

Forward

Working Together 2018 represents a significant milestone in the development of our collective arrangements to safeguard children and young people in Gloucestershire.

It places a 'shared and equal duty' on NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council where, in the past, the local authority was the sole accountable body for local arrangements. We embrace those responsibilities and view this as a real opportunity to further embed child safeguarding considerations across our own agencies and the wider local partnership.

The arrangements set out in this document are a transitional step on that journey. They seek to build on the previous work of the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board, which was replaced by these arrangements in July 2019. The new arrangements allow us to both build on past practice but also to develop our own local approach. Learning from past incidents and embedding that learning within our organisations are matters that can now develop along local lines reflecting Gloucestershire's collective commitment towards a trauma informed and restorative approach to practice, informed by the learning from Adverse Childhood experiences (ACEs). Our arrangements will continue to develop as confidence increases. We welcome the contribution of our partners and stakeholders and community to what we would hope is an ongoing and rich conversation.

These arrangements will also be subject to ongoing external challenge by an independent scrutineer who will play an active role in ensuring our approach contributes to the tangible change for children and families. The independent scrutineer will work within the framework of our own internal and partnership approach assuring the quality of all we do.

We all share the same aim; namely, that the safety, health, welfare and wellbeing of our children and young people is secured and that we remain open to learning and improving in order to deal with the many challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing world.

Safeguarding though remains 'everybody's business' and we thank you for your continued support, hard work and commitment.



Craig Holden
Assistant Chief Constable
Gloucestershire Constabulary



Chris Spencer
Director of Children's Services
Gloucestershire County Council



Marion Andrews Evans
Executive Nurse
Gloucestershire Clinical
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