

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership 2024



Review due December 2025

Our vision for children & young people in South Gloucestershire is that they get the very best start in life, reach their full potential and live their lives safe from harm (violence, abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation). To achieve this vision, we will work together with local communities to improve their outcomes. We want South Gloucestershire to be a place where safeguarding is everybody's business.

The three leading safeguarding partners in South Gloucestershire – the integrated care board (ICB), the police and the council, are committed to delivering this vision according to an agreed set of values and principles, and these govern the work of the whole partnership. These arrangements cover the geographical area of South Gloucestershire.

We will:

- Maintain a relentless focus on asking ourselves 'What is it like to be a child in South Gloucestershire and what do we need to do to make sure they have the best possible chances in life?'
- Work together with trust and confidence, with a commitment to focus our activity to ensure we improve outcomes and make a real difference.
- Find creative ways to listen to the views and voices of children, young people and their families.
- Create the conditions and environment for the views and voices of the wider partnership to be heard.
- Ensure we work energetically to reach the front-line practitioners, listen to their views and perspectives and understand the quality and effectiveness of practice.
- Be respectful of each other but not avoid the hard questions and challenge and apply scrutiny when needed.
- Value early help and maintain a strengths-based approach to working with families.
- Communicate effectively across the partnership, enabling wide engagement and valuing each other's roles and contributions.
- Communicate effectively with our communities to raise awareness of safeguarding issues.

In discharging its obligations, the South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership will comply with the provisions of the Children Act 2004 and with the statutory guidance as set out in Chapter 2: Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023¹ has strengthened the requirements in relation to Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) and Delegated Safeguarding partners (DSPs).

LSPs are: Chief Executives of local authorities, Chief Executives of ICBs and Chief Officers of police forces.

DSPs should be appointed by each LSP for its agency and should be sufficiently senior to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account.

The DSPs should have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners.

The three statutory partners jointly leading South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership are:

[South Gloucestershire Council](#)

Lead Safeguarding Partner: Dave Perry, Chief Executive Officer

Delegated Safeguarding Partner: Chris Sivers, Executive Director, Department for People

[Avon & Somerset Constabulary](#)

Lead Safeguarding Partner: Sarah Crew, Chief Constable

Delegated Safeguarding Partner: Rachel Shields, Exploitation & Safeguarding Chief Superintendent

[Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board \(BNSSG ICB\)](#)

Lead Safeguarding Partner: Shane Devlin, Chief Executive Officer

Delegated Safeguarding Partner: Denise Moorhouse, Director of Nursing/Deputy Chief Nurse

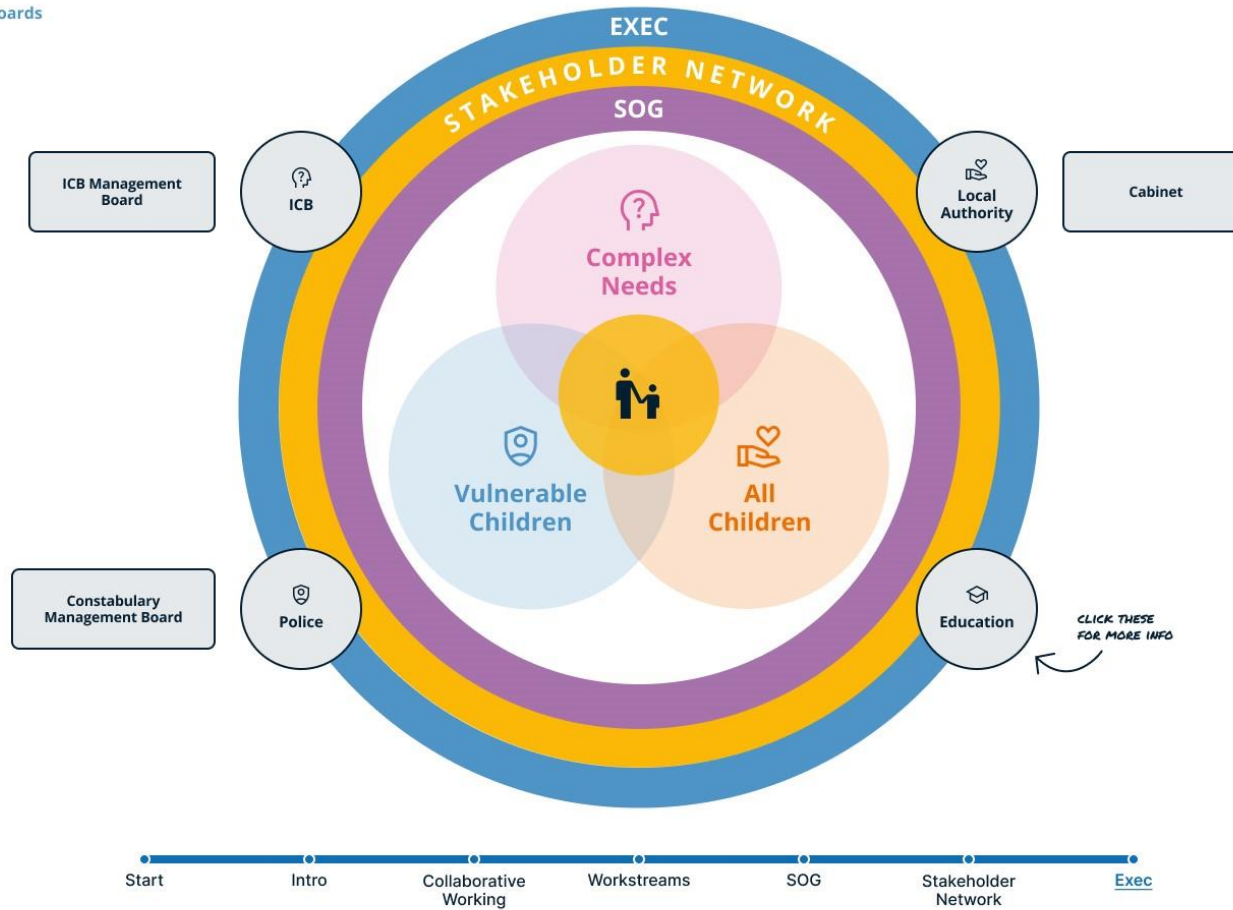
¹ [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

The Structure of South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

The children's partnership has an infographic that outlines the structure sgcp.link/describingthepartnership

The Collaborative System of the Partnership

The Exec and Management Boards



Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP)

Each LSP is responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. This includes systems of assurance and accountability within each of their organisations, including inspection findings.

LSPs are jointly responsible for ensuring the proper involvement of and oversight of all relevant agencies, and should act as a team, as opposed to a voice for their agency alone. They should meet sufficiently regularly to undertake the core functions outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Across the Avon & Somerset footprint the meeting structure for LSPs is as follows:

- Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 – cross boundary LSP meeting to include one police force, three ICBs and five local authorities
- Quarter 2 – local LSP meeting in South Gloucestershire to include LSP for LA, Police and BNSSG ICB

DSPs and LSPs should have regular interaction and communication to ensure that the LSP has sufficient oversight and detail on key topics and issues to maintain their statutory responsibilities. Where a key decision needs to be made that will impact arrangements and/or services, this should involve the LSP. DSPs should escalate risks and issues they cannot resolve between them to the LSPs for resolution. This will ensure that accountability is clear, that strategic decisions are achievable and deliverable, and that progress is driven at all levels. DSPs will attend LSP meetings and support and advise the LSPs at the regional and local LSP meetings.

Joint functions of LSPs

- Set the strategic direction, vision, and culture of the local safeguarding arrangements, including agreeing and reviewing shared priorities and the resource required to deliver services effectively.
- Lead their organisation's individual contribution to the shared priorities, ensuring strong governance, accountability, and reporting mechanisms to hold their delegates to account for the delivery of agency commitments.

- Review and sign off key partnership documents: published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including plans for independent scrutiny, shared annual budget, yearly report, and local threshold document.
- Provide shared oversight of learning from independent scrutiny, serious incidents, local child safeguarding practice reviews, and national reviews, ensuring recommendations are implemented and have a demonstrable impact on practice (as set out in the yearly report).
- Ensure multi-agency arrangements have the necessary level of business support, including intelligence and analytical functions, such as an agreed data set providing oversight and a robust understanding of practice.
- Ensure all relevant agencies, including education settings, are clear on their role and contribution to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP)

DSPs should meet sufficiently frequently to undertake their joint functions:

- Delivery and monitoring of multi-agency priorities and procedures to protect and safeguard children in the local area, in compliance with published arrangements and thresholds.
- Close partnership working and engagement with education (at strategic and operational level) and other relevant agencies, allowing better identification of and response to harm.
- The implementation of effective information sharing arrangements between agencies, including data sharing that facilitates joint analysis between partner agencies.
- Delivery of high-quality and timely rapid reviews and local child safeguarding practice reviews, with the impact of learning from local and national reviews and independent scrutiny clearly evidenced in yearly reports.
- The provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.
- Seeking of, and responding to, feedback from children and families about their experiences of services and co-designing services to ensure children from different communities and groups can access the help and protection they need

The DSPs meet as the Executive, alongside Education representatives and key strategic safeguarding leads to support decision making. These meetings are quarterly. The DSPs rotate the chairing of these meetings every quarter.

In addition, there are two meetings called Exec Plus each year to meet with workstream chairs and the elected member for children. These are followed by whole partnership stakeholder network events. There are two additional one hour keeping in touch meetings of the Exec Plus group each year.

The Role of Education

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 requires that partnerships strengthen the input from education providers at operational and strategic level decision-making. As a result of independent scrutiny in June 2023, the partnership had already begun this work. Two headteachers from schools in South Gloucestershire joined the Executive in January 2024. A review has taken place to ensure that education is represented within all the groups meeting as part of the partnership.

Independent Scrutiny Arrangements

Safeguarding partners must ensure that there are arrangements for effective independent scrutiny in place for their local area. (Working Together to Safeguard Children para. 89-97)

South Gloucestershire children's partnership has a thematic model of scrutiny and commissions a subject matter expert to undertake specific scrutiny work relating to the chosen theme in line with priorities for the year. Scrutiny for 2024-25 has involved a review of the Risk Management Pathway undertaken by the National Working Group. The scrutiny delivered a report and series of recommendations, and these are monitored by the partnership Executive until completion.

Senior Officer Group (SOG)

This group is responsible for overseeing the quality, performance and operation of the workstreams. It evaluates the work of the groups and how that work is aligned to the overall business plan of the children's partnership. It receives exception reporting from the groups and will act as a critical friend and seek assurances as to the work undertaken and its quality. In addition to this SOG will:

- review the multi-agency data dashboard and analyse this to assess the effectiveness of the help – including early help, being offered to children, young people and families.
- provide oversight of the local learning and development arrangements.
- provide oversight of the quality assurance that takes place within the multi-agency quarterly audit group.

- Be the conduit between the workstreams and the Executive ensuring effective join up between these elements of the partnership arrangements

Membership of SOG includes the three workstream chairs, quality assurance sub group chair, learning and development sub group chair, safeguarding in education representative and the Business Manager. SOG is chaired by the Strategic Safeguarding Manager and will meet quarterly, 4 weeks prior to the Executive meeting. The Strategic Safeguarding Manager will attend the Executive to represent the SOG.



Best Start for Children with Complex Needs (Chaired by BNSSG ICB)

This workstream has a responsibility to drive improvement, seek assurances and give strategic direction to enable organisations to work together across the local area to establish effective arrangements to meet the requirements of Part 3 of the Education Act 2014 which relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people up to the age of 25.

The aim is to enable children and young people to achieve good outcomes through the provision of the best services possible effectively, efficiently, and equitably and in a way that is sustainable longer-term.

Children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), are all in scope of this workstream, as are children with disabilities and trauma, other mental and emotional health disorders, and those on palliative care pathways. The scope also includes children and young people whose complex needs have a significant and enduring impact on their life. They are likely to need specialist support from education, health and/or social care at times or throughout their childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood; some of these individuals will also have life limiting conditions.

Membership of this workstream includes professionals from a wide range of organisations and meets six times a year.



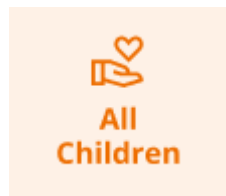
Best Start for Vulnerable Children (Chaired by Avon & Somerset Police)

This workstream provides oversight of the following:

- Secure Estates - including Vinney Green Secure Children's Home and Eastwood Park prison mother and baby unit

- Child Exploitation – data and findings from audits
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – data and emerging themes
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) – data and key themes
- Children at risk of exploitation and serious youth violence
- Children with a parent in prison

Membership of this workstream includes professionals from a wide range of organisations and meets four times a year.



Best Start in Life (Chaired by Local Authority)

This workstream is for all children. There is a clear emphasis in this group on educational achievement and ensuring children and young people have the best educational start in life. This workstream recognises the importance of giving children the best start in their pre-school years, and particularly the first 1001 days. This is the workstream that has a focus on early help. Membership of this workstream includes professionals from a wide range of organisations and meets four times a year.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)

Safeguarding partners must

- identify and review serious child safeguarding cases which, in their opinion, raise issues of importance in relation to their area,
- commission and oversee the review of those cases if they consider it appropriate².

The children's partnership has a review group that meets quarterly and has additional meetings when needed if there is a serious incident notification. The group are responsible for the rapid review process as outlined in statutory guidance, quality assurance of child safeguarding practice reviews and monitoring of action plans related to the recommendations of local child safeguarding practice reviews.

² [Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023 para. 324](#)

Quality Assurance

The partnership undertakes multi-agency thematic quarterly audits. The themes for the audit are focussed on business plan priorities. Twice a year the partnership also holds multi agency exploitation audits based on the TCE (Tackling Child Exploitation) principles.³

Both audit groups hold an action tracker to ensure identified actions are completed. The audits are contributed to by professionals from a wide range of agencies. Every audit results in a single page learning brief that is designed for practitioners. These are published on the partnership website. The partnership undertakes an annual Section 11⁴ audit with a well-established regional approach. This work is underpinned by the [Learning and Improvement Framework](#).

Learning and Development

In 2024 a new sub group was established to oversee the commissioned training for the partnership, this includes quality assurance of the training and scrutiny of data. This group is responsible for ensuring the training offer meets the needs of the workforce and is responsive to the priorities of the partnership. Meetings are quarterly.

Lived Experience

This is a joint sub group with the Safeguarding Adults Board with the specific aim to hear the voice of children, adults and families and capture their views to help inform priorities and identify where there has been good practice and where the partnership could improve. Meetings are quarterly.

JTAI Inspection Preparation (Joint Targeted Area Inspection)⁵

This is a strategic group that meets three times a year and has oversight of the multi-agency preparation for JTAI inspections. This includes the evidence requirements, self-audit and dry run of data for each new theme to provide assurance that the partnership is prepared in the event of an inspection. The quality assurance sub group links with this preparation group as the audit group for inspections.

³ [Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm](#)

⁴ [Children Act 2004](#)

⁵ [Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children who are victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK](#)

Budget and Agency Contributions

The children's partnership is funded by the three statutory partners. Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the LSPs of all three statutory partners, this has not historically been the case. All partners are committed to ensuring the appropriate funding of the partnership and so a budget review is underway to ensure all current expenditure, and the associated budget is clearly outlined to statutory partners. The LSPs are working together to resolve any outstanding financial contributions for the 2025/2026 period. The partnership staffing is 0.5 business manager, employed via the LA. Two additional posts, one data analyst and one business support officer, were agreed in principle at Executive to increase the capacity of the business unit. The cost of these posts is an additional £33,000 per statutory partner. These posts and associated costs are not included in the table below. Locally, the partnership have engaged in work to make contributions to the budget more equitable. The LSPs will also oversee work to ensure an equitable funding formula across the area.

Income 2024-25	Amount
Local Authority	£63,400.00
Police	£20,896.20
ICB	£34,567.08
Multi Agency Training Income (estimated)	£51,000.00
Total Income	£169,863.28
Expenditure 2024-25	Amount
50% Business Manager post and associated costs	£39,000.00
50% MASH IDVA post shared with ART	£17,500.00
CSPR annual budget	£12,000.00
MARAC chair - 50% as shared with SAB	£3,750.00
Multi Agency Training package	£31,000.00
Community Safeguarding Training	£12,000.00
South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP)	£1,438.64
TASP membership	£782.00
NWG membership	£500.00
Independent scrutiny	£10,000.00
2x Development days	£2,500.00
E-Learning - Enable	£9000.00
Total	£151,470.64

Stakeholder Network/Relevant Agencies in South Gloucestershire

The partnership foundations are in multi-agency working at a strategic as well as an operational level. Twice a year stakeholders come together for face-to-face events to ensure that partners are sighted on the work of the partnership, can network together and to ensure the voice of relevant agencies is heard by the Executive and workstreams of the partnership.

Relevant Agencies are as follows:

- The Local Authority – Children & Adult Social Care Services, Public Health, Safe Strong Communities, Education Learning & Skills, Early Years, Secure & Emergency Services, Legal Services, Workforce Development, Commissioning, Lead Member for Children and Young People
- NHS Organisations and agencies including NHS England, Sirona, North Bristol Trust, Named and Designated Professionals, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston, Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, ICB
- Police including the police and crime commissioner and chief constable, British Transport Police
- All Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings
- Local authority and private sector Housing
- HMP Eastwood Park
- National Probation Service
- Avon Fire and Rescue
- South Western Ambulance Service
- Youth Justice Team
- CAFCASS
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Providers of commissioned services and local services provided by the independent and community sectors including Barnardo's, Next Link, CVS, Southern Brooks Community Partnerships, 1625 Independent People
- Legal advisor to the partnership

Signatures:

Lead Safeguarding Partners:



Dave Perry
Chief Executive Office
South Gloucestershire Council

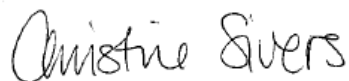


Sarah Crew
Chief Constable
Avon & Somerset Constabulary



Shane Devlin
Chief Executive Officer
BNSSG ICB

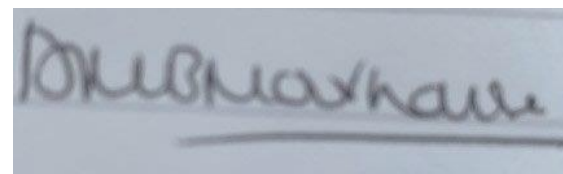
Delegated Safeguarding Partners:



Chris Sivers
Executive Director, Dept for People
South Gloucestershire Council



Rachel Shields
Chief Superintendent
Avon & Somerset Constabulary



Denise Moorhouse
Director of Nursing/Deputy Chief
Nurse, BNSSG ICB