

South  
Gloucestershire  
Children's  
Partnership  
2019-2020



Bristol, North Somerset  
and South Gloucestershire  
Clinical Commissioning Group



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## 1. Summary

In South Gloucestershire we have a wide range of agencies and professionals committed to working together to keep the children and young people of our county safe and enable them to thrive. Working Together 2018 sets out changes in the way agencies are required to work together to safeguard children and young people. We are making changes in light of this. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are no longer required in their current form and are to be replaced by more flexible arrangements determined locally. South Gloucestershire took this opportunity to streamline and simplify wider partnership arrangements and looked across a number of boards to reduce duplication, improve focus on the key issues and increase efficiency.

Work has been done regionally to explore the options and opportunities for work which could be better done on a wider, regional footing, again with the aim to coordinate activities and align resources, knowledge and expertise across the region.

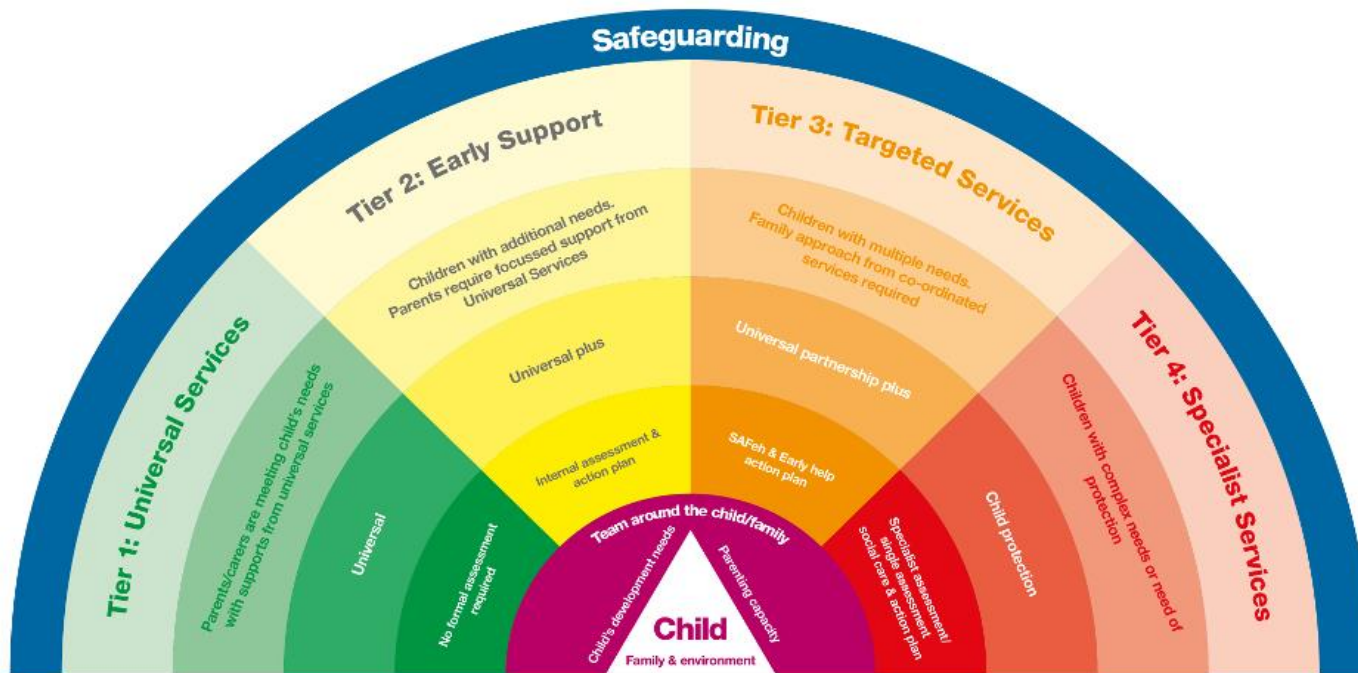
The main changes are:

1. There are now three organisations who have **a shared and equal duty** to make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in South Gloucestershire. The three safeguarding partners are:
  - the council;
  - the clinical commissioning group (CCG) for an area any part of which falls within the council area; and
  - the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the council area.
2. The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Sub Groups will be replaced by the new South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership.
3. The following groups and boards will be integrated into the new partnership:
  - ✓ The Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board and sub groups – including Children's Centres steering group, Troubled Families Board, Early Help Steering Group, and SEND Partnership Board
  - ✓ MASH steering group
  - ✓ MARAC Steering Group

This paper sets out our new arrangements. Central to our partnership work in South Gloucestershire is our commitment to understand children's lives and to ensure they are able to grow up to be healthy, happy, successful adults. Information on the context of South Gloucestershire is contained in Appendix 1. The changes will be made from September 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 and the first year will be a transitional year, during which there will be regular reviews of the arrangements via a standing agenda item on the Executive and a formal 'one year on' review and any changes needed will be made to reflect experience of the new model.

## 2. Developing new safeguarding arrangements for children in South Gloucestershire

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board will be replaced by the new South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership. The partnership will operate in line with the requirements set out in Working Together 2018 statutory guidance and will cover the geographical boundary of the South Gloucestershire Council area. There is one CCG and one Police Constabulary covering this area. The new partnership will have a much broader remit than the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board. It will oversee services to children across all levels of need, as shown by South Gloucestershire's continuum of need below.



Any significant concerns should be taken straight to the Access & Response Team →

This continuum of need forms part of South Gloucestershire's threshold guidance called 'A Child's Journey of Need' and is based on providing the right intervention to meet the assessed needs of the child or young person at the point at which they need it. The new partnership arrangements are designed to ensure that the responses across this whole continuum of need are met in an appropriate and timely manner.

The three local safeguarding partners jointly leading the partnership are:

**South Gloucestershire Council:** Represented by the Director of Children's Services

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary:** Represented by the senior police officer who is the Area Commander for South Gloucestershire

**Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group:** Represented by the Director of Nursing and Quality

In South Gloucestershire we believe that the legislation and revised guidance in Working Together have given us an opportunity not only to improve the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children, but also to streamline and consolidate the governance arrangements, strategic direction and work of a number of multi-agency partnerships, promote greater coherence in commissioning, and therefore to improve overall our current arrangements. We reviewed these current partnerships and consulted widely on proposed changes.

We also recognised the potential to add value to the local multi-agency arrangements in South Gloucestershire by collaborating with our partners regionally. Using the geographical footprint of the Avon and Somerset police area, senior leaders from Bristol, BaNES, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils, the three CCGs (BNSSG, BaNES and Somerset) and Avon and Somerset police, have come together voluntarily to form the **Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (ASSSP)**. This new partnership will:

- provide oversight as a strategic leadership group of equal partners, supporting and engaging others and implementing local and national learning.
- enable all partners to co-ordinate the delivery of strategic decisions and planning, which will ensure the adoption of best practice consistently across the area, thereby drawing benefit over and above local arrangements

The role and responsibilities of the ASSSP are described in section 8 of this document.



### 3. Vision and Values

#### Vision

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*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.*

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#### Values

The three leading safeguarding partners in South Gloucestershire – the CCG, 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.

**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.

## 4. The South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

Following a review of the previous LSCB arrangements and wide consultation with partners with the support of the Institute of Public Care, we have taken the opportunity to streamline and simplify current partnership arrangements and to look across a number of boards, with a view to reducing duplication, increasing efficiency and improving focus on the key issues. The boards included in the re-design were:

- The current Local Safeguarding Children Board and sub groups
- The Children & Young People & Families Partnership Board and sub groups – including Children's Centres steering group, Troubled Families Board, Early Help Steering Group, and SEND Partnership Board
- MASH steering group
- MARAC Steering Group

As a result of the work, the number of boards and subgroups have reduced, with the new groups focused collectively on all children, with a clear emphasis on all aspects of their well-being including their safety.

The new partnership board arrangement is the **South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership**. Agreement was reached by the three key partners – the local authority, police and CCG, that the role of independent chair would no longer be required in the new arrangement. The partners will take responsibility for sharing the chairing of the executive board on a rotational basis and will each take a lead role in the development and chairing of the subgroups.

The partners recognise that these arrangements represent some significant changes to the way in which strategic safeguarding arrangements are organised currently. As such these new arrangements will be subject to review during the first transitional year. This document will be refreshed and updated in the summer of 2020.



## 5. The Structure of the South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership



## The Children's Partnership Executive

This will be a small and strategic group comprising the three safeguarding partners. This board will provide the overall strategic direction for the development of services for children and young people and will fulfil the required statutory functions. This includes agreeing ways to co-ordinate safeguarding services, providing strategic leadership in supporting and engaging others, and implementing local and national learning from serious child safeguarding incidents. This board will determine and review annual priorities. They will develop, implement and monitor an annual plan against these priorities and will provide direction to the sub groups to ensure delivery of the plan. They will produce an annual report which will be published on the Partnership's Safeguarding Website as is currently the case. This group will also ensure effective scrutiny arrangements across the partnership. The decision makers will be the 3 key partners – The Director of Children, Adults and Health (Council), The Director of Nursing (CCG) and the Area Commander for South Gloucestershire (Police). Consensus around decision making will be sought at all times. However should this not be possible escalation to the Chief Executives/Chief Constable may be required. The Strategic Safeguarding Manager will attend to represent the chairs of the sub groups. Invited members, including the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the Board Manager and the chairs of the subgroups will join the board as required. The Executive will meet four times a year and will report to the South Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, Cabinet, the CCG Governing Body and the Constabulary Management Board on an annual basis and by exception.

## Senior Officers Group

This group will be responsible for overseeing the performance and operation of the three groups detailed below. It will evaluate the work of the groups and how that work is aligned to the overall business plan of the children's partnership. It will receive exception reporting from the groups and will act as a critical friend and seek assurances as to the work undertaken and its quality. It will also consider the multi-agency data performance report and its analysis in order to assess the effectiveness of the help – including early help, being offered to children, young people and families.

Whilst a regional Training and Development group will lead on the way in which interagency training and development will be commissioned, delivered and monitored (see Regional Arrangements below), this group will provide oversight of the local learning and development arrangements, particularly whilst the regional group is becoming established.

Policies and procedures will continue to be developed regionally as they do currently via South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP), and this group will maintain oversight of this work to assure themselves that the work completed regionally is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the local partnership agencies.

The Senior Officers Group will be responsible for ensuring that the programme of independent scrutiny arrangements (see below) is developed and implemented locally and will make sure that the regional arrangements complement this plan.

The group will also provide oversight of, and guidance to, the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) preparation groups that are already established in South Gloucestershire.

The group will ensure that communication on the work of the partnership is effective and will continue to be supported by the local communication arrangements which currently operate across both adults and children's safeguarding.

The Senior Officers group will take responsibility for ensuring that the Engagement Forum (see below) takes place, reflects the priorities of the partnership and meets the needs of the participants attending.

The group will consist of the three sub group chairs, the Business Manager and 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 and feed in relevant information.

## Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. It should be objective, act as a critical friend and promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

South Gloucestershire has well-established scrutiny and quality assurance arrangements, both on a local and regional level. These include sub regional Section 11 audit and analysis and organisation walkabouts, whilst locally there are regular multi-agency audits, analysis and learning which is disseminated across the partnership. The learning from Serious Case Reviews and Case Reviews is also shared and resources and events to promote the learning are provided. Peer reviews are organised regionally and South Gloucestershire is a partner within these reviews. A quarterly multi-agency performance report is also produced, with an overview of what the data is telling us, which is discussed in depth at Executive level.

The new safeguarding partnership will continue with these arrangements on both a regional and local basis, using data, intelligence and audit to ensure that children in South Gloucestershire are getting the help and support they need (see below – Regional Arrangements). Further work will take place within the Senior Officers Group on how best to ensure a robust system of independent scrutiny locally.

## The Engagement Forum

The primary purpose of the engagement forum will be to enable feedback about current developments to be given to the executive and others across the partnership, to hear the voice of the child through raising awareness of key issues affecting services to children and young people in South Gloucestershire and to provide a networking opportunity for practitioners, managers and senior leaders across the partnership. This forum will allow learning from National and Local Reviews to be disseminated. Engagement in this group will be wide and will include all sectors involved with providing services to children and young people. The Forum will meet three times a year.

## Best Start for Children with Complex Needs

This group will focus on the development of the multi-agency response and joint commissioning arrangements for children with complex needs in order to support their achievement. It will seek to improve and develop opportunities for children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and Children in Care in order to support their growth and development. It will lead on clarity of pathways for these children and young people, including their transition into adulthood and adult services. The South Gloucestershire Secure Estate, Vinney Green, will also sit within this sub group, in order to ensure oversight of services and the quality assurance arrangements for the unit. This group will also receive reports concerning the quality and effectiveness of local children's residential provision. Membership includes representatives from the three statutory partners, 0-25 service, Vinney Green secure estate, education, voluntary and community sector organisations. Regular meetings will be quarterly or more frequently as required during the transitional year.

## Best Start for Vulnerable Children

This group will provide oversight of the reviews of serious safeguarding cases in South Gloucestershire via the Safeguarding Practice Review sub group (See below). Changes are being made nationally to the way in which Serious Case Reviews are commissioned and undertaken. To date, these have been agreed upon, commissioned and undertaken locally. New arrangements include the establishment of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPR) which has its own statutory powers and decides whether to commission national reviews of child safeguarding cases. Decisions of the panel are based on identifying improvements from cases which are complex or of national importance. This group will oversee the new Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, ensuring progression of any reviews and support the work of the Safeguarding

Practice Review group. This group will also be responsible for ensuring the appropriate dissemination of any learning from reviews and evaluating the impact of this shared learning.

In the first phase of these new arrangements, this group will also focus on 3 key areas of practice:

- ✓ Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- ✓ Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- ✓ The Multi-agency Front door for children's safeguarding referrals

The group will ensure appropriate relevant agencies are engaged with these practice areas, and will work together to ensure practice effectiveness. The focus of the group will develop in line with key priorities for the area. They will scrutinise data and intelligence, quality assuring service responses, identify risks in the system and raise these with the appropriate agencies. Membership will include representation from the three statutory partners who lead on MASH/Statutory safeguarding services front door, Domestic Abuse Service provider (Next Link), Chair of the MARAC meetings, the local authority lead for early help, and local authority lead for Access and Response Team (ART). Meetings will be quarterly, or more frequently as required during the transitional year.

## Safeguarding Practice Review Group

This group was previously called the Serious Case Review sub group, and will continue in its current format, being renamed as the Safeguarding Practice Review sub group, considering serious child safeguarding cases in line with Working Together 2018. This sub group will deal with all requests for a review, commission reviewers and formulate action plans. The Notification and Rapid Review arrangements are in place and have been put to the test successfully.

As with all aspects of the revised safeguarding arrangements for South Gloucestershire, the arrangements for independent scrutiny will be reviewed at each Executive meeting and any recommendations taken forward locally and fed into the review of regional arrangements.

## Best Start in Life

This group will have wide membership, which will provide strategic partnership planning, oversight and management for children and young people in South Gloucestershire in relation to

- ✓ Early Help
- ✓ Early Years, Schools and Post 16 educational provision
- ✓ Adolescents and associated needs
- ✓ The trigger trio of Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol use
- ✓ The statutory duty in relation to children's rights
- ✓ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

This group will guide strategic planning for children and young people as a whole, across the spectrum of needs. Membership will include representation from the three statutory partners - Police, Local Authority and Health, schools, early years and post 16 sector representation, public health, early help leads, child and adolescent mental health service, relevant voluntary and community sector organisations, and environment and community sector. In line with feedback from partners across South Gloucestershire, there will be a clear emphasis in this group on educational achievement and ensuring children and young people have the best educational start in life. Partners recognise the importance of giving children the best start in their pre-school years through effective support to parents and carers so that children have achieved a good level of development before entry to reception class. This group will work to ensure all children have access to the support they need and that once in school will work to ensure children continue to have access to the help they need. This group will work to respond to issues which may be impacting on children and young people's ability to engage with learning. Regular meetings are quarterly, however, during the transitional year will be held as and when required, to facilitate the effective establishment of this group.

## Task and Finish Groups

The standing groups described above will be supported through the commissioning of short life **task and finish groups** to tackle specific issues identified by the executive or the sub groups, or to take forward specific pieces of work. Such groups will be commissioned when the need arises and allows for a more flexible and agile system.

## 6. Partners Involved

The vital role of all agencies who have a role in safeguarding children in South Gloucestershire is well recognised. The three main statutory safeguarding partners are responsible for selecting the relevant agencies they will work with to safeguard and protect children in their locality. The partners will act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others in South Gloucestershire and have identified the following partners as those which are relevant in South Gloucestershire; these 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, Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, CCG
- ✓ Police including the police and crime commissioner and chief constable
- ✓ All Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings
- ✓ Local authority and private sector Housing
- ✓ HMP Eastwood Park
- ✓ National Probation Service and CRC
- ✓ Avon Fire and Rescue
- ✓ South Western Ambulance service
- ✓ Youth Offending Team
- ✓ CAFCASS
- ✓ British Transport Police
- ✓ Department of Work and Pensions



- ✓ Providers of commissioned services and local services provided by the independent and community sectors including SSAFA, Barnardo's, Next Link, CVS, Southern Brooks Community Partnerships, 1625 Independent People
- ✓ University of the West of England
- ✓ Legal advisor to the partnership

## Funding

The work of the new safeguarding partnership will be principally funded by the three key partners, with additional contributions as outlined below. The current funding is sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews. There is a regional finance work stream looking at equitable funding across the 5 regions and so funding arrangements locally will be reviewed accordingly in 2020.

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD 2019 - 2020

SOURCE OF FUNDS	CHILDREN'S KD802 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTION £
2019 - 2020 SAFEGUARDING CONTRIBUTION	
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER	£15,375.00
NHS	£31,940.00
CAFCASS	£550.00
BGSW	£500.00
YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE	£4,940.00
AWP	£1,777.00
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAH DEPARTMENT	£54,410.00
TOTALS	£109,492.00

## 7. Child Death Overview Panel

The requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 mean that the responsibility for ensuring that reviews are carried out when a child dies move from the Local Safeguarding Children Board to the Local Authority and the CCG. This means that the new CDOP arrangements will not sit under this new partnership. There have been a number of meetings with core partners to review the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) in light of the new statutory guidance. This guidance has been modelled on the local West of England CDOP. The core partners are the 2 CCG's (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire - BNSSG and Bath and North East Somerset - BaNES) and the 4 LAs (South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bristol and BaNES). BNSSG CCG are currently coordinating this work.

The agreement is the current average number of child deaths generally meets the minimum number required to be reviewed each year. The group will monitor these figures and review these arrangements annually. The CDOP planning group have also recommended that there is an option to review certain cases from outside the area and these would include; children who have cardiac problems or any significant road traffic accidents. The Designated Doctor for child deaths has systems in place to review neonatal deaths on a South West regional foot print and the new national data set will improve the learning across the country from all child deaths.

It is proposed there should be a strategic Child Death Panel to monitor and review the progress of these new arrangements. This group would include the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths, a Local Authority representative for the 4 partners, a representative from BNSSG/ BaNES CCG and a commissioner. This group will meet 2- 3 times a year and steer the development of these new arrangements and any future procurement of the CDOP service.

There is a proposal for the current data to be retained and archived by the University of Bristol, the current data manager.

The child death review (CDR) and rapid response will continue for children resident within the West of England area. Further discussions may be needed to consider the management of the child deaths from outside our CDOP footprint. This will be monitored by the CDOP strategic group recognising the need to work within the current financial envelope.

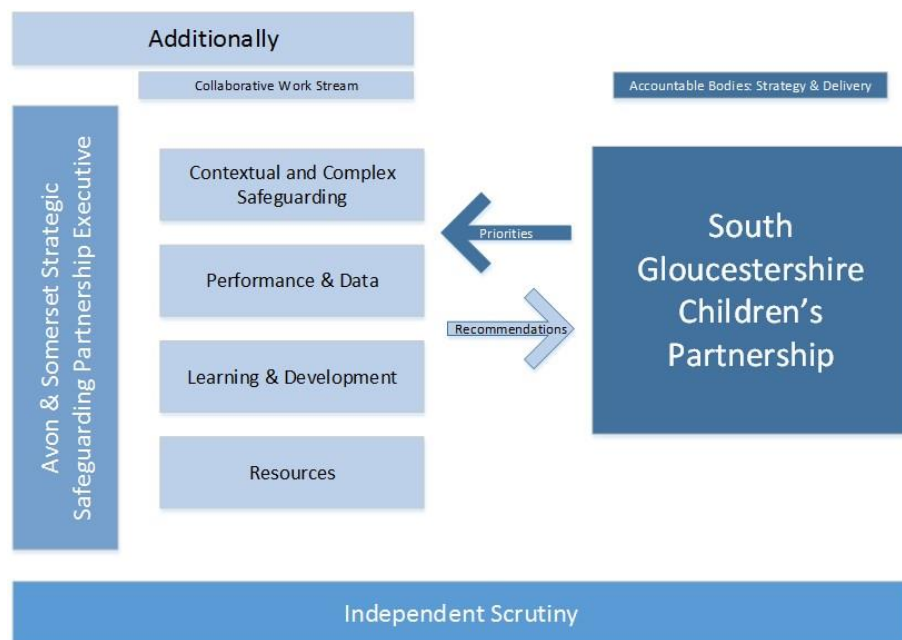
The full CDOP arrangements will be submitted to NHS England and published on the BNSSG Website by the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and implemented by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The CDOP will publish an annual report which will be available on the CCG website.

## 8. Regional Arrangements

The local arrangements described above are complimented by regional developments. The **Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership** was formed in 2019 by senior agency leaders across the Avon and Somerset Constabulary footprint, as a result of changes to the way children's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are planned and delivered. It is a voluntary initiative, set up to support the five statutory strategic and operational safeguarding arrangements within this region – South Gloucestershire, Bath and NE Somerset, Somerset, Bristol and North Somerset. The partnership comprises 5 local authorities, 3 CCGs, and one police constabulary. This partnership will:

- Provide oversight as a strategic leadership group of equal partners, supporting and engaging others and implementing local and national learning.
- Enable all partners to co-ordinate the delivery of strategic decisions and planning, which will ensure the adoption of best practice consistently across the area, thereby drawing benefit over and above local arrangements.

### Regional Children's Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements



## Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Executive

The ASSSP Executive provides strategic leadership across the partnership by;

- supporting performance and data analysis
- intelligence sharing and risk reduction
- working together through standing groups as required
- commissioning task and finish activity as required
- establishing and reviewing regional policies and procedures
- regional communication coordination

Specifically, the regional group will work collaboratively, aligned to the priorities of the 5 local arrangements. It will make recommendations to the organisations that are represented at it, and monitor the work and performance of the 4 sub-groups that report to it. Independent scrutiny is an important element of the oversight of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and through ASSSP we will share, plan, coordinate and deliver agreed elements of this work, enabling learning and assurance. The ASSSP Executive will meet quarterly, and the quorum for a meeting of the group is 66% of the representatives set out in the membership.

## Learning and Development

This group is led by South Gloucestershire and will enable the learning and development element of safeguarding children arrangements in the area to run on a strategic basis in terms of the following:

- Design and commissioning of a specialist practitioner training programme
- Oversight and quality assurance of local training programmes to include assurances that training reflects up to date and new guidance, incorporation of key messages from local, regional and national safeguarding and findings from Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and multi-agency Case Reviews
- Links to professional bodies, education and research organisations and centres of excellence
- Potential for pooled budgets and single commissioning approach to gain economies of scale where appropriate
- Regional training resources including training packs
- Responding to emerging issues to include geographical flexibility

As this group becomes established, specific work during the transition period will be phased. The first phase will be to undertake a review of the current arrangements in each of the 5 areas, including local delivery arrangements, evaluation of cost, quality and impact, mapping of activity and venues across the region and needs analysis for the future. The second phase will primarily be an analysis of the initial scoping exercise to decide the best way to commission and deliver a training offer for the future, including any potential joint commissioning arrangements from April 2020. In the meantime, existing contracts and arrangements for safeguarding training will continue in South Gloucestershire and will report into the Senior Officers Group.

## Performance and Data

The introduction of regional performance and data arrangements provides the opportunity to share information and data to understand, develop and deliver best practice consistently across the Avon and Somerset area. This will support better outcomes for children and families by the effective and efficient collaboration and joint working of the nine core partnership agencies with responsibility for safeguarding in the region.

The evidence-based strategic planning provided will support the local arrangements by using data to understand opportunities and issues, and the co-ordinated multi-agency response required, across geographic and organisational boundaries. It will provide a transparent rationale based on evidence to support defensible decision making within the partnership at strategic and operational levels. The aims of this group will be:

- To promote the safeguarding concerns of children and young people and their families across all member organisations using data and information to provide an evidence-based approach
- To develop such an evidence-based approach by using data and information to plan strategically in order to deliver a whole system approach to safeguarding children, young people and families
- To use such evidence-based planning to align resources, knowledge and expertise across regional and organisational boundaries to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency that will deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and families
- To improve outcomes by identifying barriers to joint working and emerging issues in safeguarding by sharing information and using multi-agency datasets wherever possible to provide the fullest understanding of issues
- To collectively challenge and support the partnership by providing strategic information driven by constructive use of performance management data

## Contextual and complex safeguarding

The aims of this group are to enable the contextual safeguarding arrangements in the area to run on a regional strategic basis. The group aims to develop and propose to ASSSP contextual safeguarding arrangements that will benefit from a regional approach, giving particular consideration to abuse and exploitation that crosses LA boundaries such as county lines, trafficking and radicalisation, opportunities for joint

commissioning (building on the learning and outputs of the CSE Regional Group) and for developing reciprocal arrangements such as Return Home Interviews for missing children placed out of area. The group will aim to understand priority areas of need across the region and consider how to prioritise and develop responses at a regional level. The further aims will be:

- Intelligence sharing, identification, prevention and disruption of contextual safeguarding risks
- Contribute to the development of South West policies and procedures; influencing at a national level
- Develop ASSSP strategy and partnership arrangements and clearly define relationship with locality (place based) arrangements
- Provide a strategic forum in which to agree and progress contextual safeguarding priorities
- Propose how local analysis of need will be undertaken, contribute to understanding patterns of abuse and exploitation and informing the setting of regional priorities
- Contribute to the development of training and workforce resources
- Develop shared outcome measures, monitor progress and take responsibility for contributing to and learning from an increasingly evidence informed approach to contextual safeguarding across ASSSP and nationally
- Use combined resources to commission at ASSSP level where identified needs are agreed as a regional priority including taking opportunities to learn from and scale up effective local arrangements.
- ICT enablers of partnership collaboration
- Propose to ASSSP how this work stream will relate to/incorporate Prevent/Channel responsibilities and processes. (NB Extremism, radicalisation and the Prevent/Counter Terrorism agenda is given significant weight in the Contextual Safeguarding section of Working Together).

## Resources

The aim of this group is to enable the safeguarding children arrangements across the 5 place-based arrangements in the ASSSP area to run on a strategic basis in terms of the following:

- Risk sharing
- Financial (cash) contributions from partners
- In kind (non-cash) contributions from partners
- Resource use at a local authority and ASSSP level
- ICT enablers of partnership collaboration

The group further aims to:

- Propose to ASSSP that finance and risk matters are strategic issues requiring knowledge and leadership at the correct delegation, and agree consequences
- Achieve a common agreement of what 'equitable' means in the arrangements, as the term relates to resources
- Achieve a common agreement on the business risk sharing amongst the core partners, specifically financial, reputational, operational and strategic risk, impact assessment on the partnership delivery of single agency reorganisation and senior personnel change
- Understand the current income and expenditure of the 5 current arrangements, using a common template
- Understand the current in kind resources of the 5 current arrangements, using a common template
- Make proposals to the ASSSP for the term required for funding arrangements to ensure stability
- Make proposals to the ASSSP regarding transitional funding arrangements
- Make modelled proposals to the ASSSP regarding permanent funding arrangements
- Make proposals to the ASSSP regarding ICT enabled collaboration for delivering shared elements of the safeguarding children arrangement
- Make proposals to the ASSSP on savings plan and timetable

## Independent Scrutiny

The independent scrutiny function as set out in statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017) has allowed South Gloucestershire to review existing arrangements for independent scrutiny, and collaborate with the regional Avon & Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (ASSSP) in order to develop a Scrutiny Framework for 2019-2021.

The three safeguarding partners must ensure there is independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the local place-based arrangements. Therefore it will be a local decision how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny, however the ASSSP are tasked with the development of a regional approach on behalf of the 5 areas in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary footprint. This system will enhance local delivery of scrutiny and will coordinate the approach, therefore introducing efficiency, opportunities for shared learning, and reduce duplication across the 5 areas.

Therefore, an Independent Scrutiny Coordinator has been appointed by the ASSSP in order to provide the support and facilitation of assurance activity to all areas within the Avon & Somerset geographical footprint. The arrangements will be assessed on how effectively they are working



for children, young people, and families, as well as practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partnership is providing strong and effective leadership.

### **The role of Independent Scrutiny**

- Provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the extent to which appropriate and effective systems and processes are in place in all partner agencies, so as to fulfil their statutory duties, ensuring that children are protected and that appropriate safeguarding strategies are developed and embedded.
- Evaluate arrangements for the operation of the requisite area partnership, including the purpose, effectiveness and functions of board meetings, and recommend and implement appropriate changes.
- Support the implementation of the findings and outcomes of any single or multi agency safeguarding / Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Confirm, or not, that effective performance management, audit and quality assurance mechanisms are in place within partner organisations which will support the area partners to fulfil their statutory objectives, and which will enable the partnership to identify and measure its success and impact.
- Ensure that the three safeguarding partners provide independent, robust and effective challenge to all partners.
- Ensure that the voices of children and other members of the community as relevant are appropriately represented and heard in the work of the partnership.
- Support a culture and environment conducive to organisational learning, improving outcomes for our most vulnerable.

### **The role of the Independent Scrutiny Coordinator**

- Draw evidence from activity to contribute to hypothesis development / review
- Act as a critical friend to partners, providing support and facilitation of challenge
- Ensure mapping of scrutiny / assurance functions for each area
- Coordinate the effective scrutiny of each area based arrangement according to the area's Terms of Reference.
- Draft an Annual Report on each area based arrangement
  - For the area Board in the first instance;
  - To ASSSP enabling support and challenge by highlighting good practice, issues and concerns.

- Co-ordinate and train (with support) a pool of local reviewers from a variety of disciplines.
- Co-ordinate reviewers and lead 'review'
- Ensure independence in coordinating review teams
- Ensure each local area review considers the contribution of all statutory and key partners through a variety of disciplines.
- Ensure that the voices of children, young people and their families are appropriately represented and heard throughout, including the use of Youth Forums, Youth Scrutineers, and Youth Panels and any other place-based groups, as appropriate.

Regional partners recognise that as these arrangements become established there is potential to develop further work streams on a regional footing, such as communications and quality and standards. However, they also recognise a phased approach will enable these new arrangements to build on a sustainable and manageable basis.

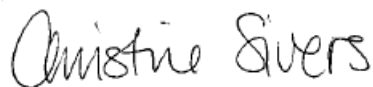
## 9. More Information

More information is available from:

Catherine Boyce, Head of Safeguarding  
South Gloucestershire Council  
Department for Children, Adults & Health  
PO Box 1955  
Bristol  
BS37 0DE  
  
01454 868924

<https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/>

## 10. Signatures



**Chris Sivers**

Director, Children Adults and Health  
South Gloucestershire Council



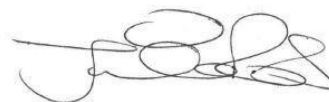
**Dave Perry**

Chief Executive  
South Gloucestershire Council



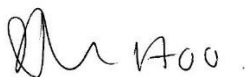
**Janet Baptiste-Grant**

Interim Director of Nursing and Quality  
Bristol North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group



**Julia Ross**

Chief Executive  
BNSSG CCG



**Ben Moseley**

Chief Inspector  
Neighbourhoods and Partnerships, South Gloucestershire  
Avon and Somerset Constabulary

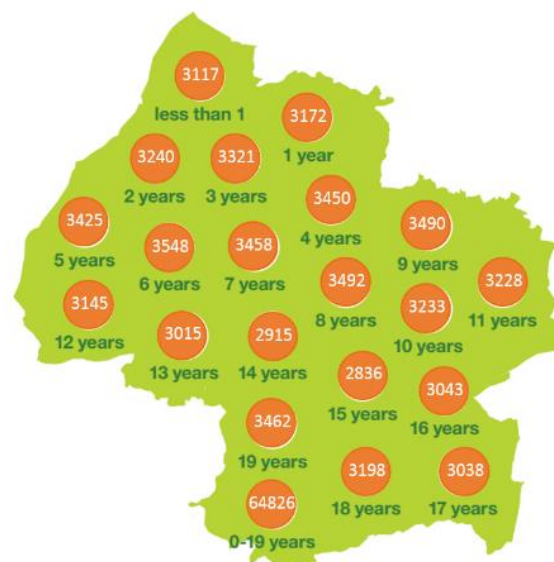


**Andy Marsh**

Chief Constable  
Avon & Somerset Constabulary

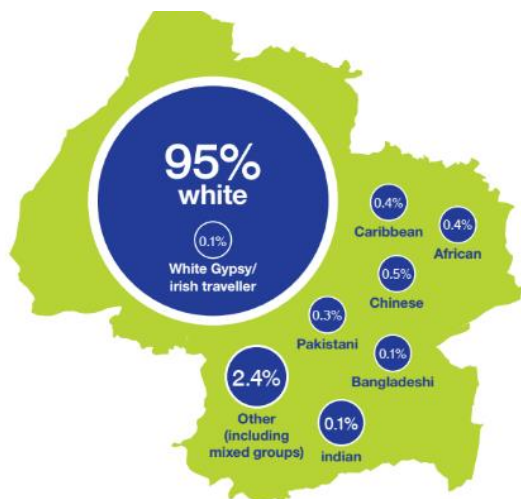
## Appendix 1 - Local Context

The local context to safeguarding children in South Gloucestershire is illustrated in the infographics that follow.



This population data is taken from the Office of National Statistics Mid-Year Estimates

This data is taken from the census information gathered in 2011



Schools in South Gloucestershire 2019



