



# Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board Common Core Standards for Safeguarding Practice Reflection (SPR)

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## Definition

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board recognises that individual organisations might use different terms for the provision of Safeguarding Practice Reflection. There is consensus however about what it refers to. Safeguarding Practice Reflection (SPR) is the term used to describe

**“the process of reflection on actual safeguarding practice,  
with the aim of ensuring that the practice is high quality and effective.”**

SPR is a reflective dialogue between a practitioner and another person who has the competence to provide safeguarding reflection; in some settings this is with the person's line manager, in others it is with someone in the organisation who has specific responsibility for this function. It can be formal informal, happen in 1:1 meetings or in groups.

## Benefits and Outcomes

- Provision of a two-way process of reflection and challenge
- Promotion of reflective, critical and systematic thinking
- Increased ability to exercise confident professional judgement and applied practice wisdom
- Maximised impact of the practitioner on the safety and well-being of the children and

## GSCB Core Standards for Organisations

**The organisation has arrangements for SPR set out in writing.** This might be part of a wider policy which includes other elements of 'supervision', 'contract monitoring' and support.

**The organisation ensures that every practitioner engaged in safeguarding children activity has opportunities for SPR** This should be proportionate and appropriate to their role, ways of working, competence and experience.

**The organisation has decided what format for SPR is the most appropriate for the different groups of practitioners within their work setting, and the reasons for this.** It can for example be provided in a group, as part of a 1:1 or a combination of the two.

**The organisation's arrangements in writing set out minimum standards for SPR in terms of its form, frequency and quality.** This is based on the organisation's analysis of what level is needed to enable their practitioners to practice safely and effectively. It includes a clear statement about the issues and areas to be covered, based on the role of the practitioners, evidence from research and findings from both local and national Serious Case Reviews. This includes making sure SPR appropriately balances focus on 'Quantity', 'Quality', 'Outcomes' and 'Actions'.

**The Organisation is Clear about who is responsible for delivering SPR.** This is especially important if different people are delivering different elements within a wider concept of 'supervision', 'support' or 'contract monitoring'.

**The organisation ensures that those delivering SPR have the safeguarding knowledge and reflective skills needed to do so to a required standard.** This should be suitably refreshed to ensure their skills and knowledge are developed in the light of new learning.

**The organisation evaluates the quality and impact of its SPR arrangements each year.** This should include feedback from practitioners and observation of SPR sessions. The focus should be on the quality of SPR provided and evidence of its impact on delivering practice changes which result in improved outcomes for children.

**The organisation ensures there is a clear connection between its wider learning and development strategy and SPR.** This is so that SPR reinforces messages from learning and development.

## GSCB Core Standards for the SPR Session

**The SPR involves reflection on what the practitioner brings to the situation.** Because of this, a tailored approach is appropriate and it can for example take the form of either

- a 1:1 in which practitioners have individual sessions with the person providing it
- a peer model, for groups of practitioners of the same profession or mixed
- or a combination of 1:1 and peer group meetings.

**The focus of the reflective dialogue is on specific cases on which the practitioner is working.**

This is because it is intended to impact on those cases. For practitioners in agencies with high-number caseloads e.g. those in universal services, the organisation will need to provide clear guidance about which cases are considered in SPR.

**SPR takes place in a comfortable and confidential environment and are uninterrupted.**

**SPR is wherever possible based on a continuous relationship between the two people involved.** This supports applied practice wisdom over time, across cases.

**SPR sessions are recorded using a standard pro forma and entries made on the client case record.** This is an important part of evidencing how decisions are informed by reflective thinking and applied practice wisdom.

**Do you want to know more?** Explore the GSCB website for further advice and guidance about safeguarding practice reflection or click straight on the following links;

- Guidance for SPR <http://www.gscb.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=60684>
- Multi agency practice discussions <http://www.gscb.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=55516>

**Do you have an example to help others?** If you have a written policy or a situation in which SPR helped reflection, decision making and outcomes, please contact the GSCB Business Unit [mail@gscb.org.uk](mailto:mail@gscb.org.uk) so we can share learning between professionals.