

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHILD SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS:
WORKING TOGETHER (2018)**

Cabinet Date	19 June 2019
Children's Safeguarding and Early Years	Cllr Richard Boyles
Key Decision	No
Background Documents	<p>Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – July 2018</p> <p>Working Together: transitional guidance, statutory guidance for Local Safeguarding Children Board, local authorities, safeguarding partners, child death review partners, and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel – July 2018.</p>
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	<p>Working Together to Safeguard Children: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf</p> <p>Working Together – transitional guidance: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722306/Working_Together-transitional_guidance.pdf</p>
Main Consultees	<p>The development of Gloucestershire's arrangements to meet the requirements of Working Together 2018, have been informed by a series of conversations and consultations with members of the existing Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB). This has included consideration of the outline arrangements attached to this report at Appendix 1 at its meetings on 28th March 2019 and 15th May 2019.</p>

<p>Planned Dates</p>	<p>September 2018 – Safeguarding Children’s Executive comprising of Senior representatives of the three ‘Safeguarding Partner’s commenced meeting in shadow form alongside existing GSCB.</p> <p>December 2018 – Safeguarding Children’s Executive approves an outline approach for local safeguarding arrangements in line with requirements of Working Together 2018.</p> <p>December 2018 – March 2019 – development of published arrangements. Consultation with GSCB partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>March 2019 – Approval of final arrangements (attached Appendix 1) by Children’s Safeguarding Executive and further consultation with GSCB partners.</p> <p>April 2019 – submission of Gloucestershire Child safeguarding arrangements to the DfE website and implementation of transition plan.</p> <p>April – July 2019 – Transitional period from existing GSCB to Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children’s Executive (GSCE) with full implementation by 15th July 2019. At this point the current GSCB will cease to exist, with its functions being picked up by the GSCE, with the exception of any SCRs which are not completed at that date.</p>
<p>Divisional Councillor</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Officer</p>	<p>Andy Dempsey Director of Partnerships & Strategy Tel: 01452 425019 Email: Andy.dempsey@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Purpose of Report</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet endorsement for the child safeguarding arrangements set out in Working Together: Gloucestershire multi agency arrangements to safeguard children April 2019 prior to full implementation in July 2019.</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>To endorse the :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding children arrangements set out in Working Together: Gloucestershire’s multi-agency arrangements to Safeguard children April 2019 (attached Appendix1); and, • give delegated authority to the Director of Children’s Services to make any final changes in consultation with the statutory safeguarding partners, prior to full implementation of the new arrangements in July 2019.
<p>Reasons for recommendations</p>	<p>There is a requirement that local areas publish their arrangements to meet the requirements of Working Together 2018 by 29th June 2019. Gloucestershire County Council’s Children’s services have been working with local Safeguarding Partners – Gloucestershire Constabulary and NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group – to develop the</p>

	arrangements attached at Appendix 1. These have been submitted to the DfE and are currently subject to a transition process to ensure a continuity of safeguarding until full implementation in July 2019.
Resource Implications	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2015, in response to a number of disappointing inspection outcomes for Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB), the Government commissioned Alan Wood, a former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services and ex-Director of Children's Services in Hackney to lead a review of LSCBs. The review collected over 600 contributions and came to the overall conclusion that LSCB's were not sufficiently effective. It further recommended the replacement of LSCB's with a statutory partnership of three key statutory agencies, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG's) and local authorities, who would, in turn, determine local safeguarding arrangements.
- 1.2 In its response in May 2016, the Government agreed with Alan Wood's analysis that "current arrangements are inflexible and too often ineffective. Meetings take place involving large numbers of people, but decision making leading to effective action on the ground can be all too often lacking." ⁱ In April 2017, the Children and Social Work (CSW) Act 2017 removed the requirement for local authorities to have LSCB's and introduced a duty on 3 key partners to make arrangements with other partners as locally determined to work together in a local area to protect and safeguard children.
- 1.3 The DfE issued draft statutory guidance in October 2017, with partners' consultation taking place in December 2017 and the DfE's response to that consultation in February 2018. The final version of Working Together 2018 was published in June 2018 and sets out the core requirements for the 3 safeguarding partners while allowing them freedom to determine how they organise themselves to meet those requirements, and improve outcomes for children locally.
- 1.4 The DfE's timeline for agreeing, publishing and implementing the new safeguarding partnership arrangements is set out in the additional guidance on the transition arrangements: Working Together transitional arrangements (2018):-
- 12 months from commencement of provisions of the CSW Act for 3 safeguarding partners to agree arrangements – by end of June 2019.
 - The arrangements must be published and notification sent to the Secretary of State
 - Within 3 months of publishing arrangements, the 3 safeguarding partners must implement the arrangements.
 - There will be a 12 month grace period for LSCB's after new arrangements are in place to complete and publish any outstanding Serious Case Reviews.
 - There will be a 4 month grace period for CDOP's (under the LSCB) to complete child death reviews.
 - The child death review partners (the local authority and the CCG) will have 12 months from the end of June 2018 to agree the arrangements for child death reviews and 3 months to implement them (by the end of September 2019).
 - Once the arrangements have been published and implemented, the LSCB will no longer exist.
- 1.5 In its report of June 2017, Ofsted judged Gloucestershire's Safeguarding Children's Board as requiring improvement. Whilst it noted strengths such as the inclusion of young people

on the Board and the well established child death overview panel (CDOP) it also noted gaps in GSCB activity that inhibited its ability to hold agencies to account for poor practice and, better understand the impact of work to keep children safe across the County.

1.6 Acknowledging the outcome of the 2017 Inspection, the approach of the Safeguarding Partners in developing local arrangements has been to strike a careful balance between exploring the opportunities provided by Working Together 2018 for greater localism whilst building on established multi-agency arrangements where these are effective. This has involved the GSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager working with local partners to agree a comprehensive data dashboard and rapid review process both of which will underpin the transition to the new arrangements and ensure that they address some of the previous deficits.

1.7 The essential architecture of Gloucestershire's arrangements to deliver the requirements of Working Together 2018 will comprise:

- A **Safeguarding Children's Executive Group** – comprising of the three safeguarding partner Strategic Leads, their respective Lead Officers, Independent Scrutineer, Safeguarding Business Manager and Chair of the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Delivery Board.
- A **Safeguarding Children's Delivery Board** chaired by a senior officer from one of the safeguarding partners and comprising of local partner agencies with continuing duties to safeguard children. Mandated by the Executive, the Delivery Board will provide the engine room for the development of local child safeguarding and welfare arrangements. Its membership will be drawn from senior officers from the three safeguarding partners and wider range of local partners that have continuing duties to collaborate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- **Independent Scrutiny** to be provided by an experienced and qualified individual, commissioned, but not employed by, the Safeguarding Partners. The Independent Scrutineer will attend the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group working to the Delivery Board and sit as a full member of the Safeguarding Executive. The Independent Scrutineer would also provide an annual overview report on the effectiveness of local arrangements for the scrutiny/oversight boards for each of the safeguarding partners.
- A range of **Safeguarding Subgroups** will support and inform the working of the Delivery Board and Executive as follows:
 - Quality Assurance/Intelligence and Performance Group
 - SCR/Practice Reviews and Critical Incident Group
 - Policy, Procedures, Training and Learning Group
 - Missing, CSE and Exploitation Sub Group
 - Education Safeguarding Sub Group
 - Child Death Overview Group

- MASH Board
- **Task and Finish Groups** will be established on a dynamic basis to deal with emerging issues/challenges as directed by the Safeguarding Children's Executive.

1.8 Working Together 2018 envisages a shared and equal responsibility between the local authority, police and health in a locality, which in turn provide leadership to a wider set of local partners with continuing responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The senior leaders comprising the Children's Safeguarding Executive will provide a direct link with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Gloucestershire thereby ensuring a greater degree of congruence between their vision for the whole population and the more granular focus on child safeguarding activity contained in these proposals.

2. Options

2.1 Working Together 2018 sets out how local safeguarding partners must work together to ensure they can deliver their statutory obligations under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Whilst the revised arrangements provide for local flexibility they are also prescriptive in setting out those matters that must be covered within the final published arrangements. These are covered in paragraph 38 and 39 of Working Together 2018 and fully reflected in the published arrangements for Gloucestershire.

2.2 All local areas are required to publish their arrangements by June 2019. As such, whilst there is considerable scope for local flexibility some form of arrangements will be required.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 A risk register has been developed to inform the development of arrangements which has identified the following risks:

1. **Risk:** There is discontinuity in safeguarding arrangements during the transition period.
Mitigation: A comprehensive transition plan has been established with regular oversight by the Children's Safeguarding Executive.
2. **Risk:** The new arrangements do not meet the requirements of Working Together 2018.
Mitigation: The arrangements have been repeatedly cross checked with statutory guidance to ensure they are exhaustive and been submitted to DfE.
3. **Risk:** The new arrangements are ineffective in testing and improving the child safeguarding arrangements of local partners.
Mitigation: An Independent Scrutineer has been appointed to test impact supported by a comprehensive data dashboard and ongoing programme of quality assurance and learning activity.

4. Officer Advice

4.1 It is considered that the arrangements attached at Appendix 1 provide a pragmatic and measured response to the requirements of Working Together 2018. The approach taken acknowledges that improvements are needed in local child safeguarding arrangements

but seek to achieve this on an incremental basis that builds on those aspects that are currently effective whilst exploring opportunities for change and addressing deficits over the longer term.

4.2 The arrangements reflect the views and input from senior officers from the CCG and Police alongside the wider range of local partners working to safeguard children. There is also the opportunity to progressively refine the arrangements as evidence of impact or otherwise on child safeguarding is obtained.

5. Equalities considerations

5.1 Gloucestershire's child safeguarding arrangements are established as an assurance mechanism to test the efficacy of local child safeguarding activity. The arrangements do not affect the equality duties of the three safeguarding partners and those local agencies with continuing responsibilities to safeguard children.

6. Consultation feedback

6.1 There has been an ongoing process of dialogue with local safeguarding partners who will work together as part of the arrangements. There is a broad consensus that the proposals provide a pragmatic and realistic way forward that will positively impact on safeguarding outcomes for children in Gloucestershire.

6.2 Consultation with local safeguarding partners will continue to inform the development of these arrangements until full implementation in July 2019. The proposal also include a commitment to explore the potential for a 'shadow' child GSCE supported by the Ambassadors and Children's Engagement Team to build on the strengths identified by Ofsted.

7. Performance Management/Follow-up

7.1 An extensive multi-agency data dashboard has been developed as part of the transition arrangements that will to support the implementation of the revised child safeguarding arrangements introduced by these proposals. Performance against these indicators, which encompass all aspects of child safeguarding, will be a standing item on the Safeguarding Children's Executive agenda.

7.2 The Independent Scrutineer will be a member of the performance sub group in order to provide objective challenge and produce an annual report on the overall effectiveness of collective safeguarding arrangements. The annual report will feed into and inform the scrutiny and oversight arrangements for each of the safeguarding partners, including the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Group for GCC.

Report Title	Gloucestershire's Child Safeguarding Arrangements: Working Together 2018
Statutory Authority	The Children and Social Care Act 2017
Relevant County Council policy	Looking to the Future 2019 – 2022 – Children's wellbeing and safeguarding.
Resource Implications	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Sustainability checklist:	
Partnerships	The proposals revise the existing child safeguarding partnership arrangements.
Decision Making and Involvement	These are outlined in the main body of the report.
Economy and Employment	There are no direct implications
Caring for people	The proposals set out arrangements will encompass providers of care for children and young people in respect of their safeguarding arrangements.
Social Value	The proposals revise the existing child safeguarding partnership arrangements.
Built Environment	There are no direct implications.
Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)	There are no direct implications.
Education and Information	The required arrangements encompass educational providers and their role in safeguarding children.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral Vulnerable to climate change? Maybe
Due Regard Statement	Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk .

Human rights Implications	The proposals aim to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Consultation Arrangements	As detailed in report.