

BNSSG CCG Governing Body Meeting

Date: Tuesday 4th June 2019

Time: 1.30pm

Location: The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Downend, Bristol, BS16 2QQ

Agenda number: 7.2

Report title: Safeguarding Children Arrangements

Report Author: Jan Baptiste-Grant. Interim Director of Nursing and Quality

Report Sponsor: Julia Ross, Chief Executive Officer

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the proposed changes to Safeguarding Children's systems across NHS England and the impact of those changes on Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) CCG.

The Wood Review of Safeguarding Children was commissioned by the Prime Minister in December 2015, as it was deemed that Local Safeguarding Children's Boards were not working effectively across England. Confidence has fallen in the effectiveness of these boards and the limitations of LSCB's have been repeatedly highlighted during Ofsted inspections.

The Wood Review recommended that the Local Authority is no longer the lead agency, but the three statutory agencies (Local Authority, Health and Police) become equal partners in the safeguarding of children. This recommendation was accepted by the Prime Minister and safeguarding children arrangements are revised across England in line with these recommendations.

Local Authorities, Police Service and Health are expected to publish plans for the introduction of revised processes for safeguarding children on 29 June 2019. These agencies are expected to commence implementation of these plans from 29 September 2019 with the "Go Live" date for all organisations to be implemented by 1 April 2020.

This paper describes the process which will take place to implement the new safeguarding children arrangements across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Governing Body are requested to discuss and note the:

- Proposals which will impact of safeguarding children across BNSSG CCG
- Financial implications when implementing the proposals
- BNSSG CCG's intention to publish plans to implement these proposals on 29 June 2019 and go live with these proposals on 29 September 2019.

3. Executive Summary

The Wood Review of Safeguarding Children was commissioned by the Prime Minister in December 2015 and recommended that the Local Authority is no longer the lead agency, but the three statutory agencies (Local Authority, Health and Police) become equal partners in the safeguarding of children.

Local Authorities, Police Service and Health are expected to publish plans for the introduction of revised processes for safeguarding children on 29 June 2019. These agencies are expected to commence implementation of these plans from 29 September 2019 with the "Go Live" date for all organisations to be implemented by 1 April 2020.

The paper describes the processes and structures to be implemented across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG to implement the new safeguarding children arrangements across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG.

3.1 Key areas for consideration

Accountability

The named lead agency for safeguarding children has changed from the single lead of Local Authorities to an equal leadership across the statutory accountable agencies – Police, Local authority and Police.

Safeguarding Capacity

There will be a considerable impact on the partner organisations in relation to capacity, responsibility, accountability and financial contributions in the implementation and delivery of effective and efficient safeguarding children process.

Financial challenges

Two of the three statutory partners may face financial challenges if safeguarding contributions are Further information is illustrated in the paper.

4. Financial resource implications

The impact of these changes could mean an increase in BNSSG CCG funding allocations towards the safeguarding childrens agenda. If Health and Police partners agree to match current safeguarding children funding allocation of their Local Authority partners this could result in an additional cost pressure of approximately £112,000. It was agreed that safeguarding funding across the three agencies will remain the same this year as that allocated in 18/19. Funding discussions for 20/21 will commence in October 2019.

5. Legal implications

The new Children's Safeguarding arrangements referred to in the report, reflect 'Working Together: transitional guidance'¹ and highlight the responsibilities of local safeguarding partners (Including BNSSG CCG as a key partner) and their statutory obligations, which will apply from 29th June 2018.

6. Risk implications

There are two risk implications to these national changes.

- Capacity of BNSSG staff to service the committees associated with the Safeguarding Children agendas.
 - This will be addressed during ongoing discussions with the team and partners.
- Finance.
 - There is a financial risk to the CCG of increased funding requests from the partnership from 2020/21. Financial discussions will commence in October 2019.

7. Implications for health inequalities

There are no implications for health inequalities outlined in the report.

8. Implications for Public Involvement

Representatives from BNSSG CCG, Local Authority and Avon and Somerset Police have taken place across the BNSSG CCG footprint, engaging the public in the proposed structures to safeguard children across Bristol, North Hampshire and South Gloucestershire CCG.

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¹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722306/Working_Together-transitional_guidance.pdf

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1. Purpose

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Members of the Governing Body are requested to note the:

- Proposals which will impact of safeguarding children across BNSSG CCG
- Financial implications when implementing the proposals
- BNSSG CCG's intention to publish plans to implement these proposals on 29 June 2019 and go live with these proposals on 29 September 2019.

2. Background

The Wood Review of Safeguarding Children was commissioned by the Prime Minister in December 2015, as it was deemed that Local Safeguarding Children's Boards were not working effectively across England. Confidence has fallen in the effectiveness of these boards and the limitations of LSCB's have been repeatedly highlighted during Ofsted inspections

The outcome of the review was published in March 2016. The Wood Report noted a dissonance between the roles, expectations, accountability and authority of partners on LSCB's and the modelling of effective partnerships between agencies was constrained by resources and bureaucracy.

Serious Case Reviews

The effectiveness of Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Overview Panels were included in the considerations of the review. It was noted that Serious Case Reviews were unable to escape the suspicion of blame, overshadowing the wider implementation of learning from these reviews. SCR outcomes were noted to be repetitive and predictable. The recommendation was that the government abandoned Serious Case Reviews with the establishment of an independent framework to oversee the deaths of children who have experienced harm.

Child Death Overview Panels

A revision of Child Death Overview Panels was recommended as 80% of child deaths are resultant of medical or public health causation. Only 4% of child deaths were resultant from the child being considered at risk.

2.1 Wood Recommendations

The recommendations of the Wood Review include:-

- The duty to collaborate between health, local Authorities and the Police Service must be strengthened.
 - The Local Authority is no longer the lead agency, but the three statutory agencies become equal partners in the safeguarding of children.
- Each agency must identify a Chief Officer with the leadership responsibility for collaboration and partnership in the implementation and ownership of the new arrangements.
- All areas must move towards the implementation of the new arrangements within a prescribed period of time.
 - Local Authorities, Police Service and Health are expected to publish plans for the introduction of revised processes for safeguarding children on 29 June 2019. These agencies are expected to commence implementation of these plans from 29 September 2019.

2.2 Independent Scrutiny

The role of independent scrutiny is vital to assure all partners that the arrangements adopted are effective. An independent scrutineer will be jointly appointed by the partners (Health, Local Authority and Police) and will chair the Executive Board.

3. Key Points/Issues of Concern

3.1 Safeguarding Structure: Accountability Challenges

Local Authorities were the lead organisation across a system that held the responsibility for Safeguarding Children. Whilst Health and the Police organisations had statutory responsibilities, it was felt in some cases their contributions were over shadowed by Local Authorities. The most significant change will be the equal partnership between the three statutory agencies. This has a considerable impact on the partner organisations in relation to capacity, responsibility, accountability and financial contributions to the implementation and delivery of effective and efficient safeguarding children process.

3.1.1 BNSSG CCG Safeguarding Governance: Accountability Structure

The senior officer responsible for Safeguarding in BNSSG CCG is the Chief Executive Officer. This responsibility is delegated to the Director of Nursing who oversees the safeguarding function and attends Executive Safeguarding meetings. The operational implementation and management of the safeguarding function is delegated to the deputy Director of Nursing and Quality. The Safeguarding children's team consists of the following personnel:

- Head of Children's Safeguarding (Designated Nurse)
- Designated Looked after Children Nurse
- Safeguarding Manager (Children)
- Two Designated Doctors (Bristol & S.Glos. and N. Somerset)
- Three Named GP's for Safeguarding Children

3.1.2. Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements across BNSSG CCG Footprint

In light of the changes to safeguarding children, partnership arrangements are being developed during regular meetings with representatives from Avon and Somerset Police, BNSSG CCG and Directors of Children's Services representing Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Local Authorities. These iterative meetings focus on developing plans for the new arrangements, including the identification of local processes in each local authority area alongside the creation of an executive partnership board.

Local Authority partners across the BNSSG have decided to retain their local accountability frameworks. Organograms demonstrating local arrangements in Bristol and south Gloucestershire are illustrated in each of the following sections.

3.2 Avon and Somerset Safeguarding Strategic Partnership

The future shape of safeguarding children across the BNSSG footprint will be led by the Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership. The membership of this partnership will consist of directors with a responsibility/accountability for safeguarding children representing the following organisations: -

- Local Authorities – Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire
- Police: Avon and Somerset Constabulary
- Health: NHS Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire CCG, NHS B&NES CCG, NHS Somerset CCG.

3.2.1 ASSSP Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding

The Avon and Somerset Safeguarding Strategic Partnership will meet four times a year. Membership will consist of representatives from the following organisations: -

Health

- NHS CCG's: Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire CCG
- NHS B&NES CCG
- NHS Somerset CCG

Avon and Somerset Police

Local Authorities

- Bristol
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire
- B&NES
- Somerset

Draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding have been circulated across membership organisations for agreement. These two documents outline the agreed ways of working, accountabilities and scrutiny of the partnership arrangements. Amendments to these documents were made following legal advice which strengthened the partnership arrangements.

A draft copy of the Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix 1. The draft Memorandum of Understanding is thirty pages in length and will not be attached to this document but available upon request once agreed with all partners. A synthesis of the legal statement

appearing in the Memorandum of Understanding is attached as Appendix 2. Once agreed by all agencies it is proposed the final documents will be shared with the Clinical Executive Committee, Quality Committee and Governing Body. All partners agreed that a shadow ASSSP Executive Board trialling the new arrangements will be established September 2019. There is an overarching recognition that the new arrangements may require revision as they are embedded into practice. With that in mind it was agreed by all partners these documents and working arrangements will be reviewed in December 2019.

3.3 Regional Working Groups

Regional Working Groups will be established to eradicate duplication and respect the principles of the Wood Review. These groups are accountable to the Avon and Somerset Safeguarding Strategic Partnership. The remit of these working groups is to converge areas of good practice that can be replicated or shared across all partner organisations and focus on areas of commonality i.e. policies and procedures, workforce development, quality assurance, self-assessment and communication.

BNSSG representation on these regional working groups will be garnered from Safeguarding specialists across the organisation. These constituents will include designated clinicians (doctors or nurses) employed by BNSSG CCG or partner organisations e.g. provider organisations. Discussions will take place with these clinicians to establish capacity and agreement across the BNSSG footprint.

3.4 Consultation events

Public consultations sharing the proposed changes to safeguarding arrangements and the proposed new structure and accountabilities were delivered across Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Members of the Quality team shared the platform with our partners from the Local Authority and Avon and Somerset Police, presenting the proposed structure to the public, voluntary agencies and key stakeholders.

Bristol Local Model

Bristol City Council proposes to merge their four local boards listed below into one Executive Board. The four Boards are: -

- Safeguarding Adults' Board
- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Safer Bristol Board
- Children and Families Partnership Board

This is a radical shift from other organisations and the merging of these four boards will create an innovative dynamic in the safeguarding arena. The proposed structure is illustrated as Figure 1 below.

Membership of the Bristol Executive Board is slimmer than in previous Local Safeguarding Boards, consisting of 10 partners: -

- Executive Director of People Services representing the Chief Executive LA
- Director of Adult Services
- Director of Children and Families Services
- Avon and Somerset Police Assistant Chief Constable
- Chief Executive of Voluntary Sector Services

- Probation
- Education: Chief Executive of Multi Academy Trust representative
- Director of Nursing BNSSG CCG
- Senior Fire Officer (Avon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service).

An independent chair will be appointed who is accountable to the partner agencies, but tasked with ensuring the partners hold each other to account as well as fulfilling their statutory accountabilities.

The inaugural meeting of the shadow Bristol Executive Board was held in March 2019. Monthly meetings will continue until 29 September 2019 when this board will “go live”.

The delivery model for safeguarding across Bristol was discussed extensively with health, police and other local authority directors. Representatives from Bristol Executive Board are members of the Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership.

Quality and Business Planning Meetings

The Bristol model will deliver priorities through a combined ‘phased’ Safeguarding and Community Safety Business Plan. The new Board will be responsible for delivery of ‘the plan’, which will be driven by three working groups.

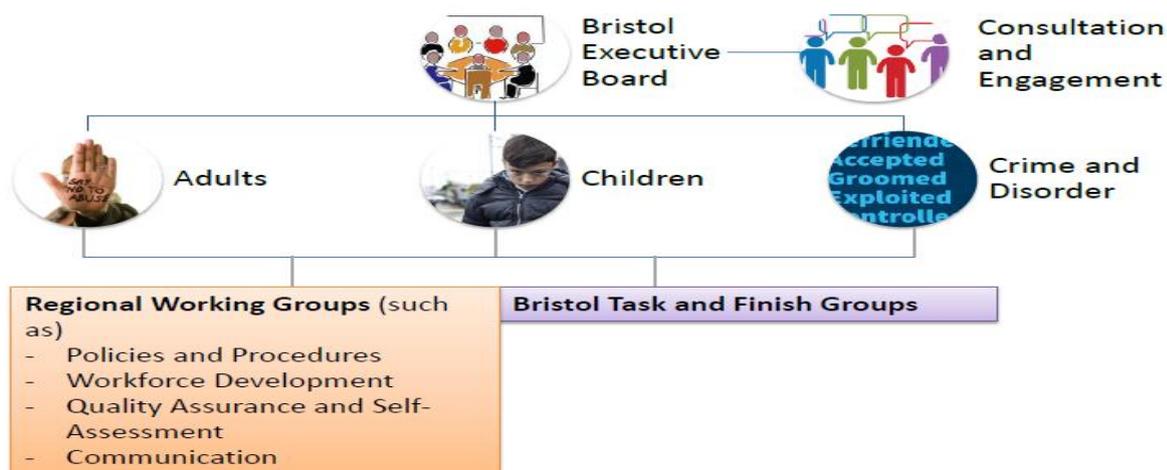
- Adults Quality and Business Planning Group
- Children’s Quality and Business Planning Group
- Crime & Disorder Quality and Business Planning Group

Their primary function will be to task small start and finish groups to deliver against priorities in a SMART approach. Dynamic and focussed attention is required to ensure that issues are dealt with to produce improved outcomes. These will not be replicas of the previous boards. Members of the Quality & Business Planning Groups will be those most likely to deliver the theme of the business plan operationally. Other than a few key members, members involved will change as the theme changes.

Consultation and Engagement

Bristol will build on the successful Children’s Shadow Board approach, extending the approach to other individual stakeholders. Bi-annual engagement forums will be constituted to ensure that the wider safeguarding partnership is engaged and their knowledge and intelligence is best utilised to draft subsequent Business Plan priorities. The Engagement Forum will draw from constituent groups including community groups to inform our intelligence and understanding of risks and opportunities for improvement progress.

Figure 1: Bristol Model of Safeguarding from September 2019



3.5 BNSSG Commitment

BNSSG membership of Bristol Executive Safeguarding Board requires attendance at four (4) safeguarding meetings a year. This design may introduce capacity/representation challenges for BNSSG CCG which is being discussed within the Quality Directorate. As a key and equal partner in the delivery of safeguarding steps are being taken to quantify the commitment required and capacity of the team to deliver a safe and effective safeguarding service.

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Governance Model

South Gloucestershire will retain separate adult, children’s and crime and disorder safeguarding functions. They will establish a Children’s Executive which is accountable to their Health and Wellbeing Board. The Director of Children’s Service is a member of the Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (ASSSP).

The Director of Nursing will represent BNSSG on the Children’s Executive Board and it is proposed these meetings will be held quarterly. Members of the BNSSG wider safeguarding team will represent health on the sub-groups. The following sub-groups will support the Children’s Executive Board: -

- Commissioning
- Multi agency Operational Management
- Wider Children’s Planning.

Note an Engagement Forum will be established to include Early Years Support and offer the voice of children, voluntary agencies etc. to all sub-groups as required. The triumvirate statutory agencies (Local Authority, Health and Police are delivering joint public consultations of the revised model for safeguarding children. Figure 2 illustrates the proposed model to be implemented across South Gloucestershire.

Figure 2: Safeguarding Children model to be implemented across South Gloucester – September 2019



North Somerset Safeguarding Model

New arrangement consultations are scheduled, but incomplete at the time of submitting this report. Local discussions continue with the three lead agencies and it is proposed the arrangements and meeting attendances will be similar to those highlighted in partner local authority areas.

4. Risks and Mitigations

Whilst the amendments in safeguarding children should lead to greater effectiveness in the delivery of the safeguarding agenda, there are a number of risks for BNSSG CCG associated with this new approach.

4.1 Capacity

Servicing safeguarding meetings across BNSSG footprint will pose a significant challenge for the existing safeguarding team. Health will be an equal statutory partner in safeguarding children, expected at each Local Authority Executive Board and the overarching Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Board. BNSSG Director of Nursing's meeting attendance will equate to sixteen (16) safeguarding children's meeting per annum.

The Executive Board meetings are supported by sub-groups as illustrated in the diagrams above. A health representative is required to contribute to each of the sub-groups. BNSSG may have more flexibility with the identification of named and designated staff from partner organisations (NHS Trusts) attending on behalf of the system. Preliminary discussions with designated and named clinicians are arranged to explore opportunities to support this proposal. In addition, it is proposed that discussions are held with Directors of Nursing across BNSSG CCG footprint to explore whether they can represent health at any of the sub-groups.

4.2 Financial Challenges

Traditionally, the majority of funding to support the safeguarding agenda was provided by Local Authorities. The financial weighting will change to reflect the equal partnership responsibilities of Health, Local Authorities and the Police Service from 29 September 2019. The table below illustrates BNSSG CCG safeguarding children contributions to the three local Authorities. A comprehensive return from Partner organisations illustrating their financial contributions to date is attached as Appendix 3.

Figure 3: BNSSG CCG Safeguarding Children Financial Contributions to Local Authorities

Year	Bristol	S.Glos.	N. Somerset
18/19	£42963	Funding contributions transferred to individual local health organisations.	£7763
17/18	£27766	£31940	£7574
16/17	£27766	£31940	£7426

Safeguarding financial contributions to local authority partners will exceed the total identified in the table above as BNSSG CCG also contributes annual payments to the safeguarding adults' agenda.

During the financial year 18/19, Bristol City Council allocated £155,700 to the Safeguarding Children agenda. In the same period BNSSG allocated £42963, and Avon and Somerset Police £19000. As an equal partner BNSSG and Avon and Somerset Police are expected to commit the same financial contribution or resource in kind to this agenda. BNSSG CCG would have to increase its safeguarding children financial contribution by 20% if we were to match fund the financial contributions of Bristol City Council during 2018/19.

The commitment to match fund would be an expectation from all Local Authority partners across the BNSSG footprint creating an unexpected financial pressure on BNSSG CCG. Fiscal challenges will continue across the public sector, therefore it is incumbent upon the partners to work collegiately to ensure safeguarding arrangements continue to provide effective services for the population of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

To support this process, and to facilitate progress in areas where there is unresolved disagreement between the three lead agencies, a clear resolution process has been developed and will be incorporated into the Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Constitution.

The table below illustrates those contributions.

Figure 4: BNSSG CCG Safeguarding Adults Contributions to Local Authorities

Year	Bristol	S. Glos.	N. Somerset
18/19	£32000	£0 *	£0*
17/18	£27010	£0*	£0*
16/17	£27010	£0*	£0*

£0* denotes the information was unavailable at the time of submitting this report. Additional clarification of BNSSG financial contributions to the overall safeguarding agenda continues.

5. Legal implications

The new Children's Safeguarding arrangements referred to in the report, reflect 'Working Together: transitional guidance'¹ and highlight the responsibilities of local safeguarding partners (Including BNSSG CCG as a key partner) and their statutory obligations, which will apply from 29th June 2018.

6. Implications for health inequalities

There are no implications for health inequalities outlined in the report.

7. Implications for Public Involvement

Representatives from BNSSG CCG, Local Authority and Avon and Somerset Police have taken place across the BNSSG CCG footprint, engaging the public in the proposed structures to safeguard children across Bristol, North Hampshire and South Gloucestershire CCG.

8. Summary and Recommendations

The inception of the new safeguarding arrangements across BNSSG is an exciting collaboration with partner agencies and could be a precursor to the way we will conduct business as an integrated care system. However, it will bring challenges as these new arrangements settle.

The new Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership will be tested and the strength of the partnership will be dependent on the respect and trust engendered from each organisation as safeguarding structures are revised and tested across the system.

BNSSG resources will be challenged as we grapple with decisions and prioritisation as some elements of safeguarding children in these new arrangements will be unaffordable.

The Safeguarding team will be encouraged to demonstrate agility during the first year to fulfil our safeguarding duties and creative collaborations will be forged with NHS provider organisations in relation to health commitment and representation on supporting safeguarding sub-group.

Actions

Members of the Governing Body are requested to note the: -

- This paper highlights the proposed arrangements to safeguarding children across BNSSG CCG footprint.
- The publication of this document is in line with the recommended changes highlighted in the Wood Report and the expectations that all agencies produced their plans by 29 June 2019.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722306/Working_Together-transitional_guidance.pdf

- These new arrangements are iterative. They require ongoing discussion and tripartite review throughout the first year to ensure we maximise our collaborative contributions in the provision of Safeguarding Children across BNSSG.

Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Terms of Reference

1 Purpose

- To promote a child centred approach to safeguarding children, who may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from within their families and from individuals they come across in their day to day lives.
- The regional group shall provide oversight as a strategic leadership group of equal partners, supporting and engaging others and implementing local and national learning. It shall enable all partners to co-ordinate the delivery of strategic decisions and planning, which will ensure the adoption of best practice consistently across the area, thereby drawing benefit over and above local arrangements. The legal status of the group is described in Appendix 1.

2 Vision

We create a collaborative and supportive working relationship which ensures that:

- All children and young people in our region are safe from harm
- All children and young people in our region have a voice with influence

3 Aims

In all of its operations, the regional group will aim to:

- Promote the safeguarding concerns of children and young people and their families across all member organisations
- Plan strategically, taking a whole system approach to safeguarding children, young people and families
- Align resources, knowledge and expertise across regional and organisational boundaries
- Improve outcomes by removing barriers to innovation and joint working
- Collectively challenge and support the partnership by providing strategic drive via robust performance management
- Seek opportunities to achieve the best possible value for money, and to create opportunities to invest in new ways of delivering our responsibilities
- Maintain links with operational delivery across all member organisations via a sub-structure of themed groups.

4 Governance and accountability

The regional group represents a geography served by 9 core partners, who deliver safeguarding children arrangements in 5 areas based on local authority boundaries. (Appendix 2).

Members of the group remain wholly accountable to their employing organisations, and will be sufficiently empowered to discuss, influence and where necessary agree funding for the regional approach and related and agreed activities.

The minutes of group meetings will be made public via the 5 local arrangements for children's safeguarding.

5 Scope

The regional group works collaboratively, aligned to the priorities of the 5 local arrangements. It will make recommendations to the organisations that are represented at it, and monitor the work and performance of the groups that report to it.

The work in scope is defined by the regional group, and is laid out in the Terms of Reference of each regional work stream and this document.

The group provides strategic leadership across the partnership by;

- supporting performance and data analysis
- intelligence sharing and risk reduction
- working together through standing groups as required
- commissioning task and finish activity as required
- establishing and reviewing regional policies and procedures
- regional communication coordination

6 Out of scope

- Work of sub regional scale, unless by specific agreement.

7 Roles and Responsibilities of Members

Members of the group are expected to ensure that these responsibilities are met at all times:

- The members of the group (and through them the organisations they represent) will cooperate to promote the safeguarding of all children, 0-25 years of age where appropriate.
- The group will report to local governance arrangements and local arrangements may report to the regional group.

In undertaking these responsibilities the members of the group will ensure that it continues to:

- Take account of statutory guidance in developing regional arrangements.
- Oversee arrangements for effective sharing of information across the partner agencies.
- Offer effective challenge to partners.

8 Running the group

- The group is chaired by one of its members, with a deputy chair who will replace the chair after a period of time agreed by consensus. The chair and deputy shall be from different core partner agencies – NHS/Police/Local Authority.
- The group is supported by Avon and Somerset Constabulary (meeting bookings, arranging dates, circulating papers) and by the Chairing organisation (minute taker).
- The group is hosted at Avon and Somerset Constabulary Head Quarters.
- The group meets quarterly.
- The quorum for a meeting of the group is 66% of the representatives set out in the membership.
- The group members make recommendations to the organisations that are represented at it, and monitor the work of sub-groups that report to it.

9 Membership

Membership is granted to those with senior directorial strategy and safeguarding responsibility and resource management oversight in core partner organisations. Deputising is not acceptable.

- Directors of Children's Services from each Local Authority
- Directors with accountability for safeguarding in NHS CCG's
- Head of Neighbourhood and Partnerships, plus lead for safeguarding in Avon & Somerset Police.

10 Data Protection and Information Governance

The statutory duties regarding data protection and information governance are set out in detail in the Memorandum of Understanding.

11 Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed at least annually, or at times when the Group is otherwise reviewing its constitution (as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding) or activity.

12 Dissolving the group

The group will be decommissioned by agreement of the members. Any member agency may leave by giving notice of 12 months.

ASSSP Legal status

The Regional Group is established as a shared element of the local safeguarding arrangements across the 5 Local Authority areas, developed in accordance with the recommendations made by the 2016 Wood Review and subsequent legislative and framework amendments to the Children Act 2004 and the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 statutory guidance.

Section 16 of The Children and Social Work Act 2017 inserts into section 16E of the Children Act 2004 an obligation on safeguarding partners for a local authority area in England to make arrangements for safeguarding partners and any relevant agencies that they consider appropriate to work together in exercising their functions, so far as the functions are exercised for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area. The safeguarding partners (defined within section 16E Children Act 2004 and discussed within section 2 of this Memorandum) have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.

The Regional Group shall provide oversight as a strategic leadership group, supporting and engaging others and implementing local and national learning. The Regional Group shall enable all partners to co-ordinate the delivery of strategic decisions and planning, which will ensure the adoption of best practice consistently across the area.

Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Group Membership

Strategic Safeguarding Group Membership		
Name	Core Partner	Core partner statutory duties
Chris Sivers	South Gloucestershire Council	South Gloucestershire
Jacqui Jensen	Bristol City Council	Bristol
Janet Baptiste-Grant	NHS BNSSG CCG	Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire
Julian Wooster	Somerset County Council	Somerset
Liz Plastow	NHS BANES CCG	BaNES
Mike Bowden	BaNES Council	BaNES
Sheila Smith	North Somerset Council	North Somerset
Sandra Corry	NHS Somerset CCG	Somerset
Victoria Capel	Avon and & Somerset Police	BaNES Bristol North Somerset Somerset South Gloucestershire
Will White	Avon and & Somerset Police	BaNES Bristol North Somerset Somerset South Gloucestershire