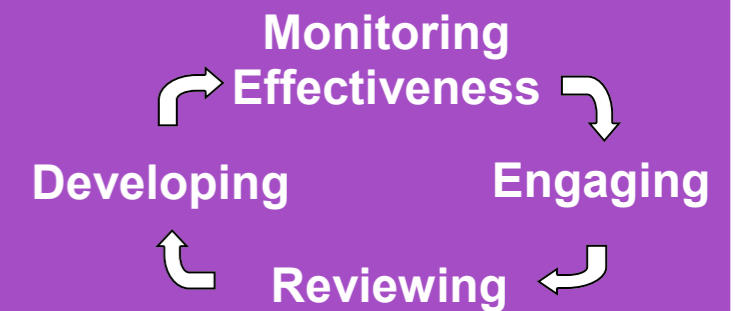




Gloucestershire
Safeguarding Children
Board

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board: Working together to empower and protect children Annual Report Summary 2012/13

GSCB Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework:



The Board will:

- make sure safeguarding policies are in place
- communicate the need to safeguard children
- evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by Board partners to safeguard children
- make sure lessons are learnt from Serious Case Reviews

Closer Working with other Boards

Members of the GSCB provide a wide range of representation on other partnerships. This includes the Children's Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB), MAPPA, (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements), Gloucestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board (GHWB) and the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board (GDASV). This in turn strengthens mutual support and challenge.

The GSCB has worked to align structure and priorities as closely as possible with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (GSAB). Part of this has been to look closely at the work of both Boards, bringing them together wherever there is an overlap. Both Boards have the same Independent Chair, but the GSCB retains its Executive and Business Unit which is now co-located with GSAB administrators to support a closer working relationship.

GSCB Response to Child Sexual Exploitation

The GSCB continues to "lift the stone" on child sexual exploitation (CSE). Through the CSE Protocol and training programme launched, attended so far by 200 practitioners, professionals have a much clearer framework for supporting children who are vulnerable to exploitation and good access to information about vulnerability, risk factors and a new, tailor made screening tool. In order to help young people to be aware of and understand the threat posed by sexual exploitation, the GSCB also commissioned a series of performances of "Chelsea's Choice", which is an interactive Theatre Production performed by young actors within schools. Over 9000 young people saw this production and feedback showed a hugely increased awareness of CSE.

Serious Case Reviews

During this year there have been no new serious case reviews undertaken by the GSCB. However, Gloucestershire trialled one of the ways to do a case review through "systems learning", from its involvement in the South West Pilot with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The findings from this review were used to:

- strengthen GSCB Core Standards for Child Protection Conferences
- initiate a reflective multi agency professionals meeting in all cases where a child has been subject of a Child Protection Plan for 12 months or more
- inform a Framework for Safeguarding Practice Reflection launched by the GSCB
- shape Neglect workshops rolled out to practitioners
- set a clear expectation that each partner agency ensures a system is in place for collating a chronology and providing it at the first multi-agency meeting about a child

The impact of Munro and ideas of Early Intervention

The Munro findings and Implementation Plan for Early Help has been communicated to approximately 580 practitioners by the GSCB during 7 Roadshow events and a successful 'Child's Journey' Conference.



Young People's Participation

In 2012, the GSCB agreed that the update of its website would be assisted by young people. Two Care Leavers worked with the Participation Team on a voluntary basis to develop child friendly pages on the GSCB website. The GSCB has acted upon the thoughts of the children who took part in last year's Business Planning Day and made sure that Board Members visited schools across the County. The Board invited young people to contribute to the GSCB Business Planning Day in February 2013 in order to listen to their views and priorities. These have been included within the Business Plan for 2013/14. 6 Young people's Ambassadors have been appointed by the Participation Team to work alongside the GSCB in the coming year.

Communications Plan

GSCB recognises it needs to continue to strengthen its communications. Building on the work of the existing Communications Sub-group, the Independent Chair will lead the group to develop a stronger strategic approach to awareness raising in ways that reach out further to our local practitioners and communities. The GSCB alerts are now distributed to over 2500 practitioners and this form of communication will be built upon in the coming year.

The Challenges Ahead

The revised Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance strengthens the role of the LSCB, in its unique ability to challenge the effectiveness of local services. Yet the GSCB is operating at a time when partners face great challenges in the coming year, with significant budget cuts and major organisational restructures. Despite these changes, agencies in Gloucestershire remain highly committed to improving safeguarding standards. To protect progress made and to build on it, the GSCB challenge is to:

- 1) Deliver more communications to raise awareness and inform local professionals, communities and Children what to do if they have a safeguarding concern.
- 2) Meet its statutory safeguarding functions, holding partners to account for work in relation to the help and protection of children, and
- 3) Make sure quality assurance activity by all partners focuses on the effectiveness of help provided and children and young people's experiences.

Vulnerable Children

As well as children at risk of CSE, the GSCB supported awareness raising and improvements in the following areas:

- Children in Care
- Privately Fostered Children
- Children and Domestic Abuse
- Children who go missing
- Disabled Children
- Parental Substance Misuse

Sub-groups of the Board include:

- Workforce Development (Training)
- MAQuA (Quality Assurance)
- Child Death Overview Panel
- Serious Case Review Communications
- Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedures
- Education and Learning
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Suicide Prevention

To read the GSCB Annual Report in full, please use this link:

<http://www.gsch.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56666&p=0>