



Somerset Health and Wellbeing



Somerset  
Safeguarding  
**Children Board**



## **Working Together Protocol for the Strategic Partnership Boards in Somerset**

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## **1. Statement of commitment**

- 1.1 This Protocol is intended to support effective joint working between Strategic Partnership Boards in Somerset.
- 1.2 The partner organisations of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), Somerset Children's Trust (SCT), Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB), Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), Somerset Corporate Parenting Board (SCPB) and the Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP) are committed to working together at every level to keep Somerset people safe from harm and improve their health and wellbeing. The mechanisms by which this joint agreement and review are achieved will be developed in partnership by the Boards' Chairs.

## **2. Collective responsibilities**

- 2.1 Somerset's Partnership Boards are committed to ensuring effective links are made with each other to maximise effectiveness and minimise duplication.

Boards will work together to:

- a) Ensure the safety and health and wellbeing of people in Somerset are collectively addressed and that there are no gaps in addressing in needs.
  - b) Identify the lead partnership and respective responsibilities for a particular issue or priority.
  - c) Provide clarity of focus for each partnership body in relation to needs and issues, and avoid duplication.
  - d) Share appropriate information across partnerships and member organisations. This may require the enhancement of information sharing agreements.
  - e) Identify where there are problems and work together to formulate solutions taking a joined up and constructive approach across policies or issues of mutual interest.
  - f) Ensure that there is a shared approach to reviews of serious cases in the county and the learning to emerge from these.
  - g) Board Chairs will actively support the Boards in delivering these collective responsibilities by communicating or meeting together for the purpose of continuous improvement.
- 2.2 All Partnership Boards understand the importance of engaging with our local population, and the importance of consultation, engagement and feedback in informing their business.
  - 2.3 All Partnership Boards will work to promote the sustainability and efficiency of services, support the prevention agenda and work to mitigate the impact of inequalities in Somerset.

### **3. Individual Partnership Board Responsibilities**

- 3.1 Each Board has specific statutory powers, duties and roles. This Protocol is intended to support the effectiveness of each Partnership Board. It is not intended to override or replace the statutory duties and powers of any of the individual agency.

*Please see:*

*Appendix A for an overview of collective responsibilities across the partnerships*

*Appendix B for a description of each Board, their duties and their priority areas.*

### **4. Arrangements to support coordination between the Boards**

- 4.1 To support effective coordination and to promote better inter-partnership working the following arrangements are agreed:

- Respective Board Annual Reports/Plans will be presented to the other Boards.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board will consult widely on future iterations of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy along with the latest version of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Where items are to be presented at Partnership Board meetings that are considered to be of particular or significant relevance to other Boards, it is courteous and good practice to advise other Partnership Chairs and enable them to contribute to the debate
- Chairs or members of each partnership Board may be invited to attend the other partnership Development Days or development activity.
- Each of the Boards will circulate their newsletters with each other in order to share and involve others in their work and progress.
- The Chairs and business managers/ lead officers of each Partnership Board will convene 6 monthly meetings to enable better inter-partnership working.

### **5. Reporting Arrangements and Forward Plans**

- 5.1 Reporting arrangements and forward plans will be clearly set out to support alignment of reporting on shared agendas.

*See Appendix C for information regarding the current reporting arrangements.*

### **6. Arrangements for review**

- 6.1 This protocol will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Chairs and business managers/lead officers for the respective Boards, or when relevant national guidance affecting one of these Boards is introduced.

### **7. Resolution process**

- 7.1 Where there is a concern that this protocol is not succeeding in ensuring strong partnership working to keep Somerset residents safe and healthy, resolution should be sought through communication between the Chairs of the Boards, and relevant Chief Officers

**Signatories:**



**Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board Chair**

Cllr Ann Bown



**Somerset Children's Trust Board Chair**

Eileen Tipper, Voluntary and Community Sector



**Safer Somerset Partnership Chair**

Liz Spencer



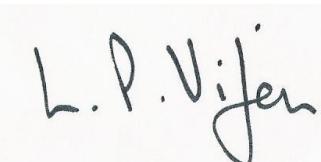
**Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Chair**

Sally Halls



**Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Chair**

Richard Crompton



**Somerset Corporate Parenting Board**

Cllr Linda Vijeh

July 2016

## Appendix A Somerset Strategic Partnerships Shared Statutory Responsibilities (Revised July 2017)

	<b>Somerset Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB)</b>	<b>Somerset Children's Trust Board (SCTB)</b>	<b>Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)</b>
<b>Sexual Exploitation of Children &amp; Vulnerable Adults</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board receives reports and supports action as required.	Somerset Children's Trust Board supports the Somerset Children's Safeguarding Board in addressing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	The Safer Somerset Partnership has a duty to ensure that agency reports are addressing sexual exploitation with particular reference to perpetrators and understanding risk of offending in the community.	Somerset Safeguarding Children Board leads on the implementation of the Somerset CSE strategy. SSCB also provides and commissions training for the workforce around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board provides oversight, coordination and assurance in relation to the sexual exploitation of vulnerable adults.	The Corporate Parenting Board receives reports and supports action via the Boards Leaving Care sub group.
<b>Prevent Programme</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board receives an annual report from the Community Safety Partnership.	Somerset Children's Trust Board receives reports and acts as required.	The Safer Somerset partnership is the accountable partnership providing oversight, coordination and assurance of system wide Prevent programme in Somerset.	SSCB promotes and assures safeguarding policy to identify children and young people at risk of radicalisation; and commissions and monitors effectiveness of Prevent training for designated safeguarding leads.	The SSAB supports and promotes the Prevent programme coordinated by the Safer Somerset Partnership; and the SSAB Strategic Plan priority to 'protect vulnerable adults from radicalisation'	The CPB supports the Prevent Programme in protecting children from harm resulting from radicalisation

	<b>Somerset Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB)</b>	<b>Somerset Children's Trust Board (SCTB)</b>	<b>Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)</b>
<b>Youth Justice</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board receives reports and supports action as required.	Somerset Children's Trust Board is the accountable partnership for Youth Justice.  The Youth Justice Board reports to the Safeguarding Children's Trust Board.	The Safer Somerset Partnership is the accountable partnership providing oversight and assurance of neighbourhood crime and community safety issues.  Incorporates Youth Justice data within the annual Crime and Disorder Strategic assessment. Youth Crime addressed within the Safer Somerset annual plan. Receives the annual Youth Justice Plan and supports action.	Somerset Safeguarding Children Board receives reports and assurance that youth justice, youth offending and targeted youth support provisions are compliant with section 11 duties.	n/a	The Corporate Parenting Board receives reports and supports action relating to Youth Justice via the Boards Leaving Care sub group and the Boards Data dashboard reporting.
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board receives reports and supports action as required.	Somerset Children's Trust Board receives reports and acts as required.	SSP is the lead partnership for Modern Slavery working closely with the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards on this agenda.	SSCB works with Safer Somerset Partnership as lead and other boards to Promote understanding of and awareness of modern slavery. Modern Slavery is	SSAB works in partnership with the Safer Somerset Partnership (lead) to promote awareness of modern slavery. Collaborating on	The CPB supports the Modern Slavery Programme in protecting children from harm resulting from modern slavery.

	<b>Somerset Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB)</b>	<b>Somerset Children's Trust Board (SCTB)</b>	<b>Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)</b>
				also included in the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.	the implementation of the Modern Slavery regional pilot.	
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board receives reports and supports action as required.	Somerset Children's Trust Board receives reports and acts as required.	The Safer Somerset Partnership is the accountable partnership providing oversight, coordination and assurance of Domestic Abuse services and systems, MARAC and Domestic Homicide Reviews and MAPPA.	SSCB receives assurance and monitoring reports on Domestic Abuse – and impact on children.  SSCB monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of multiagency Domestic Abuse training, around Domestic Abuse.  SSCB promotes and commissions practice learning events around Domestic Abuse.	SSAB works to prevent harm and reduce the risk of domestic abuse of adults with care and support needs, and supports the work overseen by the Safer Somerset Partnership.	The CPB supports Domestic Abuse services in reducing the harmful effects of domestic abuse on children.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	The Health and Wellbeing Board holds statutory responsibility for Health and Wellbeing including delivery of the Somerset	Somerset Children's Trust Board reports to the HWB and contributes to the JSNA and delivery of the HWB strategy.	SSP must take account of health and wellbeing in its programme delivery.	SSCB provides and annual report to Health and Wellbeing Board and takes account of Health and Wellbeing Strategy and	SSAB provides and annual report to Health and Wellbeing Board and takes account of Health and Wellbeing Strategy and	The Corporate Parenting Board receives reports and supports action via the Boards Health sub group.

	<b>Somerset Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB)</b>	<b>Somerset Children's Trust Board (SCTB)</b>	<b>Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)</b>	<b>Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Board (CPB)</b>
	Health and Wellbeing Strategy; the JSNA; health and care integration.			Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.	
<b>Stronger Communities</b>	Building Stronger Communities is a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Stronger Communities are important for the Health and Wellbeing of children.	Safer, Stronger Communities are a prerequisite for community safety. The One Teams play a role in this.	Healthy Communities and, healthy places help to support safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people.	Healthy communities, healthy places support the protection of vulnerable adults.	The Corporate Parenting Board receives reports and supports action via the Boards Voice of the Child and Leaving Care sub groups.

**Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) Roles and Priorities**

<b>Board purpose</b>	Established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Health and Wellbeing Boards act as a forum in which key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and to promote integrated services.
<b>Statutory duties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which describes the health and wellbeing needs of Somerset.</li> <li>• To develop and deliver a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the county.</li> <li>• To undertake a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• To encourage integrated working between health, social care and public health.</li> </ul>
<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The HWBB has identified the following six overarching priorities for 2015/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board will provide shared leadership to increase the focus on prevention across the county</li> <li>• To give system leadership to build strong, resilient and healthy communities</li> <li>• To drive and oversee new, integrated and sustainable models of care across the country</li> <li>• To lead a programme of work to improve the identification and early intervention to prevent Hidden Harm of children</li> <li>• To identify and address the impacts of housing on health and wellbeing</li> <li>• To increase the use of licensing powers to promote the health wellbeing and reduce harm.</li> </ul>

**Somerset Children's Trust Board (SCT) Roles and Priorities**

<b>Board purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To act as a professional/expert reference group for the Somerset Children's Trust Executive Group to consult on commissioning intentions</li> <li>• To hold the Somerset Children's Trust Executive Group to account for delivery of the agreed commissioning priorities.</li> <li>• To lead the development of and approve the Children and Young People's Plan and ensure that it is reviewed annually</li> <li>• To monitor progress against the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan holding partners to account for their contribution and performance</li> <li>• To ensure the voice of children, young people and their parents/carers is heard</li> <li>• To work together to foster robust and constructive relationships between partners, ensuring that any gaps or overlaps in service delivery are addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory duties</b>	Somerset County Council and its partners have a statutory duty under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to co-operate to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The Somerset Children's Trust, through the new Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019 has identified the following seven improvement programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient</li> <li>2. Promoting healthy outcomes &amp; giving children the best start in life</li> <li>3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing</li> <li>4. Building skills for life</li> <li>5. Providing help early and effectively</li> <li>6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service</li> <li>7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce</li> </ol>
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### Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Roles and Priorities

<b>Board purpose</b>	The Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements to make sure that they are working properly and well.
<b>Statutory duties</b>	<p>Somerset Safeguarding Children Board has statutory duties and functions as defined under Section 14 of the Children Act which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and</li> <li>• to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.</li> </ul>
<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The Somerset Safeguarding Children Board has identified the following overarching priorities for 2016/19:</p> <p><b>Priority 1: Early Help</b> - Children and families receive good quality and timely multi-agency help to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Priority 2: Multiagency Safeguarding</b> - Children are safeguarded through multi-agency partnership working.</p> <p><b>Priority 3: Neglect</b> - Children who are experiencing or at risk of neglect are identified and safeguarded</p> <p><b>Priority 4: Child Exploitation / Children Missing</b> - "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)</p> <p><b>Priority 5: Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership</b> - 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.</p>

## Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) Roles and Priorities

<b>Board purpose</b>	<p>The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) is a multi-agency statutory body established by the Care Act 2014. Its main objective is to protect all adults in its area who have needs for care and support and who are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect against which they are unable to protect themselves because of their needs.</p> <p>The shared vision of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board is '<i>to work in partnership to enable adults in Somerset to live a life free from fear, harm or abuse</i>'. Members work together to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a culture of not tolerating abuse;</li> <li>• People work together to prevent abuse;</li> <li>• People know what to do when abuse happens</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory duties</b>	<p>The Care Act 2014 outlines three statutory functions for the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how it will meet its objectives;</li> <li>• To publish an annual report detailing how effective its work has been;</li> <li>• To commission safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) for any cases meeting the criteria for these.</li> </ul>
<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board has identified the following 4 overarching priorities for the three year period 2016-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Making Safeguarding Personal</li> <li>• Think Family</li> <li>• Board effectiveness</li> </ul>

## Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP) Roles and Priorities

<b>Board purpose</b>	<p>Provide strategic direction, leadership and improve the effectiveness of the delivery of Community Safety in Somerset</p> <p>Make effective links to other strategic Partnerships, ensuring there is a strong voice for Somerset's priorities and interests on other relevant partnerships and work streams.</p> <p>Ensure that the statutory responsibilities of the partnership are addressed effectively.</p>
<b>Statutory duties</b>	<p><b>Crime and Disorder Act 1998</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work together and share information to reduce crime and disorder. Statutory Agencies to participate: Probation, Police, Local Authorities, CCG, CRC, NPS, Fire</li> <li>• To 'cooperate' for Registered Housing Providers and the PCC</li> </ul> <p><b>Police and Justice Act (2006)</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the responsible authorities share evidenced-based data to support Community Safety Partnerships</li> <li>To carry out frequent Community Safety Strategic Assessments of crime and drug misuse in their area</li> <li>To produce annual rolling three year Community Safety Plans.</li> <li>For the local authorities to scrutinise the functioning of the local Community Safety Partnership.</li> </ul> <p><b>Police and Crime Act (2009)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Community Safety Partnerships to become responsible for reducing reoffending.</li> <li>To produce a reducing reoffending strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Community Safety Partnerships being responsible for decision making and management of Domestic Homicide Reviews</li> </ul>
<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The Safer Somerset Partnership has identified the following six overarching priorities for 2015/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve links to other partnerships, interagency collaboration and understanding of services</li> <li>Prevent the escalation of violent crime and abuse by supporting victims and working with perpetrators</li> <li>Focus on targeted Anti-Social Behaviour</li> <li>Focusing on Families through Early Help</li> <li>Identify opportunities and approaches that Improve mental wellbeing and the emotional resilience of people in Somerset</li> <li>Break the cycle of offending/abuse through an engaged multi-agency response to targeted/identified groups</li> </ul>

### Somerset Corporate Parenting Board (SCPB) Roles and Priorities

<b>Board purpose</b>	Somerset County Council and its partner agencies together aim to continuously improve the outcomes of children looked after to bring them in line with their peers, through the development of a joint approach to the delivery of services.
<b>Statutory duties</b>	<p>The Board is a leadership and advisory body with no formal decision-making powers, but will seek to influence decision makers to drive improvement across the Council and its partners. Consequently it will make recommendations where necessary to Cabinet to impact and influence SCC decisions and policies. The Board is accountable to Full Council.</p> <p>The Children Act 1989 is the primary legislation setting out local authority responsibilities to children in need, including children looked after. Section 22 imposes a legal duty on local authorities to safeguard</p>

	<p>and promote the welfare of each child they look after.</p> <p>Local authorities have been entitled to expect other agencies, e.g. Housing and Health to assist them in discharging their functions since the implementation of the Children Act 1989 (Section 27). The Children Act 2004 introduced a legal duty on named agencies both to co-operate with the local authority (Section 10) and to ensure that they take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in fulfilling their own functions (Section 11).</p> <p>Ofsted considers a good Local Authority as being one that is an active, strong and committed corporate parent that knows the children and young people it looks after well. It acts as an effective and successful champion of their progress (particularly in education and learning) and an ambitious corporate parent, ensuring that each child has every opportunity to succeed. It actively challenges and engages partners where appropriate to support children and young people, such as engaging a Local Authority's strategic housing function</p>
<b>Board priorities</b>	<p>The Somerset Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019 sets out 5 key areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voice of the Child</li> <li>• Foster Care Development</li> <li>• Care Leavers</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Health of children looked after and Care Leavers</li> </ul>

**Page 13 Appendix C Scheme for Annual Reporting between the Partnership Boards**

<b>Board</b>	<b>Report(s)</b>	<b>Circulation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</li> <li>• Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Director of Public Health Annual Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Children's Trust</li> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board</li> <li>• Somerset Community Safety Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For information</li> </ul>
Somerset Children's Trust Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Children and Young Peoples Plan</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families</li> <li>• Other Partnership Boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For scrutiny</li> <li>• For information</li> </ul>
Somerset Safeguarding Children Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Children's Trust</li> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information and scrutiny</li> </ul>
Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• SSAB Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>• Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For scrutiny</li> </ul>
Safer Somerset Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Community Safety Strategic Assessment</li> <li>• Somerset Community Safety Plan</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Children's Trust</li> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board</li> <li>• Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For Information</li> <li>• For information</li> <li>• For information</li> </ul>
Somerset Corporate Parenting Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Corporate Parenting Strategy</li> <li>• Annual report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other partnership Boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider needs of CLA and care leavers in their work</li> <li>• For information</li> </ul>