

## Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board

*Revised Guidance - Working Together to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children in England. July 2018*



Safeguarding Children

***“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified”***



## Children have said that they need:

### **Vigilance:**

*“adults who notice when things are troubling me”.*

### **Understanding and action:**

*“to understand what is happening, to be heard and understood and to have that understanding acted upon”*

### **Stability:**

*“to be able to develop an on-going stable relationship of trust with those helping me”*

**Protection:** *“to protect me against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if I am a refugee”*

### **Information and engagement:**

*“involve me in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans”.*

### **Advocacy**

*“provide me with advocacy to assist me in putting forward my views”*

**Respect:** *“to be treated with the expectation that I am competent”*

**Support:** *“provide me with support in my own right as well as a member of my family.”*

**Explanation:** *“to inform me of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when my views have not met with a positive response”.*

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Department for Education has published the revised guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The guidance was published in July 2018 and applies to England.
- 1.2. This briefing covers the key changes to the guidance and replaces Working Together 2015.
- 1.3. The guidance includes a new section on referral for anyone concerned about a child's welfare. The section highlights:
  - the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care
  - a new section on myth busting, a guide to information sharing
  - a new section on assessment of disabled children and their carers
  - young carers
  - children in secure youth establishments
  - a new section on contextual safeguarding

## **2. Key changes in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**

### **Assessing need and providing help.**

The guidance sets out clearly children who require assessment of need and provision of help. "Practitioners should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled and has specific needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn into antisocial or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation (including sexual exploitation)
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- has returned home to their family from care
- is privately fostered child".

## **3. Organisational Responsibilities**

- 3.1 A new section on People in Positions of Trust provides guidance that "organisations and agencies working with children and families should have clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children".
- 3.2 Other changes include:
  - All schools: "this guidance applies in its entirety to all schools,"
  - Early years and children. The guidance sets out a new requirement that they must "have and implement a policy and procedures to safeguard children."
  - A new section on Designated Health Professionals.
  - A new section on Children's Homes.

- New Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). “MAPPA should work together with duty to cooperate (DTC) agencies to manage the risk posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public.”
- Voluntary, charity, social enterprise, faith based organisations and private sectors: the guidance sets out that:
  - “all practitioners working in these organisations and agencies who are working with children and their families are subject to the same safeguarding responsibilities, whether paid or a volunteer”
  - The guidance sets out that: “charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with, their charity, are not harmed in any way through contact with it”.

#### **4. Multi Agency safeguarding arrangements**

- 4.1. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will be replaced by “Safeguarding Partners”.
- 4.2. Under the new legislation, three Safeguarding Partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning group) must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate), to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.
- 4.3. The geographical footprint for the new arrangements is based on local authority areas. Every local authority, clinical commissioning group and police force must be covered by a local safeguarding arrangement.

#### **5. Safeguarding partners**

- 5.1 The three safeguarding partners should agree on ways to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents.
- 5.2 To fulfil this role, the three safeguarding partners must set out how they will work together and with any relevant agencies.
- 5.3 All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements.

#### **6. Relevant agencies**

- 6.1 “Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the Safeguarding Partners consider is required in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children”.
- 6.2 “For local arrangements to be effective, partners should engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate”.
- 6.3 “The Safeguarding Partners must set out in their published arrangements which organisations and agencies they will be working with to safeguard and promote the welfare of children”.

## **7. Schools, colleges and other educational providers**

- 7.1 All schools: “this guidance applies in its entirety to all schools,”
- 7.2 “Schools, colleges and other educational providers have a pivotal role to play in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare”.
- 7.3 “The safeguarding partners should make arrangements to allow all schools (including multi-academy trusts), colleges and other educational providers, in the local area to be fully engaged, involved and included in the new safeguarding arrangements”.
- 7.4 “It is expected that local Safeguarding Partners will name schools, colleges and other educational providers as relevant agencies”.
- 7.5 “Once designated as relevant agency, schools and colleges and other educational providers, in the same way as other relevant agencies, are under statutory duty to cooperate with the published arrangements”.

## **8. Local and National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

- 8.1 The panel is responsible for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which, in its view, raise issues of importance in relation to their area. The panel will agree upon whether the cases are complex and of national importance.
- 8.2 A copy of the rapid review should be sent to the panel who decide on whether it is appropriate to commission a national review of a case or cases.
- 8.3 “The Safeguarding Partners are responsible for commissioning and supervising reviewers for local reviews”.
- 8.4 Information on the rapid review process, criteria and guidance that safeguarding partners must consider is also included.

## **9. Child Death Reviews**

- 9.1 The guidance replaces the requirement for LSCBs to ensure that child death reviews are undertaken by a child death overview panel (CDOP). Child death review partners (consisting of local authorities and any clinical commissioning groups for the local area) to make arrangements to review child deaths.
- 9.2 The guidance sets out the following:
- “Child death review partners may, if they consider it appropriate, model their child death review structures and processes on the current Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) framework”.
  - “to review all deaths of children normally resident in their area and, if appropriate and agreed between child death review partners, the deaths of children not normally resident in their area but who have died there”.
  - The Child Death Review Partners should agree whether the death was deemed to be preventable and set out clearly the intention of learning what happened and why, and how to prevent future child deaths. The information gathered may help child death review partners to identify modifiable factors that could be altered to prevent future deaths.
  - Additional guidance is due to be published on child death reviews.