



REPORT TITLE:

Scrutiny meeting	Children & Family Overview Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2024
Chair	Cllr Andrew Miller
Presenting Officer	Paul Shallcross
Item Type	Information
Purpose of Report	To update Children & Family Overview Scrutiny Committee on the improvement programme for children's social care
Recommendations/ Action sought	Members note this update
Forthcoming Decisions	
Background Documents	
Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambitions Plan• Director report to May 24 Ambitions Board• Ambitions dashboard presented to May 24 Ambitions Board
Contact Information	

1. Background

- 1.1. At the July 2023 Continuous Improvement Board (July 2023), there was agreement to close the Continuous Improvement Plan due to the progress made on improvement and the need to reset our goals in recognition of changes within the service structures, and in light of the June 2023 JTAI.
- 1.2. It was agreed that there should be a new plan focussing on the service's ambitions for children. There was also a decision to re-name the Continuous Improvement Board – this is now known as the Children's Ambitions Board. This was, in part, to recognise the improvements noted during the Ofsted inspection of the service in February 2022 which was further reinforced in the JTAI inspection undertaken in June 2023. It also reflects in simple language our aspirations for the children and families we support, and for our staff who will deliver these improvements.
- 1.3. The Ambitions Board has continued to meet every two months and since May 2024 is chaired by the GCC Deputy Chief Executive Nina Philippides. The Board has previously been chaired by Claire Burgess, DfE adviser.
- 1.4. Since September 23, the Ambitions Board has also been co-chaired by the Ambassadors

2. Gloucestershire's Ambitions Plan

- 2.1. The plan is constructed under nine ambitions for our children, but also maintains the three obsessions that have been a key feature in the progress made over the last few years (timely and skilled interventions; eradicate drift and delay; build sustainable outcomes). A copy of the plan is included as an Appendix.
- 2.2. Each ambition is led by a workstream lead. An Ambitions steering group has been created to bring together work stream leads and to hear about progress on each ambition. The group has agreed an approach which will see three ambitions discussed in detail at each steering group meeting, with brief updates on other ambitions also provided. This provides a balanced assurance that work across the plan is being progressed.
- 2.3. This group is chaired by the Director of Safeguarding; members come largely from the local authority but also include a number of health colleagues. Ambition 6, which looks at our multi-agency practice is led by two colleagues from health.
- 2.4. The Director of Safeguarding provides a report for each Ambitions Board. The format of this report has evolved over the last few months. The report produced for the May Ambitions Board can be found in appendix.

- 2.5. In addition to the Director's report , a dashboard has been developed for the Board. This dashboard focuses on 2/3 key indicators for each Ambitions. It is updated for each board and highlights the direction of travel for each of the agreed key indicators. A copy of the Dashboard produced for the May 24 Board can be found in appendix
- 2.6. Alongside these two key documents, the Ambitions Board receive a regular SEND update
- 2.7. The Board also includes thematic deep dives at each meeting. Thus far, the following themes have been covered : Early Help, Mental Health and Domestic Abuse. The deep dive for the next ambitions board will look at exploitation.
- 2.8. The plan and board process are viewed as iterative – we are keen to use what has gone well to build into our future planning, and to improve areas where we feel the process has not produced the outcomes desired. The ambitions steering group met in June to start to review how the process is working, and a further session is planned in September to start to develop an updated plan.



Paul Shallcross
Service Director
Safeguarding and Care