

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

(Incorporating Child Poverty Strategy)

Mid Term Refresh 2014 - March 2016

South Gloucestershire Council

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the midterm refresh of the 2012 – 2016 Partnership Strategy for Children and Young People.

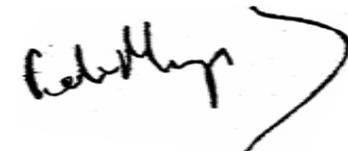
The Partnership Strategy is the overarching four year plan for all services which affect children and young people across South Gloucestershire.

It sets out how the council, with its strategic partners, intends to focus on our priority areas for improvement with specific reference to:

- The integration of services provided by partners to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Arrangements for early help and intervention to prevent problems from becoming entrenched or escalating.

The latest refresh of the plan comes at a time when all partners prepare for future financial pressures. It is even more important that resources are targeted to where they will make the greatest difference to the lives of our children and families.

Although there is no longer a legal duty to have a Children Partnership Strategy for Children and Young People, the Children's Trust Board and Members in South Gloucestershire have agreed to continue to have a strategic plan that builds on the existing strong leadership to create a shared focus and ambition across all public sector partners and voluntary partners, supported by shared outcomes and joint programmes.



Gerry Rice
Chair of the Children's Trust Board

Peter Murphy
Director, Department for Children, Adults and Health

Introduction to the partnership and the aims of the Board

The South Gloucestershire Children's Trust Board has advisory status and makes recommendation to the Council on strategic issues relating to children's services in South Gloucestershire. It draws together partners from across South Gloucestershire to discuss, challenge, recommend and monitor policies and strategies which impact on the lives of children and young people in the area.

The purpose and aims of the Board are:

- ▶ To provide leadership to improve the lives of all children, young people and young adults and their families in South Gloucestershire.
- ▶ To provide inter-agency governance and a strategic framework within which partners will cooperate and embed partnership working within their own organisations.
- ▶ To co-ordinate and help deliver actions that support the development of a child centred and outcome led vision clearly informed by the views of children, young people and young adults and their families within South Gloucestershire.
- ▶ To champion the involvement of children, young people and young adults in the development of services.
- ▶ To promote prevention and early intervention to support vulnerable children, young people and young adults.

Key functions of the Board are:

- ▶ To develop and monitor implementation of the five key strategies in scope to the Children's Trust Board –
 - The Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy, which incorporates the Health and Wellbeing Boards 'Best Start' Priorities.
 - The Early Help Strategy
 - The Troubled Families Strategy
 - The Child Poverty Strategy
 - The 0-25 SEND Strategy* (expanding the age focus to young adults up to 25)
- ▶ To support the implementation of those aspects of the Sustainable Community Strategy that relate to Children and Young People.
- ▶ To ensure effective liaison and working with other strategic partnerships to achieve shared or related objectives

► **Introduction to the partnership and the aims of the Board**

Children's Trust Board update

Our review of the CYP Partnership Strategy in February 2014, shaped the starting point for bringing together our strategic thinking in light of the significant national legislative and policy change. With responsibility for Priority Theme Three of the South Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013–2016, 'Making the Best Start in Life'; the Board also supported the development of the Early Help Strategy for South Gloucestershire, to be approved in February 2015, and the Families in Focus (Troubled Families) Strategy, which was approved in July 2014.

Underpinning principles and processes

Vision:

South Gloucestershire is a place where all children and young people enjoy a safe and healthy life, achieve their maximum potential and thrive in their community.

In accordance with this vision; they will:

- ▶ feel safe and be protected from harm
- ▶ enjoy the best possible physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle
- ▶ have every opportunity to achieve their full potential, whoever they are, wherever they are from and whatever their family circumstances; feel a valued and respected part of the wider community and make a positive contribution to it
- ▶ take responsibility, where appropriate, for their own lives.

We will ensure children, young people and their families are provided with integrated, accessible and equitable services which are designed to keep them safe, healthy and inspired to do the very best they can.

These services will:

- ▶ put positive outcomes for children and young people at the heart of all we do
- ▶ target early intervention and support on disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people and their families
- ▶ be flexible and user-friendly and involve children, young people and their families.

The national and local context

Services for children, young people and families are operating within the context of rapid change.

► Children and Families Act 2014

The new Children and Families Act - which was given royal assent in March 2014 - will mean changes to the law to:

- Give greater protection to vulnerable children
- Give better support for children, whose parents are separating
- Introduce a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and
- Provide help for parents to balance work and family life

The Act also ensures vital changes to the adoption system can be put into practice, meaning more children who need loving homes are placed faster. Reforms for children in care will be implemented, including giving them the choice to stay with their foster families until their 21st birthday.

► Care Act 2014

The Care Act was given royal assent in May 2014 and represents a significant reform of care and support. For the first time, the Act will put a limit on the amount anyone will have to pay towards the costs of their care. Key changes from the implementation of the Care Act

- Funding reform
- Deferred Payments
- Additional Assessments and changes to eligibility
- Information & Advice
- Commissioning

The national and local context

► Public Health

In April 2013, local leadership for public health transferred from the NHS to local authorities. As part of this transfer, Local Authorities took on commissioning responsibility for school health nursing services. From 1st October 2015, commissioning responsibility for the 0-5 public health nursing service (Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership will also transfer to Local Authorities), and work continues with NHS England to ensure the smooth transition.

Key policies about Public Health

- Giving all children a healthy start in life
- Reducing drugs misuse and dependence
- Reducing smoking
- Reducing obesity and improving diet
- Helping more people survive cancer
- Planning for health emergencies
- Reducing harmful drinking

Child Poverty

In June 2014 the government published its Child Poverty Strategy. This Strategy sets out the action they will take from 2014-17 to tackle child poverty through:

- Supporting families into work and increasing their earnings;
- Improving living standards; and
- Preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment.

The national and local context - The profile of our children and young people locally

At a glance: we have applied South Gloucestershire's statistical data to an average Secondary school of 1050 children and this is what it shows:

503 would be girls, 547 would be boys;

943 would be white British and 107 would be from ethnic minorities, most probably White European and mixed white and black Caribbean.

48 would speak English as an additional language;

Most would grow up in stable, loving homes; of these 119 would be living in poverty;

38 would have been known to Children's social care and 3 would be in care with 2 on the child protection register;

140 would have a Special Educational Need, 21 would have a Statement or EHC plan, most probably with a primary need on the autistic spectrum.

Overall they would be healthier than their parents, but 318 would be classified as overweight or obese;

Most young people would make a positive contribution to their community. Only 8 would get into enough trouble to be dealt with by the Youth Offending Team.

595 would leave school with 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, and the majority would go on to further education. However, 107 would have struggled to read fluently by the time they were 11.

How will we measure success? / Monitoring and alignment to existing strategies and plans

Key National Policy

- ▶ Giving all children a healthy start in life
- ▶ Making sure health and social care services work together
- ▶ The NHS Five Year Forward View
- ▶ Making the family justice system more effective

Individual monitoring arrangements are in place through our reporting cycles on the following existing strategies:

Overarching

- ▶ Sustainable Communities Strategy 2026
- ▶ Council Strategy 2012 - 2016
- ▶ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 2016
- ▶ The Child Poverty Strategy (within partnership strategy 2012 – 2016)
- ▶ Economic Development Strategy 2012 - 2016
- ▶ Children, Adults and Health Departmental Service Plan 2014 – 2016

Priority 1 Families at risk

- ▶ South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Reports.

Priority 2 Early help / intervention

- ▶ Early Help Strategy
- ▶ Troubled Families/Families in Focus
- ▶ Participation strategy for children and young people
- ▶ Youth Housing Strategy
- ▶ Joint Carers Strategy
- ▶ Mental Health and wellbeing strategy
- ▶ Healthy Schools Programme

Priority 3 Children in care and those leaving care

- ▶ Corporate Parenting Strategy
- ▶ South Gloucestershire Placement Strategy

Priority 4 Children and young people with special educational needs, including those who are disabled

- ▶ 0-25 service SEN commissioning strategy/ annual implementation plan

Priority 5 Learning and achieving

- ▶ Raising the participation age strategy 2012 – 2015
- ▶ Apprenticeships strategy 2013 - 2016
- ▶ South Gloucestershire Strategy for the expansion of places for two year olds
- ▶ Commissioning of places strategy 2012 – 2017
- ▶ Strategy for South Gloucestershire to improve behaviour, increase attendance and reduce exclusions was approved 2013
- ▶ Education partnership plans

Priority 6 Child Poverty

- ▶ Child Poverty needs analysis/Strategy

Priority 7 Children's Mental Health Needs

- ▶ Mental Health and wellbeing strategy

Priorities

The following pages set out priorities agreed by the Children's Trust Board as the focus of the Plan.

Each section covers the broad reasons for the issue featuring within the plan and some of the approaches to judging impact and progress.

Priorities for joint action

- ▶ Families at Risk
- ▶ Early Help / Intervention
- ▶ Children in Care and those leaving care
- ▶ Children and young people with special educational needs including those who are disabled
- ▶ Learning and Achieving
- ▶ Child Poverty
- ▶ Children's mental health needs

Priority 1 Families at Risk

Why is this important?

Our aim is that all children in South Gloucestershire grow up in a safe, healthy and loving environment. Families are the most important factor in children's lives and whilst the vast majority of children can rely on their families to provide them with the care and support they require, we know that some families struggle.

Our local information tells us we need to offer earlier help and intervene more effectively with families where there are existing vulnerabilities. It is particularly important that through effective identification and assessment of need we are able to reduce levels of risk and help families to prevent problems from recurring.

Although much work has been done to make sure children and young people are safe from harm and abuse, there is still more to be done to ensure that all children and young people continue to be safe from harm or neglect and to have all the opportunities available to them to reach their full potential.

The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board encourages all professionals working with children and young people to have a clear understanding of their professional responsibilities in terms of safeguarding. The effectiveness of local safeguarding relies on everyone - professionals, volunteers, parents and the public to understand their own personal or professional responsibility to safeguard children.

What are our priorities?

- ▶ Co-ordinating activity in place to safeguard children & young people in South Gloucestershire
- ▶ Ensuring the effectiveness of that work
- ▶ Promoting the wellbeing of vulnerable groups of children & young people - focusing on early help and intervention with particular attention to children who may be suffering neglect, who are privately fostered, who may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation or Female Genital Mutilation.

Priority 1 Families at Risk

- ▶ Promoting engagement in the work of South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board with young people, practitioners & the community -ensuring that the voice of the child is a key priority for action in all organisations.
- ▶ Pursuing opportunities with partner agencies to deliver an effective Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in South Gloucestershire.
- ▶ Promoting the work and business plan priorities of the Safeguarding Children Board.

What will success look like?

- ▶ Partner agencies agree on both the principle and also the design of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in South Gloucestershire.
- ▶ The safeguarding interface between adults and children's boards is strengthened and developed.
- ▶ The South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board has a better understanding and awareness of the quality and effectiveness of front line practice, including the impact of practice on outcomes for children and families.
- ▶ The voice of the child influences and shapes the work of South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board as a key priority for action.
- ▶ We have agreed a single strategic safeguarding communications strategy with separate action plans focusing on Children and Adults.
- ▶ We assess the impact of training on practice.

Priority 2 Early Help / intervention

What is Early Help?

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.

Why is this important?

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. When this is not the case children, young people and families may require additional support.

The needs of children, young people and families are not static and there is fluidity between different levels of need. Within South Gloucestershire, services for children and young people operate within the integrated service delivery model. These are universal, targeted and statutory/ specialist support.

What are our priorities?

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.

Safe

- ▶ Children and young people, especially those identified as at risk of significant harm or neglect, or having complex needs, are protected.
- ▶ Children remain within their family wherever possible and if this is not possible clear permanent alternatives are available.
- ▶ Children and young people feel safe in all aspects of their lives.
- ▶ Children and young people are not affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Children are protected from unintentional injury and self-harm.

Priority 2 Early Help / intervention

Thriving

- ▶ Children in the early years thrive physically, cognitively and emotionally, and develop positive relationships within families.
- ▶ Disadvantaged and vulnerable parents, including those in priority neighbourhoods and in the Families in Focus cohort, gain the skills they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

Achieving and aspiring

- ▶ Children and young people have positive educational outcomes.
- ▶ Children and young people from vulnerable groups achieve outcomes in line with their peers.
- ▶ More able students achieve as well, or better, than their peers in similar local authorities.

Ready for the future

- ▶ Young people are able to make a successful transition to adulthood.
- ▶ Young people are able to make positive informed choices re their pathway post 16 and post 18.
- ▶ Young people make positive informed choices about their lifestyle

Transforming services and communities

- ▶ Children, young people and families have opportunities to shape services in their local area.
- ▶ Professionals and service users are able to access the services and to understand service pathways and thresholds.
- ▶ The child, young person and family are at the centre of all decisions and plans.
- ▶ Young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable, or who have additional needs, know about, shape and take part in, positive activities and decision making within their communities.

What will success look like?

It is important that the success of the Early Help Vision and Strategy is monitored in order to inform future planning and service delivery. Success will be monitored through the development of indicators measured against the long term outcomes listed in Section 5 of the Strategy. The five Early Help priorities each have a maximum of eight long term outcomes to which successful Early Help will contribute. Performance will be measured against outcomes taken from relevant council and partner agencies existing outcomes frameworks. It will be the responsibility of the priority leads on the Children's Trust Board Senior Officer Group to further develop the metrics and reporting format based on these outcomes. A full progress report for each priority will be expected annually to the Children's Trust Board along with 6 monthly updates and interim reviews.

Priority 3 Children in Care and those leaving care

Why is it important?

Most children grow up in their own families but a small number of children need to live away from their families and grow up in a range of alternative care arrangements that include foster care, residential care and supported independent living. These children are described as 'looked after' or 'in care' and are the responsibility of the local authority. This means that South Gloucestershire Council is the legal 'parent' for these children and young people.

Most children and young people come into care because of abuse or neglect and family difficulties. Evidence indicates that outcomes for children and young people in care are poorer than the general child population and that additional support is required if they are to have the same life chances as their peers.

Action is required to ensure the right support and opportunities are made available to children and young people in care and to their carers. All services and agencies need to actively work together to ensure the right support and opportunities are made available for children, young people and their carers

What are our priorities?

- ▶ Reducing the length of time some children wait to be adopted.

For many children who require a permanent placement, adoption is the best option. Adoption means the legal relationship between a child and their birth parent ends. All parental responsibility is transferred to the adopter. Adoption provides children with a very strong sense of security as an adoption order cannot be reversed. Because of this, adoption is the best option for many children.

- ▶ Increasing the number of Special Guardianship Orders.

Another way of providing a legally secure placement to children who cannot live with their birth parent, is through a Guardianship Order. The order is different to adoption orders insofar as it does not end the legal relationship between a child and their birth parents; however it does provide a secure and stable home environment for children. It also means that a child is no longer 'looked after' or in care of the local authority.

Priority 3 Children in Care and those leaving care

- ▶ Increasing the number of foster carers supported by the council.

This includes both time limited and permanent carers. For children that remain in the care of the local authority, long term fostering is the best way of providing secure and stable homes for looked after children. The more permanent foster carers we have, the greater the choice for looked after children and shorter the time children have to wait.

- ▶ Ensuring young people are prepared for leaving care and are supported once they have left care.

The transition out of care or into adulthood is not a single event or moment. Preparation for leaving care is something that happens over an extended period and, with the right ingredients and support, this can be positively managed.

Our children in care have told us they want a mixture of practical help and advice with making the right choices and for the planning process to start early.

- ▶ Ensuring our looked after children have access to high quality and timely health assessments, and receive the support and services they need to maintain good health.

This responsibility is shared and it falls equally to services (organisations) and carers to ensure that children's health needs are met and monitored effectively

What will success look like?

We will reduce the length of time it takes to match children to adoptive families and will reduce the average time it takes for children to be adopted. We will do this through more robust planning and by recruiting more adoptive families.

There will be a better range of options available for children and young people in care (who have different needs) as we will have recruited more adoptive families and more foster carers and promoted and supported Special Guardianship Orders.

There will also be improved placement stability, improved school attendance and improved attainment, through the better co-ordination and access to specialist service for children in care with high needs.

Priority 3 Children in Care and those leaving care

The number of looked after children and young people attending annual health and dental checks will increase.

Young people leaving care will feel better prepared and supported, though access to good quality accommodation, and training, education and employment opportunities.

Priority 4 Children & young people with special educational needs including those with a disability

Why is this important?

Information tells us that Children & young people with special educational needs including those with a disability often face barriers to wellbeing and good future prospects. It is vitally important that children with disabilities and special educational needs have access to opportunities and choices that help them achieve their potential and those services are more personalised. We need to ensure that the needs of children and young people with additional needs are met and that local services can flex to meet these needs.

What are our priorities?

- ▶ Establishing our governance arrangements with the Children's Trust Board.
- ▶ Strengthening our multi-agency partnerships to ensure assessment and planning processes are more integrated and robust, and that families are at the heart of decision making.
- ▶ Embedding Education, Health and Care plan process within the staff teams.

The move to adulthood is often a time that creates a lot of anxiety for young people and their parents. It is vital that partnership work continues to ensure a seamless move into adulthood for all disabled young people, young people with special educational needs and their parents and carers. Clear pathways and person centred approaches are key to delivering improved outcomes.

- ▶ Develop information and advice on our local offer aligned with wider local authority strategies such as market shaping and commissioning, and the joint area strategies with health. The information and advice plan will build on local and national best practice and make best use of national resources.
- ▶ Ensuring the coherence, sufficiency, availability and accessibility of information and advice relating to care and support across the local authority area.

What will success look like?

- Our joint partnership approach will be clearly evident through the provision of integrated planning and assessments and more robust work with universal services. There will be a reduction in young people with special educational needs or a disability that are NEET due to more choice and increased accessibility to post 16 education and employment opportunities via improved planning and better joint working between different services.
- Joint commissioning arrangements about the education, health and care provisions will be secured
- Children's needs will be met locally and we will minimise the number of children placed outside of South Gloucestershire.
- We will have a Local Offer that clearly sets out what services are available – universal and specialist for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0-25 years; how to access services; how services will work together; how we will make sure that parent engagement means they have more choice and control over what services they receive.
- Wherever possible, children and young people's wishes will be respected and their parents and carers report that information on how to get help is more easily available.
- Parents, carers and young people report positively on the co-ordinated support young people receive during transition to adulthood.

Priority 5 Learning and achieving

Why is it important?

South Gloucestershire schools educate more than 40,000 children and young people each year. Educational outcomes are good for early key stages but not so good for later key stages compared to national levels. Outcomes are worse among pupils living in deprived circumstances. Children who thrive in the early years are more likely to develop positive relationships and better emotional and physical health throughout their lives.

Research indicates that good health in children contributes to positive educational outcomes, which in turn result in better health throughout adult life.

All young people should thrive when leaving school by accessing opportunities for education, employment or training.

What are our priorities?

- ▶ To develop and extend the opportunities for post-16, adult and community learning.
- ▶ Commission a new model of Employment Support for people with Learning Difficulties
- ▶ To establish and promote the South Gloucestershire Education Partnership and implement the recommendations made by the Education Commission.
- ▶ To review and develop a model for delivering an education challenge and assurance function.
- ▶ To continue with the implementation of the 2 year old childcare offer.
- ▶ To establish a more sustainable and innovative pattern of secondary and post-16 education
- ▶ To establish and promote the Employability and Skills Steering Group and implement the associated work streams.
- ▶ To implement the agreed recommendations from the Strategic Review of Special Educational Needs.
- ▶ To secure the transfer of all the South Gloucestershire Education Other than at Schools (EOTAS) provisions onto one appropriate site.
- ▶ To implement and develop the new Early Years' Service
- ▶ To review and develop a model for delivering the education access, planning and commissioning functions

Priority 5 Learning and achieving

What will success look like?

- ▶ Outcomes have improved and provision has extended and diversified to meet needs more effectively.
- ▶ A new Employment Support service is in place and is being used by service users
- ▶ The Education Partnership has implemented the recommendations to secure significantly improved outcomes and closing of gaps especially for the most vulnerable and pupils in receipt of the pupil premium.
- ▶ The Education Policy and Advisory Group is established to provide effective challenge and assurance leading to improved outcomes and provision at all levels
- ▶ The targeted additional high quality childcare places are created and filled
- ▶ Outcomes for all students and groups of students, including the most vulnerable, have improved significantly and provision has changed and diversified to meet needs more effectively
- ▶ The targeted areas produce the anticipated outcomes as outlined in the Employability and Skills Plan
- ▶ The implementation of the recommendations of the Education Partnership makes an impact and as a result the quality of outcomes and provision improve
- ▶ All the South Gloucestershire (EOTAS) provisions are co-located in high quality accommodation that is fit for purpose and enables the staff to be efficient and effective by being on one site

► Priority 6 Child Poverty.

Why is this important?

Today in the UK 2.3 million children (17%) live in poverty. Child poverty is a major source of inequalities which can persist throughout life. Children who grow up in poverty are four times as likely to become poor adults becoming the parents of the next generation of children living in poverty. A child growing up in poverty has a greater likelihood of experiencing health problems from birth and of accumulating physical and mental health problems throughout life.

A child is said to be living in poverty if their household income is less than 60% of the average wage. There are more than 6,000 children living in poverty in South Gloucestershire. Rates of child poverty within South Gloucestershire vary considerably. In the three wards with the highest levels of child poverty, one in five children lives in poverty, whereas in the three wards with the lowest levels of child poverty, fewer than 1 in 20 children lives in poverty.

What are our priorities?

Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 requires local authorities and partners to co-operate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas and to produce a child poverty needs assessment. Needs assessment is a systematic method of identifying the unmet needs of a population and making recommendations for changes in service provision to meet those needs.

The scope of the needs assessment will cover the key drivers of child poverty as outlined in the national Child Poverty Strategy 2014 – 2017. These drivers and associated proposals for priorities that should be tackled are as follows:

- a) Key driver: worklessness and low earnings. Priority areas to tackle are:
- Supporting people into work
 - Making work pay
 - Tackling low pay
 - Helping people get better jobs
 - Removing specific barriers to work
 - Supporting local growth and job creation and encouraging employment and skills development
 - Working with employers on issues such as the minimum wage, flexible working, training and qualifications and increasing progression opportunities

► **Priority 6 Child Poverty**

- b) Key driver: families' living standards. Priority areas to tackle are:
- Supporting the living standards of low-income families, for example the ability to afford fuel, food, transport and housing
 - Tackling debt problems and improving access to affordable credit
- c) Key driver: support regarding education, attainment and transition from child to adult. Priority areas to tackle are:
- Supporting families before children start school
 - Supporting children in school by raising educational attainment
 - Supporting the transition from school to work and or further training or education
 - Removing barriers to attainment
- d) Key driver: inequalities. Priority areas to tackle are vulnerable groups i.e. which groups of children appear to be disproportionately affected by socio economic disadvantage (that we know of)

What will success look like?

The Child Poverty Needs Assessment can inform the next South Gloucestershire Child Poverty Strategy. The successful implementation of an evidence-based Child Poverty Strategy will aim to reduce the number of children in South Gloucestershire living in poverty and reduce inequalities within South Gloucestershire.

► Priority 7 Children's mental health needs

Why is this important?

Needs assessments are essential in order to review current need, demand and possible unmet need and shape services to meet these needs.

The National CAMHS Review (2008) recommends that 'all stakeholders should contribute to a comprehensive, multi-agency assessment of local need that is used, shared and updated on an annual basis, with a major review every three years'.

The existing South Gloucestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) captures some of the information required but a more detailed assessment is required.

What are our priorities?

A review of child health indicators has been recently carried out by the Health and Wellbeing Division. A number of these indicators are specifically relevant to children's mental health. The majority of child health indicators for South Gloucestershire are shown to be statistically better than values for England as a whole. However a number of indicators show South Gloucestershire as being statistically similar or worse when compared with values for England. Examples of such indicators that are relevant to mental health include the following:

- Young people's hospital admissions for self-harm
- Hospital admissions for mental health conditions
- Children providing care
- Pupil absence
- Fixed period exclusion due to persistent and disruptive behaviour
- Fixed period of exclusion due to drugs/alcohol
- Children in need for over 2 years
- Emotional and behavioural health assessment of looked after children - % of eligible children assessed.

The Health and Wellbeing Division are working towards presenting a draft children's mental health needs assessment to the Children's Trust Board in May 2015.

► Priority 7 Children's mental health needs

What will success look like?

The needs assessment will review relevant indicators, clarify current and forecast future prevalence, assess service activity, compare prevalence and activity data with national data and obtain input from key stakeholders.

A robust, relevant, up-to-date children's mental health needs assessment will include the following for South Gloucestershire:

- the current baseline of well-being and mental health amongst children and young people
- the numbers of children and young people at increased risk of developing mental problems
- future projections of levels of mental health problems
- national comparative data
- assessment of current strengths and gaps in the provision of services and interventions with input from service users, their carers and providers
- assessment of the evidence for the delivery of high quality services and interventions

The needs assessment will make recommendations to the South Gloucestershire Children's Trust Board to inform strategy development and commissioning with the overall objective to improve psychological well-being and mental health of children and young people in South Gloucestershire.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS - 2012-14

► Our Health

All Children's Centres inspected during 12/13 were judged as satisfactory and had increased their focus on vulnerable families.

Increased recording of height and weight in schools and a reduction in obesity.

Use of the Common Assessment Framework has increased and the new First Point Service has launched.

The numbers of children looked after or subject to a child protection plan has reduced

A new jointly commissioned short break service for children and young people with learning difficulties has been launched and a new Positive Behaviour Support Service established.

A counselling service for young people has been commissioned.

► Our Economy

Early Years performance for children receiving free school meals is 10% above our statistical neighbours and 11% above the national average. The performance of all ethnic groups is also above the national average.

Key stage 1 performance of more able pupils improved, with the percentage of pupils achieving Level 3 and above increasing by 4% in reading, 1% in writing and 2% in mathematics.

The proportion of students achieving 5 or more good GCSEs (A*-C) including English and mathematics; the proportion making expected progress in mathematics from Key Stage 2 to 4 and the average points per candidate at A level all increased.

The number of 16 – 18 year olds not in education, employment or training remained below the national average.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS - 2012-14

► Our Community

The percentage of 10 – 17 year olds who have not had contact with the criminal justice system, the rate of reoffending, the number of first time entrants and the number of young people entering custody have all improved.

The Troubled Families initiative has progressed well

There has been an improved membership of the Children in Care Council.

► Our Place

There has been a positive take up of the increased free nursery places for disadvantaged 2 year old children and an increased number of early years settings with an Ofsted rating of good or better.

The commissioning of a new primary school and additional plans for further school development has been progressed.

Implementing the governance arrangements

We are committed to working with partners in many different areas at both a local and a West of England level.

At the highest level sits the South Gloucestershire Partnership (SGP) our local strategic partnership. The partnership brings together many different organisations to work with the community to identify and tackle key issues in a more co-ordinated way which enables both strategic decisions and local action. Members of the partnership come from voluntary and community groups, local businesses, the council and other public sector agencies.

Under the SGP sit three themed strategic partnerships:

- Health and well-being
- Economy and skills
- Safer and Stronger communities

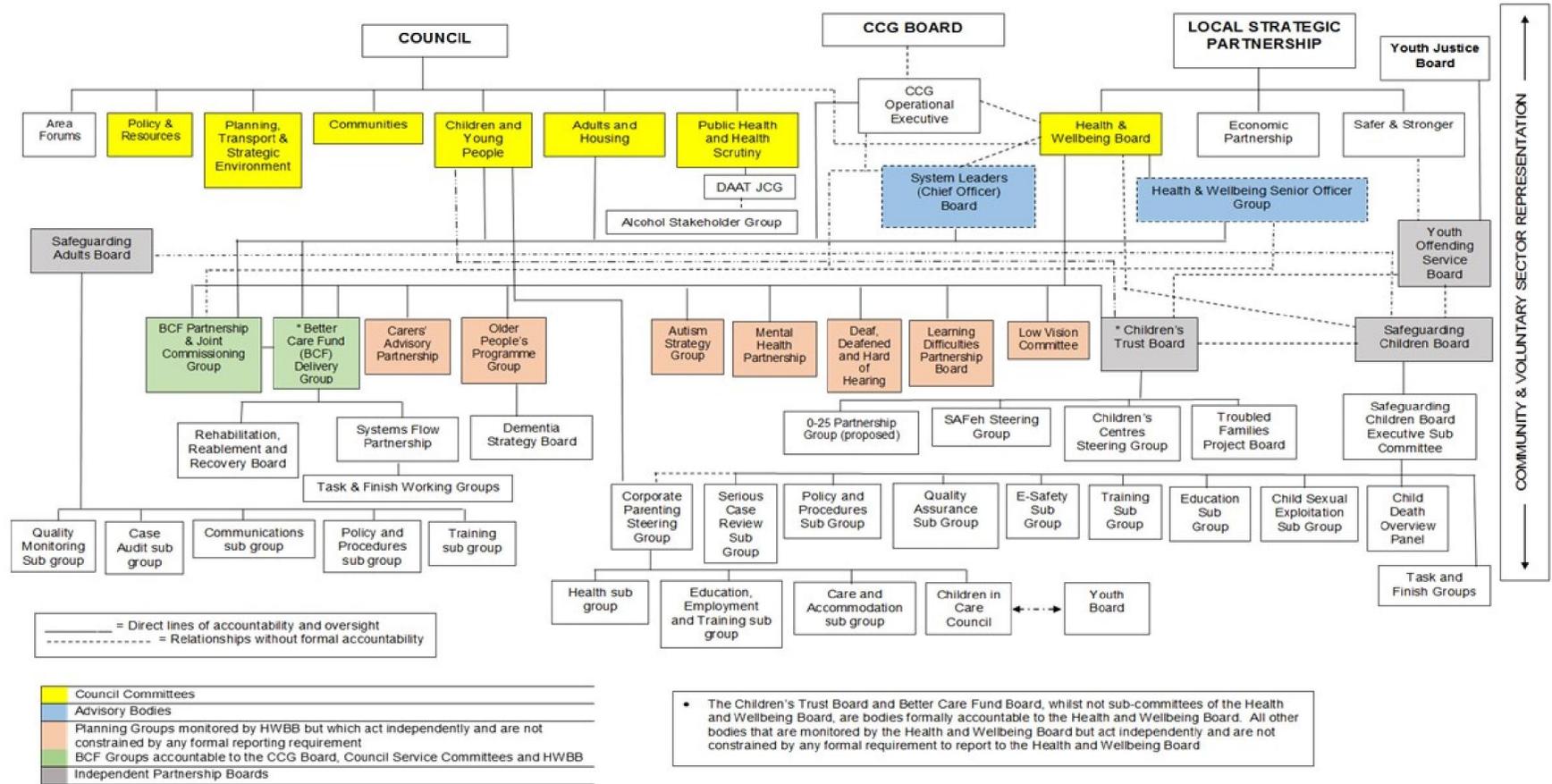
These strategic partnerships establish a strategic direction for their themes; co-ordinate and help deliver actions that support the development of South Gloucestershire as 'a great place to live and work'; deliver the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy which relate to their themes and make recommendations to the SGP, the Council and other partner organisations on matters relating to the achievement of Sustainable Community Strategy objectives. They work together and deal with cross cutting issues such as biodiversity, carbon reduction, elements of localism, the environment, and children and young people in varying degrees alongside their thematic work.

Below these strategic partnerships sit locality or further themed partnerships which provide local expertise and delivery.

The purpose, aims and functions are set out in the partnership frameworks for each partnership which have been approved and adopted by each partnership.

Implementing the governance arrangements

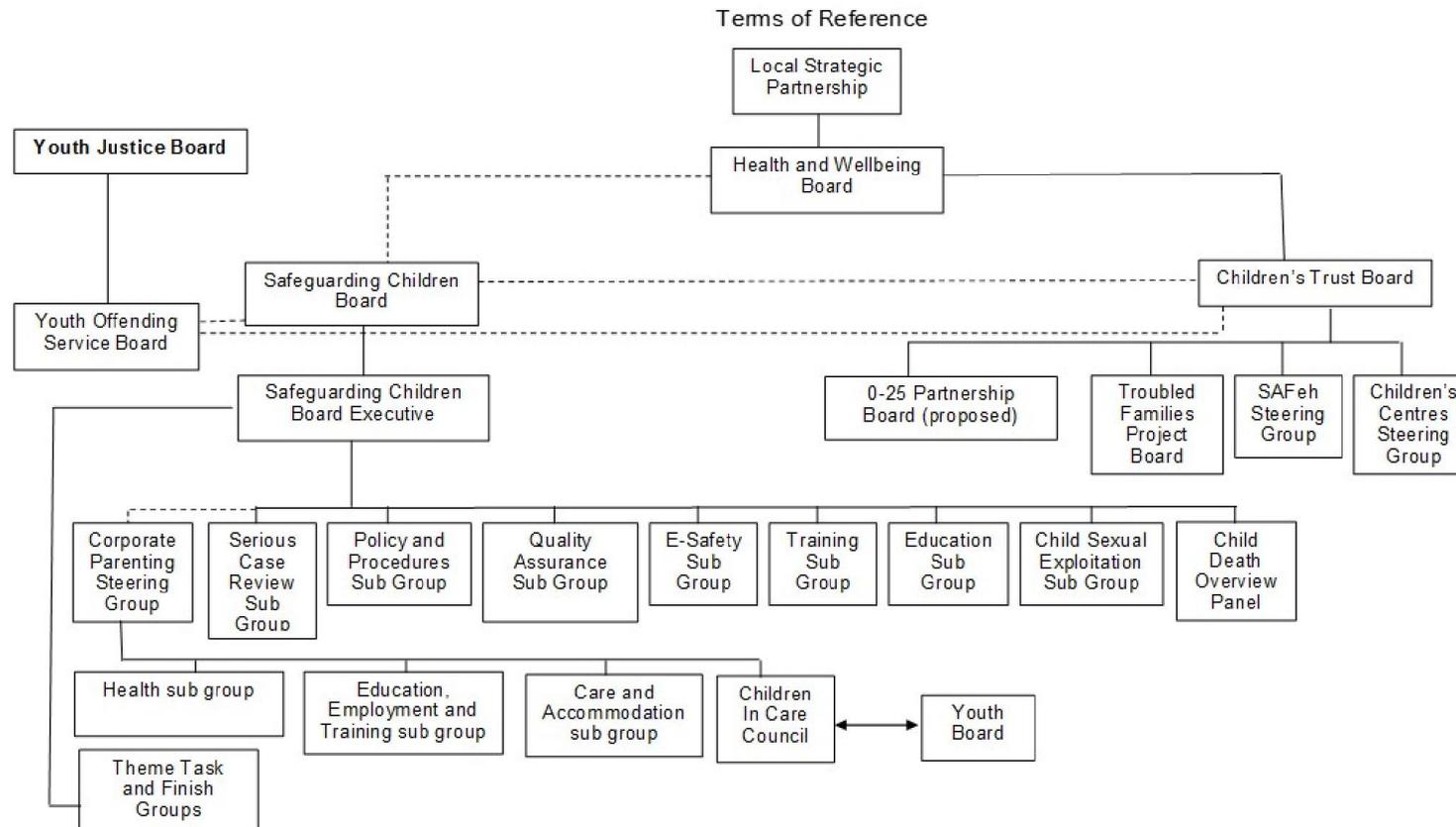
3 March 2015



Implementing the governance arrangements



25 February 2015



Any Questions?

If you have any questions or comments on this document please contact the Systems and Performance Team on

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