

# Advanced Child Protection Training

## Handout

This course is commissioned for professionals from all organisations by the South Gloucestershire Children's 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 HR Learning & 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) (<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/newsletter/caspar>)

Please do raise any feedback or resource support needs by email to: [HRlearninganddevelopment@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:HRlearninganddevelopment@southglos.gov.uk)



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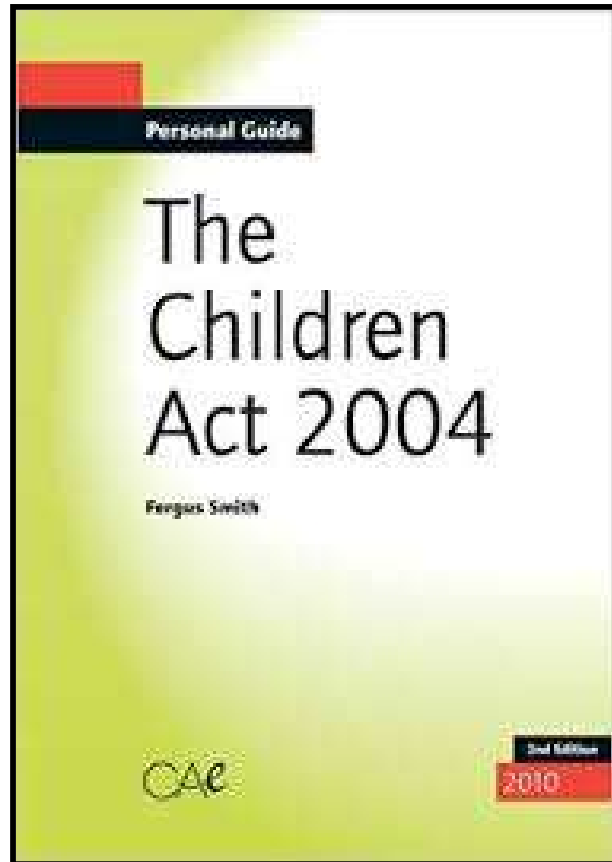
# South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership 2024



*Review due December 2025*



# Legislation



**Children Act 1989**

17

47

20



# 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

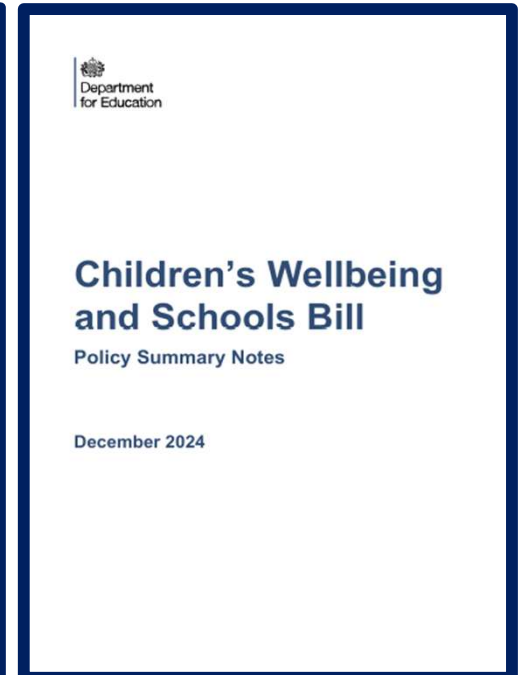
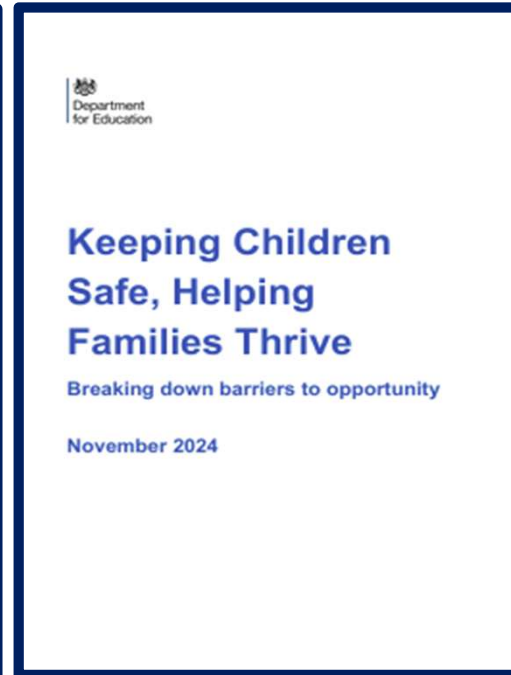
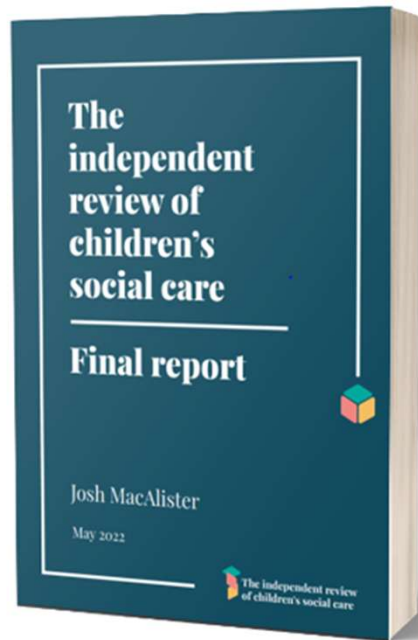
Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe & effective care

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



# 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





# Guidance



## Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

December 2023



## Keeping children safe in education 2025

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

July 2025 (for information) version, pending publication of final version which comes into force in September 2025.



## Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For group and school-based providers

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Dated: 11 October 2024

Effective: 01 November 2024



## Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For childminders

Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five

Dated: 11 October 2024

Effective: 01 November 2024



## Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance

July 2022



## Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance

Effective practice examples

February 2023



## Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024

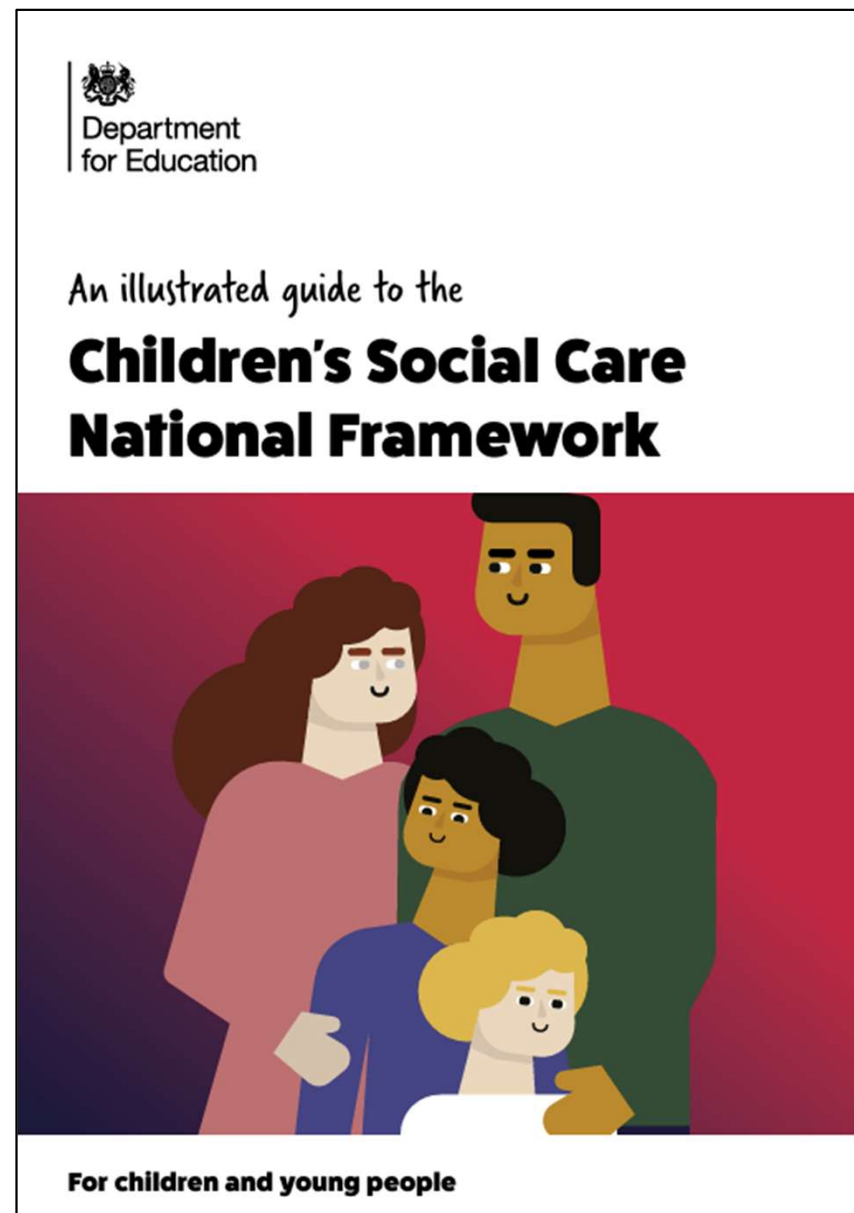


## After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition

Safeguarding guidance for providers

September 2023

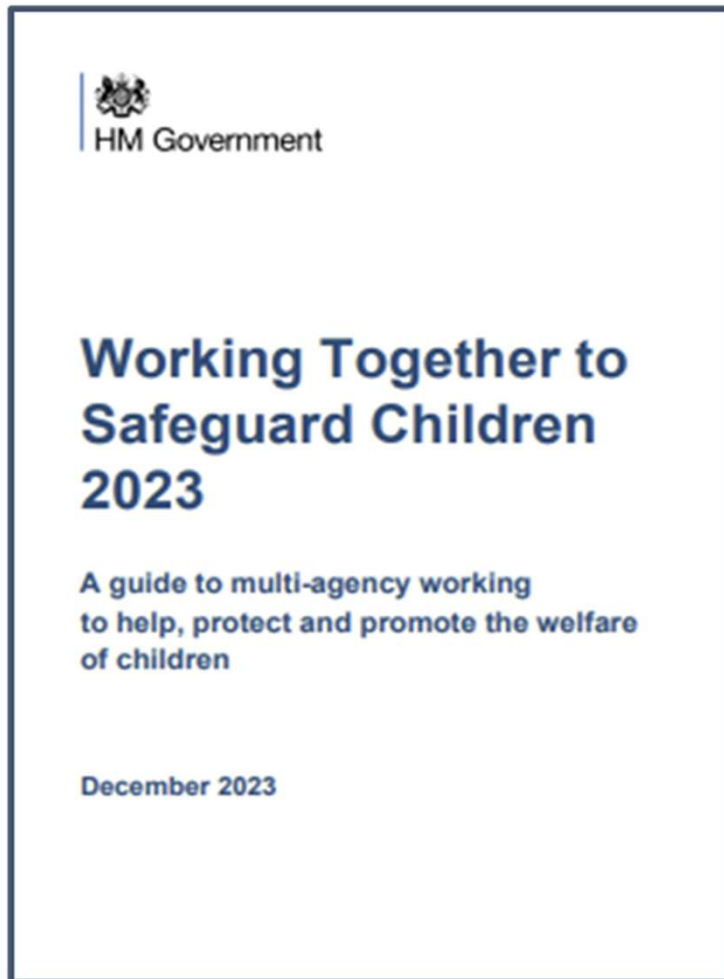




# Updated Statutory Guidance 2023

## 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



## Key Updates



### Keeping children safe in education 2025

Statutory guidance for schools  
and colleges

July 2025 (for information) version, pending  
publication of final version which comes into  
force in September 2025.

- Online Safety expanded
- Filtering & Monitoring – new standards + DfE self-assessment tool
- AP oversight
- Attendance guidance now statutory
- Virtual Heads extended role to kinship care
- Inclusive language around SEND
- Upcoming updates: RSHE + gender identity guidance
- Useful resources added: CSA Centre, Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Children's Society

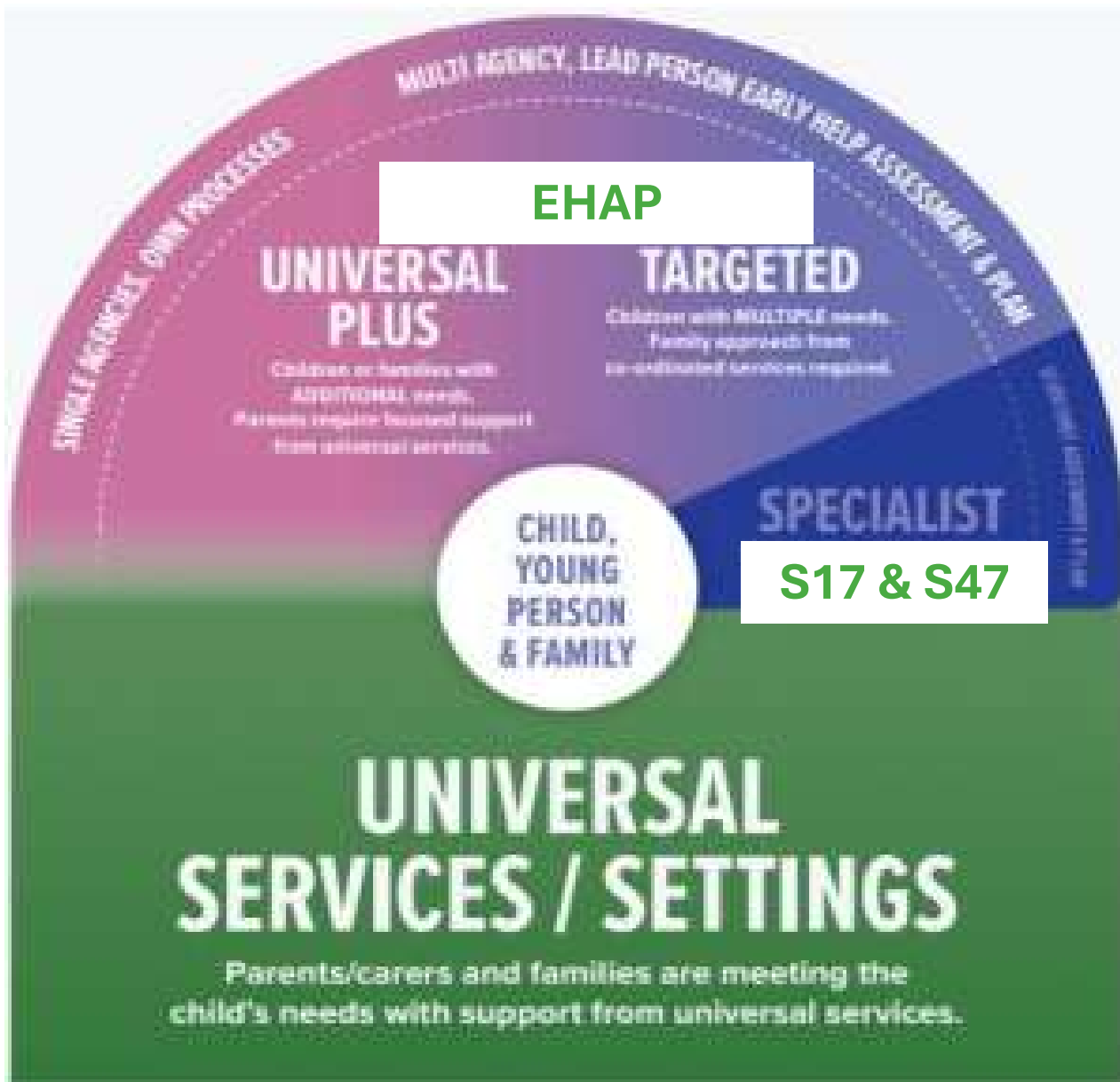




*South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership*  
The right help, in the right way, at the right time

November 2023





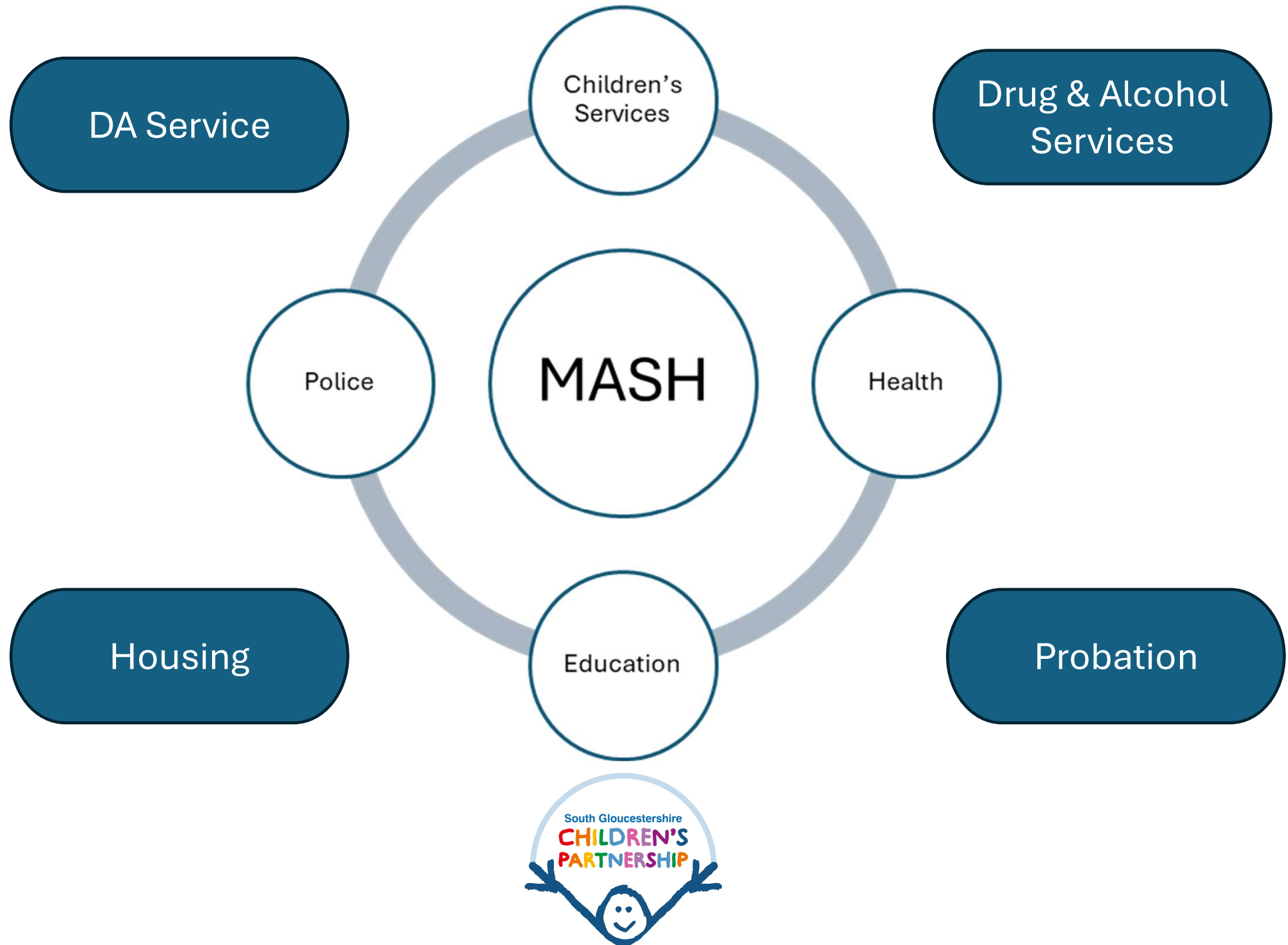
Right Help, Right Way,  
Right Time....

Graduated tiers of  
help and support.

**‘Response to  
Levels of Need’**



# MASH Partners



# BRAG Rating & MASH Explained

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





# 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



# Resolution of Professional Differences (Escalation Policy)



*South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership*



# Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

## Dec 2024



# Key Practice Themes Focus

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



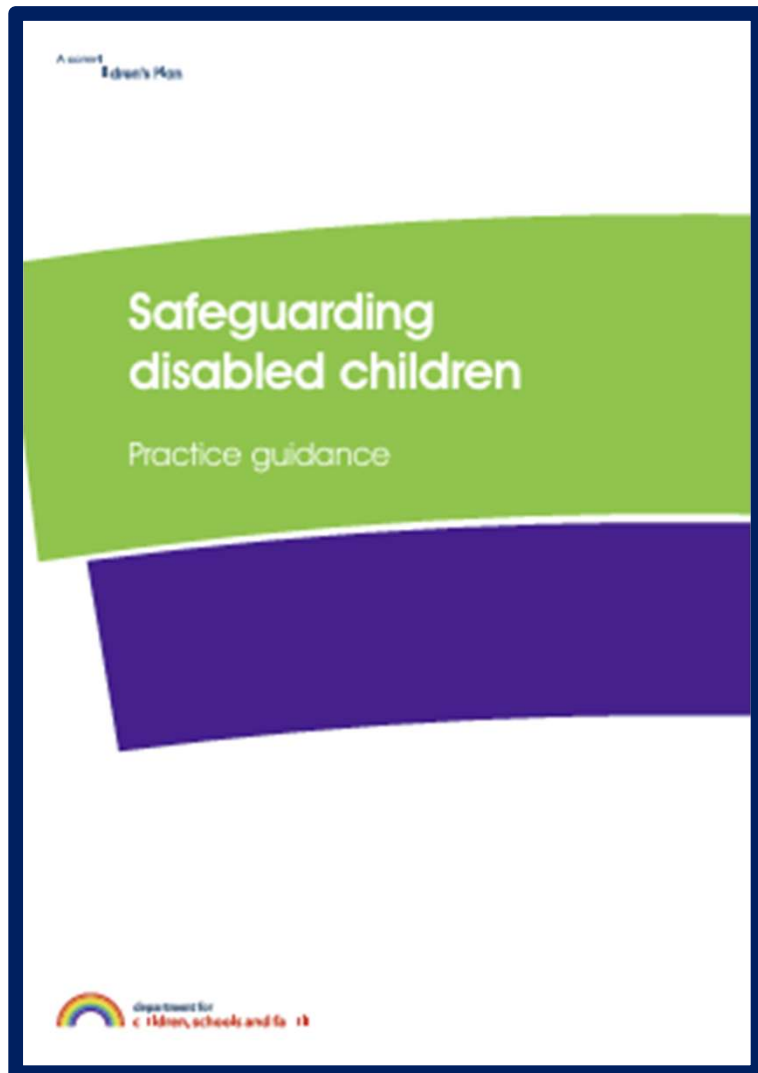
# Safeguarding Vigilance

Relentless in monitoring wellbeing and vulnerability of children with disabilities

- S47 Data - Children with disabilities 7% of cohort
- 1.7% Children in SGlos are disabled
- Disabled children are 3 x more likely to experience abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding Children in 'Closed Culture Settings'

- Settings - unlikely many outsiders go?
- Inherent risks/Warning Signs – Indicators
- Poor care provision
- Weak leadership and management
- Poor skills, training, supervision of staff
- Lack of external oversight





## Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)


Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) have replaced Serious case reviews, following publication of [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) and in South Gloucestershire CSPRs will begin from October 2019. Any reviews commenced prior to this time will still be Serious Case Reviews under the 2015 version. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are carried out when a child or young person dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect are known or suspected to be factors in the death. They are carried out so that improvements can be identified and action taken so that agencies work with each other more effectively to keep children, young people and their families safe.

When each review is completed a report is published. This includes an outline of what happened, without identifying the child or their family, what went well and what needs to change to make sure that in future other children and young people can be better protected.

### Downloads

 [Multi Agency Workshop - Arthur and Star](#)

[Professional Curiosity and Disguised Compliance feb 22](#)

 [South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership CSPR Referral Process 2019](#)

 [Working Together to Safeguard](#)





# 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



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.

## 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

## 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](#)





The audit of 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

### 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 not 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



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

## Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Young Adults under 25 November 2024

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

### 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





### 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.

## The importance of the child's voice



### 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.

**Necessary  
Proportionate  
Relevant  
Accurate  
Adequate  
Timely  
Secure**



## **Information Sharing**

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

April 2024



# ACEs

Adverse childhood experiences





# Adversity & Trauma – ACES?



Verbal abuse  
Emotional abuse



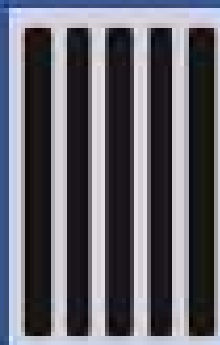
Physical neglect  
Emotional neglect



Parental substance misuse



Physical abuse



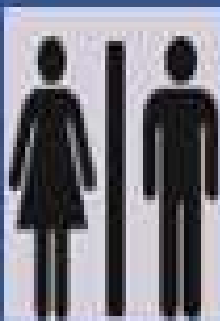
Parental criminal behaviour and/or incarceration



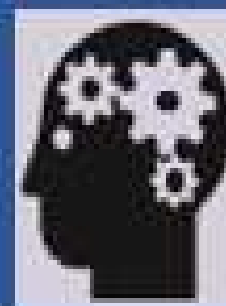
Domestic abuse



Sexual abuse



Loss of a parent  
(death or separation)

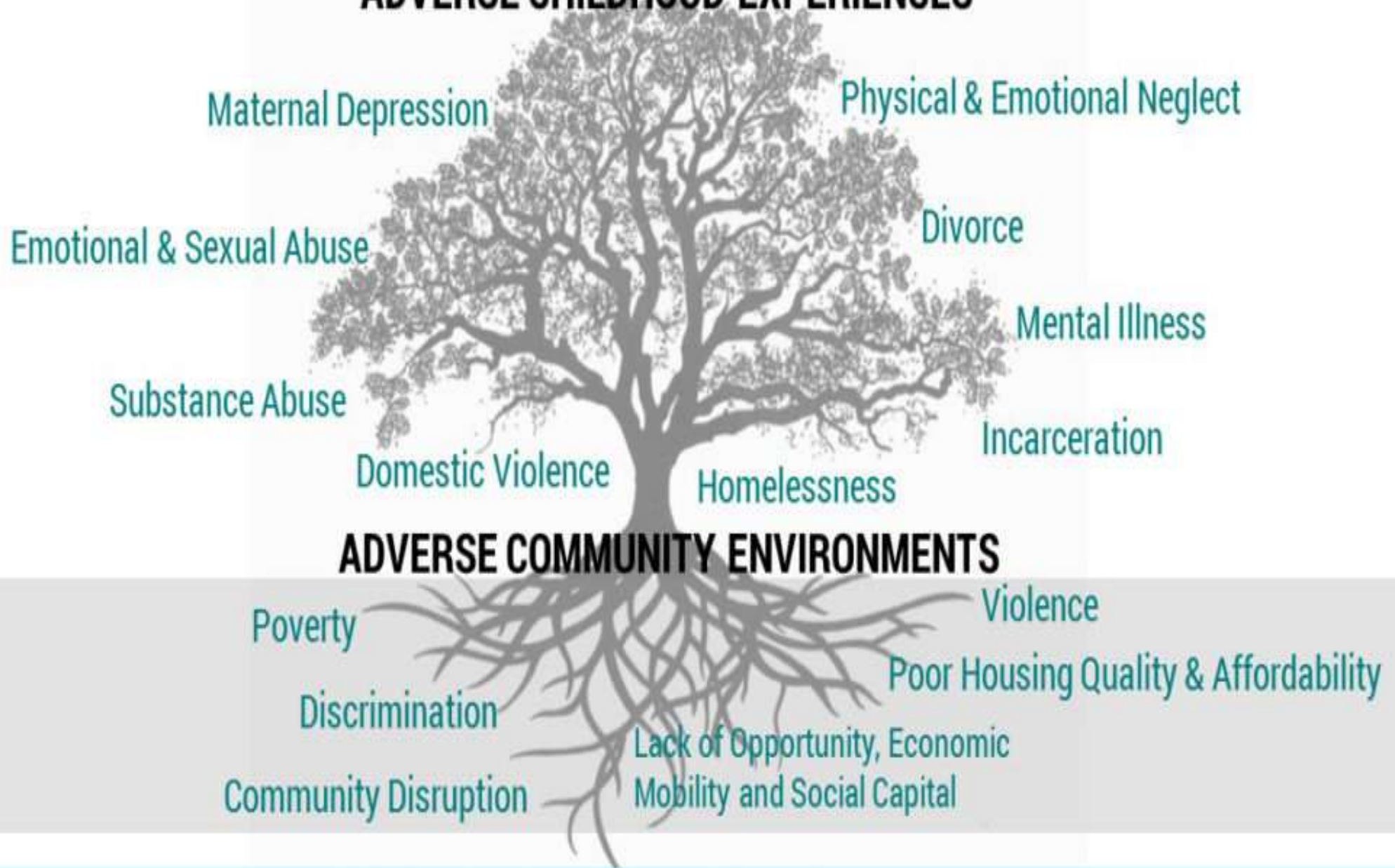


Parental mental illness



# The Pair of ACES

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES





# 'Bad' Behaviour Iceberg

What we see

What might be  
underneath

Context



# Signs of Safety

‘Allows practitioners to hear the voice of the child and the family so making assessment and work easier’



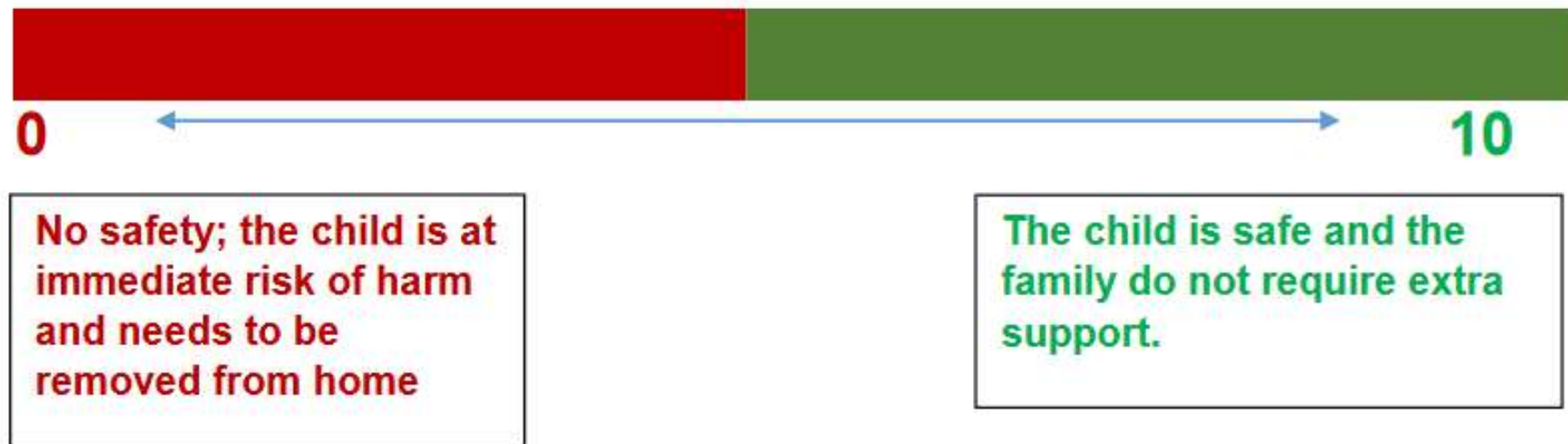
# Signs of Safety

What's working well? (Safety/Strength)

What are we worried about? (Past harm/Danger/Complicating Factors)

How worried are we? (Scale of 0 to 10)

What needs to happen? (Safety Goal/Next Steps)



Nationally neglect is the most common category of abuse recorded for children on protection plans, accounting for almost half of children on a plan.

# South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership Neglect Toolkit 2025





# South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership Neglect Toolkit



*This toolkit has drawn on information in toolkits from Salford and Somerset*

The South Gloucestershire Neglect Toolkit uses a traffic light scaling for each domain that looks like this



This toolkit should be used by practitioners from all organisations to help assess neglect within families even at a low level and plan for change.

Each domain includes a description of how well needs are met, from 'all needs met' to 'all needs unmet' as using the scaling. Work through sections by discussing the description that best fits the care the child receives. Further guidance and descriptions are provided by hovering your mouse over key words and numbers.

There are six domains



Additional information about Neglect can be accessed by our policy briefing [here](#)

There are resources to support professionals working with families when there are concerns about Neglect on the Children's Partnership Website [here](#)

## Family Information

# CP – ROTH

Considers Harm relating to:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation (Crime Groups – County Lines)
- Serious Youth Violence
- Online Harm
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Teenage Relationship Abuse
- Peer on Peer Abuse



## South Gloucestershire's Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Tool



The Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Tool is a multi-agency tool designed for use by all professionals who work with children and young people. It should be used when there are concerns or worries that a child or young person may be at risk of, or experiencing one or more of the following:

- Criminal exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Financial exploitation
- Forced labour
- Serious youth violence
- Trafficking

South Gloucestershire's ROTH Tool uses a traffic light scaling system where 0 means there is evidence to indicate that the child or young person is at significant and immediate risk outside the home and 10 means there is no evidence to indicate that the child or young person is at any risk outside the home.



The tool provides ten domains to explore using the traffic light scaling, to enable you to make a professional judgement about whether a child or young person is at overall low (scale 8, 9, 10), medium (scale 4, 5, 6, 7) or high (0, 1, 2, 3) risk outside the home. For each domain there is guidance to support you to make an informed decision around scaling in relation to level of risk. The ten domains are as follows:

1. Education, Training and Employment	2. Health	3. Accommodation	4. Going Missing	5. Peer Relationships and Abusive Adults
6. Social Media and Technology	7. Places and Spaces	8. Drug and Alcohol Use	9. Unexplained Items and Rewards	10. Serious Youth Violence and Offending Behaviour

Prior to completing the ROTH Tool, it is advisable to access the accompanying ROTH Practice Guidance available on the [South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership website](#), along with various resources to support professionals working with children and young people thought to be at risk outside the home.

When completing the ROTH Tool:

- **Be specific about details** that can help identify and consider harm that may be happening to a child or young person for example, names of places, people, shops, car registration numbers, websites.
- **Use appropriate language.** Language implying that a child or young person is complicit in any way or responsible for the abuse that has happened or may be happening to them, should be avoided.
- Include the views of the child or young person, their parents/carers or any other involved professionals where possible however, be mindful that this tool is primarily designed to help structure the information you have and to **support your professional judgement** about the level of risk to a child or young person outside the home.
- In accordance with a **Signs of Safety approach**, remember to balance worries and concerns with strengths and safety factors where possible.



# 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](mailto: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	
Organisation	

Referrer Name	
Phone:	
Email:	

# Significant Harm Suspected – Reasonable Cause

(No immediate protection measures required)

## Initial Assessment

SW suspects  
Significant Harm

Strategy Discussion

SW = S47 enquiries

Initial Child Protection  
Conference

Child Protection Plan

Review Conferences

Continue or Discontinue?  
Child Protection Plan

At any  
stage case  
can move  
between  
processes  
depending  
on  
assessment  
or  
monitoring  
outcomes

Child in Need S17  
Lead Professional  
Identified

Preventative  
Services  
Universal  
EHAP  
Targeted

NFA



# Professional Differences ? What if I don't agree?

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership

## **Resolution of Professional Differences**

### **(Escalation Policy)**

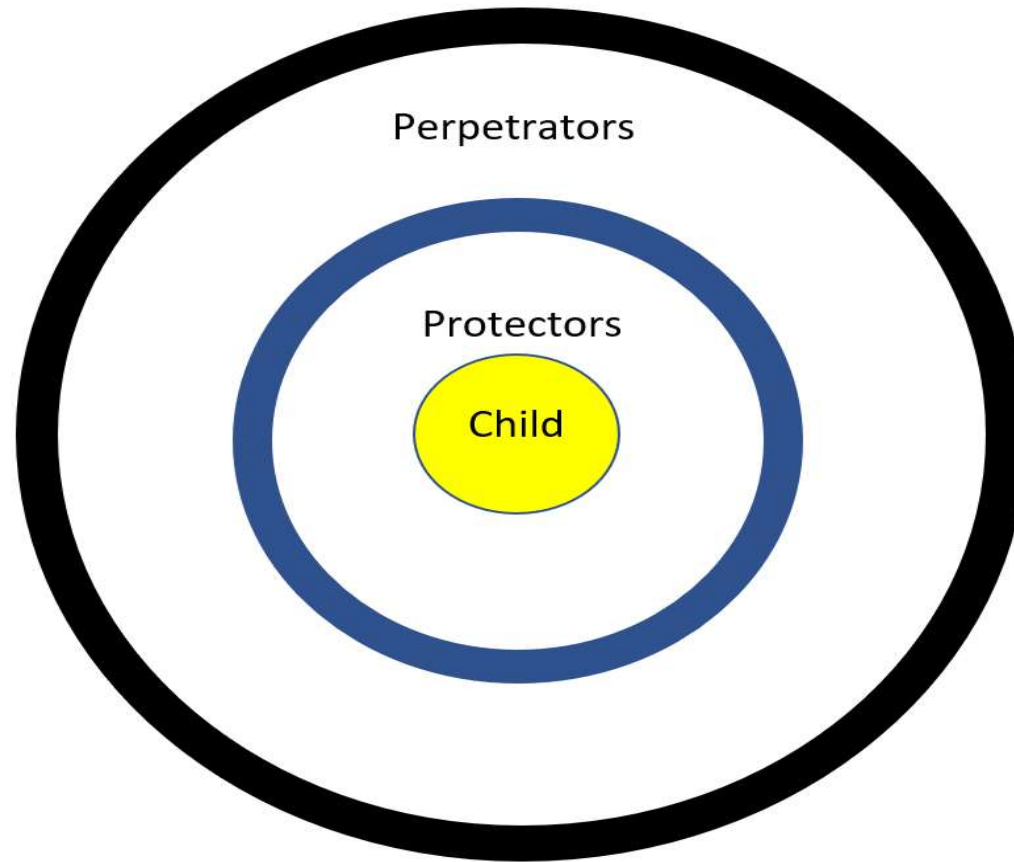
The aim of this policy is to provide a clear mechanism for the resolution of professional differences in order to ensure a timely resolution that ensures that the needs of the child or young person are met.

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



# Could it really happen here?



# The Harm Test

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children (Transferable Risk)



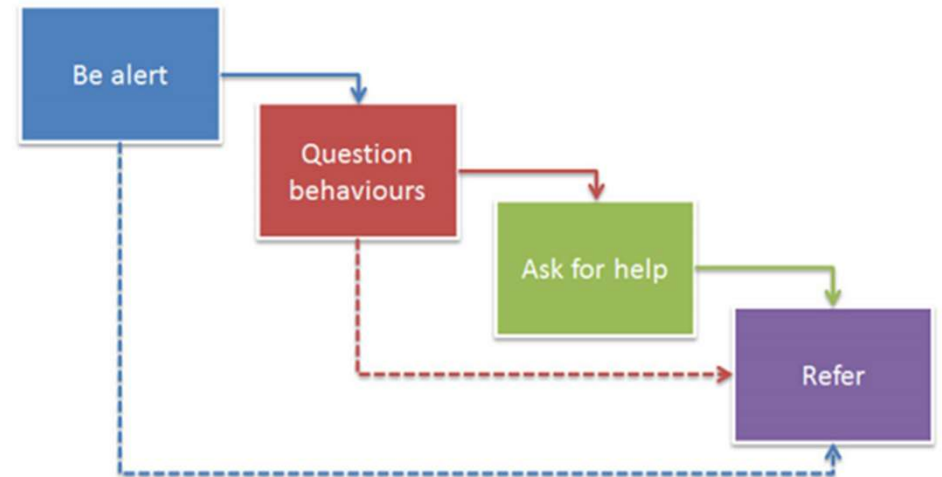
# Low Level Concerns !!

- Does not mean insignificant
- Adult may have acted in a way that :
- Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct; and
- Does not meet the allegations (Harms Test) threshold and is not considered serious enough to refer to LADO



# What to do?

- Report concerns to Manager / DSL
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – Jon Goddard - 01454 8685
- Access and Response Team (ART) 01454 866000
- Police
- NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline



The Three C's







Learning and Development  
Training Evaluation Form 2025

