

2021-22



# ANNUAL REPORT



South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

# INTRODUCTION

The Children's Partnership was formed in September 2019, and has been developing and evolving since this point. The original arrangements are largely unchanged from the structure that was launched in our published arrangements and you can read this [here](#).

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

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care
- The Chief Executive, South Gloucestershire Council
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Partnership Against Domestic Abuse
- 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 3rd October 2022 and published on the Partnership website on 5th October 2022

Should you require the report in any other format to support accessibility please contact [Sarah Taylor](#).

# STRUCTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The Executive and workstreams have been more stable during this year with less changes of chairs and members and have begun to work more effectively. The partnership continues to function using online meetings, with all partners accessing Microsoft Teams.

The Executive and Exec Plus meeting which includes workstream chairs and the elected member for children and young people both meet quarterly.

The structure of the partnership has not changed:

- Best Start for children with Complex Needs – CCG 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 WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Best Start for Vulnerable Children

The priorities for this workstream are:

- MARAC
- Vinney Green Secure Children's Home & Eastwood Park Prison Mother & Baby Unit
- Exploitation of children



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

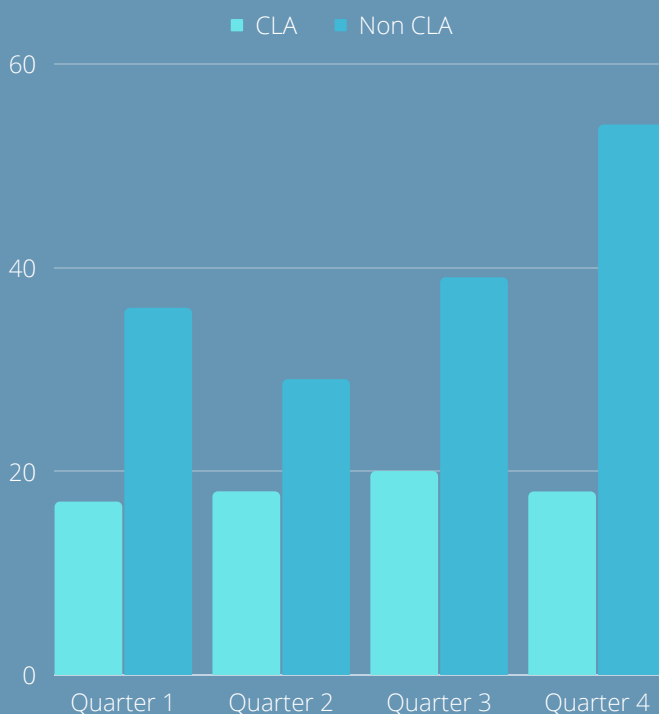
There is a quarterly report about children who are at risk of exploitation and who go missing



The number of children who were reported missing over this year rose by 13%



62 children had repeat missing episodes



The number of children reported missing who are not children looked after is the highest recorded.

Twice a year there are multi agency exploitation audits that are reviewed by this workstream

Click the Audit Clipboard to read Exploitation audit findings





# INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY OF MARAC

The Best Start for Vulnerable Workstream commissioned an independent scrutineer, Mark Power, to review the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in South Gloucestershire.

The scrutiny included review of :

- Current Policy & Procedure
- Meetings with the panel
- Attendance at MARAC



Recommendations made:

- Trial of a new referral process
- Consideration of appointment of a chair
- Consistent representation from mental health service and GP information provided
- Development of links to organisations who may identify male and young victims
- Development of new performance framework
- Work with housing providers relating to policies where victims are in joint tenancy arrangements

*'The independent scrutiny of the MARAC process has shown it to be effective and led by professionals who are dedicated to its continual improvement'*

## Vinney Green Secure Children's Home

Vinney Green bring bi-annual reports to the The Best Start for Vulnerable Children workstream for scrutiny.



There were 106 restraints during the year 2012-22, a decrease from 128 the previous year

# THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Best Start for Children with Complex Needs

The priorities for this workstream are:

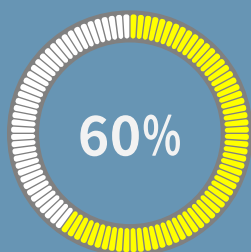
- Integration of SEND continuing improvement plan into workstream
- Engagement with parents and children to hear their views
- Inclusion of transitions and mental health into workstream



During this year the workstream completed the review of the guidance for practitioners for safeguarding children and young adults with disabilities.

You can read the Guidance document [here](#)

The SEND Partnership Board was formally ended this year and the work of the board and the continuing improvement plan have now been embedded into the workstream. This has met one of the key objectives of the formation of the Children's Partnership to reduce the number of meetings and strategic forums, and bring these into the Children's Partnership.



It was reported to the workstreams that at least 60% of Education and Health Care (EHC) Plans were rated Good or better during this period, and Annual Reviews demonstrate SEND being treated as a priority.

The key challenges for the workstream centred around the lack of independent scrutiny undertaken in this year and this is an action that has been taken forward into the 2022-23 period with a report expected in the summer of 2022.

### Impact:

- Designated Clinical officer (DCO) fully involved in EHCP QA process – improved practice as feeding back in to health practitioners.
- MOU for EHCP annual reviews with a multiagency approach – setting standards for annual reviews
- Agreement for additional investment in EHC teams to create a 7th team in addition to an assistant EHC coordinator – demonstrates partnership has been listening as has been raised by parent voice (£248k)
- Specialist health advisors for SEND (team) are now giving a much fuller response to parents
- Social care – dedicated resource established focusing on EHC plans to improve quality
- Monitoring report from DfE highlights and acknowledges successful partnership working



# THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Best Start in Life

The priorities for this workstream are:

- Hearing the voice of the child
- Reducing the Education Achievement Gap
- Promote Good Mental Health and Resilience
- Promote family stability and security
- Framework to upskill the workforce in Early Help and prevention



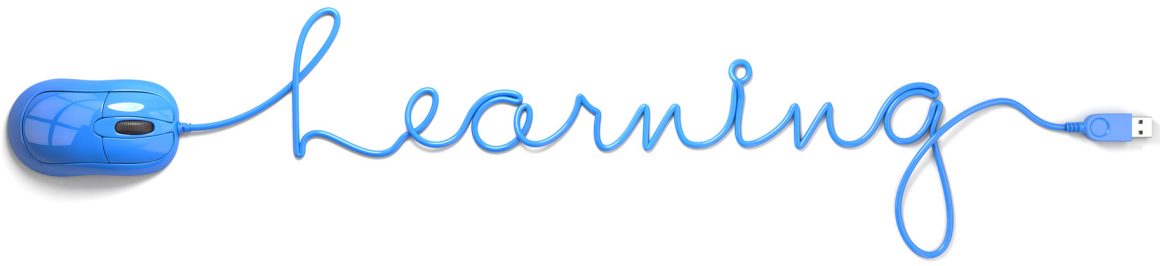
What Impact is identified by this workstream?

Mapping of assets and services for children and families being done by community networks will ensure a more joined up and accessible offer of support at a local geography/community level. Early consideration and planning for Family Hubs will enable us to take a multi agency approach to improved outcomes for children and families and will support early support and intervention with families. Partner recognition of the need to secure greater understanding of disguised compliance and professional curiosity will mean that we are better able to collectively support and protect children.

## Hearing the Voice of the Child - Independent Scrutiny

The workstream engaged an independent scrutineer to undertake a specific piece of work to look at how well the voice of children is embedded in the workstream, and in policy and procedures. This work was completed right at the end of this 2021-22 time period but the final report was not ready to be considered by the workstream before the end of the year. Findings and recommendations will be taken forward into the Business plan for 2022-23





## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)

One CSPR was published during 2021-22. This was a jointly commissioned review with neighbouring Children's Partnerships in Bristol and North Somerset.

This was a thematic review following a number of knife crime incidents in the region.

You can read the full review [here](#)

There is also a practitioner learning brief available [here](#)

An action plan is being monitored by a cross border steering group. As part of the sharing of the learning a cross border learning event took place in January 2022.



## Multi Agency Audits

Three multi agency audits took place during the year. Click on the icons below to read the learning.



Click the picture for the Voice of the Child Audit



Click the picture for the Preschool/Under 1s Audit



Click the picture for the Children Looked After Out of Area Audit



**Impact of Audits:** Learning briefs are shared widely across all partner agencies. Audit summaries are referenced by partners as effective tools in their Section 11 audit returns and in multi agency meetings



The Section 11 Audit was undertaken with neighbouring partnerships in the Avon & Somerset Area and took the form of peer challenge. You can read the report [here](#)



## Learning & Development

The Children's Partnership commissions a range of multi agency training. Covid-19 led to much of the training package being delivered online rather than face to face. During this year there have been some sessions delivered face to face and a hybrid approach is now followed.



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.



In addition to the full and half day sessions a new range of Bitesize Learning Sessions were delivered by the Partnership in 2021-22. These last just 45 minutes and are free to access for everyone who works and volunteers with children.

The themes for Bitesize sessions are Understanding Thresholds; Exploitation and Private Fostering. These have all been delivered multiple times and are very popular



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 2021-22 220 people attended one of the sessions delivered. Feedback is consistently good

Really great session,  
thank you for leading it.  
I learnt a lot of new  
information and have useful  
resources  
and feel confident and  
comfortable in my job

this is a difficult subject  
and handled and explained  
very well

Leader of a toddler group

Forest School Support Worker

# CHILDREN IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



2158 Referrals



1324 Strategy Discussions



264 Initial Child Protection Conferences



374 Re-Referrals



214 Children with CP Plan



8% have a disability



691 Domestic Abuse Notifications

59,927 Children and Young People under 18



885 Child in Need



79 recorded Domestic Abuse crimes Where victim is 16-17



259 Looked After Children



82 open EHAP



628 Child Protection Crimes



228 Children discussed at MARAC



468 Missing Children Episodes



78 referrals to the LADO



## 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](#)



## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ OUR CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTERS:

The newsletters are published [here](#)



Scan the QR code to visit the Children's  
Partnership website [here](#)