

Partnership Document: Working in Partnership / Working with Families



Working together to improve outcomes for children

Our vision is that all children and young people in Southampton get a good start in life, live safely, be healthy and happy and go on to have successful opportunities in adulthood.

We can't do this alone. Effective partnerships with key stakeholders, partner organisations and communities are the key to fulfilling our aspirations for children and families in Southampton..

We want to build excellent relationships with partners creating a culture of 'High Support and High Challenge' so that we provide children in Southampton with the services and opportunities that they deserve.

Where we are – and where we're going

Southampton City Council's Children and Learning Service has had a challenging year:

- Ofsted Requires Improvement in November 2019
- Whistle Blowing Investigation published August 2020
- Publication of 2 serious case reviews – August and November 2020

We recognise that historically there have been areas where the council should have been working more effectively to improve outcomes for children. Although there are still significant challenges with high levels of poverty and social care needs in the city, we believe that we are now on a better path under the leadership of a new Director of Children's Services and supported by renewed investment.

We are developing a new practice framework and introducing a new training academy to ensure that we have the right methods, skills and learning to ensure that we are consistently meeting the needs of children and young people across the city – whatever their circumstances.

We are also committed to being a Child Friendly City and we won't stop until Southampton is among the best places to grow up, live and work – and we'll work with our partners to get there.

Children and Learning Service Behaviours for working in partnership:



Confident



Accountable



Inquisitive



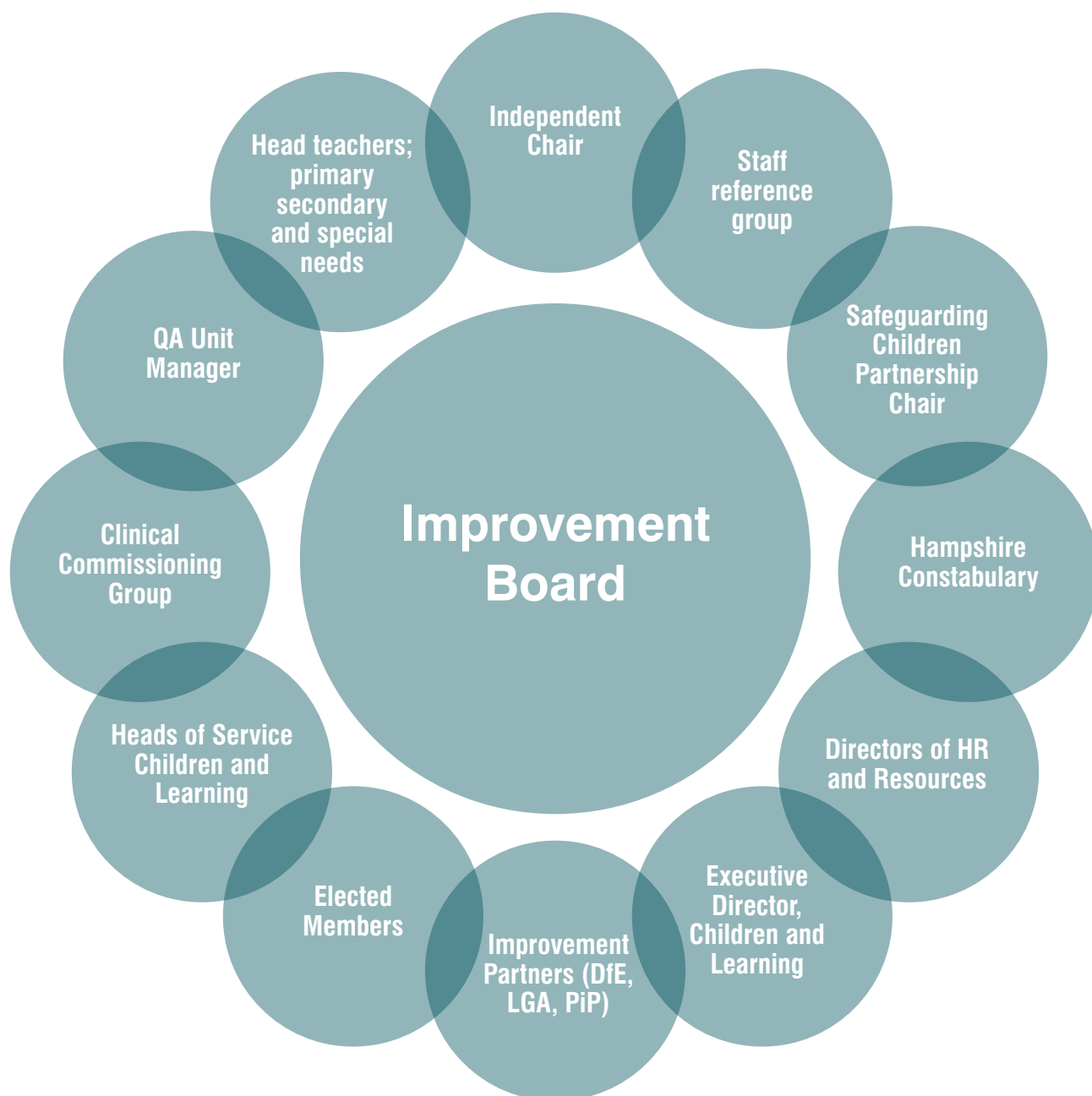
Respectful



**Working as
a team**

Partnership

An Improvement Board, with an independent chair and representation from core services and organisations in place.



What are our priorities and how will we know we are making a difference?

As a partnership we are focused on

- o Developing a shared vision and commitment to improved outcomes for children and families across the City
- o Ensuring effective joint strategic leadership and governance
- o Integrated working/seamless service delivery

