

2024-25



# ANNUAL REPORT



South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

# Introduction

The Children's Partnership (SGCP) was formed in September 2019, and has been developing and evolving since. The published arrangements were reviewed in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and were republished in December 2024 and are available [here](#).

The children's partnership has worked hard to ensure that the changes outlined in the statutory guidance have been embedded and undertook a benchmarking exercise against the requirements with an action plan to ensure that changes progressed at pace.

In line with statutory requirements and best practice this annual report and will be shared with:

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Unit
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership
- The Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership
- The Safeguarding Adults Board
- The Youth Justice Board

This report has been authored by Sarah Taylor, Safeguarding Boards Business Manager. The report was approved by the Children's Partnership Executive on 11th September 2025, the Lead Safeguarding Partners on 22nd September 2025, and published on the Partnership website on 23rd September 2025.

The term 'children' is used throughout this document to refer to anyone under the age of 18. Whilst we recognise this may not be the language children would use, this is to remind us, as professionals, of their legal status as children and our statutory responsibilities to them.

Should you require the report in any other format to support accessibility please contact [Sarah Taylor](#). Images in this document all have alternative text added for accessibility purposes.

# Structure of the partnership

The Executive and workstreams have been stable during this year with some changes in chairs and members they have all been working more consistently and effectively this year. The partnership continues to function using predominantly online meetings, with all partners accessing Microsoft Teams. Most workstreams are holding one or two meetings a year in person. Additional twice yearly stakeholder networks take place and are face-to-face.

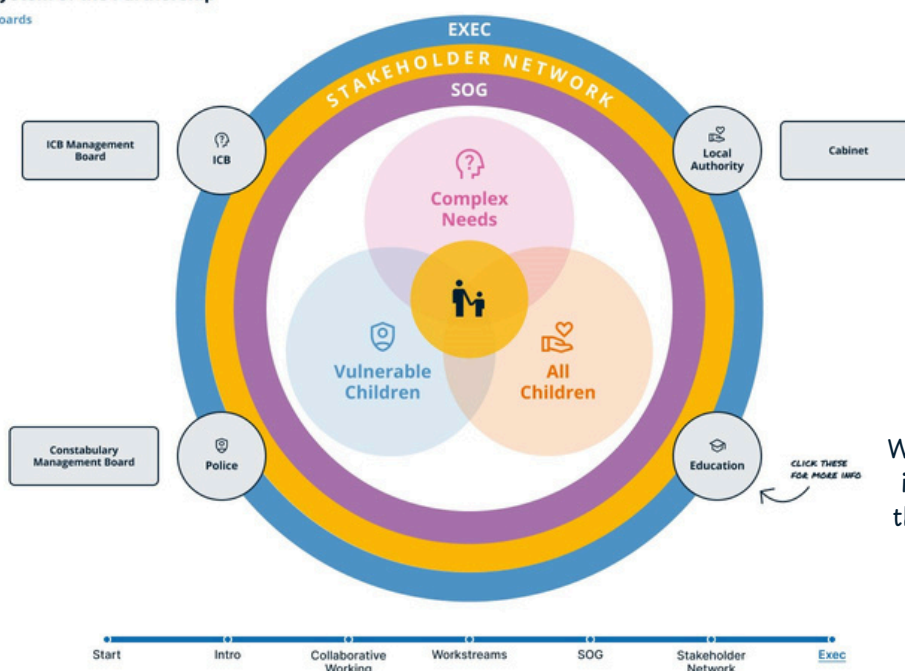
The Executive and Exec Plus meeting which include workstream chairs and the elected member for children and young people both meet quarterly. The Executive includes two Education reps, who are both Headteachers and represent the voice of education at a strategic level and feed back to education colleagues about the work of the partnership.

The structure of the partnership has not changed:

- Best Start for children with Complex Needs – ICB Chair
- Best Start for Vulnerable Children – Police Chair
- Best Start in Life – LA Chair

These workstreams meet quarterly and report directly to the Senior Officers Group, and onward to the Executive.

**The Collaborative System of the Partnership**  
The Exec and Management Boards



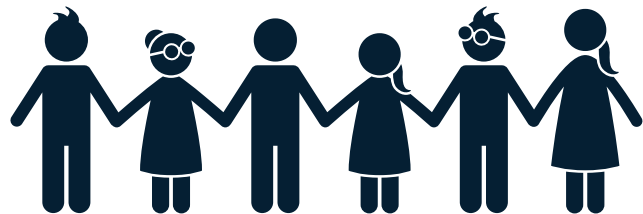
We now have an interactive infographic to explain how the partnership is structured click to see this

# Area Profile 2024-25



South Gloucestershire is 80% rural and 20% urban and has a total population of **299,439**.

8.8% ethnic minority population



**70,092** of the population are children



There are **41812** school age children



**740** children are electively home educated



**3%** of 16+ year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET)



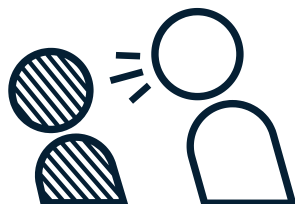
**378** Initial Child Protection Conferences were held



**234** children have a child protection plan



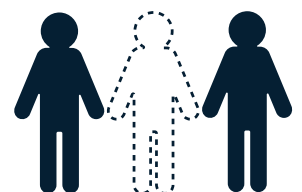
**44%** are for neglect



There were **3240** domestic abuse incidents with a child present



The number of children in households discussed at MARAC was **298**



**264** children went missing and there were **532** missing episodes



# Progress against statutory guidance

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 was published in December 2023 and included changes to Children's Partnerships.

Implementation of these changes continued through 2024-25.

Grant funding was given to the partnership for the implementation and the Executive agreed to commission two projects using this funding, these began in January 2024 and continued into the summer of 2024.

## **Project One: Performance data dashboard**

### **Demonstration of need:**

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

*'The purpose of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements is to ensure that, at a local level, organisations and agencies are clear about how they will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This means...effective collection, sharing and analysis of data, enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, issues, emerging threats, and joined-up responses across relevant agencies'*

[South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership Independent Scrutiny – Mark Power 2023](#)

*'A scoping exercise should be completed with all agencies to identify what relevant data is available to the partnership and a SGSCP performance dashboard produced. This should reflect the priorities of the partnership and ensure that it meets the needs of the workstreams.'*



### **Progress achieved:**

Work was commissioned to develop a new interactive dashboard using Microsoft Power BI. The performance indicators were agreed in a small multi-agency task and finish group including the key statutory partners. The project completed in July 2024 with the first dashboard providing the Q1 data. The local authority data team have maintained the dashboard and updated it each quarter. The data is now analysed as part of a quality assurance section of the Senior Officer Group each quarter, and shared with the Executive.

### **Impact of project:**

- Consistent performance data that can be filtered by demographic information to highlight inequalities and over or under representation of children with protected characteristics.
- Inclusion of key metrics from health partners and police that has not been available to the partnership before, for example, data about dental extractions in under 10s and timeliness of operation encompass notifications.
- The data report is being adopted by other partnerships in the Avon & Somerset area in a project led by the police.

## **Future plans for project:**

- Funding was agreed by the statutory partners for a performance data officer to join the business unit. The successful applicant will start with the business unit on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2025.
- Provision of this post will allow for development of the dashboard to include commentary and analysis which will support the setting of partnership priorities going forward.



## **Project Two: Communication**

### **Demonstration of need:**

*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*

*'Support effective engagement with relevant agencies in their local area so that they understand their roles and responsibilities.'*

*South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership Independent Scrutiny – Mark Power 2023*

*'The SGCP internal communication strategy should be reviewed, to help members understand the partnership's purpose and how they are expected to contribute in their role. The way in which the Senior Officers Group coordinates activity and communications between the executive and workstreams should be reviewed.'*

### **Progress achieved:**

Work was commissioned to help the partnership review and improve the way communications work to support interagency working and ultimately supporting the needs of children and families. There was a 4 step plan to gain insight from stakeholders; review existing comms and processes; make active and realistic recommendations; and implementation plan. Four areas of improvement were identified and all of these were actioned.

### **Impact of project:**

- New interactive infographic designed to help everyone understand the structure and work of the partnership
- Brand Guidelines created to help identify partnership information this included new logos for each of the workstreams
- New template for newsletter using Mail Chimp that provides data so that the partnership can track engagement effectively, this has led to a much wider audience for the monthly newsletters - subscriptions have doubled.
- Use of video guides to help support practice, for example this one to help practitioners using the neglect tool
- clear understanding of stakeholder views about communication with the partnership

## **Future plans for project:**

Production of more video guides for the partnership.

# Progress against statutory guidance

In addition to the two projects described on pages 5-6 and the changes outlined in last year's annual report, the partnership has also:

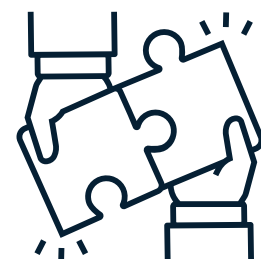


Put in place a Lived Experience Subgroup (jointly with the safeguarding adults board) that has a specific focus on hearing the views of children, families and adults. Young Ambassadors have presented findings at stakeholder events on the themes of transitions and violence against women and girls.

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.53

Agreed arrangements for Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) to meet at a regional and local level alongside the four other partnerships within Avon and Somerset.

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.47-50

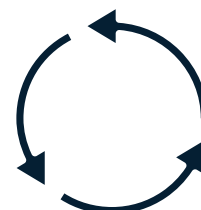


Updated and republished the partnership arrangements in December 2024, they are available here.

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.103-105

Begun a closing the loop exercise from a CSPR published in 2023 to ensure that the learning has been embedded and that there has been an impact on practice

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.90



Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners reviewed and agreed new funding arrangements to ensure that agencies are contributing enough to support the decision-making infrastructure and statutory requirements of local arrangements. This has enabled the expansion of the business unit highlighted as an issue in last year's annual report.

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.98-100

Developed a local protocol for assessment and support. This is published here.

Working Together to Safeguard Children para.141



# Summary of Progress against statutory guidance

In response to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 the following changes have now been made:

The South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership undertook a full review of its published arrangements, which were updated and republished in December 2024. A benchmarking exercise was completed, and an action plan was developed to ensure timely implementation of the required changes. This included:

- Establishing clear roles for Lead and Delegated Safeguarding Partners.
- Strengthening education sector representation at both strategic and operational levels.
- Embedding independent scrutiny through commissioned reviews and audits.
- Aligning governance structures with WT2023 expectations, including quarterly Executive and Exec Plus meetings.

These changes have been embedded across the partnership and are reflected in the workstreams, stakeholder engagement, and quality assurance processes.

Each statutory safeguarding partner has played a key role in shaping and delivering the partnership's priorities:



- Local Authority: Chairs the Best Start in Life workstream, leads on Early Help and education strategy, and hosts the business unit.
- BNSSG ICB: Chairs the Best Start for Children with Complex Needs workstream, provides data about therapy access, and contributes to co-production with families through this workstream.
- Avon & Somerset Police: Chairs the Best Start for Vulnerable Children workstream, and has initiated regional collaboration on performance data.

All 3 statutory partners contribute financially and strategically, with increased funding agreed for 2025–26 to move towards equitable resourcing and business unit expansion. All partners provide appropriate level members for most of the workstreams and sub groups to aid multi agency decision making.



Education is represented at both strategic and operational levels:

- Two headteachers sit on the Executive, ensuring education voices inform decision-making.
- Education colleagues are engaged through DSL forums, training sessions, and audits, and sit on all workstreams and sub groups
- Education data is included in the performance dashboard and informs workstream priorities

The partnership has significantly improved its use of data:



- A new Power BI dashboard provides quarterly performance data, disaggregated by demographics.
- Data is reviewed by the Senior Officer Group and is beginning to inform workstream planning.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) audits show strong multi-agency decision-making and timely information sharing.
- Quality assurance audits highlight improvements in recording, inclusion of fathers' voices, and cross-agency collaboration

Voice of Children and Families:



- The partnership has invited children to attend the Best Start for Vulnerable children workstream twice to tell the professionals about their experiences. This has informed the plans and work for the group
- A dedicated sub group with a focus on capturing children's views is established and reporting back in to the stakeholder network twice a year through the young ambassadors
- The voice of parents and carers is given a priority at every Best Start for children with Complex Needs meeting
- The Best Start in Life workstream has used data from the online pupil survey in its work



# Independent scrutiny 2024-25



South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership and South Gloucestershire's Violence Reduction Partnership jointly commissioned an Independent Review of the South Gloucestershire multi-agency response to extra familial harm by the National Working Group (NWG). This review considered all elements of the multi-agency responses to Extra Familial Harm (EFH) in South Gloucestershire. The review findings were submitted to the Children's Partnership Executive and to the Community Safety Partnership in September 2024. The findings and report were accepted by both groups.

“We clearly observed a partnership who wanted to improve their co-ordinated local response to exploitation. The partnership was also asking itself some difficult questions. It was interesting to note that South Gloucestershire had undertaken a number of reflective/quality assurance exercises that identified where improvements could be made. However, these improvements were not always implemented

”  
These three pieces of work were considered together to create one streamlined action plan to meet the overlapping recommendations.

In addition  
to the  
scrutiny

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership published a local CSPR in September 2024 – Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

In September 2024 South Gloucestershire Council completed a benchmarking exercise against the findings of the Somerset JTAI on the theme of serious youth violence (SYV).

## Actions Taken by the partnership

### Governance, Scrutiny and Oversight

- Established a new model - Risk Outside the Home (ROTH)
- Re-establish Strategic Multi Agency Oversight Group reporting to the children's partnership Executive. (NWG, JTAI)
- The Strategic Multi-Agency Oversight Group to oversee the development of a partnership Child Exploitation Strategy. (NWG)
- The Strategic Multi-Agency Oversight Group to oversee the development of a clear communications strategy to ensure the RMP is firmly embedded within each partner organisation. (NWG)

### Operational

- To complete a refocus and reset of Partnership Intelligence Management Meetings (PIMM). (NWG, CSPR, JTAI)
- Renaming MARMMs as CP-ROTH (risk outside the home) meetings. (NWG, CSPR)
- To develop the multi agency training offer relating to EFH/ ROTH. (CSPR, JTAI)
- To develop an Avon and Somerset wide Critical Incident Response. (CSPR)

Four multi agency task and finish Groups were established in response:

- Re-establish Strategic Multi Agency Oversight Group - this is complete.
- To complete a refocus and reset of PIMM - ongoing work completing in September 2025.
- Renaming MARMMs as CP-ROTH meetings - this is complete.
- To develop the multi agency training offer relating to EFH/ROTH - this is complete.



## The Best Start for Vulnerable Children

This workstream is chaired by the police. The priorities for this workstream for 2024-25:

- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- MASH (Multi agency Safeguarding Hub)
- Vinney Green Secure Children's Home & Eastwood Park Prison Mother & Baby Unit
- Exploitation of children
- Neglect

The Bi-Annual Regulation 45 report from Vinney Green Secure Children's Home is scrutinised by the workstream every 6 months.

### Launch of the new Neglect Tool

A task and finish group reviewed the neglect tool. It was a very long document and our multi agency audits were not finding that it was being used by practitioners. Neglect is the largest category for children with children protection plans in South Gloucestershire.

### Impact of the Neglect Tool

- The access and response team are seeing the tool being completed and shared alongside referrals
- Feedback has been really positive from professionals using the tool
- An audit is planned by the quality assurance sub group to measure impact later in 2025

### MASH

Each quarter a report is received about the work of the MASH, including data about number of cases heard, quality assurance processes and outcomes for families.



The neglect page on the website was refreshed

A simple policy and practice guide replaced the long document



A brand new neglect tool was designed, shared with stakeholders, trialled by professionals from a range of organisations and then launched



Example domain descriptors have been published alongside the tool



Additional resources are available for practitioners to download



A 20 minute video has been produced to support practitioners

# MARAC Data

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) was a theme for independent scrutiny in 2022 for this workstream. The recommendations have all been implemented, and this year it was agreed to make the the independent chair permanent. The workstream monitor MARAC data and have a report every quarter.



26 MARACs held



834 referrals



253 new cases



42 repeat cases



17% repeat victimisation rate



276 victims heard at MARAC



837 children in households



17 victims aged 16-17



Bitesize multi agency MARAC sessions run four times a year. Each session is 45 minutes and can be booked [here](#). 71 practitioners attended a session in 2024-25.



Twice a year there are multi agency exploitation audits that are reviewed by this workstream. These audits follow the TCE Principles (Tackling Child Exploitation)

Click [here for June 2024](#) and [here for December 2024](#) to see the learning from these audits

## Vinney Green Secure Children's Home

Vinney Green is a 24 bed secure children's home offering places to young people aged 10-18.



VINNEY GREEN SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME

The children's partnership scrutiny of the secure children's home happens through the Best Start for Vulnerable Children workstream. This year we introduced new quality assurance monitoring in this workstream and a report has been received by the workstream each quarter giving an overview of quality, decision making, restraints and relevant incidents. This has led to much greater engagement from the workstream members, and an increase in their understanding and knowledge of life at Vinney Green. The Regulation 45 reports are requested twice a year from Vinney Green to be reviewed by the workstream on behalf of the partnership. There have been delays throughout this period of the 6 monthly regulation 45 reports, with one not received at all.

These delays were escalated to the Senior Officer Group and the Executive. There has been a change of leadership at Vinney Green and the reports are now being received at the correct time and there is much better engagement with the workstream.

During 2024/25, there were a total of 119 restraints at Vinney Green Secure Children's Home. This is a decrease of 16% compared to the previous year, meaning in the last two years the reduction has been 76%. The reduction is primarily due to improvements in practice and a change in population at the home. Average occupancy is high. There has also been a marked decrease in the number of restraints that are being identified in quality assurance as being avoidable.

The majority of restraints are for less than one minute and are low level. The average restraint duration in 2024-25 is 1.6 minutes which is a reduction from four minutes in 2023-24.

There is a weekly multi-disciplinary meeting to discuss any restraints although additional after-incident reviews occur as needed, between these meetings to ensure prompt and appropriate analysis and overview of any incidents that may warrant them. Annual report findings will be shared with the Youth Justice Board, Youth Custody Service, and HM Inspectorate of Prisons in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. It was also provided to Ofsted during inspection.

## The Best Start for Children with Complex Needs and SEND

This workstream is chaired by the ICB.

The priorities for this workstream for 2024-25:

- SEND action plan
- Children with complex needs in residential settings
- Improving education involvement
- Voice of children and families
- Preparing for adulthood

From January 2023 the group agreed to meet more regularly to prepare for a future SEND inspection under the new framework.

### Belonging:

Belonging Toolkit (*Reducing Exclusions Through the Lens of Belonging: A Toolkit for Schools and Educational Settings*) rolled out across schools in Autumn 2024 via in depth training (86 schools represented including 11 secondary schools). In addition, some schools have asked for training to whole school staff. Final schools (targeted) training session in Autumn 2025



### Identification of Need:

Over identification of SEMH (Social, Emotional Mental Health) recognised. Targeted plan to address this in place. This includes increased partnership working between education, social care, health (mental health professionals), and families to strengthen early support offer and training and support – to embed inclusive practice within mainstream school.



The voice of children and families is key for this workstream, there is a standing agenda item at the start of each meeting for the parent/carer forum to give an update - this ensures there is enough time to hear about the work they are doing



Click the picture to watch the animation 'Graduated Response'

Website for SEND local offer updated working with partners and the parent carer forum to achieve improvements

The workstream has completed a benchmarking exercise in response to the letter to Partnerships from Gillian Keegan (December 2023) based on the recommendations for children with disabilities and complex needs living in residential settings.



Data about waiting times for children with complex needs is reviewed by the workstream.



Speech and language average wait time has increased from 10 to 13.5 weeks in March 2025



Occupational therapy average has met the 90% target and is at 96.3%



Physiotherapy average wait in weeks increased to 10.9 weeks from 8.9 weeks

### PINS Project (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools)

- Positive collaboration between the local authority, parents and carers and schools
- Bespoke support packages
- Parents appreciated the reasonable adjustments made and supportive staff
- Challenges include variation of staff knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity, access to specialist sensory resources and consistency



**Parent Carer Survey** undertaken to identify impact of having a child with SEND.

Parents said they feel drained - financially, emotionally and physically  
65% said their child suffers with anxiety  
70% have meltdowns  
55% said school attendance is a worry  
14% of children are on part time timetable  
24% are 'sandwich carers' caring for their child and elderly parents

### Success Themes overview

- SEND Strategy: Strong focus on EHCP improvements, co-produced strategy, and supported internships.
- Education: Belonging Toolkit rollout, reduced exclusions, and positive school engagement.
- Family Engagement: Increased PCF reach, co-production efforts, and youth participation.
- Therapy Access: Sirona's pathway review improving access to Occupational Therapy, Education Psychologists, and Speech & Language services

### Impact for Children and Families

- Family link workers improving attendance.
- Parent Carer Forum expanding reach and engagement.
- Therapy pathway review expected to enhance access.
- Belonging Toolkit reducing exclusions in some schools



## The Best Start in Life (all children)

This workstream is co-chaired by the local authority

The priorities for this workstream 24-25:

- Financial Security
- Early Help
- Think Family
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Quality Education
- Workforce & Strategy Development
- Voice of the child



### Financial Security

Financial Security Framework launched and used by partners  
Leaflets, posters developed and distributed  
Poverty proofing approach promoted  
Household Support fund extended to Sept 24  
For development: increase workforce training & awareness and improve data collection



### Think Family

Links made with trauma, mental health and substance misuse  
For development: did not progress as expected and needs to be integrated within Early Help



### Early Help

Patchway Family Hub operational; Kingswood Hub launched Q3  
Promotional materials and open events increasing visibility  
Digital offer strengthened via Solihull Online Parenting and IAG website  
New Early Help Strategic Lead appointed  
Evaluation framework and strategy refresh underway  
Strong partner engagement & resource commitment emerging  
For development: secure partner resource commitments for Family Hubs and align branding and strategy with national policy



### Mental Health

Training offers expanded (e.g. Wellbeing First Aid, bite-size modules)  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Award progressing in schools.  
Self-harm resources and guidance developed and shared.  
Transition pathways and workforce coordination improving  
EBSA Toolkit training delivered;  
For development: Strengthen support for eating disorders and distress



### Education

School Improvement visits and challenge support effective.  
Attendance rates above national average for Secondary and Special Schools.  
Early Years sufficiency planning underway; capital funding allocated.  
Childminder agency proposal developed to address sector decline.  
Training offers expanded to improve quality and access.  
Family Link Worker dashboard shows positive impact on reducing school absence.  
For development: Secure continuation of Family Link Workers post-Sept 2025; Address attendance gaps for Primary and SEN pupils; Monitor part-time timetables and ensure full-time education access.

### Workforce & Strategy Development

Knowledge & Skills Framework completed and available  
For development: low engagement with framework - need to monitor and review



### Voice of the Child

Young people involved in Family Hub development  
Planning underway for new health and wellbeing survey  
For development: ensure children's views are further included in 2025-26

### Impact for Children and Families

- Increased service access through Family Hubs and digital resources.
- Improved attendance and wellbeing via Family Link Worker support.
- Greater awareness and support for financial insecurity and mental health.
- Enhanced strategic planning for Early Help and education quality.



# IMPACT Summary for the partnership

- Additional funding was agreed by partners following recommendations in independent scrutiny to strengthen the business unit. This has led to the recruitment of two additional posts, this will give resilience and increase the capacity of the partnership.
- A piece of work ensuring that multi agency training is costed correctly led to a profit for the first time meaning that a part time administrator to support multi agency training is able to be recruited.
- All three workstreams have been able to report impact from their work this year for the first time.
- Independent scrutiny alongside a CSPR and a JTAI in a neighbouring area has led to the adoption of changes in the approach taken to support children at risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. This work happened at pace and most elements were already implemented within the year. There is already feedback from partners about the improvements indicating better understanding and use of tools which will lead to better identification of children at risk.
- Launch of the neglect tool has led to increased use of the tool compared to the previous version which are now being routinely attached to referrals.



Ensure that chronologies are checked when a young person presents with an issue (e.g. self-harm) to ensure that the wider picture is known and issues are viewed together rather than in isolation. All staff have been issued with the neglect tool kit for reference when reviewing cases

feedback from a school when asked about the impact of a multi agency audit about neglect

The neglect tool could help us as Health Visitors to evidence neglect in referrals to social care, it gives clear descriptions of neglect in the domains which we could use to ensure our referrals are robust and concise.

The neglect tool helped PL identify some positive aspects of the mother's parenting that he had not seen/ thought of before

It can prompt questions/actions that we haven't yet explored. For example, it asks about care for younger children and I am doing this with a teenager, however he does have a baby sibling – this made me consider if there could be involvement of nursery for support for example.

Impact of  
Neglect Tool

# IMPACT of CSPRs

We asked practitioners from organisations across the partnership to give examples of how learning from a local or national CSPR has impacted their practice.

Baby M May 2023

We received a briefing which made me really mindful of my work with under 1s. Being aware to openly show curiosity with parents around any bruises/markings.

Family A: contacting fathers more

Considering fathers in assessing risk - particularly in maternity services

It has resulted in changes in practice - such as recent discussions around creating, using and maintaining formal escalation routes

I have set up a new group to share information, I have also included items from briefings in the team newsletters

The language I use in recording especially in relation to care experienced children

There was some training around professional curiosity and information sharing following the cases of Arthur and Star

An example of this is the South Glos safeguarding website which has a self evaluation tool and checklist when working with fathers or other important male role models or figures in a child's life, this can help develop a social worker's skills in being inclusive of fathers and also how to support them in engaging with the process, getting their worries, views and perspective across and how they can take a more engaging role with their child or children.



## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)

One CSPR was published during 2024-25.

This review was called 'Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence' and followed the death of a South Glos child 'Child T'.

You can read the full review [here](#). There is also a practitioner learning brief available [here](#).

An action plan is being monitored by the CSPR sub group.

A learning event about Drill Music was commissioning in October 2024 as a result of this CSPR. This was attended by multi agency professionals from across Avon & Somerset as well as the two other local authorities involved in the CSPR. A recording of this workshop is available [here](#).

There was also a learning event held for 'Child B' - the learning brief is available [here](#). The partnership undertook this event to identify local learning after Child B was involved in a CSPR in another local authority.

Training providers for the multi agency safeguarding programme include the learning from local reviews and multi agency audits in their delivery. There is a quarterly meeting with the providers to update them and to ensure consistency and accuracy.

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The panel's role is to learn from every death to identify changes that may prevent further deaths, share learning across the region, identify trends and target interventions and identify service improvements to ensure families are well supported. There are regular updates provided from CDOP to the Senior Officer Group.

## Multi-Agency Audits

Four multi agency audits took place during the year.

Click on the icons below to read the learning.



Click the picture for the child to parent abuse audit



Click the picture for the neglect audit



Click the picture for the domestic abuse audit



Click the picture for the transitions audit



A Section 11 Audit was undertaken with neighbouring partnerships in the Avon & Somerset Area and took the form of a practitioner survey to compare views of front line professionals with the organisation responses to Section 11 last year. You can read the report [here](#).



**Impact of Audits:** Learning briefs are shared widely across all partner agencies. The multi agency audits have an action tracker to ensure actions identified are followed up and completed.



## Learning & Development

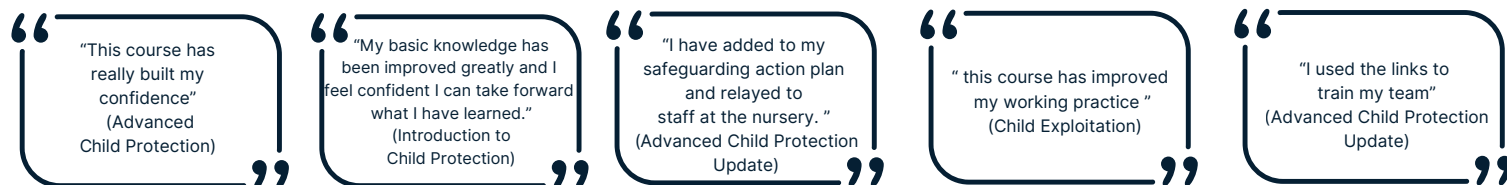
The Children's Partnership commissions a range of multi agency training.

During this year most training has been face to face (80%).

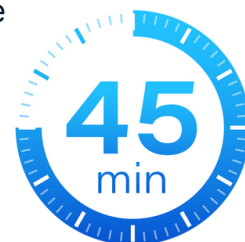
Quarterly reports about the training and quality assurance come to the Senior Officer Group. The impact of training is measured by using immediate feedback forms and also delegates are contacted several weeks after the training to gather impact evidence of how delegates have used what they learned in practice.

The data received by the learning and development sub group has been much improved this year and there is now clear evidence of attendance, costs and evaluations presented each quarter and a new template for quarterly reporting which allows for greater scrutiny and assurance. The direct impact of this work means we are able to recruit an additional member of part time staff to the business unit in 2025-26.

Some examples of impact of training:



In addition to the full and half day sessions the Bitesize Learning Sessions have continued to be delivered by the Partnership in 2024-25. These last just 45 minutes and are free to access for everyone who works and volunteers with children. A new session about information sharing has been added this year. The others themes for Bitesize sessions are Understanding Thresholds; Exploitation; Private Fostering and MARAC. These have all been delivered multiple times and this format is very popular.



Throughout this year we have worked across BNSSG to provide hour long sessions about ICON, to support professionals as they work with families with very young children. ICON is an approach to prevent infant head trauma and help parents cope with infant crying.

These were well attended sessions, and a selection of the feedback is included below.



203  
professionals  
attended

100%

of delegates said  
they had shared the  
learning in their  
organisation

From knowing the background of ICON,  
it's given me more confidence to  
approach the subject of infant crying  
with parents/families



I have promoted ICON via our social  
media pages and supported staff to  
access the training to raise their  
awareness of how to support parents  
and carers

The Children's Partnership also commission safeguarding training for people who volunteer in the community with Children and Young People. These are provided free of charge and in 2024-25 170 people attended one of the sessions delivered. Feedback is consistently good

# Improvements in practice

## How has information sharing improved practice and outcomes?



The **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** has continued to work well through 2024-25. The MASH is well attended by professionals and audits indicate the right children are heard at MASH. Information is shared in a timely and consistent way. Professionals make shared decisions about next steps for children.



Enhanced understanding of MASH by education settings after some bespoke training was provided



Key partners sharing information together at an early stage and attendance is consistently high



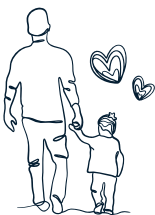
Ofsted report in July 2024 said that the MASH is ensuring a strong response to children in need or at risk of harm.



MASH is working particularly well when there is an anonymous referral with quick holistic decision making



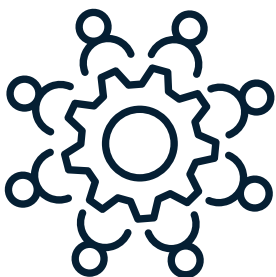
The Quality Assurance audit about child to adult conflict found there was good understanding about exploitation and evidence of multi agency working and good information sharing across the audit



The quality assurance audit about neglect found evidence across the audit group about dads being included and recording of the father's voice which has been a priority to improve across the partnership



The Quality Assurance audit about Transitions found good practice where an Autism passport was with one of young people which included how to communicate best with her, this meant the hospital understood her behaviours and needs. There was good information sharing on discharge and planning meetings with adult and children's services in attendance



The work in response to independent scrutiny has seen clear multi-agency working to address the widescale changes that have been embedded into the system at pace. This focussed working together is only possible because of the commitment across the partnership to come together to improve our systems to ultimately make things better for children.

Twice yearly stakeholder networks are well attended and at each one collaborative working across agencies takes place to improve the work of the partnership, to hear views from children and make decisions that will improve outcomes for children.



# Children's Partnership Finance 2024-25

There has been progress this year to identify equal and equitable funding between the three statutory partners for 2025-26. South Glos Children's Partnership is one of 5 across the police footprint and one of 3 across the ICB footprint and has always been the least resourced partnership. Increases in contributions from the police and the ICB have enabled growth of the business unit and increased the capacity to implement our partnership working priorities. These changes came into effect from April 2025 and the table below indicates the position until the end of March 2026. We work hard to make sure we get best value for money and use money in creative ways. We have built good relationships with reviewers and partners to ensure work happens as it should. We have made a change in the way we fund statutory reviews in 2025-26 and will now invoice statutory partners at the end of each review rather than taking this from the partnership budget, this brings us in line with other partnerships in the region.

Partnership Budget 2024-25		
Income		
Avon & Somerset Police		£20,896
BNSSG ICB		£33,000
South Gloucestershire Council		£63,400
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£117,296</b>
Expenditure		
Business Manager (50%)		£40,185.92
MARAC Chair (50%)		£3,750
MASH IDVA (50%)		£17,500
CSPR Budget		£12,000
Independent Scrutiny		£10,000
Membership/additional costs	SWCPP, TASP, NWG, CDOP, Stakeholder Events	£22,220
Community Safeguarding Training		£12,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£108,156.56</b>

# Areas with little or no progress 2024-25



Area of work	Impact	What has been acheived	What needs to happen
Timeliness of Operation Encompass Notifications.	Schools are not receiving timely information when there is a domestic abuse incident involving a child, this means the staff are not always able to offer immediate support to a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exec have added this to the risk register and receive regular updates about progress</li> <li>• Avon &amp; Somerset Police are trialling a robotics system to speed up notifications although progress has been slower than anticipated.</li> <li>• The data dashboard includes data about the timeliness of notifications to help inform the partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robotics need to be implemented across the force area (current pilot in Somerset)</li> <li>• Continued monitoring by Exec</li> <li>• Information shared with schools to keep them updated about progress</li> <li>• Consideration of notifications to Early Years settings</li> </ul>
The workstreams are not making as much use as they could of the data dashboard.	The performance dashboard is not informing priorities as effectively as it could.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A data analyst is joining in the business unit in September 2025 this will mean that each workstream can have support to make use of the data and understand what our priorities for the future should be</li> <li>• The Senior Officer Group will review how the dashboard is used across the partnership in quarter 3 &amp; 4 of 2025-26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data analyst to look at ways to include meaningful data to each of the workstreams and review the data currently collected</li> <li>• Stakeholder network meetings will include data presentations from Spring 2026 onwards to inform understanding of all partners</li> <li>• Business planning for 2026-27 to be more data informed</li> </ul>



# Priorities for 2025-26

For the year ahead priorities were agreed at a business planning session in January 2025 which included stakeholders across the partnership. Priorities were informed by national and local reviews, independent scrutiny, evidence through data and hearing the views of children and young people.

<div> <div>South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership</div> <div>2025-2026</div> <div>  </div> </div>	
<div>Business Plan on a Page</div>	
<div>EXECUTIVE</div> <div>Overarching Priorities for the Partnership</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Abuse within the family home</li> <li>Development of Business Unit</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Families First Partnership</li> </ul> <p>In addition there will be a focus on embedding the Working Together 2023 changes and publication of an annual report</p>
<div>BEST START IN LIFE</div> <div>Workstream chair by Local Authority/Public Health</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Security</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Think Family &amp; Early Help</li> <li>Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> </ul>
<div>BEST START FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN</div> <div>Workstream chaired by Police</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse</li> <li>Extra Familial Harm</li> <li>Neglect</li> <li>Secure Estates</li> <li>MASH</li> </ul>
<div>BEST START FOR CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS</div> <div>Workstream chaired by Integrated Care Board (ICB)</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding children with mental ill health needs</li> <li>Identification of Need</li> <li>Belonging Framework</li> </ul>
<div>SCRUTINY</div> <div>Work to provide quality assurance for the partnership</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent Scrutiny</li> <li>Quality Assurance Sub Group undertaking multi agency audits to highlight learning and good practice</li> <li>Learning and Development Sub group ensuring the multi agency programme is effective</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) sub group monitoring implementation of learning and oversight of current reviews</li> </ul>

# Conclusion

The 2024–25 reporting year has marked a period of significant progress and consolidation for the South Gloucestershire Children’s Partnership. Building on the foundations laid in previous years, the partnership has successfully embedded the changes required by the updated Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance. This has included a comprehensive review and republication of the partnership arrangements, strengthened governance structures, and enhanced representation from education and health sectors. The partnership has demonstrated a clear commitment to improving outcomes for children and families through a multi-agency approach.

Key achievements include the launch of a new neglect toolkit, the development of an interactive performance dashboard, and the implementation of a refreshed communications strategy. These initiatives have already shown measurable impact, with increased practitioner engagement, improved data visibility, and more consistent use of tools to support safeguarding practice. Independent scrutiny has played a vital role in shaping the partnership’s direction, with findings leading to tangible changes in practice. The partnership’s responsiveness to learning—evidenced through audits, training, and stakeholder feedback—has strengthened its ability to identify and address emerging risks, particularly in areas such as exploitation, domestic abuse, and serious youth violence.

While progress has been made across all workstreams, the partnership acknowledges areas where further development is needed. These include improving the timeliness of Operation Encompass notifications and ensuring that all workstreams make full use of the performance dashboard. Plans are already in place to address these challenges, including the recruitment of a dedicated data analyst and continued investment in workforce development. Looking ahead to 2025–26, the partnership remains focused on its strategic priorities, informed by lived experience, data insights, and national learning. With increased capacity in the business unit and a renewed commitment to collaboration, South Gloucestershire Children’s Partnership is well-positioned to continue driving improvements in safeguarding practice and delivering better outcomes for children and families.

**If you are worried about a child contact our safeguarding team:**



Monday – Friday 9am-5pm 01454 866000  
Out of hours and at weekends 01454 615165  
If you are deaf or hard of hearing text 'EDT'  
followed by your name and message to 60066



**If you are Looking for safeguarding training:**

The information about the multi agency training offer is [here](#)



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Children's Partnership Website [here](#)