Advanced Child Protection UPDATE Training Handout

This course is commissioned for professionals from all organisations by the South Gloucestershire Children' Partnership.

The children's partnership is the strategic body that ensures children are safeguarded with appropriate policies and procedures and ensures the children's workforce has access to multi agency training to help equip them working together effectively for children and families. Your feedback on today's course will go directly to the partnership to help ensure the training offer is the best it can be.

This package is designed to complement the trainer led facilitation of this training through discussion and activities. It is put together as a learning aid, and to signpost and encourage additional learning and further development.

Please note that safeguarding and child protection policies and practices change and are frequently updated. Some slides used in the session may not be included as the presentation is continually evolving.

It is entirely your choice whether you use this as a digital resource or print. **There is no requirement to bring a copy to the training session unless this would support your learning style and needs.**

There are additional resources available via the HRLearning & Development website/course details. These include documents relating to specific information and links to resources that you may find useful.

In addition to this training, you will benefit from regular continuous professional development specific to your role. The NSPCC Learning service has amazing resources. Sign up to their CASPAR service to be notified of the latest developments and research. CASPAR | NSPCC Learning (https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/newsletter/caspar)

Please do raise any feedback or resource support needs by email to: HRlearninganddevelopment@southglos.gov.uk

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Session Aims

- Reinforce understanding of current legislation, policies, procedures and best practice in safeguarding
- Increase confidence in utilising local tools and resources to support practice
- Encourage and signpost to opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of emerging safeguarding themes
- Discuss and signpost to learning from local case reviews

Recommendations & Reform

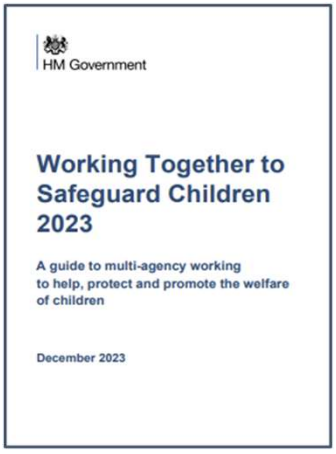
Children's Social Care National Framework, published in 2023, is statutory guidance that sets out the purpose of children's social care as existing to support children and families, to protect children by **intervening decisively** when they are at **risk of harm** and to **provide care for those who need it**, so they **grow up and thrive with safety, stability, and love**

Children's Social Care National Framework

The four outcomes which children's social care should be aiming for are:

- Children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need
- Children and young people are supported by their family network
- Children and young people are safe outside their homes
- Children in care and care leavers have stable and loving homes

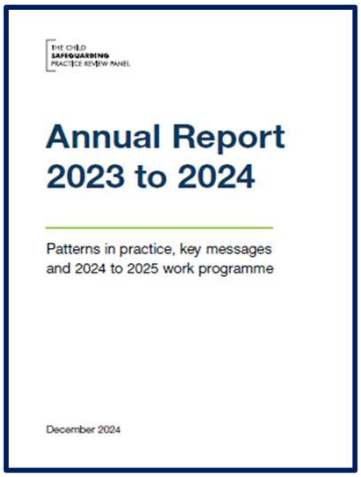
Updated Statutory Guidance 2023



Emphasis on:

- Strong multi-agency relationships…to offer 'tailored' support
- Early Help – Risk factors to be considered (Early Help Guide)
- Safeguarding S17 – A wider range of professionals can be the 'lead professional'
- Children with disabilities – Social Care role clarified
- Considering risks children face outside of the home

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Dec 2024

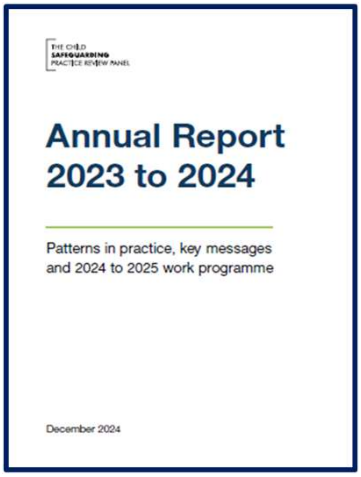


Spotlight Themes

1. Safeguarding children with mental health needs
2. Safeguarding pre-school children with parents with mental health needs
3. Extrafamilial harm

The report highlights how professionals can struggle to find the best and right resources needed to help keep children safe.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Dec 2024



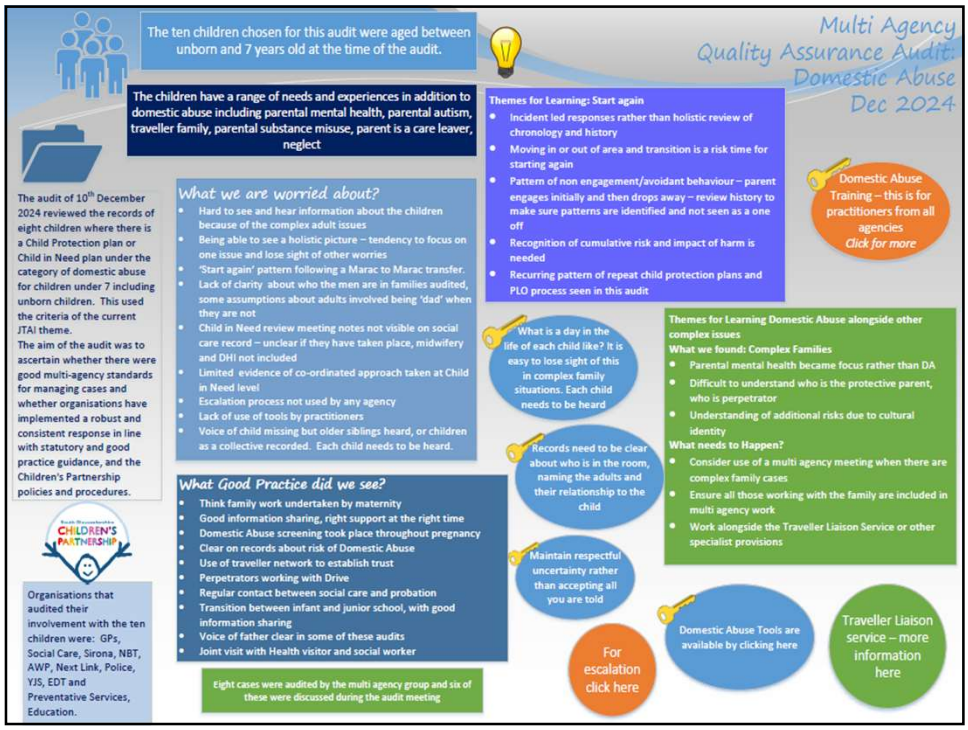
The Six key practice themes to make a difference:

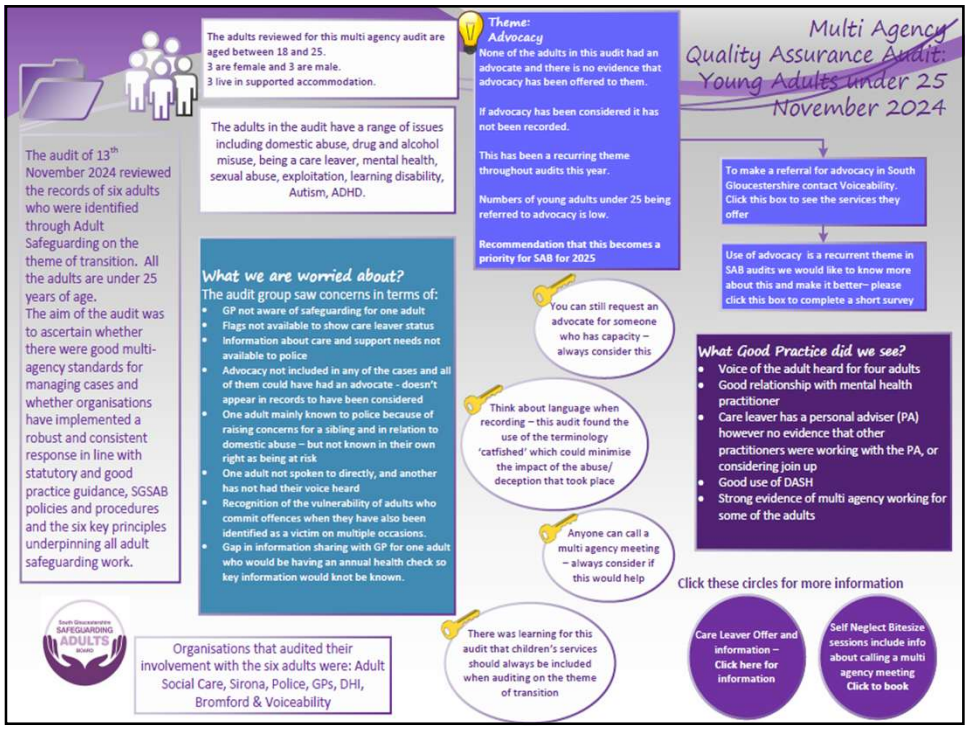
1. Critical Thinking & Professional Challenge
2. Whole family approach
3. Racial, ethnic and cultural identity and lived experience impact
4. Vulnerability of babies
5. Domestic abuse and harm to children
6. Risks outside the family

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Dec 2024

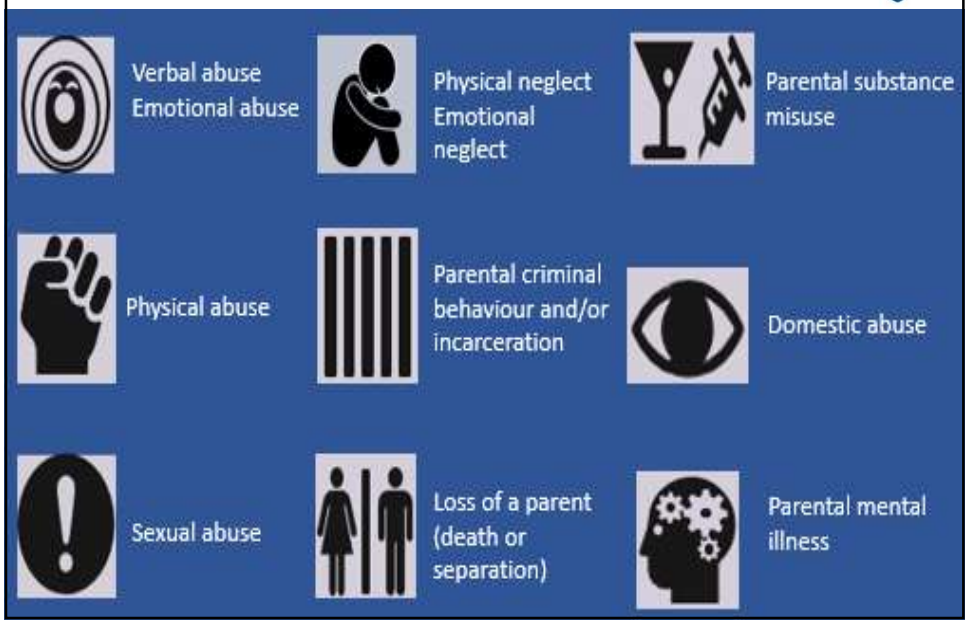
The Six emerging themes last three reports = : Still relevant

1. Parenting capacity and children with disabilities and health needs
2. Children with complex mental health needs
3. Parental mental health and parenting capacity
4. Children not in school
5. Young carers
6. Working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities


Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Domestic Abuse Dec 2024
The ten children chosen for this audit were aged between unborn and 7 years old at the time of the audit.
The children have a range of needs and experiences in addition to domestic abuse including parental mental health, parental autism, traveller family, parental substance misuse, parent is a care leaver, neglect
The audit of 10th December 2024 reviewed the records of eight children where there is a Child Protection plan or Child in Need plan under the category of domestic abuse for children under 7 including unborn children. This used the criteria of the current JTAI theme.
The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, and the Children's Partnership policies and procedures.
What we are worried about?
Hard to see and hear information about the children because of the complex adult issues
Being able to see a holistic picture – tendency to focus on one issue and lose sight of other worries
'Start again' pattern following a Marac to Marac transfer.
Lack of clarity about who the men are in families audited, some assumptions about adults involved being 'dad' when they are not
Child in Need review meeting notes not visible on social care record – unclear if they have taken place, midwifery and DHI not included
Limited evidence of co-ordinated approach taken at Child in Need level
Escalation process not used by any agency
Lack of use of tools by practitioners
Voice of child missing but older siblings heard, or children as a collective recorded. Each child needs to be heard.
What Good Practice did we see?
Think family work undertaken by maternity
Good information sharing, right support at the right time
Domestic Abuse screening took place throughout pregnancy
Clear on records about risk of Domestic Abuse
Use of traveller network to establish trust
Perpetrators working with Drive
Regular contact between social care and probation
Transition between infant and junior school, with good information sharing
Voice of father clear in some of these audits
Joint visit with Health visitor and social worker
Eight cases were audited by the multi agency group and six of these were discussed during the audit meeting
Organisations that audited their involvement with the ten children were: GPs, Social Care, Sirona, NBT, AWP, Next Link, Police, YJS, EDT and Preventative Services, Education.
Themes for Learning: Start again
Incident led responses rather than holistic review of chronology and history
Moving in or out of area and transition is a risk time for starting again
Pattern of non engagement/avoidant behaviour – parent engages initially and then drops away – review history to make sure patterns are identified and not seen as a one off
Recognition of cumulative risk and impact of harm is needed
Recurring pattern of repeat child protection plans and PLO process seen in this audit
Domestic Abuse Training – this is for practitioners from all agencies Click for more
What is a day in the life of each child like? It is easy to lose sight of this in complex family situations. Each child needs to be heard
Records need to be clear about who is in the room, naming the adults and their relationship to the child
Maintain respectful uncertainty rather than accepting all you are told
For escalation click here
Themes for Learning Domestic Abuse alongside other complex issues
What we found: Complex Families
Parental mental health became focus rather than DA
Difficult to understand who is the protective parent, who is perpetrator
Understanding of additional risks due to cultural identity
What needs to Happen?
Consider use of a multi agency meeting when there are complex family cases
Ensure all those working with the family are included in multi agency work
Work alongside the Traveller Liaison Service or other specialist provisions
Domestic Abuse Tools are available by clicking here
Traveller Liaison service – more information here


Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Young Adults under 25 November 2024
The adults reviewed for this multi agency audit are aged between 18 and 25.
3 are female and 3 are male.
3 live in supported accommodation.
The adults in the audit have a range of issues including domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse, being a care leaver, mental health, sexual abuse, exploitation, learning disability, Autism, ADHD.
The audit of 13th November 2024 reviewed the records of six adults who were identified through Adult Safeguarding on the theme of transition. All the adults are under 25 years of age.
The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, SGSAB policies and procedures and the six key principles underpinning all adult safeguarding work.
What we are worried about?
The audit group saw concerns in terms of:
GP not aware of safeguarding for one adult
Flags not available to show care leaver status
Information about care and support needs not available to police
Advocacy not included in any of the cases and all of them could have had an advocate - doesn't appear in records to have been considered
One adult mainly known to police because of raising concerns for a sibling and in relation to domestic abuse – but not known in their own right as being at risk
One adult not spoken to directly, and another has not had their voice heard
Recognition of the vulnerability of adults who commit offences when they have also been identified as a victim on multiple occasions.
Gap in information sharing with GP for one adult who would be having an annual health check so key information would knot be known.
Organisations that audited their involvement with the six adults were: Adult Social Care, Sirona, Police, GPs, DHI, Bromford & Voiceability
Theme: Advocacy
None of the adults in this audit had an advocate and there is no evidence that advocacy has been offered to them.
If advocacy has been considered it has not been recorded.
This has been a recurring theme throughout audits this year.
Numbers of young adults under 25 being referred to advocacy is low.
Recommendation that this becomes a priority for SAB for 2025
To make a referral for advocacy in South Gloucestershire contact Voiceability. Click this box to see the services they offer
Use of advocacy is a recurrent theme in SAB audits we would like to know more about this and make it better– please click this box to complete a short survey
You can still request an advocate for someone who has capacity – always consider this
Think about language when recording – this audit found the use of the terminology 'catfished' which could minimise the impact of the abuse/ deception that took place
Anyone can call a multi agency meeting – always consider if this would help
There was learning for this audit that children's services should always be included when auditing on the theme of transition
What Good Practice did we see?
Voice of the adult heard for four adults
Good relationship with mental health practitioner
Care leaver has a personal adviser (PA) however no evidence that other practitioners were working with the PA, or considering join up
Good use of DASH
Strong evidence of multi agency working for some of the adults
Click these circles for more information
Care Leaver Offer and information – Click here for information
Self Neglect Bitesize sessions include info about calling a multi agency meeting Click to book

Adversity & Trauma - ACEs?



Disguised Compliance?

Non engagement

or

Avoidant behaviour

Disguised Compliance?

Disguised compliance involves parents and carers appearing to co-operate with professionals in order to allay concerns and stop professional engagement (Reder et al, 1993).

Important that practitioners can recognise disguised compliance, establish facts and gather evidence about what is actually happening in a child's life.

Keep an open mind!

Be Curious – Non-Engagement – Avoidant Behaviour?

The increasing ease with which the **label** 'disguised compliance' is used puts the **focus on parents as the problem**, rather than encouraging professionals to think about a **two-way relationship** and their behaviour in it.

(Forrester et al 2012 – Parental resistance and social worker skills: Towards a theory of motivational social work)

‘Concerns around caregiver engagement and patterns of behaviour can divert professional attention away from potential concerns for a child’s wellbeing. This can lead to cases drifting and risks increasing or prolonging harm’.

Learning from these case reviews highlights the importance of:

- maintaining professional curiosity and reflective thinking
- staying child-centred
- sharing information and working together.

Identifying Disguised Compliance?

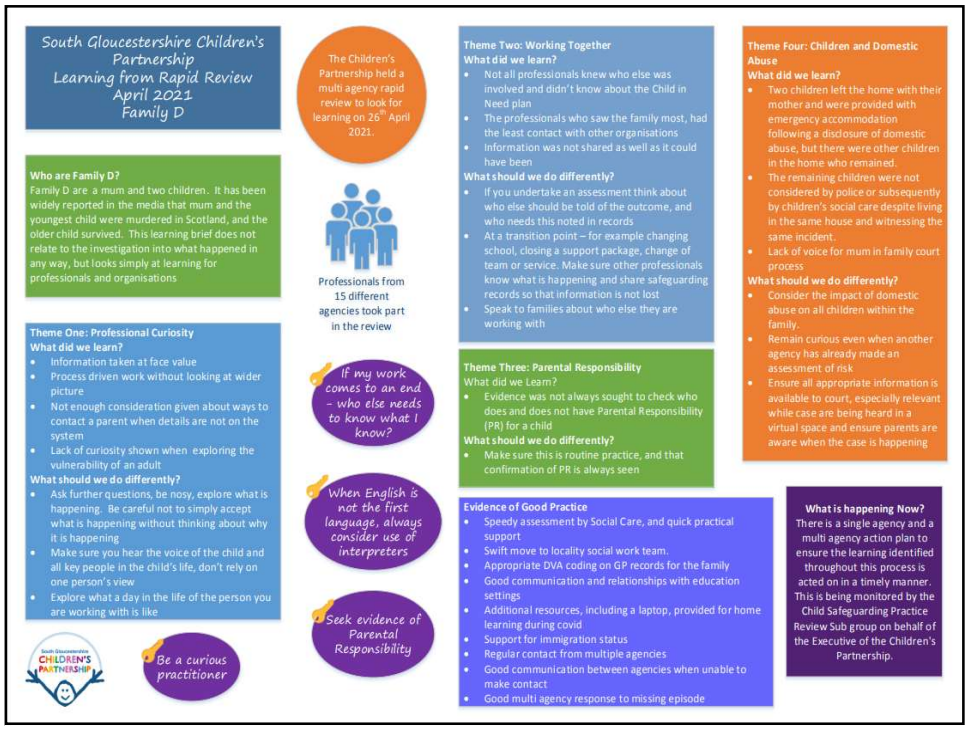
- Conflicting accounts of family life from family members
- Presentation and behaviour of children conflicts with adult accounts
- Repeat incidents of harm/neglect to children
- Conflicting accounts/ evidence from different professionals
- Analysis of details, multi-agency chronology
- Conflicting accounts from neighbours
- Observation of parent child interaction (convincing evidence that simulated sensitive parenting is difficult to sustain C4EO 2010)
- Persistently unmet needs of children
- Dependency
- Closure
- Flight

Safeguarding CHILDREN e-Academy

Sue Woolmore

Dealing with Disguised Compliance

VIRTUAL COLLEGE



Top Tips – Professional Curiosity

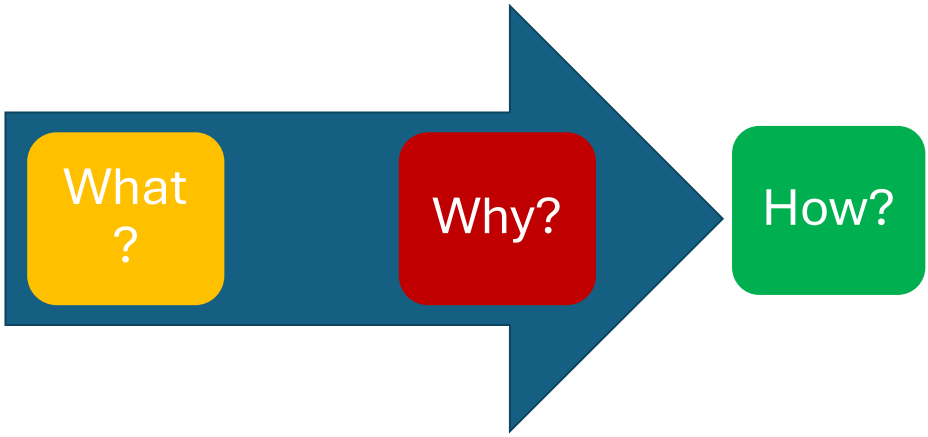
See It

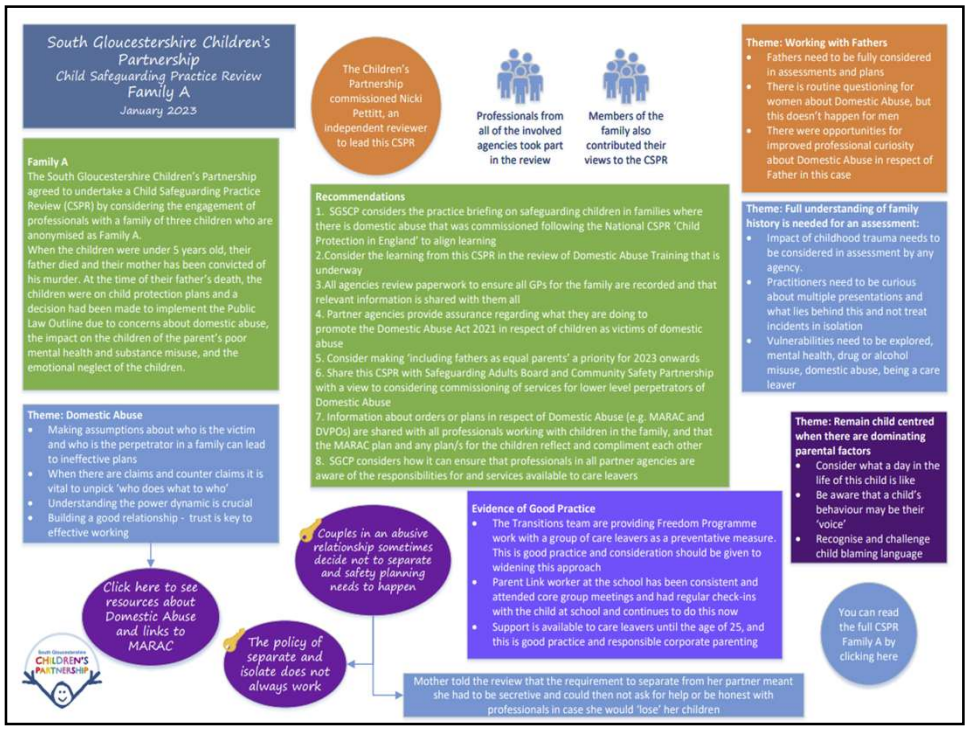
Hear It

Explore It

Check It

Professional Curiosity, Challenge & Courage





Unseen Men – Learning From Case Reviews

- A lack of professional engagement and curiosity
- An over-focus on the quality-of-care children receive from their mothers
- Inadequate information sharing between services

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

Safeguarding is everyone's business

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Home > Children > I am a professional > Working with Fathers

Working with Fathers

Including Fathers – Self Assessment Checklist

This guide provides the key descriptors of evidence-based ways of working with fathers/male caregivers. This can include partners, stepparents, males in same sex partnerships and any male with caring responsibilities in the child's life. It is a self-assessment and planning tool, the outcome of which should lead to a clearer and shared understanding of the current ways of working with fathers within an organisation or service and what steps need to be taken to progress.

This tool is available here.

There is also a video to support this which is available here.

Downloads

Working with Fathers

Concerned about a child?

01454 866000 - Monday to Friday

01454 615165 - Out of hours/Weekends

In an emergency please ring **999**

www.southglos.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire Council

Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership and South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Baby M

April 2023

The two Partnerships commissioned Sarah Holtam, an independent reviewer to lead this CSPR

Professionals from all of the involved agencies took part in the review

Members of the family also contributed their views to the CSPR

Baby M

The reason for this Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is to consider Baby M, a three-month-old baby who experienced serious and significant injuries, thought likely to be to be non-accidental.

The review analysed a ten month time frame from the booking in appointment with midwifery services to the date of the injuries occurring.

Baby M's mother moved between two geographical areas during this time frame and both partnerships worked together to undertake the review.

Following birth, Baby M was discharged with both parents to the paternal family home in Bath & North East Somerset.

Baby M's mother returned to South Gloucestershire to live shortly before the injuries occurred and Baby M remained in the paternal family home.

Theme: Identifying and Responding to the vulnerability of babies

- Increasing awareness of the ICON programme to all practitioners including those outside of health providers
- Ensure physical health needs for a baby are balanced with understanding of wider factors, including parental needs, past trauma to gain a comprehensive picture

Recommendations

There are four main recommendations each with a series of actions relating to each theme.

1. Health Recording Systems include a holistic assessment of a child's needs which includes contextual maternal and paternal family factors
2. The ICON Programme & increasing awareness of Non Accidental Injury in Babies
3. Effective Transfer of Information between areas and services
4. Safeguarding Supervision arrangements for community health professionals which ensures there is a safe space for critical thinking in practice, promotes professional curiosity, and is a trauma informed approach to the family's needs when working with pre and post birth situations

Records need to be clear, accurate and specific so that when information is shared it is understood correctly

ICON Resources are available by clicking here

You can read the full CSPR Baby M by clicking here

Theme: Recording systems

- Different pieces of information were seen in isolation, language and behaviours of parents and information about the past were not joined together
- Record keeping was poor at times with limited details
- Language used to describe situations was factually incorrect at times and did not distinguish fact from opinion or was not specific enough to describe what was being seen.

Theme: Keeping a focus on the child when they move between areas

- It was not clear where Baby M lived, agencies were reliant on what and when parents told them
- There wasn't enough curiosity about where Baby M was
- Information sharing was too variable between areas and health services and with housing providers. More collaboration was needed
- Practitioners should ensure housing providers are kept in the loop with key information and included in multi agency discussions

Theme: Critical thinking in Practice

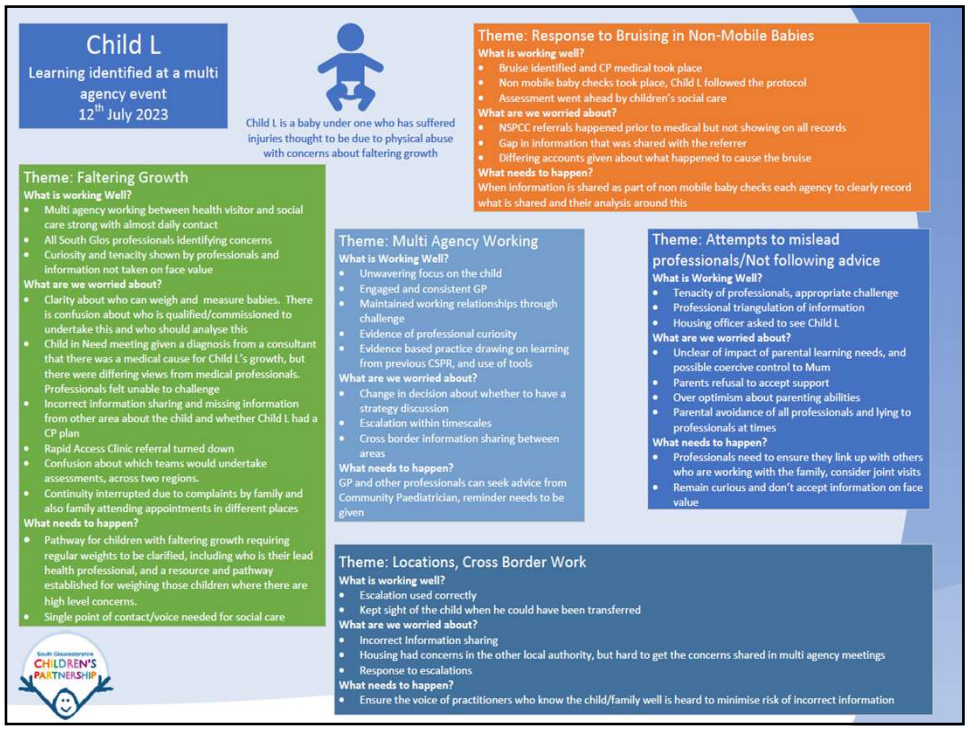
'On the face of things' all appeared well for Baby M

- It is vital to understand the narrative of a baby's lived experience. What is the day in the life of a child like?
- Inquisitive, open minded practice ensures a holistic view of day to day life
- Lack of multi agency information sharing and decision making contributed to Baby M remaining at a universal support level

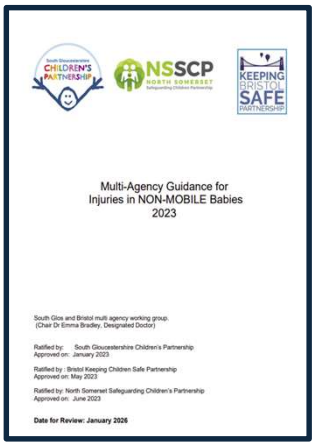
Understanding Wider Context in a Family

- One of Baby M's parents was a care leaver and the impact of this wasn't explored
- Family dynamics were not explored, including coercion and control that had been witnessed
- Housing vulnerabilities were not considered

BSSSP Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership



Injuries in NON-MOBILE Babies - 2023



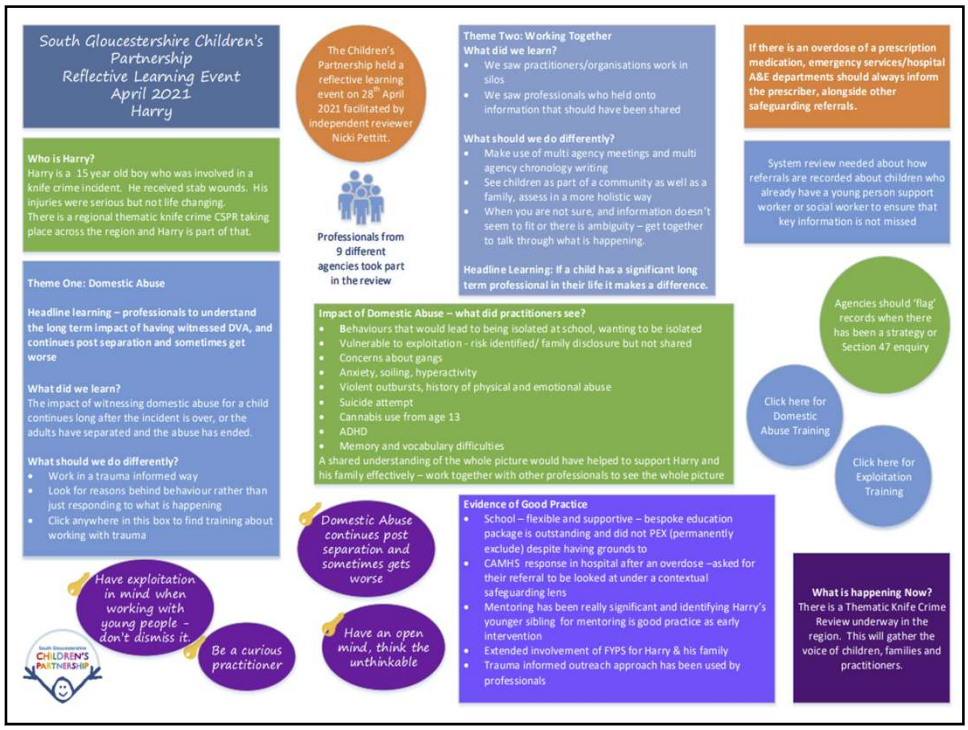
Aim of guidance to ensure professionals

- Are aware that even minor injuries could be a pointer to serious abuse in non-mobile babies
- Know that such injuries, however plausible, MUST routinely lead to multi-agency information sharing
- Support professionals to identify potential concerns and make referrals as appropriate

Also read

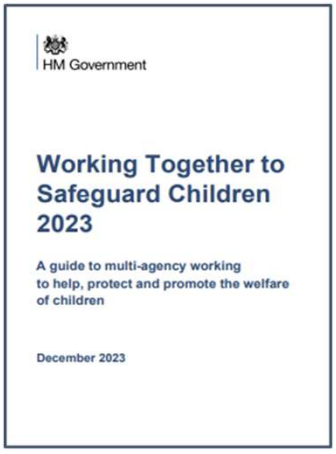
- Guidance – Congenital dermal melanocytosis (blue spot marks)
- Addendum for Early years settings and Child Minders
- Parent leaflet + accessible version

South Gloucestershire CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP


South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership
Reflective Learning Event
April 2021
Harry
The Children's Partnership held a reflective learning event on 28th April 2021 facilitated by independent reviewer Nicki Pettitt.
Professionals from 9 different agencies took part in the review
Who is Harry?
Harry is a 15 year old boy who was involved in a knife crime incident. He received stab wounds. His injuries were serious but not life changing.
There is a regional thematic knife crime CSPR taking place across the region and Harry is part of that.
Theme One: Domestic Abuse
Headline learning – professionals to understand the long term impact of having witnessed DVA, and continues post separation and sometimes get worse
What did we learn?
The impact of witnessing domestic abuse for a child continues long after the incident is over, or the adults have separated and the abuse has ended.
What should we do differently?
Work in a trauma informed way
Look for reasons behind behaviour rather than just responding to what is happening
Click anywhere in this box to find training about working with trauma
Have exploitation in mind when working with young people – don't dismiss it
Be a curious practitioner
Theme Two: Working Together
What did we learn?
We saw practitioners/organisations work in silos
We saw professionals who held onto information that should have been shared
What should we do differently?
Make use of multi agency meetings and multi agency chronology writing
See children as part of a community as well as a family, assess in a more holistic way
When you are not sure, and information doesn't seem to fit or there is ambiguity – get together to talk through what is happening.
Headline Learning: If a child has a significant long term professional in their life it makes a difference.
Impact of Domestic Abuse – what did practitioners see?
Behaviours that would lead to being isolated at school, wanting to be isolated
Vulnerable to exploitation - risk identified/ family disclosure but not shared
Concerns about gangs
Anxiety, soiling, hyperactivity
Violent outbursts, history of physical and emotional abuse
Suicide attempt
Cannabis use from age 13
ADHD
Memory and vocabulary difficulties
A shared understanding of the whole picture would have helped to support Harry and his family effectively – work together with other professionals to see the whole picture
Domestic Abuse continues post separation and sometimes gets worse
Have an open mind, think the unthinkable
Evidence of Good Practice
School – flexible and supportive – bespoke education package is outstanding and did not PEX (permanently exclude) despite having grounds to
CAMHS response in hospital after an overdose –asked for their referral to be looked at under a contextual safeguarding lens
Mentoring has been really significant and identifying Harry's younger sibling for mentoring is good practice as early intervention
Extended involvement of FYPS for Harry & his family
Trauma informed outreach approach has been used by professionals
If there is an overdose of a prescription medication, emergency services/hospital A&E departments should always inform the prescriber, alongside other safeguarding referrals.
System review needed about how referrals are recorded about children who already have a young person support worker or social worker to ensure that key information is not missed
Agencies should 'flag' records when there has been a strategy or Section 47 enquiry
Click here for Domestic Abuse Training
Click here for Exploitation Training
What is happening Now?
There is a Thematic Knife Crime Review underway in the region. This will gather the voice of children, families and practitioners.

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership
Child Safeguarding Practice Review
Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence
August 2024
The Children's Partnership commissioned Nicki Pettitt, an independent reviewer to lead this CSPR
Professionals from all of the involved agencies across 3 local authorities and Child T's family took part in the review
Access Modern Slavery training by clicking here
Child T
The South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership agreed to undertake a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) to consider practice and systems when there are reasons to be concerned for a child due to their involvement in or exposure to serious youth violence (SYV). The decision to undertake this CSPR was because of the 2023 death from a stab wound of a child named Child T*. This review has also considered the available learning about the out of area children who have been convicted for killing Child T. *anonymised for publication
Theme: Risk of SYV
It is not only children with adverse childhood experiences who are at risk of involvement in SYV
Child T came from a loving family home which gave professionals reassurance
For Child T there were still indicators of risk even though he appeared to be doing well and there were no significant recent concerns
Child T talked about the impact of living in certain postcode areas and becoming involved in SYV
ADHD and anxiety were both factors for Child T
ADHD, school exclusions and exploitation are linked themes that have been highlighted repeatedly locally
System wide issue that there is a lack of understanding that a MARMM is equivalent to a Child Protection
1. The Partnership to ensure that a local critical incident plan is developed, with other partnerships in Avon and Somerset, using this case to inform its development.
2. That the National CSPR Panel requests that the correct government department/s consider the need for a national standard operational procedure for responding to a critical incident.
3. The partnership to request that the current status and terminology of MARM is changed to Child Protection Plan – Risk Outside of the Home (CP-ROTH)
4. That assurance is provided to the Partnership about the outcome of the PIMM review, as part of the wider independent review of the Risk Management Pathway
5. The Partnership to request that partner agencies consider how they will support staff to ensure that child victims of exploitation are prevented from being 'criminalised'.
6. That the partnership seek assurance in respect of the development of the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) in South Gloucestershire and the wider Avon and Somerset VRP in respect of their response of serious youth violence. This should include:
Consideration given to how information on specific children, including investigations, intelligence, locations, and perpetrators is shared regularly across the five Avon and Somerset areas.
Consideration given by the Pan Avon and Somerset Needs Assessment for SYV to the importance of working with and sharing information with areas outside of Avon and Somerset, including Wiltshire.
Consideration of the impact of the Online Safety Bill 2023 across the system.
Bitesize Exploitation sessions cover PIMM, MARMM and South Glos processes – click here to book a free place
Evidence of Good Practice
Exploitation Identification tool had been regularly updated
PIMM has consistent and committed membership who work well together and share information effectively
Child T's school worked well with him and his attendance increased dramatically – he was settled and took some GCSEs there although this should have been a short stay provision.
There was good support planning for Child T's future he met the careers advisor around 20 times
There is an identified need for a clear and effective serious incident response across Avon & Somerset which can be used out of hours
Theme: National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
An NRM is used when there may be criminal exploitation/trafficking.
A referral was made in respect of Child T in 2021 – which is expected practice for a child known to have carried a weapon
This was a missed opportunity to provide focussed support and should have been coordinated with the professionals who Child T knew
Anecdotal findings suggest take up of Modern Slavery training which includes NRM is poor.
Theme: Drill Music
Child T was emerging as a popular drill artist on YouTube
It can increase the risk of becoming target of violence due to the nature of the threats in the music.
Professionals need to be aware of the content of drill music for those involved when making their assessments.
Theme: Extra Familial Harm
There has been a shift, locally and nationally, for children at risk of exploitation to have focus on risks outside the home
A system that focusses only on risks outside the home is vulnerable and it is vital to also consider risk within homes
You can read the full CSPR by clicking here

Updated Statutory Guidance 2023



Emphasis on:

- Strong multi-agency relationships…to offer 'tailored' support
- Early Help – Risk factors to be considered (Early Help Guide)
- Safeguarding S17 – A wider range of professionals can be the 'lead professional'
- Children with disabilities – Social Care role clarified
- Considering risks children face outside of the home

Safeguarding Definition 2023

Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge

Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online

Preventing impairment of children's mental & physical health or development

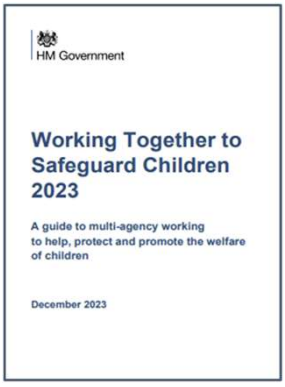
Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of **safe & effective care**

Promoting family & kinship upbringing where that is in the best interests of the children

Taking action to enable all children to have the **best outcomes** in line with the Children's Social Care National Framework

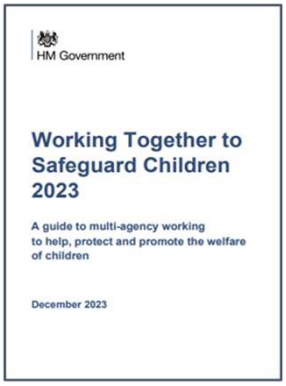
Responsibilities ?

3 Statutory Partners + Relevant Agencies



What have children said they need from us?

- Vigilance
- Understanding & Action
- Stability
- Respect
- Information & Engagement
- Explanation
- Support
- Advocacy
- Protection



The importance of the child's voice

Created by the Compass Team May 2021

Why capture the views of the child

- It's about them - they are the experts!
- To capture the perspective of the children, parents and other family members.
- The child's views are important to support "buying in" to the concept of change.
- The child's voice should be captured within all assessments.

Why is it important to capture the voice of the child?

- Children should be heard and have the right to make decisions about changes in their lives.
- The right for a child to be listened to and heard is listed in UN convention of rights and the Children's Act 2004 emphasises the importance of speaking to a child to gather their views for assessments.

Who should capture the voice of the child?

- The key is someone who has a trusted relationship with the child.
- The quality of the child's voice captured depends on the quality of the relationship.
- If the relationship is strong the voice captured will be stronger and vice versa.

What is the information used for?

- To inform and plan the next steps.
- To improve the current situation for the child, young person and/or family.
- To ensure parents and professionals are aware of the child/young persons thoughts, feelings and wishes. Which is essential to everything we do.

How to get voice of child?

- The child's voice can be captured through conversations, 1:1 work, activities, worksheets, questionnaires, and artwork. Compass can provide suggested resources.
- Children who are young, non-verbal or have a disability can express their views being creative i.e. observing their play, body language, facial expressions, we can interpret their understanding of their choices, preferences, likes, dislikes and what motivates them.
- All activities can be uploaded to support the EHAP.
- EHAP's can be strengthened by using direct quotes. Using direct quotes will amplify and make comments explicitly clear.

When should we capture the voice?

- If you are thinking about completing referral.
- For initial EHAP'S.
- During EHAP reviews.
- When closing the EHAP.

South Gloucestershire Council

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

The right help, in the right way, at the right time

November 2023

South Gloucestershire CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP

Guidance

Right Help, Right Way, Right Time….

Graduated tiers of help and support.

‘Response to Levels of Need’

Referral Form – Updated Jan 2025

Request for Help Form

South Gloucestershire Council

This form needs to be completed in order to request support from **all** Local Authority services, **including Preventative Services and Social Care**. If you have an immediate safeguarding concern, please call the Access and Response Team (ART) on 01454 866000.

Before completing the form, please ensure that you have consent from the parents and Young People over 11 years and that they are aware of the information being shared in the referral and what is being requested. You also need to gather the thoughts and views of the parents and children/young people. Best Practice would be to show a copy of this referral to parents so they are clear about the information you are sharing unless to do so would place a child at risk.

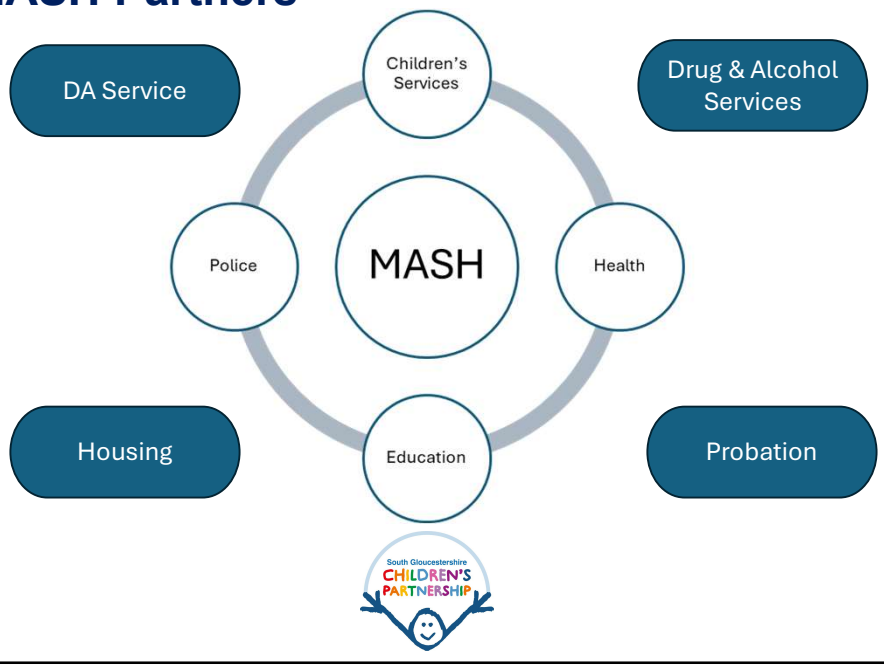
When requesting support from Early Help or Preventative Services, **please consider the questions below** before completing the Request for Help form:

- Have you spoken with Compass before making this referral? email Compass@southglos.gov.uk
- Is there an **EHAP (Early Help Assessment and Plan) open for this family?** If not, please discuss with **Compass** prior to making this referral
- Have universal services/support been tried in the first instance?
- Have you referred to the SEND Local Offer?
- https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0&channel=localoffer
- Have you looked at the South Gloucestershire Children's partnership: The Right Help in the Right Way at the Right Time (Threshold Document)? http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding

Referral Information –

Referral Date		Referrer Name	
Organisation		Phone:	
		Email:	

MASH Partners



BRAG Rating & MASH Explained

RAG Rating	Outcome	Response Time Target	MASH
Red (Priority) **Acute Child Protection** Requires intensive support.	Section 47 / Child Protection	4 hours – 0 day	No
Amber **Complex / Child In Need** complex needs likely to lead to longer term intervention.	Child In Need Assessment	1 working day	Do we need **more than one** professional opinion to make a decision? If no, progress through normal channels If **yes, progress to MASH**
Green **Vulnerable** Universal support and early help services	Early Help Assessment	3 working days	Could do, do we need **more than one** professional opinion, evidence is it is low level. **If so, progress to MASH,** if no progress through normal channels.

Early Help Assessment & Plan

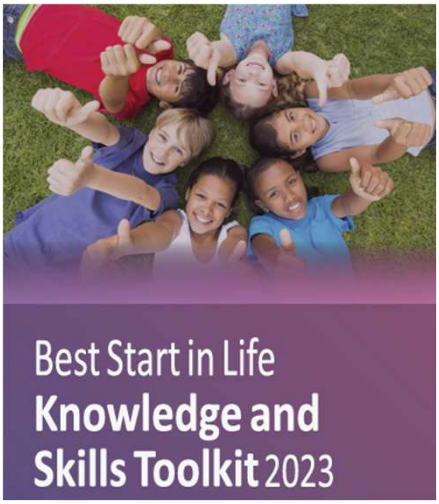
Priority 1 – Early understanding of the diverse needs of children, young people, and families

Priority 2 – Access to information , advice, guidance, opportunities, support and signposting within the local community.

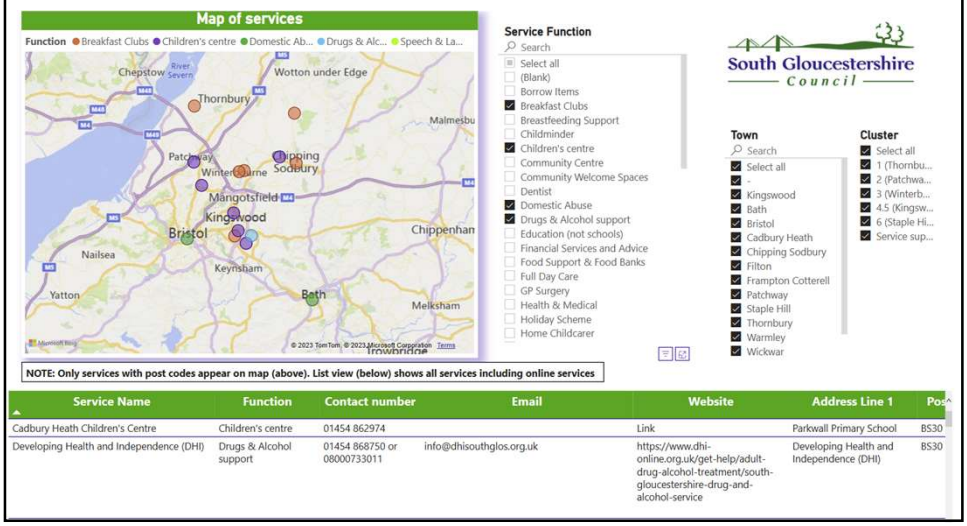
Priority 3 – Effective partnership responsibility, response and accountability.

Priority 4 – Co-ordinated planning and provision of support

Priority 5 – Demonstrate a positive impact on the lives of children, young people and families.

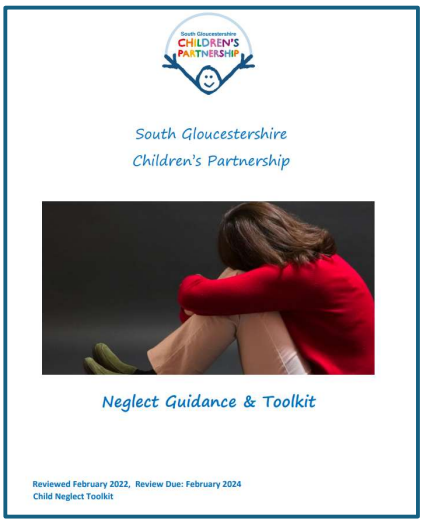


South Gloucestershire Council Mapping Tool – Early Help



NOTE: Only services with post codes appear on map (above). List view (below) shows all services including online services

Service Name	Function	Contact number	Email	Website	Address Line 1	Pos
Cadbury Heath Children's Centre	Children's centre	01454 862974		Link	Parkwall Primary School	BS30
Developing Health and Independence (DHI)	Drugs & Alcohol support	01454 868750 or 08000733011	info@dhisouthglos.org.uk	https://www.dhi-online.org.uk/get-help/adult-drug-alcohol-treatment/south-gloucestershire-drug-and-alcohol-service	Developing Health and Independence (DHI)	BS30



Aims to:

- highlight difficulties experienced when working to combat neglect
- suggest ways to avoid or resolve them
- support the use of professional judgment at all stages during interventions with families

Information Sharing

The Data Protection Act 2018 & GDPR supports the sharing of relevant information for the purposes of keeping children safe

'Legal Obligation' or 'Public Task' (Public Interest)

Data Protection Act - processing condition that allows practitioners to share

Special Category Personal Data

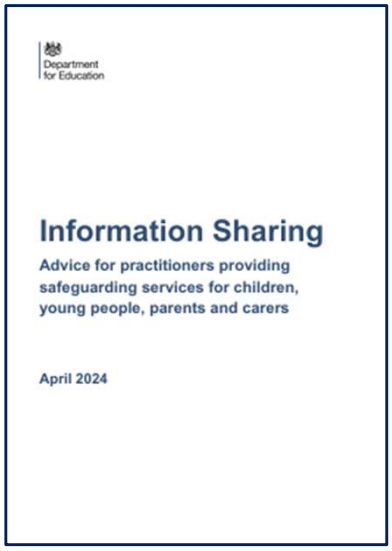
(Sensitive = More protection needed GDPR Article 6 & Article 9)

when

'Safeguarding children and individuals at risk'

This allows sharing without consent, where consent cannot be reasonably gained or if to gain consent would place a child at risk

Necessary
Proportionate
Relevant
Accurate
Adequate
Timely
Secure


Department for Education

Information Sharing

Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services for children, young people, parents and carers

April 2024

Professional Differences ? What if I don't agree?

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

Resolution of Professional Differences

(Escalation Policy)

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear mechanism for the resolution of professional differences in order to ensure a timely resolution that ensures that the needs of the child or young person are met.

It provides a local process to be followed. SGCP see challenge as a key part of effective and healthy inter-agency working cultures and partner organisations should therefore view and respond to challenges brought under this procedure in a positive manner.

Professional Courage – Professional Curiosity – Professional Challenge

Learning and Development
Training Evaluation Form 2025
South Gloucestershire
CHILDREN'S
PARTNERSHIP