

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOGETHER ARRANGEMENTS

*Gloucestershire's multi-agency
arrangements to safeguard children
This document sets out the arrangements put in
place to enable local partner agencies in
Gloucestershire to meet the requirements of
Working Together to Safeguard Children
statutory guidance*

2023

Foreword

Working Together to Safeguard Children places a ‘shared and equal duty’ on NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council for local arrangements. We embrace those responsibilities and view this as a real opportunity to further embed child safeguarding considerations across our own agencies and the wider local Partnership under the banner of the “Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership” (GSCP).

The arrangements set out in this document allow us to both build on best practice and to develop our own local approach. Learning from past incidents and embedding that learning within our organisations are matters that can develop along local lines reflecting Gloucestershire's collective commitment towards a trauma informed and restorative approach to practice, informed by the learning from ACEs. Our arrangements will continue to develop as confidence increases. We welcome the contribution of our Partners, stakeholders and community to what we would hope is an ongoing and rich conversation.

We all share the same aim; namely, that the safety, health, welfare and wellbeing of our children and young people is secured and that we remain open to learning and improving in order to deal with the many challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing world.

With this document you may find the [Our Safeguarding Partnership Document](#) Useful

Safeguarding though remains ‘everybody’s business’ and we thank you for your continued support, hard work and commitment.’



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Working Together to Safeguard Children Gloucestershire Local Arrangements

1.0 Background

1.1 The document sets out the arrangements to enable the local Partner agencies in Gloucestershire to meet the requirements of the most current Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance collectively, as the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP). This document should be read alongside the most recent Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance which is currently 2018 amended December 2020. All reference to Working Together in this document relates to this guidance.

1.2 Working Together represents a significant opportunity to develop our collective arrangements to safeguard children and young people in Gloucestershire. It places a 'shared and equal duty' on NHS Integrated Care Board, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council for the safeguarding of Gloucestershire's children

1.3 Gloucestershire County Council, working with local Partners, set out its vision for Gloucestershire in its 'Looking to the Future 2019-22' document. This identifies key priorities for children and young people; including securing their health and wellbeing and ensuring they have access to a good quality school or early years setting. The arrangements set out in this document will contribute to the achievement of those priorities.

2.0 Scope of arrangements

2.1 The scope of this document encompasses:

- Terms of Reference for the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) Executive Group
- Terms of Reference for Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) Management Group in addition to the relevant GSCP Subgroups and Task and Finish Groups
- Key links between child safeguarding arrangements and the wider governance network for Gloucestershire
- The role and scope of the Independent Scrutiny function
- The role and function of the GSCP Executive Business Unit
- Key Partnership review processes such as safeguarding practice reviews including rapid reviews, Partnership Serious Incident Notification (SIN) arrangements, Child Death reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Multi-Agency Levels of Intervention and Child Safeguarding Threshold Arrangements
- Dispute resolution and escalation processes
- Business planning, annual reporting and performance management
- Multi-Agency child safeguarding training
- Multi Agency audit processes
- Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) Process
- Gambling and Licensing act arrangements
- Arrangements for the management of FOI requests
- Links with multi-agency risk management process as they relate to the safeguarding of children – Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Channel Panel & Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

3.0 Context

3.1 The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children is the key statutory guidance for local Partner agencies to ensure children are kept safe from harm and that the welfare of all children is promoted. Within the guidance, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

3.2 The amendments to the Children Act 2004 introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, establish three Safeguarding Partners with a ‘shared and equal duty’ to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. A Safeguarding Partner in relation to a local authority area is defined as:

- The Local Authority
- An Integrated Care Board for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area
- The Chief Officer of Police for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area

3.3 The arrangements set out in these proposals will apply to the County of Gloucestershire, with the Safeguarding Partners (as defined above) being:

- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

3.4 The Child Death Review Partners for Gloucestershire are:

- Gloucestershire County Council
- NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

3.5 A particular consideration in Gloucestershire is that around 8 -10,000 citizens are registered with NHS Wales and, as such, key services for children and young people such as midwifery, health visiting, and GPs will be provided by services outside of Gloucestershire. In the event of a safeguarding concern, involving a child or young person within that cohort, NHS Gloucestershire ICB will liaise with the relevant NHS Wales agency on behalf of the Safeguarding Partners. It is acknowledged that this does not affect the accountability for child safeguarding arrangements, which remains with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Partners.

3.6 The three Safeguarding Partners, working through the safeguarding structure established under these arrangements, will co-ordinate their safeguarding services and engage the wider range of Partners with continuing Section 11 duties, including:

- Local Authority - children’s and adult social care services, public health, housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services
- NHS organisations and agencies and the independent sector, including NHS England and Integrated Care Boards, NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts and General Practitioners
- Police, including police and crime commissioners and the chief officer of each police force in England and the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime in London
- British Transport Police
- National Probation Service
- Governors/Directors of Prisons and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs)
- Directors of Secure Training Centres (STCs)
- Principals of Secure Colleges
- Youth Offending Teams/Services (YOTs)

3.7 Within these arrangements, the wider Safeguarding Partnership comprises:

- Gloucester City Council
- Stroud District Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council

- Forest of Dean District Council
- Cotswold District Council
- HM Court Services
- Crown Prosecution Service
- National Probation Service
- Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company
- CAFCASS
- Gloucestershire Health & Care Services
- General Practitioners Representative
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Southwest Ambulance Service Trust
- Gloucestershire Association of Special School Heads
- Gloucestershire Association of Primary School Heads
- Gloucestershire Association of Secondary School Heads
- Further Education Representative
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
- Gloucestershire Diocese
- Voluntary Sector

3.8 The guidance includes a requirement for the independent scrutiny of any local arrangements established under Working Together. The guidance is not prescriptive around the form these should take and the GSCP will deliver its independent scrutiny function through a range of means.

3.9 The GSCP is a signatory to the Southwest Child Protection Procedures and, in addition, have a library of established local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. These arrangements are captured in [Appendix 11](#)

3.10 Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Gloucestershire's Information Sharing Partnership Arrangements (GISPA) provides the framework for effective and lawful sharing of information across the Partnership and has been agreed by all parties. It is acknowledged that further work is needed to improve information sharing at the operations level. In order to address this, we have published a GSCP Statement of Expectations to promote and ensure effective facilitative systems and a culture that promotes information sharing for the safeguarding of children. [Appendix 11](#)

3.11 The GSCP identifies its priorities through a cycle of needs assessment, planning, delivery, and review. The priorities (below) comprise of a range of capacity building measures aimed to enhance collective arrangements alongside specific areas of concern or risk, as evidenced through our quality assurance, data and needs assessment activity. These include:

Capacity building:

- Ongoing development of Child Safeguarding Performance Dashboard and quality assurance arrangements.
- Ensuring the consistent application of thresholds across all Safeguarding Partners
- Evaluating the impact of training and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Serious Incidents and Rapid Reviews etc.
- Development of an exploitation/vulnerability profile/strategy
- Ensuring compliance with safeguarding procedures, protocols and tools
- Exploring the conduct and effectiveness of strategy discussions
- Information Sharing for the safeguarding of children

Key safeguarding themes:

- Impact of Exploitation and Missing Strategy
- Child Sexual Abuse and the partnerships response to the IICSA report
- Inclusion - including missing education, exclusions and elective home education
- Pre-birth and reducing injuries in non-mobile babies.
- Children of Concern – developing a multi-agency response before children are in crisis

3.12 The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is subject to collective oversight by a Children's Single Point of Contact & MASH (C-SPA&MASH) Sub-Group which comprises of senior representatives from local Partner agencies and is, in turn, accountable to the Executive. The designation of the sub-group being C-SPA & MASH reflects that not all contacts to the front door are for safeguarding services. There is a consensus amongst the Safeguarding Partners that the Gloucestershire MASH is the key interface for operational activity to safeguard children. Gloucestershire MASH is underpinned by a multi-agency threshold document to ensure a consistent approach amongst Partners towards referrals for children's social care and intervention.

4.0 Key Groups

4.1 The essential architecture of Gloucestershire's arrangements to deliver the requirements of Working Together will comprise:

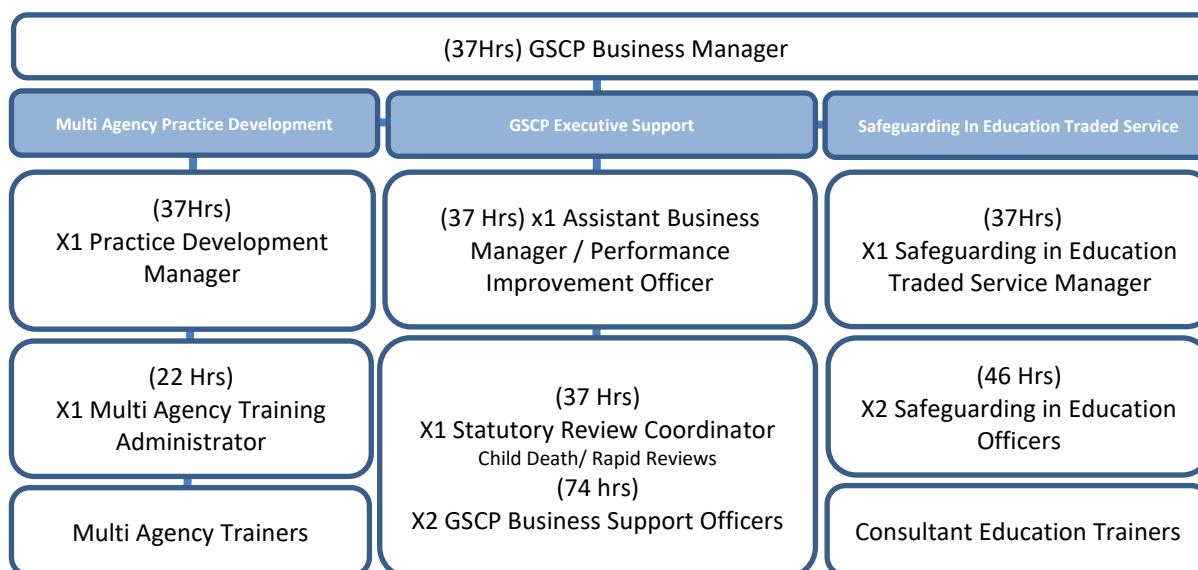
- A Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive comprising of the three principal Safeguarding Partner Strategic Leads, their respective Lead Officers, the Director of Education for the Authority, GSCP Business Manager, GSCP Performance Improvement Officer and Chair of the GSCP Management Group. The GSCP sets the strategic direction for the Partnership and is the key decision-making group for policy, procedural and process changes. Terms of Reference for the Executive are attached at [Appendix 1](#).
- A GSCP Management Group chaired by a senior officer from one of the Safeguarding Partners and comprising of representatives of the local Partner agencies set out in paragraph 3.3. The Chair will be appointed and mandated by the Executive. The Management Group provides direction and support for the GSCP Sub-groups who are the engine room for the development of local child safeguarding arrangements as mandated by the GSCP Executive. Its membership is drawn from the Chairs of the formal GSCP Sub-groups, the GSCP Business Unit Manager and GSCP Performance Improvement Officer. Terms of Reference for the GSCP Management Group are attached at [Appendix 2](#).
- GSCP Sub-groups are in place to drive and deliver the work of the Partnership and are as follows: **(Terms of Reference are attached)**
 1. [Quality and Improvement in Practice Subgroup \(QiiP\)](#)
 2. [Child Death Overview Panel](#)
 3. [Education Subgroup](#)
 4. [Child Exploitation and Missing Subgroup](#)
 5. [Districts Safeguarding Subgroup](#)
 6. [Policies and Procedures Subgroup](#)
 7. [CSPA&MASH Subgroup](#)
- A Scheme of Delegation has been developed setting out the responsibilities and accountabilities for the Executive, Management Group and Sub-groups to ensure decisions are taken at the most appropriate level and subject to effective oversight. On occasion an issue may arise which requires Partner agencies to work together through a Task and Finish Group in order to complete a discrete, time banded piece of work on behalf of the GSCP.
- Independent scrutiny of these arrangements is provided by a range of means and processes. The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance around the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding incidents. Independent scrutiny forms part of a wider assurance system which includes independent inspectorates' (Ofsted, CQC, HMICFRS), individual safeguarding Partners internal assurance processes, Section 11/175 audits and Joint Targeted Area Inspections. Whilst the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny is to be made locally, our commitment is

towards scrutiny that is robust, objective, acting as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection and learning in order to drive continuous improvement.

- The GSCP have set out its arrangements for independent scrutiny and the reporting process for feeding back on the effectiveness of local arrangements, a link to these arrangements is available in [Appendix 11](#).

4.2 Although the primary focus of these arrangements will be the efficacy and sustainability of local safeguarding arrangements, they will also participate in the development of children’s services across Gloucestershire. As such they will have strong links with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Childrens Coalition and Safer Gloucestershire that focus respectively on the health and wellbeing, and safety, of the whole population. [Appendix 10](#) outlines how the work of the Safeguarding Partners established under Working Together will integrate within the strategic governance arrangements for Gloucestershire.

5.0 GSCP Executive Business Unit



5.1 The child safeguarding arrangements set out in this document are supported by the GSCP Business Unit, managed by the GSCP Business Manager reporting directly to the GSCP Executive Chair. Its unique role representing the Partnership affords it the opportunity to provide the GSCP with a management hub for independent scrutiny activity.

5.2 The Business Unit is responsible for delivering the secretariat function for the GSCP. In addition to the oversight and delivery of the following on behalf of the Executive:

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements
 - Commissioning Annual Report writing and publication
 - Publication and revision of the GSCP Published Arrangements
 - Management and deployment of the Independent Scrutiny function
 - Section 11 and S175 Audit processes
 - Safeguarding In Education Assurance Declaration Process
 - Management of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Procedure Manual
 - Administration for the GSCP Safeguarding Structure
 - GSCP Budget Management
 - Safeguarding in Education Traded Service
- Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice
 - Serious Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Process including LCSPR Publication
 - Child Death & Acute Life-Threatening Event (ALTE) Review Processes
 - Multi-Agency Audit Arrangements

- Safeguarding Data Reporting as directed by the GSCP Executive
- Multi-agency Safeguarding Training

5.3 Multi-agency Safeguarding Training is commissioned and delivered through the Business Unit as a safeguarding training curriculum offer underpinned by a set of expectations and quality standards for the Partnership and all relevant agencies. Governance and quality assurance is provided through the [Quality and Improvement in Practice Subgroup](#) (QiIP). Inter-agency safeguarding training arrangements are available in [Appendix 11](#)

5.4 Working Together requires that Safeguarding Partners agree a fair and equitable approach to the funding of any local arrangements. The GSCP agreed an equitable funding model in keeping with the Alan Woods recommendation *“Ensuring that local arrangements are appropriately funded is one of the key tasks of the three Safeguarding Partners”*.

5.5 The development of Gloucestershire’s safeguarding children arrangements will continue to be informed by a range of comprehensive needs assessments and surveys including:

- Children and Young Peoples’ Needs Assessment (2018)
- Safer Gloucestershire Needs Assessment (2018)
- Online Pupil Survey
- Serious Safeguarding Practice Review findings
- Multi and single agency audits
- Other Partnership reviews and audits
- Data Exception Reporting to the Executive

6.0 Annual Reporting, Business Planning, Performance Management and Quality Assurance

6.2 GSCP has an approved a child safeguarding data dashboard drawn from an appropriate range of national indicators with the GSCP Sub-Groups holding arrangements for data collection and exceptions reporting at a sub-group level to the Executive. The Executive have a full time Performance Improvement Officer as part of the Business Unit to support and improve the Partnerships ability to collect, collate and analyse data.

6.3 Reporting on the dashboard traditionally is on a quarterly, retrospective basis and feeds into all sub-groups for analysis and exceptions reporting through the Management Group to the Executive. The aim is to provide the GSCP with a ‘narrative’ of performance, highlighting areas of effectiveness and of concern, as the basis for collective action, mandated/directed by the Executive and with a direct focus on the most vulnerable cohorts of children. The Child Safeguarding Dashboard will be subject to annual review through all sub-groups.

6.4 The GSCP currently uses a variety of approaches to test the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across agencies including the use of an annual safeguarding audit – Section 11 Audit (for agencies), a Safeguarding Assurance Declaration (for schools and colleges) and a safeguarding compliance audit for Early Years provision. Section 11 responsibilities are reinforced within Working Together to Safeguard Children; the GSCP has developed a model for Section 11 audits and the potential for shorter thematic audits where a clear link to serious safeguarding case review and other review findings dictate the need for assurances in the following S11 Standards:

- Leadership and Accountability
- Staff Safe Recruitment, Induction, Training and Development
- Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- Listening to Children and Young People

6.5 The GSCP utilises multi agency auditing of selected cases and or themes to review and understand the efficacy of multi-agency arrangements to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and measure the impact on children and families. In line with their statutory responsibilities under

Working together 2018, multi-agency auditing affords the GSCP Executive a base line on the quality of partnership working, to understand gaps in services, and to highlight areas the GSCP will be required to focus on.

6.6 Multi Agency Auditing requires partners and relevant agencies to share personal and sensitive information relating to children, young people and families to assess the efficacy of multi-agency working. The GSCP Executive considers the lawful basis under which partners and relevant agencies share information as part of multi-agency audit arrangements, to be that of 'public task' with reference to the GSCP's respective s10 and s11 (Children Act 2004) duties to ensure the GSCP has effective partnership arrangements in place to promote the safety and wellbeing of children.

7.0 Multi-Agency Threshold Arrangements

7.1 GSCP regularly revises their collective approach toward the provision of support for children and families. They set out Gloucestershire's Levels of Intervention Guidance – Working Together to Provide Early Help, Targeted and Specialist Support for Children and Families in Gloucestershire. A link can be found in [Appendix 11](#) to the most current version including a schedule of revisions table summarising how this has developed.

7.2 Regular review and collective exploration of the effectiveness of threshold application will remain a priority within Gloucestershire's child safeguarding arrangements in partnership with the Childrens Coalition who oversee the development of the Early Help Graduated Pathway.

8.0 Links with Schools, Educational Settings, and Early Years Providers

8.1 Schools, education settings and early year's providers have a pivotal role to play in promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. It is important to note that the guidance provided by Working Together to Safeguard Children applies in its entirety to all education and early years settings, as 'Relevant Agencies'. The GSCP seeks assurance about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within these sectors through its annual Safeguarding Assurance Declaration Process.

8.2 The GSCP Education Sub-Group provides a robust oversight over the interconnectivity between the partnership and the education sector. The education settings are engaged through the GSCP processes with the Gloucestershire Education Associations providing a mandate for the GCC Director of Education to take a seat at the GSCP Executive to represent the sector. Relationships are robust and well developed. Engagement with early years' settings is via an active 'Early Years Forum' with representation drawn from across the sector.

8.3 There is a Traded Service for Education & Early Years Settings in place under the GSCP, delivered through its Business Unit. It offers bespoke training, information advice and guidance, regular updates and brief guides around thematic issues. The team currently serves around 87% of settings in Gloucestershire. The Traded Service supports participating settings with regards to their legal duties and responsibilities under primary safeguarding legislation, including the most current Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children. The legal duties under this legislation and the duty to respond to local arrangements remains that of the educational setting itself.

9.0 Child Death, Rapid Review and Serious Incident Notifications

9.1 Ofsted has published guidance on how local authorities should report a serious incident of child abuse or neglect, or the death of a child who is looked after. Since 29th June 2018, local authorities in England have been required to notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident. Notifications must be made using the online form for notifications of serious incidents for local authorities.

9.2 In order to ensure Gloucestershire Safeguarding Partners and local agencies can comply with these changes, a multi-agency process guide has been developed, including the Partnerships Serious Incident Notification (SIN) Process arrangements. A link to this is available in [Appendix 11](#). It is important

to note that its aim is to ensure a timely and appropriate response by local agencies when they become aware of a child death, acute life-threatening event or serious safeguarding incident.

Once notification has commenced, this will then flow into a Child Death Review or child safeguarding practice review at local or national level, the latter informed by the views of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (National Panel).

9.3 Responsibility for learning the lessons from serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the National Panel and at local level with the GSCP. The QiiP Subgroup will provide the link between the national and local response to incidents.

9.4 The GSCP has overall responsibility for ensuring that all incidents are notified in accordance with local guidance to ensure that the reporting requirements are met and the criteria for a local review. A rapid review will be initiated by the Business Unit, to be completed within 15 days of the notification and sent to the National Panel.

9.5 Any decision to commence a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR), or not to do so will be for the QiiP Subgroup delegated by the GSCP Executive, as informed by the findings of a Rapid Review. The Chair of the Executive shall consult with the Business Manager on any occasion in which there is a lack of agreement between the Safeguarding Partners setting out an independent oversight solution on a case-by-case basis.

9.6 Any local child safeguarding practice reviews initiated under these arrangements shall be scoped and commissioned in accordance with Working Together. The GSCP, via the work of the QiiP Subgroup, will agree the terms of reference and methodology for any review and appoint a suitable lead reviewer, having regard to the circumstances of each case and the particular knowledge and expertise this will require of the reviewer. The GSCP Executive will have the final decision on publishing arrangements and ensure a copy is provided to the National Panel and DfE no less than 7 working days ahead of publication. The presumption is that a report will be published unless the Safeguarding Partners consider it inappropriate to do so. The rationale for not publishing a local review will also be provided within the same timescales.

10.0 Escalation of Professional Concerns – Dispute Resolution

10.1 The GSCP has a robust escalation and dispute resolution guidance policy document and process in line with Working Together and the Southwest Child Protection Procedure Manual. A link to the escalation guidance is available in [Appendix 11](#)

10.2 A central feature of our arrangements is a commitment to ongoing inter-agency communication based on openness; transparency and mutual respect in order to resolve concerns by informal means, with the use of formal processes kept to a minimum. Dispute resolution will also be child-centred, with clarity on the impact/change for the child the escalation is seeking to achieve.

10.4 The Chair of the GSCP Executive supported by the Business Manager will be the final stage of local resolution. It is acknowledged that Safeguarding Partners are able in extremis to escalate concerns to the Secretary of State if local resolution is not achieved.

11.0 The Views of Children and Families

11.1 Obtaining the views of children, young people and families is essential in ensuring that local agencies and services are well positioned to meet their needs and particularly so in ensuring that the most vulnerable children are effectively safeguarded.

11.2 A key element within the Independent Scrutiny function will be to commission and report on suitable consultation with the Ambassadors, Children in Care and Care Leavers Groups to ensure their views are contributing towards the development and efficacy of child safeguarding arrangements.

11.3 Engagement of local youth participants in the GSCP Section 11 Audit process has been implemented and will be co-developed with young people.

11.4 The effectiveness of Childrens Advocacy, Independent Visitors, Appropriate Adults, return interview and support services for children and young people is an area that the GSCP will remain focused on as part of these arrangements.

12.0 Domestic Homicide Review Protocol

12.1 Safer Gloucestershire, which is the countywide Partnership for safer community activity in Gloucestershire, has a published protocol for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in order to ensure a consistent approach to the completion and dissemination of multi-agency learning across the county. A link to the DHR Protocol (2018) is available in [Appendix 11](#)

12.2 There is recognition within the protocol that a domestic homicide may trigger a requirement for other reviews, such as a local or national child safeguarding practice review. In these circumstances the DHR protocol provides for a joint review process in order to avoid duplication and maximise learning, whilst ensuring the requirements of each review process are satisfied.

13.0 Child Death Overview Panel

13.1 Gloucestershire has a well-established Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) that facilitates comprehensive multi-agency reviews of child deaths and Acute Life-Threatening Events, in order to better understand how and why children die. Terms of Reference for the Child Death Overview Panel and the outline arrangements for the conduct of a child death review are available through the link in [Appendix 11](#)

13.2 The child death review Partners with the responsibility for Child Death Reviews are the Local Authority and the NHS Integrated Care Board. They have committed to the ongoing purchase of eCDOP. This provides a secure, flexible web-based solution to facilitate the CDR processes whilst ensuring seamless transition of data from Gloucestershire to the National Child Mortality Data Base Service (NCMD).

14.0 Channel Panel

14.1 Gloucestershire has a well-established Channel Panel that operates alongside our multi-agency child safeguarding arrangements, acknowledging that the radicalisation of children and young people involves the potential for safeguarding harm. The involvement of children's social care practitioners within both our Channel and Safeguarding Partnership ensures that where vulnerabilities are identified that require intervention from social services or the individual is known to social services the appropriate support is provided.

15.0 People in Positions of Trust: Allegations Management Arrangements

15.1 Local authorities should put in place arrangements to provide advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations and agencies on how to deal with allegations against people who work with children. Local authorities should also ensure that there are appropriate arrangements in place to liaise effectively with the police and other organisations and agencies to monitor the progress of cases and ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process.

15.2 In Gloucestershire the Local Authority has an appointed Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to manage allegations against people in a position of trust. The Allegations Management process can be found via the link in [Appendix 11](#)

15.3 The GSCP will provide guidance and information for employers in relation to the Employers responsibilities as relating to effective and efficient management of allegations and low-level concerns relating to adults in a position of trust. This guidance can be found in [Appendix 11](#).

16.0 Duties under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005

16.1 Licensing Authorities (each of the six districts in Gloucestershire) are required by regulations to state the principles they will apply in exercising their powers (2005 Act, s.157(h)) to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- The need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the Licensing Authority's area; and
- The need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.

16.2 In accordance with the guidance the Licensing Authorities have designated the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP), comprising of NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary.

16.3 The GSCP Executive will review and delegate its duties as 'Responsible Authority' to the most suitable Safeguarding Partners for this purpose setting out its arrangements in its own 'Published Arrangements' document.

16.4 The Partners delegated to operate as the Responsible Authority in this area will be Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire Public Health.

17.0 Freedom of Information (FOI) and Subject Access Request (SAR)

17.1 Freedom of Information Requests

- The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) is in itself not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and is under no obligation to provide information in response to requests received by its partner organisations or directly through the Business Unit. It is recognised that there may be occasions when the Safeguarding Business Unit on behalf of the GSCP and/or the Child Death Review Partners volunteers information to support a timely and importantly accurate response. All FOI requests received by the Partners relating to safeguarding or child deaths will be shared with the GSCP Business Unit for consideration. Where the Business Unit is voluntarily sharing information, this must be made clear in any response to an FOI by the partners.

17.2 Subject Access Requests (SAR)

- In relation to Child Death Reviews: The Data controllers for Child Death Reviews resides with the ICB and Local Authority as the statutory child death review partners. The personal data of a deceased individual is not captured by the Data Protection Act as this only applies to living individuals; therefore, SAR requests are invalid. However to ensure our duty of care to the family of any deceased individuals the GSCP would defer to the Local Authorities internal process for the management of requests for such personal data under GCC's [Access to deceased person's records policy](#).
- In relation to Safeguarding Reviews. The data controllers for any safeguarding review undertaken through the statutory duties of the GSCP resided with the Local Authority, NHS ICB and the Constabulary. Any requests received will require all three partners to jointly consider and respond to such requests. These requests cannot be processed or managed by the GSCP Business Unit and will always be referred to the relevant partners teams.

18.0 Placements from other Local Authorities in Gloucestershire Guidance

18.1 In accordance with The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, Local Authorities placing young persons in the area of another Local Authority are required to provide written notification to the Authority concerned.

18.2 In addition and according to statutory health guidance, “when a child starts to be looked after or changes placement, the Local Authority must, before the placement is made, notify the child’s GP, parents (except where clearly inappropriate) and those caring for the child. When a child starts to be looked after, changes placement or ceases to be looked after, the Local Authority must also notify in writing:

- the ICB for the area in which the child is living
- the ICB and the Local Authority for the area in which the child is to be/has been placed”

and;

“ICBs and officers in Local Authorities who are responsible for looked after children’s services should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to meet the identified health needs of the looked-after children population, including those placed in their area by other Local Authorities, based on the range of data available about their health characteristics”

[Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked-after Children; Statutory guidance for local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and NHS England, DfE, DoH, 2015,](#)

18.3 The GSCP has set out a [Guidance Document](#) for other Local Authorities detailing the expected legal arrangements whilst detailing key contacts and enabling effective information sharing. The Guidance Document can be found in [Appendix 11](#).

19.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 [GSCP Executive Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 2 [GSCP Management Group Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 3 [Quality and Improvement in Practice \(QiiP\) Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 4 [Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\) Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 5 [Education Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 6 [Child Exploitation and Missing Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 7 [Districts Safeguarding Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 8 [Policies and Procedures Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 9 [CSPA & MASH Subgroup Terms of Reference](#)
- Appendix 10 [Links with existing governance and delivery](#)
- Appendix 11 [Links to GSCP Processes](#)

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive

1. Purpose

To provide effective leadership for the work of local Partners and agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Gloucestershire. To ensure the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and place the welfare and protection of children and young people at the heart of the local vision for Gloucestershire.

2. Membership

- Assistant Chief Constable: Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Head of Public Protection Unit: Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Director of Children's Services
- Director of Children's Safeguarding and Care
- Chief Nurse: Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (Chair 2020 – 2023)
- Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children – Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Director of Education Gloucestershire County Council
- Safeguarding Business Manager (GSCP Lead Safeguarding Support Officer)
- GSCP Performance Improvement Officer
- Chair of Safeguarding Management Group

3. Quoracy

The Three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary

4. Key Objectives

The key objectives for Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Executive are to ensure:

- children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted.
- there is an exhaustive appreciation of the effectiveness of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements through robust quality assurance and performance management arrangements
- there are robust arrangements in place for local Rapid Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Child Death Reviews
- there is a robust cycle of needs assessment, planning and delivery to support the continuous development of local child safeguarding arrangements
- effective direction is given to the Safeguarding Management Group and Sub-groups to ensure they are focussed on established priorities and having a positive impact on child safeguarding arrangements.
- there is early identification and analysis of new and emerging child safeguarding issues
- Partner organisations and agencies challenge and hold one another to account for the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements through regular and open dialogue with escalation used as a last resort.
- learning and continuous professional development are an integral element within local safeguarding arrangements including the learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Rapid Reviews, Child Death Reviews and other multi-agency learning and quality assurance activity.
- there are effective information sharing arrangements in place to support accurate and timely decision making for children and families
- the development of local child safeguarding arrangements takes place within the context of the local vision for children and young people in Gloucestershire, with ongoing liaison with other key partnerships including Safer Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire's Wellbeing Coalition.

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Appendix 2

Terms of Reference Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Management Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

To deliver the key local priorities for child safeguarding as directed by Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive.

To co-ordinate the work of the multi-agency Safeguarding Subgroups and provide regular updates on progress to Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive

To ensure there are robust links with the wider network of safeguarding activity in locality-based partnerships, the education sector and health economy.

2. Membership

- Nominated Chair by the GSPC Executive
- Chair – Quality and Improvement in Practice Subgroup
- Chair – Child Missing and Exploitation Subgroup
- Chair – Education and Early Years Subgroup
- Chair – Child Death Overview Panel
- Chair – Districts Safeguarding Group
- Chair – MASH Subgroup
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Representative
- ICB Designated Doctor for Safeguarding
- GSCP Business Manager
- GSCP Performance Improvement Officer

3. Quoracy

The Three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary

4. Key Objectives

Working on behalf of Safeguarding Partners, the key objectives of the GSCP Management Group are to ensure:

- there is an effective cycle of needs assessment, planning and delivery in place to deliver the priorities and vision of the GSCP – this will include ensuring each Sub-group has an annual work programme that aligns with GSCP Business Plan
- to ensure the delivery of the vision and priorities established by the GSCP as set out in the annual child safeguarding Business Plan.
- to provide regular updates on the work of the Sub-groups against the agreed priorities of the GSCP, highlighting any concerns/blockages.
- local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Rapid Reviews and Child Death Reviews are facilitated in a timely manner working alongside and in partnership with each other in accordance with statutory requirements
- ensure robust arrangements for multi-agency child safeguarding policies and procedures including an appropriate review and updating schedule.
- a programme of multi-agency child safeguarding training and development is in place, based on an assessment of local needs.
- the local multi-agency levels of Intervention and thresholds document is subject to regular review.
- to produce an annual report/assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements, incorporating the views of the independent scrutineer or independent scrutiny function.

- to facilitate periodic audit of agency Section 11 and Section 175 arrangements or their equivalent.
- to scrutinise the effectiveness of key plans and strategies for the safeguarding of children.
- effective performance management and quality assurance arrangements are in place to ensure the GSCP has an exhaustive appreciation of the effectiveness and impact of local child safeguarding arrangements.

5. Frequency of meetings:

Eight times per year to align with quarterly meeting of the GSCP Executive and its sub-groups

Appendix 3

Terms of Reference Quality and Improvement in Practice (QiiP) Sub-Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

To ensure that the learning from case file auditing, performance data, CSPRs and critical incidents translate into improved safeguarding practice and better outcomes for children and young people

2. Membership

- Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- GCC Head of Quality
- GSCP Business Manager
- GCC Education Department
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Gloucestershire NHS Hospitals Trust
- Gloucestershire Health & Care Trust
- GSAB Business Unit Manager
- Youth Support / Youth Offending Service
- Domestic Abuse Coordinator
- Drug & Alcohol Services
- GCC Early Help
- GSCP Practice Development Manager
- Child Death Review Team Member
- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue

It is imperative that the QiiP Sub-Group has committed and sustained representation from Partner agencies and organisations. Members must have appropriate seniority, enabling each a mandate to take decisive actions on matters arising.

3. Quoracy Subgroup & Statutory Procedural Arrangements

Quoracy under statutory procedural arrangements will be set out in the relevant procedural documentation. For non-procedural QiiP activity quoracy will be the three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary or at the discretion of the Chair

4. Key Objectives

- Ensure an effective cycle of quality assurance and practice improvement in place, appropriately planned, and focused on the priorities established by the Executive.
- To oversee and quality assure the work of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews in accordance with statutory requirements.
- To ensure that a robust program of multi-agency training and development is in place, based on an assessment of local needs and GSCE priorities.
- To develop and enable a mechanism by which we know practice is improving and is providing visibility on the impact of local safeguarding arrangements. This means using a range of performance management measures and quality assurance arrangements, including:
 - Detailed reporting and informed analysis from the GSCE quarterly data scorecard
 - Multi-agency training reports on attendance, evaluation, quality, and impact.
 - A range of multi-agency audit planning, including case file audits.
 - The development of a dynamic 'learning hub' model.
- Oversight on the periodic audit of agency Section 11 and Section 175 arrangements or their equivalent.
- Mobilising specific 'task and finish' groups as need appropriates.
- To assure the Levels of Intervention Guidance (local multi-agency thresholds document) is actively promoted and subject to regular update and review.
- To be inclusive and collaborative within agencies and organisations, recognising and sharing good practice across the Partnership.

5. Frequency of meetings:

- four times per year to align with quarterly meeting of the GSCE delivery Board. The sub-group may choose to meet more frequently, up to six times a year, dependent upon current need.
- Meetings will be held in the mornings on the same day of the week (where practicable) and in the same period of the quarter where possible and will be for 3 hours.

Appendix 4

Terms of Reference Child Death Overview Panel

The subgroup is accountable to the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board and Gloucestershire County Council's Children's Services. It supports the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive to fulfil its statutory responsibility to review all deaths in childhood and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child deaths, the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) aims to better understand how and why children in Gloucestershire die and use local findings to take action to prevent other similar deaths and improve the health and safety of Gloucestershire children.

In carrying out activities to pursue this purpose, the CDOP will meet the functions set out in paragraph 7.4 of Working Together to Safeguard Children in relation to the deaths of any children normally resident in Gloucestershire. Namely collecting and analysing information about each death with a view to identifying –

- (i) any case giving rise to the need for a Rapid Review/LSCPR
- (ii) any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in Gloucestershire
- (iii) any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in Gloucestershire

2. Objectives

- To ensure, in consultation with the local Coroner, that local procedures and protocols are developed, implemented and monitored, in line with the guidance in Working Together on enquiring into unexpected deaths.
- To ensure the accurate identification of and uniform, consistent reporting of the cause and manner of every child death.
- To collect and collate an agreed minimum data set of information on all child deaths in Gloucestershire and, where relevant, to seek additional information from professionals and family members.
- To evaluate data on the deaths of all children normally resident in Gloucestershire, thereby identifying lessons to be learnt or issues of concern, with a particular focus on effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- To evaluate specific cases in depth, where necessary to learn lessons or identify issues of concern.
- To identify significant risk factors and trends in individual child deaths and in the overall patterns of deaths in Gloucestershire, including relevant environmental, social, health and cultural aspects of each death, and any systemic or structural factors affecting children's well-being to ensure a thorough consideration of how such deaths might be prevented in the future.
- To identify any Public Health issues and consider, with the Director of Public Health and other provider services how best to address these and their implications for both the provision of services and for training.
- To identify and advocate for needed changes in legislation, policy and practices to promote child health and safety and to prevent child deaths.
- To increase public awareness and advocacy for the issues that affects the health and safety of children.

- Where concerns of a criminal or child protection nature are identified, to ensure that the Police and Coroner are aware and to inform them of any specific new information that may influence their inquiries; to notify the GSCP of those concerns and advise on the need for further enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act, or of the need for a Rapid Review/LSPR.
- To improve agency responses to child deaths through monitoring the appropriateness of the response of professionals to each unexpected death of a child, reviewing the reports produced by the rapid response team and providing the professionals concerned with feedback on their work.
- To provide relevant information to those professionals involved with the child's family so that they, in turn, can convey this information in a sensitive and timely manner to the family.
- To monitor the support and assessment services offered to families of children who have died.
- To monitor and advise the GSCP on the resources and training required locally to ensure an effective inter-agency response to child deaths.
- To co-operate with any regional and national initiatives – e.g. the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH). Collation of data with other neighbouring CDOPs across the region – in order to identify lessons on the prevention of child deaths.

3. Scope

The CDOP will gather and assess data on the deaths of all children from infancy where the baby has shown signs of life (but excludes live born terminations and babies who are stillborn) to all children and young people less than 18 years of age who are normally resident in Gloucestershire. This will include neonatal deaths, expected and unexpected deaths in infants and in older children. Where a child normally resident in another area dies within Gloucestershire, that death shall be notified to the CDOP in the child's area of residence. Similarly, when a child normally resident in Gloucestershire dies outside Gloucestershire the Gloucestershire CDOP should be notified. In both cases an agreement should be made as to which CDOP (normally that of the child's area of residence) will review the child's death and how they will report to the other.

Team Membership

The Child Death Overview Panel will have a permanent core membership drawn from the following key organisations represented on the GSCP and from other relevant organisations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Consultant in Public Health – to Chair CDOP | • Police Child Protection Unit |
| • Designated Consultant Paediatrician | • Bereavement Counsellor e.g. Winston's Wish |
| • Designated Safeguarding Nurse | • University Academic |
| • Coroner's Office | • Administration Support |
| • Midwifery | • Not mentioned health providers – GHT/GHC/SWAST/Primary care |
| • Lay representative | |
| • Children's Social Care | |

CDOP core members will nominate a suitable deputy who will attend meetings in the absence of core members.

Other members may be co-opted to contribute to the discussion of certain types of death when they occur:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Emergency Department medical and nursing staff | • Other Police representatives including accident investigators |
| • Primary Care | • Fire Services |
| • Other paediatric input | • Ambulance/Paramedic services |
| • Obstetric staff | • Education |

- Paediatric Pathologist
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Adult Mental Health Services
- Voluntary agencies
- Registrar of Births, Deaths, Marriages
- Community Safety
- Others as required

The Chair has the discretion to defer the meeting if the appropriate representatives or deputies, with relevant skill mix are not available for a meeting or there are insufficient numbers for the meeting to be held effectively.

4. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Some information discussed at the CDOP meetings will not be anonymised prior to the meeting, it is therefore essential that all members adhere to strict guidelines on confidentiality and information sharing. Information is being shared in the public interest for the purposes set out in Working Together and is bound by legislation on data protection.

CDOP members will all be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before participating in the CDOP. Any ad-hoc or co-opted members and observers will also be required to sign/verbally agree the confidentiality agreement. At each meeting of the CDOP all participants will be required to sign an attendance sheet, confirming that they have understood and signed the confidentiality agreement. If virtual meetings are held members will be asked to confirm their agreement at the beginning of the meeting.

Any reports, minutes and recommendations arising from the CDOP will be fully anonymised and steps taken to ensure that no personal information can be identified.

5. Accountability and Reporting arrangements

The CDOP will be accountable to the chair of the GSCP Executive.

The Child Death Overview Panel is responsible for ensuring the child death team is held to account for the thorough review of all child deaths. CDOP will develop its work plan, which should be approved by the GSCP. It will prepare an annual report for the GSCP.

The GSCP takes responsibility for disseminating the lessons to be learnt to all relevant organisations and acts on any recommendations to improve policy, professional practice and inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The GSCP will supply data regularly on every child death as required by the Department for Education and Skills to bodies commissioned by the Department to undertake and publish nationally comparable, anonymised analyses of these deaths.

The CDOP will also provide data to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) on a regular basis via eCDOP.

6. Frequency of Meetings

The CDOP will in general meet at 2 monthly intervals but may hold extra meetings if matters are identified by the Chair of the panel or Chair of the Executive which require an earlier response.

7. Administration

- Meetings will be supported by the Statutory Reviews Coordinator and reports/minutes will be circulated 7 days prior to the next meeting ~~within 2 weeks of the meeting being held.~~
- Agenda and supporting papers will be circulated at least one week in advance of the meeting.

- The Chair of the CDOP will ensure co-ordination with other working groups and will facilitate an annual review of these terms of reference and other associated documentation, amending as necessary.

Appendix 5

Terms of Reference Education Subgroup

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive and supports it to fulfil a statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

The Education Sub-Group is a multi-agency group set up to oversee and monitor activity, compliance, and performance in the identified key objective priority areas, giving assurances or reporting concerns to the GSCP Executive relating to safeguarding children. The group will provide a Management Report to the GSCP Management Group on a quarterly basis.

2. Membership

- Gloucestershire Children's Social Care
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- Gloucestershire County Council Education Department
- Gloucestershire Association Primary Heads
- Gloucestershire Association Secondary Heads
- Gloucestershire Association of Special School Heads
- Gloucestershire SEND & EHCP
- Alternative Provision
- Youth Support Team
- Gloucestershire Health & Care Trust Head of School Nursing
- Office of the LADO
- Gloucestershire County Council Specialist Commissioning
- Further, Higher, and Independent Settings
- Associate Members as determined by the subgroup.
- GSCP Business Manager

3. Quoracy

ICB (or other Health Trust), Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary, two of the three education associations. Quoracy can be determined at the discretion of the Chair.

4. Key Objectives

The priority areas set out will be managed and monitored through the efficient use of data and exceptions reporting and though, where needed, the creation of task and finish/working groups. The group holds the delegated authority to identify and respond to emerging need within the education sector as relating to safeguarding of children.

- Keeping Children Safe in Education assurance activity
- SEND & EHCP
- Exclusions and attendance
- Section 19 Duties
- Education for Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School
- Use of AP and third sector provision, & illegal schools
- Elective Home Education
- Statutory Inclusion Duties
- Children Missing Education & Educational Neglect
- Child On Child Abuse
- Allegations Management Relating to Education Settings
- Settings of concern
- Oversight of Ofsted & other safeguarding complaints/concern

5. Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Appendix 6

Terms of Reference Child Exploitation and Missing Sub-Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

Set out, review, monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the county's approach to identifying and tackling child criminal exploitation (CCE), sexual exploitation (CSE) and missing episodes and to raise awareness of child exploitation and missing within agencies and communities and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of responses for children who are exploited and/or go missing.

2. Membership

Sub-group membership will include appropriate representatives from

- Gloucestershire County Council Childrens Social Care,
- Gloucestershire Constabulary,
- Gloucestershire ICB and / or Heath Trusts
- Gloucestershire Education Department
- Youth Support / Youth Justice
- Voluntary Sector Organisation/s

3. Quoracy

The Three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB (or other nominated Health Trust), Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary or at the discretion of the Chair

4. Objectives:

- Develop and implement the county's strategy to combat child exploitation with consideration to regional and national strategies.
- Agree actions to minimise harm to children and young people and achieve the GSCP objectives.
- Ensure that protocols including information sharing in respect of CSE, CCE and missing children are relevant, up to date, and effective.
- Understand data and identify emerging patterns, threats, risks and opportunities relating to CCE, CSE and missing children so that agencies may target their service delivery activities appropriately.
- Undertake quality assurance audits of CCE, CSE & Missing cases to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding work and hold agencies to account.
- Promote an understanding of CSE, CCE and missing in Gloucestershire amongst professionals and the public.
- Encourage engagement with young people and the use of their feedback to improve services.
- Consider serious case reviews, operation debrief and other relevant publications, ensuring that best practice is considered, disseminated and implemented.
- Identify training needs in conjunction with the QiiP Subgroup.
- Ensure joined up working with other GSCP sub-groups and Partner groups

5. Frequency of Meetings The sub-group will meet every eight weeks with the Chair of the sub-group providing a quarterly update regarding work and activities to the GSCP.

Appendix 7

Terms of Reference Districts Safeguarding Sub-Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB) and supports them to fulfil their statutory responsibilities to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children and adults in need of care and support.

1. Purpose

To ensure that all Gloucestershire's District Councils are meeting their duties and obligations under the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children and the Care Act 2014, increasing the visibility of the district council functions in the work of the GSCP and GSAB.

2. Membership

- Stroud District Council
- Tewksbury Borough Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Cotswold District Council
- Gloucester City Council
- Safeguarding Adults Board Business Manager
- GSCP Business Unit Manager
- GSCP Performance Improvement Officer
- GSCP Practice Development Manager

3. Quoracy

As a minimum four of the six districts must be in attendance.

4. Key Objectives

- Oversight on the requirements under the Children Act 2004 Section 11 to report to the GSCP on the collective district arrangements for safeguarding
- Reviewing S3 Licencing Act requirements and making recommendations to the GSCP on its implementation and oversight.
- Mobilising specific 'task and finish' groups as need appropriates.
- Liaison over the completion of the GSAB Self-Assessment Audit for Partner Agencies (including District Councils).
- Sharing learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (as necessary/relevant).
- To be inclusive and collaborative within agencies and organisations, recognising and sharing good practice across the Partnership.

4. Frequency of meetings:

- Four times per year to align with quarterly meeting of the GSCE Management Group and the GSAB Business Planning Group. The sub-group may choose to meet more frequently

5. Other Information

- Chair to rotate on a 12 monthly basis between Districts
- Chair to hold GSCP brief and Deputy Chair to hold GSAB brief on 12 monthly basis
- S11 lead to be nominated for 12 month tenure on rotation

Appendix 8

Terms of Reference Policies & Procedures Sub-Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

1. Purpose

To ensure that the GSCP Executive has multi-agency policy, protocols, procedures, and guidance in place which promote the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people in Gloucestershire and to ensure that policies are available that reflect national and local need.

2. Membership

- Gloucestershire ICB
- Gloucestershire Childrens Social Care
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- GSCP Executive Business Unit Manager
- Other specialist agency as required to advise and assist in the writing and review of policies and procedures

3. Quoracy

The Three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB, Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary or at the discretion of the Chair.

4. Key Objectives

- Oversee the development and writing of local protocols on key issues of concern, as agreed/directed by the Executive
- Oversee and contribute to the development and updating of the [Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures](#)
- Set out, control, and oversee a review cycle for all policies, procedures and local arrangements ensuring standardisation of look, quality, and version control
- To receive, review, agree, implement, and where appropriate develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Gloucestershire
- Ensure there is agreement and understanding across agencies about operational practice in relation to each new policy, procedure, guidance or research findings and work with the Quality and Improvement in Practice subgroup (QiiP) to facilitate the translation into practice.
- Agree actions to resolve issues identified by new policies, procedures, guidance, or research findings.
- Monitor (and advise the Quality and Improvement in Practice Sub-Group as required, in line with national guidance) the processes, protocols and procedures in relation to Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Rapid Reviews and Multi-agency audit processes

5. Frequency of meetings:

Twice a year to align with the Procedure Manual review cycle. The sub-group may choose to meet more frequently or to conduct business virtually between the twice-yearly meetings.

Appendix 9

Terms of Reference MASH Sub-Group

The sub-group is accountable to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive (Executive) and supports it to fulfil its statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children.

6. Purpose

The MASH Sub-Group is a multi-agency group which meets to oversee the effective operation of and adherence to the MASH Operating Principles

7. Membership

- Gloucestershire Children's Social Care
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- Gloucestershire Health & Care Trust
- Service Manager MASH
- Education Research
- Gloucestershire Early Help Service
- Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Advisory Service
- Commissioned Drug and Alcohol Services
- GSCP Business Manager

8. Quoracy

The Three lead Safeguarding Partners, Gloucestershire ICB (or other Health Trust), Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Constabulary or at the discretion of the Chair

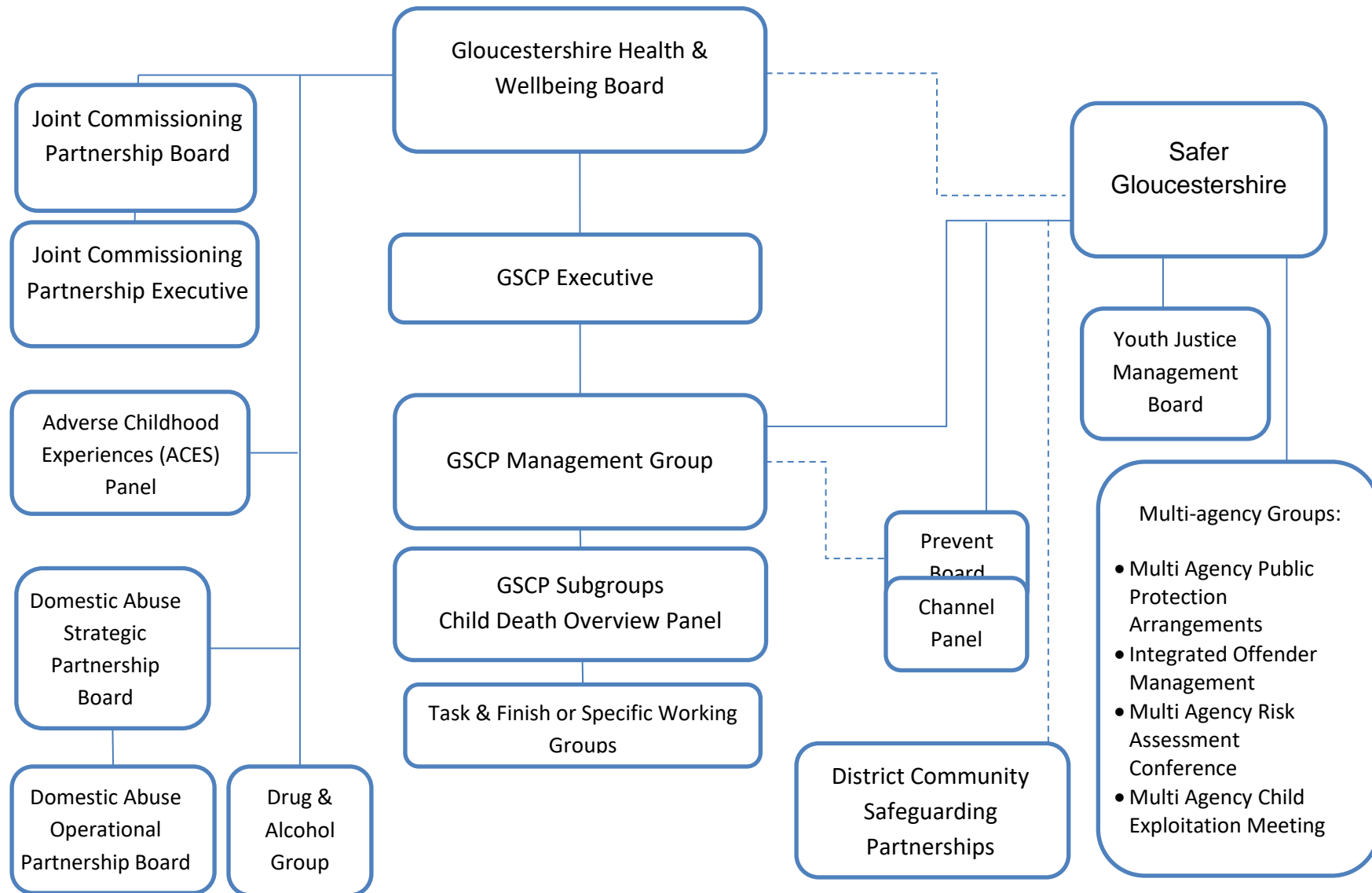
9. Key Objectives

- To oversee and monitor performance as presented via MASH - C-SPA operational group
- To address any issues that have been escalated via MASH - C-SPA operational group
- Monitor performance of the MASH against the agreed performance indicators developed from MASH data and agencies located within or virtually connected to the MASH including:
 - contacts and referrals including conversion rate from contact to referral
 - Presenting issues
 - Category of risk
 - Timeliness
 - Agency contribution
 - Outcome indicators
 - Repeat referrals
 - Feedback activity
- Consider and report on the following quality measures:
 - Quality of referrals by agency auditing of MARF's by MASH Operational Group with outcomes shared by Partners in their own agency as part of learning and as part of the GSCP Multi Agency audit activity
 - Decision making by MASH - C-SPA as part of the GSCP auditing activity
 - Continue to develop the MASH in line with best practice
 - Review the MASH Operating Principles on an annual basis as a minimum (priority)
- Provide a Management Report to the GSCP Management Group on a quarterly basis

10. Frequency of meetings:

Quarterly

Working Together links to Gloucestershire Governance Network



Appendix 12

Key Links

The following links allow access to the GSCP published processes as set out in this document

1. [Independent Scrutiny Function](#)
2. [Our Safeguarding Partnership](#)
3. [Gloucestershire's Levels of Intervention Guidance – Working Together to Provide Early Help, Targeted and Specialist Support for Children and Families in Gloucestershire](#)
4. [Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)
5. [S11 of the Children Act 2004 Process](#)
6. [Gloucestershire's Information Sharing Partnership Arrangements](#)
7. [Early Help Practice Guidance](#)
8. [Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance \(England\)](#)
9. [Multi-Agency Learning and Development arrangements.](#)
10. [GSCP Placements from other Local Authorities in Gloucestershire Guidance Document](#)
11. [Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures](#)
12. [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#)
13. [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)
14. [GSCP Annual Reports](#)
15. [Allegations Management Function and Process](#)

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership

