

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB)
Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 2pm
via MS Teams

MINUTES

Present:

David Hanley (Chair) (DH)	Independent Chair, GSAB
Sarah Scott (SS)	Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Communities, GCC
Marie Crofts (MC)	Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Gloucestershire ICB
Richard Ocone (RO)	Assistant Chief Constable Crime, Justice and Vulnerability, Gloucestershire Constabulary
Carolyn Bell (Minutes)	GSAB Business Manager

Apologies:

Rosi Shepherd (RS)	Cluster Chief Nursing Officer, ICB
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GSAB Executive Board Action Log 20th May 2026

		Owner
1	Review how learning from other safeguarding reviews (e.g., DHRs, mental health homicides) can be aligned with GSAB processes – Ongoing	DH
2	Confirm who would carry safeguarding as part of their brief to oversee governance of Safeguarding on the Quality Committee – Ongoing	RS
3	Feedback over future resources from ICB when familiar with current approach – Ongoing	RS
4	Discuss the reports for DHSC on Mental Health Emergency Departments and working with health providers on support for people with personality disorders and complex needs – Ongoing	DH & RS

		Owner
1	Welcome and Introductions	
2	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 13/03/2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3	Chair's Update DH reported on the slow but ongoing implementation of the GSAB Strategy. Workstreams were still in the implementation stage and progress on co-production was limited, this was a concern given the commitment to it within the strategy. There would be further discussion with workstream leads if progress was not forthcoming. DH raised that the Children's Partnership priorities did not currently include joint working with GSAB and asked whether this should be considered a priority for the Adult Board. Discussion followed on what joint working would aim to achieve and the specific areas of focus. DH explained that a list of potential priority areas had been identified and suggested that a dedicated group was needed to progress this work. RO advised that the matter would be discussed further at the next GSCP meeting on 10 th June. It was suggested that an initial exercise be undertaken to determine whether the identified gaps were already being addressed through existing groups or workstreams. Where this is the case, these groups could provide assurance through regular briefings. It was agreed that there was value in bringing the two Boards together on an annual basis to focus on joint strategic issues and cross-cutting priorities. DH raised whether Ruth Greenwood, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), should be invited to join the group. It was noted that Ruth represents the Police Commissioner and that the OPCC role is expected to cease in approximately two years. The group agreed that, as this is the first year of the Board operating in its current format, it would be beneficial to allow time to embed and consolidate the existing structure before considering the addition of new members.	
4	GSAB Strategy Update A monitoring mechanism will be produced to show progress. RO advised that as Steve Bean is retiring in September his replacement will pick up his portfolio.	
5	Assurance System The new Assurance Framework set out baseline expectations across key safeguarding elements, with organisations asked to provide evidence against each area. The initial returns showed many amber ratings where organisations had self-assessed compliance but not yet provided evidence. Without evidence these ratings would move to red. Demonstrating outcomes would be the most difficult area. The group reflected on wider issues of data literacy, outcome measurement and the "How do you know" question. There was agreement that a multi-agency performance report should accompany the framework. Sharing of the existing GCC produced report will be re-instated while a multi-agency version is produced.	

6	GSAB Self-Assessment Alongside organisational assurance, a Self-Assessment of the Board itself was proposed, based on statutory guidance and national advice. Board members agreed this would be useful for assurance and self-awareness, it would help identify areas to improve. One red area currently is co-production and there was a discussion around what 'good' would look like and how to evidence this. DH suggested practical starting points such as moving from the current audits to more nuanced discussions with people who had been through safeguarding. Also, asking people what 'safe' looked and felt like for them, in various settings. A Co-Production Charter has been created, and the various Partnership Boards were involved. The challenge of demonstrating that co-production was truly embedded rather than a one-off consultation was acknowledged. The group agreed that progress towards a stronger model of co-production would take time and might need a trajectory of improvement rather than rapid change. It was agreed to bring back the Self-Assessment in six months' time.	
7	SAR Thematic Review DH presented the Thematic Review of Safeguarding Adult Reviews over the last five years, led by the SAR sub-group. The group had identified recurring themes across three domains: Practice Development, Organisational Development and Potential Service Development. The themes had been mapped into existing workstreams, particularly Improving Practice, so future SAR learning would feed into strategic strands of work rather than separate, isolated action plans. Members supported this approach. Trauma informed practice was discussed as an important theme from SAR learning, but all agreed that it required cultural change rather than just training. Work would need to be broken down into realistic steps, rather than treating it as a single simple action. There had already been earlier work in Gloucestershire around a trauma-informed approach through the Health and Wellbeing Board and their work on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Some parts of the system, especially education, had embedded it well. The Adult MASH was discussed and there was agreement in principle. The plan was to build it into the new Local Government Reorganisation Council structure for April 2028. There will be discussion with partners over the next 12 months. The findings from the National SAR Analysis were also included and there was a discussion about whether any or all of these themes should be included. The GSAB Management Group had recommended against including these, given current capacity and that they were not strongly reflected in local reviews. The Board agreed with the Management Group's position but proposed re-visiting them in a years' time. The group accepted the SAR Thematic Review.	
8	GSAB Annual Report Plans were outlined for the GSAB Annual Report 2025/26. Following discussion at the Management Group, the intention was to produce a shorter, more accessible document that would be relevant to the public, people with lived experience and professionals. The proposed content would focus on key areas of Board activity and impact rather than long organisational submissions. Members supported this approach.	

9	SAR 'Martin' The report and recommendations had been agreed at the last meeting, and the actions were being integrated into the Thematic Review. The report had been anonymised and shared with family members. The Board discussed publication; the family will be contacted and advised ahead of this.	
10	Modern Slavery Joint Multi-Agency Review The draft Joint Review report had been shared with the group. It had previously been shared with Panel members, and they were content with it. The Board agreed to wait until after the GSCP meeting on 10th June before finalising scrutiny and publication plans.	
11	Any Other Business None raised.	
	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 at 9.30am in Brockworth Meeting Room, Ground Floor, Block One, Shire Hall, Gloucester	