

SSCB Business Plan 2017-2019



Vision

Our vision, the vision of all services working with children, young people and families, is for all children and young people in Somerset to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future and to develop skills for life (Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-19).

Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) supports this vision by ensuring that children and young people in Somerset are effectively **safeguarded**, properly **supported** and their **lives are improved** by everyone working together.

The SSCB business plan for 2017-19 sets the strategic direction and commitment of the SSCB in making this a reality. It underlines the statutory objectives of the SSCB to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements with priorities set for 2017/18 being updated following a partnership development session.

Our Principles

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Keep the safeguarding and welfare needs of children at the centre of all our activities.
- Involve children, families, carers, front line practitioners and managers in our work.
- Work to understand the quality of a child or young person's individual experience in the unique context of their lives within Somerset.
- Operate a constructive challenge and assurance function to both partner members and external organisations.
- Develop strong working relationships with strategic partners to promote clear roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements.
- Commit to continuous improvement by means of a process of on-going learning and development.
- Capitalise on the opportunities presented by the 'Working Together Partnership' with partner Strategic Boards across Somerset.

At the core of our safeguarding and child protection work is the commitment to ensuring that children and young people are **seen, heard and helped**

- ❖ **Seen in the context** of their lives at home, in friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (including social media).
- ❖ **Heard** through professionals taking the time to listen to what children and young people are saying, putting themselves in the child or young person's shoes and thinking deeply about what their life might truly be like.
- ❖ **Helped** by remaining professionally curious and by implementing effective and imaginative solutions that makes children and young people safer.

Priorities

The SSCB Business Plan 2017-2019 is intentionally brief and focused on **strategic priorities** that form the basis of the work of the Board over the next two years. These priorities support the **statutory functions** of the SSCB and the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare. :

In this plan, the SSCB is beginning to enhance its focus on responding to the priorities of children and young people that live in Somerset and what they have told us matters most to them. These priorities will remain flexible for the duration of this Business Plan and will be sharpened through SSCB’s developing engagement with children and young people.

The specific actions that are required to respond to these priorities are set out in detail in workplans for each SSCB subgroup and working group.

Priorities of Children and Young People

The views and experiences of children and young people are captured through a range of different mechanisms used by both individual agencies and increasingly by SSCB. Over 2017-19, SSCB is committed to develop its means of capturing and responding to the views and experiences of children and young people.

The following top priorities for young people have been identified through the **Somerset Participation network**:

Somerset Young People’s top priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the Community (The UnStoppables) • YP and Mental health (UKYP) • A Curriculum for Life (UKYP) • Challenging Stereotypes (UKYP) • Independence Skills (SiCC/SLCC) • Keeping in touch with family and friends (SiCC/SLCC) • Emotional health and wellbeing (SiCC/SLCC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regulation and Restorative Justice (YOT) • YP presenting to A&E in a crisis (CAMHS) • Healthy relationships (TYS) • Drugs (TYS) • Missing persons (TYS) • Accommodation for care leavers (TYS) • Young Parents groups (Leaving Care) • Building resilience in families (Somerset Parent Carers Forum)

Priorities of the Partnership

Based on our own learning and that arising from a range of external inspections of Board partners, all of our work is underpinned by a focus on making sure that basic practice (as prescribed within statutory guidance and local procedures) is effective and of high quality.

Priority 1: Early Help

Priority 2: Multiagency Safeguarding

Priority 3: Neglect

Priority 4: Child Exploitation / Children Missing

Priority 5: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Strategic priority 1: Early Help

Outcome	<i>Children and families receive good quality and timely multi-agency help to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing.</i>
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We will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of Early Help arrangements across Somerset by:

- **evaluating the effectiveness** of partners' delivery of their Early Help responsibilities
- **assessing the impact** of Effective Support Guidance and the **threshold decisions** on children and young people's outcomes (to include use of the EHA and step up and step down arrangements)
- **understanding the views of children and parents/carers** who receive early help support and services.

Strategic priority 2: Multiagency Safeguarding

Outcome	<i>Children are safeguarded through multi-agency partnership working.</i>
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We will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of safeguarding arrangements in Somerset by:

- **scrutinising** data and **monitoring** agency compliance with statutory child protection (CP) procedures and local guidance (effective support and resolving professional differences)
- **assessing** impact of the partnership's work around **hidden harm** through focused audit of identification and response to hidden harm and its impact on children
- **understanding effectiveness** of arrangements for **practitioner engagement** through audit and safeguarding conversations with practitioners
- **understanding the views of children and parents/carers** who experience Somerset's CP processes.

Strategic priority 3: Neglect

Outcome	<i>Children who are experiencing or at risk of neglect are identified and safeguarded</i>
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We will raise the profile of neglect by:

- **improving the awareness** of professionals about neglect, the issues surrounding it and practical approaches for dealing with it
- **developing, launching and implementing** a multiagency neglect strategy, practitioner guidance and the Somerset neglect action plan
- **promoting** early identification and responses
- **assessing** the effectiveness of agency responses
- **understanding** children’s lived experience of neglect in order to improve practice

Strategic priority 4: Child Exploitation/ Children Missing

Outcome	<i>“Children who are at risk of, or subject to, all forms of exploitation and abuse (including children missing from home, care or education) are identified and safeguarded” (to include CSE, trafficking, county lines modern slavery)</i>
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We will work with partners to:

- **improve** the effectiveness of the strategic approach to tackling CSE/CM in Somerset through implementation of the CSE/CM action plan and redesign of the CSE system
- **evaluate** the effectiveness of partners’ arrangements for identifying, assessing and tackling CSE/CM
- **understand** the views and experiences of children and families vulnerable/ and or subject to exploitation in influence the work of the partnership

Strategic priority 5: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership

Outcome	<i>The SSCB leads the safeguarding agenda and develops robust arrangements to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of how children and young people are safeguarded in Somerset.</i>
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We will achieve this by:

- **working with partners** to deliver successfully against the Business Plan and associated work plans set for SSCB and its subgroups / working groups
- **continuing to strengthen the governance** interface between SSCB and other key strategic forums

- **communicating and raising awareness** about safeguarding to individuals, organisations and communities
- **maintaining** SSCB's Learning & Improvement Framework, facilitating, cascading and embedding learning from evidenced based practice and assessing impact of learning activity
- **scrutinising and challenging performance** of partner organisations around their safeguarding work
- **engaging** with children, young people and families to capture their views and experiences, influence the partnership's work and evaluate the impact of partner activity on their outcomes.

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