

**Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults and Children Board (GSAB & GSCB)**  
**Working Protocol**  
**With**  
**Gloucestershire Children's Partnership and**  
**Gloucestershire Health and Well-Being Board**

## **1) Introduction**

In order for children and adults at risk to achieve outcomes during their lifetime, they need to be safe and secure. Safeguarding is everyone's business and many different agencies and strategic partnerships are involved, working together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community but particularly children, young people and adults at risk. The aim of this working protocol is to support four key partnerships to operate effectively in terms of safeguarding adults and children, by being clear about their respective roles, responsibilities and relationship to each other.

## **2) Statutory Framework for this Working Protocol**

- Sections 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Children Act 2004 Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006/2010 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- GSCB Statutory Function Health and Well Being Partnership Children's Partnership
- Section 42 of The Care Act 2014 – Adults
- Chapter 14, Statutory Guidance – Adults

GSCB Statutory Function	GSAB Statutory Function	Health & Wellbeing Board	Children's Partnership
Statutory Framework The GSCB is a statutory partnership under the Children Act 2004 with statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has responsibility	Statutory Framework The Care Act 2014 instructs each Local Authority to set up a Safeguarding Adults Board from 1/4/15  The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance was published on 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Statutory Framework The Health and Social Care Act 2012 includes establishment of a Health & Wellbeing Board to undertake joint strategic needs assessments. The Board must adopt and operate under a Joint Health and	Statutory Framework The Children's Partnership is no longer a statutory requirement, but has been retained with the responsibility for ensuring that effective strategic partnership arrangements are in place to ensure



for agreeing how relevant local organisations will co-operate to achieve this.	2014. The Care Act provides a legal framework for key organisations and individuals with responsibilities for adult safeguarding to work together and explains the roles and responsibilities to keep adults at risk safe. Chapter 14 specifically relates to safeguarding (page 229).	Wellbeing Strategy which identifies the top priorities where working together can make a real difference in promoting the health and wellbeing of the people of Gloucestershire.	that the lives of children and young people are improved by the delivering of better services, including their health and wellbeing.
<b>Role</b> Its role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare.	<b>Role</b> Its role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements for adults who; ➤ Have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and ➤ Is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect and ➤ As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of the experience of abuse or neglect The Board also works as a partnership to support people to	<b>Role</b> It provides the strategic framework within which the partners commission services in a co-ordinated way. It leads work to improve the health and well-being of people in Gloucestershire, and identifies needs and priorities (JSNA)	<b>Role</b> Its prime role is to keep children and young people safe; raise achievement and narrow the gap for our most vulnerable groups. It also evaluates and makes recommendations as to the priorities of the HWBP in relation to the health and wellbeing of children and young people.



Safeguarding Adults & Children

	protect themselves from abuse and neglect..		
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### **3) GSCB Relationship to the Children's Partnership**

The GSCB and Children's Partnership have a complementary relationship and are equal partners with a clear distinction between their roles. The Children's Partnership includes a priority about keeping children and young people safe, but has a wider brief regarding the wellbeing of children and young people. The GSCB focus is on safeguarding children and young people and its work contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children. However, the GSCB is not a sub group of the Children's Partnership; it has a separate identity and independent voice from the Children's Partnership. The GSCB has the authority to call any agency represented on the Children's Partnership to account for its safeguarding activity and should be in a position to advise, and where necessary, challenge the Children's Partnership commissioning processes.

### **4) GSCB Relationship to the Health and Wellbeing Board**

The role and activities of the GSCB are part of the wider context of Gloucestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board's arrangements. Its work contributes to the wider goals of improving the wellbeing of all children and young people. The GSCB will aim to link effectively with the Health and Wellbeing Board, including the Director of Public Health. The role of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership includes evaluating the performance of the GSCB in its contribution to the wider health and well being agenda – and where appropriate scrutinising and challenging the GSCB. Whereas the HWB Partnership leads on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, which includes looking at safeguarding issues, the GSCB has a statutory role to monitor effectiveness of what is done, undertake serious case reviews, collect and analyse information about child deaths. The GSCB will therefore both inform and draw on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment each year.

### **5.) GSAB Relationship to the Health & Wellbeing Board**

The roles and responsibilities of the respective bodies are different and complementary. They have a common purpose to promote joint working and co-operation between partners to improve the well-being of adults in need of support..

The Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report will provide information and challenge to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 6.) Shared Principles for this working protocol

- In order to deliver local safeguarding services effectively, the GSAB, GSCB, the Children's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board are committed to working together in an ongoing and direct relationship, communicating regularly through identified lead individuals.
- The Partnerships will work together to ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another and that there are no unhelpful strategic or operational gaps in policies, protocols, services or practice.
- The Partnerships share a commitment to a strategic approach to understanding needs, in a way that includes analysis of data and effective engagement with frontline practitioners, with adults at risk and their carers, children and young people, with families.
- The Partnerships are committed to developing a joined up approach to understanding the effectiveness of current services (what difference does it make) and identifying priorities for change – including where services need to be improved, reshaped or developed.

## 7.) What does it look like in practice?

### The GSCB will:

- a) undertake multi-agency safeguarding case audits, celebrating good practice and highlighting areas of underperformance or gaps in services across the partnership. This will be reported to the Children's Partnership and HWBB to consider.
- b) undertake Children's Serious Case Reviews, and safeguarding Systems Reviews when required, feeding back to the Children's Partnership and HWBB, and leading on implementation and monitoring of action plans.
- c) the GSCB will when necessary, challenge the Children's Partnership commissioning and service delivery arrangements where issues are identified through the various quality assurance processes such as learning from multi agency auditing of practice, Section 11 audits, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Children's Serious Case Reviews.
- d) produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within Gloucestershire, and submit it to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, local Police and Crime Commissioner, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Partnership.
- e) the GSCB will request evidence from the Children's Partnership as to its rigour in commissioning or developing safeguarding services.

- f) monitor action taken by agencies to improve safeguarding and highlight areas of underperformance to the Children's Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board, advising on ways to improve.
- g) take part in consultation on the preparation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) as they relate to children and young people and adults at risk.
- h) develop and promote policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young people, making them widely available through publication on the GSCB website and direct alerts to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children's Partnership.

**The GSAB will:**

- a) produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within Gloucestershire, and submit it to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, the local Healthwatch and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- b) Take part in consultation on the preparation of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA) as they relate to adults with care and support needs.

**The Children's Partnership will:**

- a) share their analysis of Safeguarding Performance Information with the GSCB on a routine basis
- b) ensure that the GSCB is formally consulted during the development of the Children and Young People's Partnership Plan
- c) ensure that those issues raised in the GSCB Annual Report into the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements are responded to as part of the development and review of the Children and Young People's Partnership Plan
- d) consult the GSCB on issues, policies and strategies which affect how children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted, e.g. a local preventative strategy, CAMHS arrangements or services for children in care
- e) maintain responsibility for the overall performance monitoring of the indicators, data and targets and outcomes identified within the CYPPO and HWB Joint Strategy.
- f) ensure that the advice and information provided by the GSCB are appropriately disseminated within the Children's Partnership member organisations.
- g) take an overview of the GSCB activities as part of its monitoring arrangements, including the provision of effective multi-agency safeguarding training.

- h) advise on workforce development, in particular the safeguarding activity in the delivery of all frontline services.
- i) seek views and endorsement from GSCB regarding any proposed commissioning arrangements which are linked to the factors which impact on safeguarding children, for example issues concerning domestic abuse, parental mental health, alcohol and substance misuse and adult criminality.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will:

- a) share their analysis of Safeguarding Performance Information with the GSAB/GSCB on a routine basis
- b) ensure that the GSAB/GSCB is formally consulted during the development of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and HWB Strategy
- c) receive the GSAB/GSCB annual reports and provide a formal response to both boards.

### **Resolution of Concerns**

#### GSCB

The Independent Chair of GSCB, the Director for Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services will liaise closely with regards to the effective operation of the GSCB, Children's Partnership and the HWBB.

GSCB will call members of the Children's Partnership to account should it have evidence that children are not being adequately safeguarded by one or more relevant partners. The resolution would require a formal response/action from the Children's Partnership. In the event of a dispute between the Chairs of the boards, the matter will be referred to the Chief Executive.

If there are any areas of significant concern that cannot be resolved in accordance with this Protocol then a strategy meeting will be held between the Independent Chair of GSCB, Chair of the Children's Partnership, the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive of the County Council and any other senior person that is regarded as being required.

#### GSAB

All workers should feel able to challenge decision -making and to see this as their right and responsibility in order to promote the best multi agency safeguarding practice. The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Escalation Policy provides workers with the means to raise concerns they have about decisions made by other professionals or agencies.



Resolution should be sought within the shortest timescale possible to ensure the adult at risk is protected. Disagreements should be resolved at the lowest possible stage, however if an adult is thought to be at risk of immediate harm discretion should be used as to which stage of the policy is used.

At Stage four, if it has not been possible to resolve the professional differences within the agencies concerned a Safeguarding Adults Board Resolution Panel will be convened by the Independent Chair of the GSAB. The panel must consist of representatives from three agencies (including the agencies concerned in the professional differences). The panel will receive representations from those concerned and make a decision as the next course of action, resolving the professional differences concerned. The decision of the panel is binding on all agencies concerned. The panel will produce a brief report of the issues and decisions made, which is submitted to the GSAB on an annual basis.

### **Sign Off and Review**

This protocol is agreed by the undersigned on behalf of the Safeguarding Adults & Children's Board, Children's Partnership and Health and Well Being Board. A review of the protocol will be co-ordinated by the Head of Quality (Children and Young People), 12 months after the protocol is signed off on behalf of each Board.

Signed	Role	Date