

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GSCB NEWS BULLETIN

GSCB NOW LAUNCHED



The GSCB held a Signing Ceremony to celebrate the launch of the GSCB

Left:

Cllr Jackie Hall, Lead Cabinet Member, Services to Children & Young People

Middle:

Jo Davidson, Group Director, Children & Young People's Services, GCC.

Right:

Bill Robinson, Interim Director, Young Peoples Support, GCC.

BY DUNCAN SIRET Safeguarding Children Manager

The Children Act 2004 put responsibility on each local authority to ensure that by 1st April 2006, Area Child Protection Committees be replaced by Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The GSCB (Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board) is Gloucestershire's answer to this requirement.

I am pleased to say that Gloucestershire has been able to achieve this and has plans in place to ensure that the GSCB is not the ACPC with a new title. Instead the GSCB will provide a very real opportunity to put the safety and welfare of children and young people at the centre of every agency's work. The GSCB will make a significant difference in how we all work together to achieve the very best for the children and young people of the county. The development of the GSCB is under the auspices of the Gloucestershire+ Change for Children Programme. The changes mean that we have now had to say goodbye to some of our

existing members, to whom I would like to take this opportunity to thank and a welcome to all our new members. For more information please select the links:

[What is the GSCB?](#)
[GSCB Press Release](#)

G l o u c e s t e r s h i r e



Safeguarding Children Board

ISSUE 3 APRIL 2006

CONTENTS

- 1 [GSCB Now Launched](#)
- 1 [GCC Structure Changes](#)
- 2 [Working Together](#)
- 2 [CPU to SCS](#)
- 2 [CHMS E-bulletin](#)
- 3 [Children with Disabilities](#)
- 3 [CYP Plan](#)
- 3 [Safe Recruitment](#)
- 3 [CEOP Centre](#)
- 4 [Sharing Information](#)
- 4 [Key Points](#)
- 4 [New Links](#)

The merging of Education and Social Services

Gloucestershire County Council has been going through a period of change, prompted by the changes in our administration following the May 2005 council elections and by changes in legislation e.g. the 2004 Children's Act and the Green Paper *Every Child Matters*.

In September 2005, a report was taken to Cabinet setting out the change programme. These changes have been effective since 01 April 2006 and included the merging of the children's services from the Social Services and Education Directorate. The new directorate is called the: [Children and Young People's Directorate](#).

IN DEPTH

Working Together: Updated Guidance Issued by DfES

BY DUNCAN SIRET
Safeguarding Children Manager

The guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006" has now been published by the DfES.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00060/>

This guidance builds upon the version that was published in 1999 and reflects developments in legislation, policy and practice, in particular the Children Act 2004 and the Every Child Matters Green Paper. It aims to provide an inter-agency framework to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people. The guidance is addressed to all practitioners and front-line managers who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and to senior and operational managers in organisations that are responsible for safeguarding, commissioning or providing services to children, young people and their families.

The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) which was established on 1st April 2006 had been awaiting this guidance and Chapter 3 details the roles and responsibilities of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Most measures must be introduced by October 2006.

Changes include:

- There is now no reference to a Child Protection Register and we are expected to stop using the term by April 2008. There will still be child protection conferences and we will still need to keep a record of those children that are the subject of a child protection plan and the category of concern as now. This will not affect the need to 'log a child welfare concern'.
- There is also greater prominence given to the strategy discussion, the multi-agency vehicle to start a child protection enquiry.
- Clearer advice about how to respond to the sexual activity of young people under 18, 16 and 13 years of age.
- New guidance on
 - dealing with allegations against staff from all agencies.
 - Individuals who pose a risk to children.
 - Trafficked children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
- Guidance on responsibility to set up the new child death overview panel for all under 18s and ensuring procedures are in place to investigate child deaths which weren't expected 24 hours before they happened.
- The requirement for stronger links between Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse agencies and MAPPP.
- Definitions of responsibilities and funding for lead child protection nurses and doctors. It also outlines the safeguarding roles for paediatricians and dentists.

No doubt there are more changes and the GSCB will be looking at the Gloucestershire Child Protection Procedures (www.glosacpc.org.uk/procedures) again soon to ensure they achieve all that is expected of them. Practitioners must continue to follow Version 2 of the procedures. If you would like to be informed personally once Version 3 is online please send an e-mail to updates@gsbc.org.uk with the subject heading of "subscribe".

Child Protection Unit (CPU) becomes the Safeguarding Children Service (SCS)

Following the structure changes within the Children and Young People's Directorate and the appointment of the Safeguarding Children Manager, the administration and training services of the Safeguarding Board, together with the Child Protection Unit have now come together under one management, which will be line managed by Jo Grills, Director of Learning and Development and GSCB Chair.

[SCS Structure Chart](#)

KEY STAT: By 31 March 06, the ACPC website had received 43,940 successful hits: Keep promoting www.ascb.org.uk

The Children's Health and Maternity Services E-bulletin

The Child Health and Maternity Team produce a monthly E-bulletin for internal and external stakeholder groups designed to provide them with regular updates on activities that are supporting the delivery of the Be Healthy outcome for children, young people and families through the Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda.

We hope to show the many connections between the underpinning and related programmes and demonstrate how they link to improve services for children, young people, pregnant women and their families. This bulletin is for managers and front line staff in education, social care, and health and for voluntary sector organisations who work with children, young people, and pregnant women and can be accessed through the link below.

[CHMS E-bulletins](#)

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities is one of the Business Priorities for the GSCB's first year. It is understood that Disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse or neglect than non-disabled children.

The DfES commissioned the Council for Disabled Children to produce guidance on Safeguarding Children with Disabilities as a resource for Safeguarding Boards. To view this document, please select this link:
[Safeguarding Children with Disabilities](#)

This resource is intended to help those with a strategic or planning responsibility for children understand their particular needs and consider how best to safeguard and promote their welfare.

For more information on services provided for children and young people with disabilities by Gloucestershire County Council, please select this link:
[Children and Young People with Disabilities](#)

Children and Young People's Plan

The Children and Young People's Plan is Gloucestershire's first single, strategic, overarching plan for all partners and agencies across the county who are jointly responsible for services to children and young people.

The plan identifies what we are collectively going to do, and how we are going to do it. The focus is on areas most in need of improvement, and where better joint working should result in better outcomes for children and young people.

The plan is being created to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004 and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. More importantly, it has also been created to enable all organisations to address the issues which matter most to children, young people and their families.

Gloucestershire County Council has worked with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop this plan. For more information about the plan and the work of the Children and Young Person's Partnership.

To view the plan please select this link:
[Gloucestershire's CYP Plan](#)

Safe Recruitment

In January this year, the media reported that several sex offenders were working in schools throughout the country which resulted in Ruth Kelly (Secretary of State for Education and Skills) announcing a new vetting regime for people who work with children.

There are now clearer guidelines about the use of the CRB check and the use of List 99 and other similar databases.

The recommendations are outlined in the following documents:

[Kelly statement - Every Child Matters](#)
[Review of List 99 decision making process and policy implications](#)
[Safeguarding children - press release](#)
[Safeguarding children - Revised arrangements](#)
[Safeguarding children - Ruth Kelly's Parliamentary address](#)

Gloucestershire County Council Response to Ruth Kelly's statement on 19 January 2006 was as follows:

Jo Davidson, Director of Children's Services, said: "We welcome the Secretary of State's announcement today that the procedures for vetting and checking the history of all teaching staff will be much more rigorous and consistent. The safety of children is paramount. Gloucestershire County Council has always taken a robust approach to assessing the suitability of a teacher's employment in our schools and, in fact, anyone working with children. For some time now, we have regarded the enhanced CRB check as more important than List 99 but there must be no room for doubt. We do want to know whether today's announcements apply to anyone working with children, not only school teachers. We will be asking the GSCB to ensure that effective monitoring processes are in place across all services to children, including the voluntary sector, youth services, independent schools and transport providers, as well as state schools."

As a consequence the GSCB have made Safer Recruitment a business priority for its first year and will be carrying out an audit of agencies and organisations working with children and families throughout Gloucestershire. The purpose will be to raise the profile of safer recruitment, to be certain children in Gloucestershire are not at risk and to identify any areas of weakness.

[Safer Recruitment online training](#) has been commissioned by the DfES and developed by NCSL in response to recommendation 16 of the Richard Inquiry report (published in June 2004).

Final [Richard Inquiry Report](#)

CEOP Centre

The UK's new Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has been launched to protect children from sexual abuse and is formally part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Today's children are sophisticated users of mobile phones and the internet and protecting them in this environment needs an effective response. The Centre is a world first and will play a decisive part, with police forces, offender managers, children's services and other stakeholders, in protecting children, young people, families and society from paedophiles and sex offenders; in particular from those who use the internet and other new technologies in the sexual exploitation of children. To report any inappropriate or potentially illegal activity with or towards a child online or more information on CEOP please visit their website:

[CEOP Centre](#)

Sharing Information about Children and Young People

The DfES has also issued guidance on:

[Information sharing and the Common Assessment Framework, Multi-agency working](#)

Communication between those working with children and young people is key to successful joined up working across services, as set out in Every Child Matters: Change for Children. Through improved information sharing and a common approach to assessing children's needs, we can help to ensure that:

- all children and young people get access to the universal education, health and other services to which they are entitled;
- children and young people with additional needs get the right services at the right time;
- there is effective safeguarding for children at risk of harm.

There are a number of things happening nationally to help practitioners and organisations to communicate and share information. This includes:

- **a national information sharing index for all local areas** - the government aims to have an operational index in place by the end of 2008, containing basic information on all children, together with contact details for any services they are receiving. It aims to enable practitioners to identify and contact one another easily and quickly, so they can share relevant information about children who need services, or about whose welfare they are concerned. Local authorities will be responsible for maintaining the accuracy of data for children living in their area, regulating user access and training. For more information go to: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/index
- **the Common Assessment Framework** - a common approach to assessing children's needs
- **Cross-Government Guidance on Information Sharing**

In January, Gloucestershire County Council signed up to an Information Sharing Principles Agreement, supported by other key agencies in Gloucestershire. The agreement covers the purposes of sharing information and principles for the lawful exchange of data within and between organisations.

An on-going training programme will be available for those working with children and young people in Gloucestershire. This will clarify the legal requirements for sharing information and aims to give practitioners confidence in making decisions.

For more details click: [Gloucestershire's Information Sharing Plan](#)

KEY POINTS:

Log Child Welfare Concerns before and even if making a referral.

A Child Welfare Concern must be logged every time a professional from an agency represented on the GSCB has a child welfare concern. This must be done by ringing 01452 42 5144 (Safeguarding Children Service) during normal office hours.

Professionals must seek advice from the SCS team regarding whether a referral to the Children & Families Help Desk is necessary.

If it is then please ring 01452 42 6565 during normal office hours, to make a formal referral.

Decisions whether or not share information regarding under-age sexual activity must be properly documented.

Decisions in this area need to be made by, or with the advice of, people with suitable competence in child protection work such as named or designated professionals or senior managers. The child's best interests must be the overriding consideration in making any such decision including in the cases of underage sexual activity.

GSCB Training Dates for 2006/07 updated

[GSCB Training](#)

News Articles

[Calls for smacking ban rejected](#)

[Doctors 'fear child abuse cases'](#)

[Mental Health overhaul demanded](#)

[Teenage sex guidance clarified](#)

[Agencies warned over Child Abuse](#)

[Child sex abuse inquiries double](#)

Other Links

The Government's response to the second Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children

[Making Safeguarding everyone's business](#)

A programme which operates across Gloucestershire to ensure a wide range of healthy school initiatives.

[Health Schools Programme](#)

"Children Now 12 Apr 06 issue" states a third of recruits in the armed forces are 18 or under. Nicholas Blake's report suggests army treatment of under 18's must change.

[The Deepcut Review](#)

CYPSP Communications Briefing Issue 3

[Issue 3](#)