

The Graduated Pathway – You Said / We Did

We have been working on reviewing Gloucestershire's Graduated Pathway over the past year with a focus in three areas:

1. The Graduated Pathway practice guidance
2. Direct tools and documents
3. Digitalisation.

We launched a survey between April and May of this year to be able to hear from as many practitioners and families as possible. Thank you to all of those that took the time to provide us with feedback.

We are pleased to be able to share with you an overview of the feedback received and the actions that have been taken as a result – You said, We did.

We are also excited to launch with you today the revised Practice guidance webpages following this engagement and listening phase which can be found by following the link below:

[Graduated Pathway practice guidance | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Further developments will take place next year in relation to digitisation and we will be in touch again to engage with you in these developments.

Below is a snapshot of what you told us and how we are responding.

#1 The Graduated Pathway - Practice Guidance

Overview of feedback – you said:

- The vast majority of those surveyed found the new practice guidance landing page to be both accessible and engaging.
- Almost all felt that the 5 key principles were right and aligned with their agency's priorities.
- There was a mixed response from practitioners and parents/carers regarding the ease of use of the guidance for parents and carers.
- Language and content were the two main areas they highlighted as needing to improve.
- Feedback supporting this included that it was “very wordy”, “written in social work speak”, “uses vocab that is assumed”.

Response – we did

- We have provided two separate pages: one for practitioners and the other for parents and carers to improve the ease of use of the graduated pathway webpages.
- We have changed the names of tiles on the landing page to make them more self-explanatory.
- We have worked with Gloucestershire Young Ambassador Team to review the content, and pages with large amounts of wording and been broken up to make it easy to find the information needed.
- We have included a glossary of terms and reduced the amount of unnecessary jargon.

The link to the new Practice Guidance webpages is here - [Graduated Pathway practice guidance | Gloucestershire County Council](https://www.gloscc.gov.uk/graduated-pathway-practice-guidance/)

#2 Direct tools and documents

Overview of feedback – you said:

- Approx three quarters of practitioners who responded use Gloucestershire's Graduated Pathway documents (My Plan and My Assessment & My Plan+) and process with the children and families they support.
- Practitioners prefer to use a range of progress tracking tools other than 'My Progress Chart'.
- Three quarters of respondents supported adding new sections to the My Plan template for families' contributions, to record what is going well and what has worked before and for the priorities that need to change.
- Half of practitioners were positive about adding scaling measures and distance measured tools to the My Plan and My Plan + templates.
- A third of the Practitioners thought the language used in the current templates could be difficult for children.

- Parents and Carers indicated they are not consistently involved in team around a family meetings and decision-making about the support needed and when it was no longer necessary.

Response – we did:

- To reframe the tools 'My Progress and My Journey' so they are presented alongside other progress tracking tools practitioners may use.
- We have revised the 'My Plan' template to include new sections on families' contributions, what is going well and what has worked before and the priorities that need to change.
- We will emphasise the importance of involving parents & carers in a team around a family (TAF) meeting and in decision-making. The revisions to the My Plan template support the inputs of parents and carers and we will place further emphasis on this in our Early Help training.
- We will incorporate scaling measures and distance measured tools in the development of the digitisation.

We will share the updated documents with you in the New Year

#3 Digitisation

Overview of feedback – you said:

The response to the proposal for the development of a digital solution for non-statutory plans was overwhelmingly positive.

- 80% of practitioners and all parents / carers surveyed said they would engage with - and support other to engage with – a digital option.
- A majority (64%) said they felt the criteria list for a digital solution covered all the requirements for better recording, sharing, and reporting of non-statutory plans.

For the practitioners, the three main priorities from that list were:

1. Hold all plans in one place.
2. Document storage provides one centralised location for all relevant information, accessible to all practitioners.
3. An easy to navigate, intuitive system including a user-friendly interface.

The parents / carers 3 main priorities were:

1. Practitioners/Families can log in.
2. Hold all plans in one place.
3. An easy to navigate, intuitive system including a user-friendly interface.

Response – we are doing:

We are currently working with a software and IT systems supplier to look at what's possible from our list of requirements for a digital solution for non-statutory plans. It is likely that we will eventually develop this software in a phased approach, trying to implement the key priorities first, and then staggering the implementation of the other criteria.

We plan to complete the first phase by Summer 2024.