be quorate attendance must include as a minimum at least 50% of the Members listed at 3members or their representatives from different departments / services.
- (vi) Decisions are to be reached by consensus or majority vote where (ii) there is no consensus.
- (vii) Meeting notes are agreed as a permanent record at the following meeting.

#### **6. Functions**

##### **6.1 Policies and Procedures**

As part of the coordinating role, the FISCBC will support the development of policies and procedures to promote the welfare of children and safeguard them from any harm. These policies may be in relation to;

- (i) Training of persons who work with children in services affecting their safety and welfare;
- (ii) Safe recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
- (iii) Action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's welfare or safety including threshold for intervention.
- (iv) Investigations of allegations concerning persons who work with children.
- (v) Safety and welfare of children who are hosted or who are the subject of private boarding.
- (vi) Interagency / inter department arrangements for child protection enquiries and associated police investigations and setting out the circumstances in which joint enquiries are necessary and / or appropriate.

The FISCBC may also publish guidance on best practice to protect children from abuse and harm, raise public and professional awareness of how this can be done and encourage change where that is necessary. It may also promote and explain the policies and procedures to those who may be affected by them.

## **6.2 Monitoring Effectiveness**

As part of their role in monitoring the effectiveness of what is done collectively and individually by agencies and departments to protect children the FISCBC will:

- (i) Ensure that investigations into allegations concerning persons who work with children are carried out effectively through requiring accountability to the FISCBC.
- (ii) Periodically audit practice of working together focusing on compliance with procedures, the quality of service and the views of service users.
- (iii) Monitor the arrangements (including recruitment and training policies) made by the Falkland Islands Government and voluntary / private agencies to ensure that the children to whom they provide services are protected and safeguarded.
- (iv) Actively seek feedback from children and families who are in receipt of child protection services so that their feedback can be taken into account when evaluating and further developing guidelines and procedures.
- (v) Participate in the planning of services for children in the Falkland Islands
- (vi) Undertake Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and advise those concerned in the safeguarding of children on lessons to be learnt and monitor the implementation of recommendations.

## **6.3 Serious Case Reviews**

The FISCBC will commission Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) in respect of cases where abuse of a child is known or suspected and either the child has died or the child has been seriously harmed and there is a concern as to the way in which relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

These reviews will be conducted in accordance with the criteria in Working Together 2013 for children and in accordance with best practice from the UK. The purpose of such reviews is to ensure that lessons are learned and appropriate action taken. (NB it is recognised that Working Together 2018 has been adopted in the Falkland Islands but the arrangements for Serious Case Reviews in the Falkland Islands remain as per the 2013 document).

### **6.3 Child Death Reviews**

Following the sudden, unexpected or unexplained death of a child the FISCb has the following additional functions;

- (i) To collect and analyse information about each death with a view to identifying
  - Whether a serious case review is required
  - Any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children
  - Any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a death.
- (ii) Ensuring that there is a co-ordinated response by relevant government departments and other relevant persons to an unexpected death in line with the Child Death Protocol.

### **6.4 Other activities**

The FISCb may also engage in any other activity that helps it achieve its purpose.

The FISCb may issue guidelines and procedure that may be necessary to assist in the welfare and safeguarding of children. Any such guidelines or procedures must be published in the Gazette.