

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (EqIAA)

## South Gloucestershire Early Help Vision and Strategy 2015/17

### SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

Early Help refers both to help in the critical early years of a child's life and also to the need to respond as soon as possible when difficulties emerge in order to prevent escalation of problems. The importance of Early Help is supported by a number of national reports in recent years (see Section 2 of this assessment). Our vision is that every child and young person in South Gloucestershire should have the best start in life, thrive and be prepared for a successful adult life. The majority of our children and young people in South Gloucestershire grow up and thrive in a supportive environment that enables them to have the best start in life without the input of specialist services. Some however do not have these opportunities and require support at different times in their life.

Integrated Children's Services in the Children, Adults and Health Directorate have been leading on the development of an overarching strategic vision and set of principles, which is supported by all key partners, for an Early Help Vision and Strategy for South Gloucestershire. Successful implementation of Early Help requires clear strategic agreement and partnership working, and governance of the strategy will be provided by the South Gloucestershire Children's Trust Board.

The Strategy sets out the definition of Early Help and the vision that every child and young person in South Gloucestershire should have the best start in life, thrive and be prepared for a successful adult life. There are 5 Early Help Priorities – **Safe, Thriving, Achieving and Aspiring, Ready for the Future, Transforming Services and Communities.**

There is no specific legislation or guidance that requires a local authority to adopt an Early Help Strategy. However Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires a local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and its relevant partners in its area, with a view to improving the wellbeing of all children in the area. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' requires local areas to have a range of effective, evidence-based services in place to address assessed needs early. It states that there should be early help on offer that draws upon the local assessment of need and the latest evidence of the effectiveness of early help. The Guidance requires all agencies to work together to identify problems and to share information to support early identification and assessment. There is a requirement for the Local Safeguarding Board (LSB) to assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help.

## SECTION 2 –RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

### a) National Context

There is widespread support for Early Help including support from the three main political parties.

The importance of Early Help has been a common theme in a number of Government reviews in recent years. These include 'Early Intervention: The Next Steps' January 2011 by Graham Allen, 'The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report, a Child- Centred System' by Eileen Munro, 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' 2010 by Michael Marmot, 'The Foundation Years, Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults' 2010 by Frank Field, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013, and 'We Should Have Been Helped from Day One: A Unique Perspective from Children, Families and Practitioners - Findings from LARC5' 2013 by the National Foundation for Educational Research, 'A fresh start to tackling youth crime. A briefing for Police and Crime Commissioners' The Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour 2014. All of these pieces of research are cited in the Strategy document and used as a basis of the need for early intervention.

South Gloucestershire has fully accessed the support of the national Early Intervention Foundation in the production of the local Early Help Vision and Strategy. EIF aims to assess the evidence of what works, to advise local authorities, charities and potential investors on how to implement Early Intervention and to advocate for Early Intervention to key decision makers nationally and locally, making the case for a pre-emptive approach to social problems and demonstrating why a solid social and emotional foundation for children and young people is so important for individuals, communities and society at large. The focus of the EIF is on the flow of evidence between research, policy and practice, with the goal of driving improvements to children's outcomes and breaking intergenerational patterns of disadvantage and dysfunction.

### b) Local Context

The Early Help Vision and Strategy uses the Statistics and comments taken from: 'Key Finding from the Child Health Profiled March 2014', 'South Gloucestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2013', and 'Quality of life Better or worse? The annual quality of life indicators report for South Gloucestershire Summer 2013' The commentary includes relevant information regarding the economy, health, population, education and training, and housing including in relation to protected characteristic groups where this is relevant.

### c) Consultation

The draft Vision and Strategy was finalised for consultation on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and the consultation period closed on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The document was posted on the South Gloucestershire Council Website in line with council procedure and was open to all members of the public, service users and service providers to comment. Targeted consultation occurred through existing meetings and groups and additional consultation workshops were also been set up to ensure the input of all partners and service users. Groups consulted have included:

CAF Steering Group	Integrated Children's Services Management Group
Children's Centre Steering Group	Parents and Carers
Children's Trust Board SOG	Preventative Services Management Group
Compact group	Safe and Stronger SOG
Corporate Parenting Board	Secondary Partnership Inclusion Forum
CVS Leaders Board workshop	Troubled Families (Families in Focus) Project Board
CYP Committee	Workshop for Council Members
Employability & Skills Steering Group	South Gloucestershire Youth Board
Headteachers' groups	Youth Offending Service Partnership Board
Health and Well Being SOG	

These meetings included representation of the protected characteristics groups, specifically the CVS Leaders Board, the Youth Board, and the Parents and Carers group. There have also been meetings with individuals, including representatives from Public Health, Education, Learning and Skills, Safe and Strong Communities and Headteachers to discuss the consultation questions. There were 16 individual emailed responses to the consultation in addition to the responses recorded in notes of the above meetings.

All comments from the consultation were recorded and analysed. In summary the consultation feedback:

- Showed an overall agreement with the vision and priorities.
- Provided further statistics to be included in the context sections.
- Offered requested additions to the overview of Early Help provision in Appendix 1 of the Vision and Strategy Document.

### **SECTION 3 - IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF EQUALITIES ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The Early Help Vision and Strategy contains a full range of measures for success based on the information from the research and consultation. Work to offer good early help and intervention makes a significant contribution to all children, young people and families. The development of a vision and strategy for Early Help is a positive way of setting out our goals and being clear on how early intervention impacts outcomes for all children, young people and families. Getting support right early means better opportunities and outcomes for adults as these young people mature. Each area of the strategy is monitored by the relevant council department and partner agencies as appropriate and will be measured against equalities characteristics as part of the standard monitoring process. This enables proactive identification of any gaps or issues relating to protected characteristic groups.

The strategy does not specify a new delivery process but is a confirmation of existing policies and activities which deliver support and interventions to children, young, people and families who need additional help and support. The strategy looks at provision for specific age groups: pre birth, 0-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-11 years, 11-19 years, post 19 and 0-19 / families. This enables age specific actions to be undertaken and evaluated.

### **SECTION 4 - EqIAA OUTCOME**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Reason(s) and Justification</b>
Outcome 1: No major change required.	✓	The Early Help Vision and Strategy seeks to provide positive outcomes for all children and young people and systems for measuring impact for all groups are in place.
Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers or to better promote equality have been identified.		
Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.		
Outcome 4: Stop and rethink.		

## **SECTION 5 - ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS EqIAA**

- Ensure that a wide range of service user feedback continues to be used to identify any emerging issues on an ongoing basis.
- Monitor each measure of success and disaggregate according to protected characteristic group as appropriate.
- Liaise with partners to ensure equalities progress is well planned across the whole of South Gloucestershire

## **SECTION 6 - EVIDENCE INFORMING THIS EqIAA**

- South Gloucestershire Early Help Vision and Strategy 2015-17
- 'Early Intervention: The Next Steps' January 2011 by Graham Allen,
- 'The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report, a Child- Centred System' by Eileen Munro
- "Fair Society, Healthy Lives 2010 by Michael Marmot,
- 'The Foundation Years, Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults' 2010 by Frank Field,
- "Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013
- 'We Should Have Been Helped from Day One': A Unique Perspective from Children, Families and Practitioners based on. Findings from LARC5' by the National Foundation for Educational Research 2013
- 'A fresh start to tackling youth crime. A briefing for Police and Crime Commissioners' The Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour 2014
- 'Key Finding from the Child Health Profile' March 2014'
- South Gloucestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2013.
- 'Quality of life Better or worse? The annual quality of life indicators report for South Gloucestershire' 2013