



SSCP News Brief
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Safeguarding arrangements for children in Somerset are changing

The partnership responsible for safeguarding children in Somerset has been redesigned and is up and running, as of 29th September 2019, as part of new arrangements introduced nationally.

Key changes to the arrangements are:

- Somerset County Council is no longer the single lead for coordinating safeguarding arrangements for children in the County. There is a tripartite responsibility, shared by:
 - ◇ Somerset County Council
 - ◇ Avon and Somerset Constabulary
 - ◇ Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
- The Somerset Safeguarding Children Board is being replaced by the **Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)**, comprising:
 - ◇ An executive (3 key partners, meeting monthly initially)
 - ◇ SSCP forum for engagement of wider partners (termly)
 - ◇ Delivery subgroups
 - ◇ Strengthened professional leadership for Education and Health
- Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) transfers from the Department for Education to the Department of Health
- Requirement for independent scrutiny arrangements to assure the quality of safeguarding practice in Somerset
- Somerset Children's Trust has merged with the SSCP to create efficiencies and the SSCP will oversee delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan

Inside this bulletin:

- Key changes to partnership arrangements
- What this means for you



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

operational procedures and processes will remain the same e.g.:

- [Effective Support for Children and Families](#)
- [Resolving Professional Differences Policy](#)
- [South West Child Protection Procedures](#)

The responsibilities that 'relevant agencies' have under sections 10 and 11 of 'the Children Act' (2004) will also remain unchanged.

Further details about how the new partnership will work are still under development and more details will become available as the partnership matures.

For more information about what we know so far, and for a chart of how the partnership will be structured in the interim, visit sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk

The new partnership builds on the strong multi-agency working of the SSCB and secures future arrangements for safeguarding and improving outcomes for children in Somerset.

