

Report to the NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group on 31 March 2022

Title: Somerset CCG Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2020-21	Enclosure I
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Summary and Purpose of Paper

- Detail the arrangements in place to safeguard children in health services we commission.
- Set out the context for safeguarding children health arrangements in Somerset
- Demonstrate how Somerset CCG is fulfilling its statutory safeguarding children responsibilities
- Report on governance and accountability arrangements within the CCG, and the CCG role in the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) and its sub-groups
- Highlight achievements and identify current safeguarding children risks in provision within health services
- Provide assurance that the safeguarding children 2020/2021 objectives were completed
- Identify the CCG's 2021/2022 safeguarding children objectives
- The impact of the Covid pandemic on the ability to safeguard children

Recommendations and next steps

The Governing Body is being asked to approve the content of this report and the objectives for 2021 to 2022.

Somerset CCG Safeguarding children team will continue to work collaboratively to engage in work streams to improve the quality of and strengthen safeguarding children and child death review arrangements and where necessary mitigate organisational and partnership risk; at a local, regional, and national level.

This report, once approved by the Governing Body, will then be considered by the Somerset Safeguarding Child Partnership, in light of the alignment between Child Death Review and Safeguarding Children arrangements.

Impact Assessments – key issues identified

Equality	Commissioning and delivery of high quality and accessible statutory health services to meet the safeguarding needs of children and young people will ensure this cohort will not be disadvantaged in comparison with their peers who do not experience the same vulnerabilities.
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Quality	This report reflects on the quality and impact of safeguarding children practice. The past year has been without precedent in terms of the scale and volume of challenges for the safeguarding system; with even more importance on the need to take stock and learn in order to influence the quality and outcome of children and families' experiences of safeguarding children practice.			
Privacy	Information sharing processes are already established; there are no breaches of privacy expected.			
Engagement	Meeting statutory safeguarding children requirements is a shared responsibility. Somerset CCG works closely with its Providers, (Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), Primary Care and all key partners of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) to ensure these are met.			
Financial / Resource	Resources required to implement and support statutory safeguarding children requirements are in place			
Governance or Legal	The provision of statutory safeguarding children requirements are governed by the following legislation and statutory guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Act 1989 • Children Act 2004 • The Children and Families Act 2014 • The Children and Social Work Act 2017 • Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 • Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk in the NHS: Safeguarding and Accountability framework 2019 • Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2019 • Intercollegiate Document: Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff, (RCPCH) 2019 			
Risk Description				
Risk Rating	Consequence	Likelihood	RAG Rating	GBAF Ref

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021**

January 2022

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

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Developed in conjunction with	Designated & Named Professionals for Safeguarding Children
Roles	
Sponsor	Val Janson
Role	Director of Quality and Nursing / Executive Lead for Safeguarding
Date	January 2022

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report which covers the period of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 describes the range of activities and developments that the safeguarding children team have undertaken to support the design and delivery of effective safeguarding children arrangements across Somerset. This report provides assurance to the Governing Body and members of the public that the CCG has fulfilled their statutory responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.2 The narrative throughout this report gives an overview and summary of assurance against our statutory functions, our internal safeguarding children strategy 2018-2021 and the shared local priorities of safeguarding children partners. This report will conclude by looking forward to the year ahead identifying key priorities for 2021-2022.
- 1.3 Over the last year our safeguarding activity has taken into account any key changes to national legislation and learning from local and national safeguarding children case reviews.
- 1.4 Our core business is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people by fully understanding the outcomes we want to achieve and continually reflecting on how well we do things. We want to be able to work with our partners and to evidence the impact our services have on the lives of children, young people and their families. We endeavour to keep the individual at the centre of everything we do and engaging service users in the work we undertake.

2 DELIVERY OF STATUTORY SAFEGUARDING FUNCTIONS

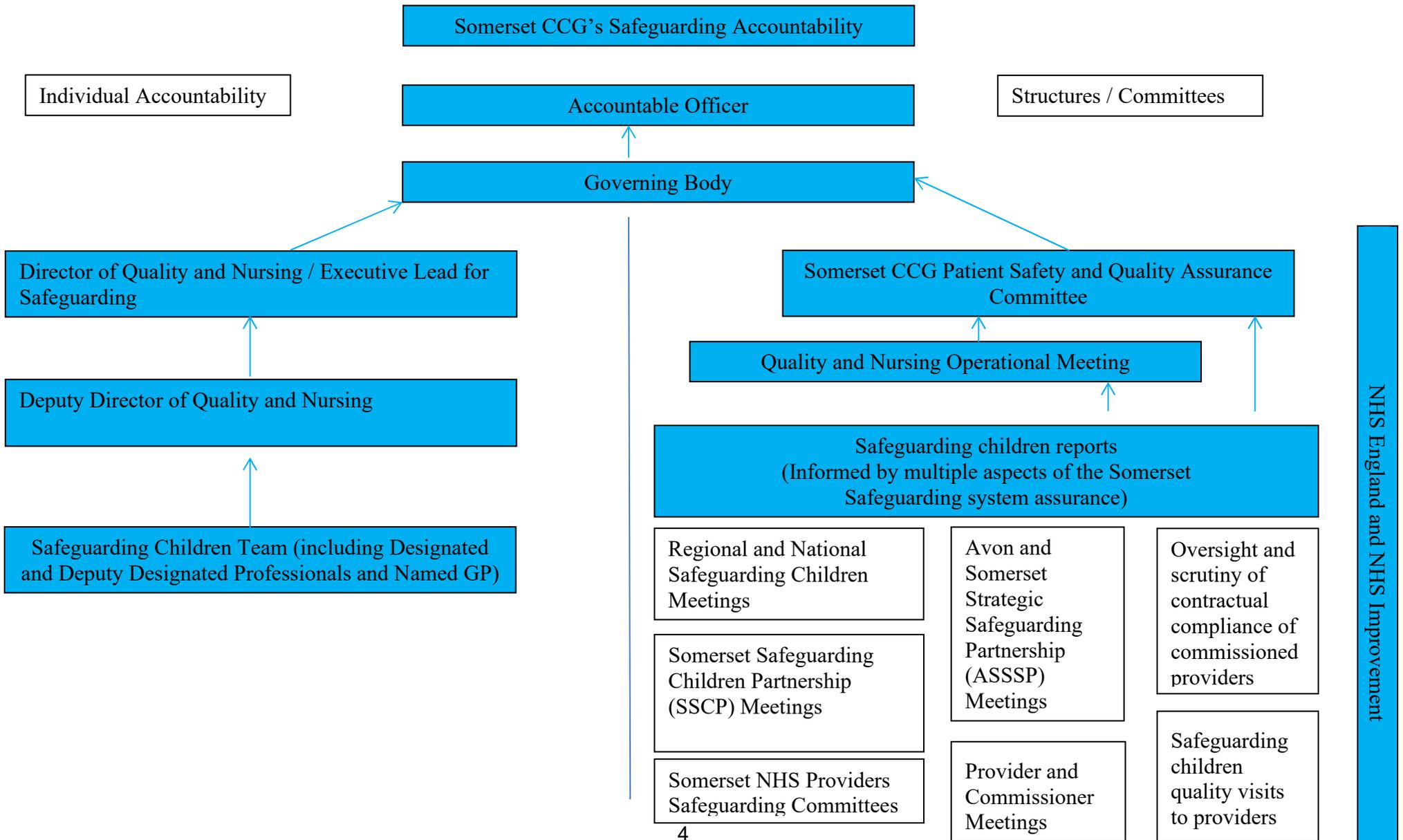
2.1 Somerset Safeguarding Leadership and Accountability

- 2.1.1 The accountability for safeguarding rests with the Chief Executive of the CCG¹, who is also the Accountable Officer and Clinical Executive Committee (CEC) Chair. The safeguarding children team is led by the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children who reports via the Deputy Director of Quality and Nursing; to the Director of Quality and Nursing as Executive Safeguarding Lead and Chief Executive. Quarterly safeguarding children assurance children reports are provided to the Patient Safety and Quality Assurance Committee which are reported by exception to the Governing Body. The Governing Body receives the Annual Report on Safeguarding Children.
- 2.1.2 The CCG safeguarding children team structure incorporates the statutory roles of Designated (and Deputy) Designated Nurse, Named GP, and administrative staff. The reporting structure below demonstrates the safeguarding governance arrangements.

¹ [Safeguarding Competences for Healthcare Staff: Intercollegiate Document 2019](#)

2.1.3 Currently the CCG's Safeguarding Children team holds a vacancy for a statutory Designated Doctor (5 PAs a week). This post is a challenge to recruit to both nationally and regionally. The CCG has approved the Case for Change and a 1 year secondment is out for advert at the time of writing this report.

Somerset CCG Safeguarding Children Governance Framework:



2.2 Discharging Statutory duties for Safeguarding Children

2.2.1 **Accountability:** There is a clear line of accountability for safeguarding children reflected in our CCG governance arrangements, including statutory roles as described above. We have achieved compliance against the requirements of the NHS Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework and substantial assurance was provided through the following to NHS England South West Safeguarding:

- Covid 19 Safeguarding Assurance returns
- Community Service Stocktake
- Safeguarding Business Continuity returns
- Safeguarding Quarterly Assurance reports
- South West safeguarding steering group (Executive safeguarding lead is member)
- System updates to the South West Designated Professionals forums

2.2.2 **Policies and Procedures:** setting out our commitment and approach to safeguarding children. The CCG's Safeguarding Children policy is in the process of being updated and will be shared with the NHS providers, CCG staff and GP practices; as a number of practices then adopt this policy as their own. The current policy is published here, as will be the updated version once finalised: <https://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/safeguarding-adults-and-children/safeguarding-children/>

2.2.3 **Effective Supervision & Training:** The ongoing challenge since March 2020 has been the delivery of training and supervision during the Covid pandemic. Members of the CCG's safeguarding children team have contributed to the virtual training offer provided by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP). The CCG utilised Covid funding in 2020 to support the SSCP virtual training offer, as lack of funds usually generated resulted in a risk to this statutory function.

2.2.4 Ensuring that CCG staff have the required competencies to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding children has been through a culture of learning across the system, which includes provision of safeguarding children supervision and learning and development opportunities. Mandatory safeguarding children training has been provided by all or part of the safeguarding team through the GP Safeguarding Leads training day held virtually in September 2020 and virtual sessions provided as part of the GP Education Trust training programme.

Feedback from September 2020 training delivered by CCG Safeguarding team:



"The best safeguarding training I've ever done"



"I really enjoyed the MS Teams format and the variety of attendees, much more engaging and interesting than usual format I have been used to"



“The online training was navigated well and the facilitators worked extremely hard and in an approachable manner to make attendees feel welcome and confident to speak”

- 2.2.5 The Designated Nurse has continued to provide virtual quarterly supervision to CCG Continuing Health Care clinical staff that plan and assess care for children as part of their roles, as well as the Named Nurses and Midwife for Public Health Nursing, Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.
- 2.2.6 The development and dissemination of the ‘The Safeguard’ CCG newsletter has contained key safeguarding children updates, learning and useful documents and tools to support safeguarding children practice. An additional Covid Safeguarding newsletter was also initially produced by the team and disseminated widely within the health safeguarding system in the first few months of the pandemic.

3 IMPACT OF COVID 19

- 3.1 Key to 2020 – 2021 priorities was the development of a transformational model of safeguarding across the Integrated Care System (ICS). During the pandemic, the Safeguarding Children team have prioritised the need to support acute, community, and primary care services together with partners across the system in the most meaningful way possible.
- 3.2 There has been, at times reduced capacity within the Safeguarding Children team due to supporting the ongoing work of the SSCP, which unlike many other partnerships and boards in the area was not put on hold, and with multiple work streams arising out of the pandemic. Maintenance of statutory safeguarding children functions and provisions have continued as outlined in the Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2018) and the NHS Safeguarding and Accountability framework (2019).
- 3.3 Recent additional legislation and policy has enforced the need for safeguarding children services to be maintained as a priority, especially given the recognition that harm and abuse is potentially now more hidden, and the impact Covid measures had on face-to-face contacts with children. As we move into the recovery/restoration phase, ‘normal’ service delivery is expected to resume and with this it is anticipated that we will see a surge in demand for safeguarding children response across the multi-agency system, which includes more complex mental health issues and disclosures of abuse.
- 3.4 Somerset CCG has continued to receive assurance that commissioned services are meeting their statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the health and wellbeing of children. Assurance has been obtained

throughout the pandemic and will continue through the recovery phase and beyond, as measured against the guidance outlined above.

- 3.5 To support this, the Somerset multi-agency safeguarding system cell that was initially set up early in March 2020 by the CCG's Designated Professionals has continued to meet on a monthly basis, highlighting and responding to challenges in the safeguarding children system that require a multi-agency response. The Linked Professional Approach for vulnerable children continued as outlined in the previous year's report arose from this group.
- 3.6 There is also recognition that the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) plays a role in seeking assurance around the increased demand on safeguarding children and system service delivery, all of which requires a partnership approach.

4 PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020 – 2021

Somerset CCG Safeguarding children team have continued to work collaboratively, engaging with partners in work streams to improve quality, strengthen safeguarding children and child death review arrangements and where necessary mitigate organisational and partnership risks. The Safeguarding Children team contributed to these objectives through delivery of the priorities identified for 2020 – 2021 and additional work streams outlined here:

Delivery of Statutory Safeguarding Functions	Development of high quality safeguarding services	Using intelligence and information to inform decisions	Influencing Partnership working
<p>During pandemic the clinical skills of some of the safeguarding children team were utilised to support the Covid vaccination programme. This did not impact on the team's ability to focus on statutory safeguarding children responsibilities, but did affect capacity for developmental work.</p> <p>The CCG's safeguarding children team have actively participated in a review of the local safeguarding children and Child Death Review arrangements.</p> <p>Develop new and innovative ways of maintaining a high quality statutory safeguarding children service, with a</p>	<p>Managed the significant increase in workload associated with the local safeguarding children partnership; as a direct result of completion of 2 CSPRs completed at pace, the introduction of 2 new sub groups (both chaired by the Somerset Health System) and led on a multi-agency case review.</p> <p>Development of safeguarding children practice within primary care has continued through virtual training offers, the GP safeguarding best practice meetings, introduction of monthly safeguarding supervision sessions and publication of The Safeguard newsletter.</p>	<p>The requirement for safeguarding assurance during the pandemic continues with significant assurance provided to NHS England and Improvement as and when requested.</p> <p>Somerset Foundation Trust (SFT) and Yeovil District Hospital (YDH) have continued to submit the monthly and quarterly safeguarding dashboards.</p> <p>Oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding children practice has been maintained through the provider's own safeguarding committee meetings.</p>	<p>Effective system wide communication maintained during the ongoing pandemic through multiple virtual meetings and leadership of a multiagency safeguarding system call.</p> <p>Worked with provider safeguarding leads to develop an integrated approach to safeguarding across the ICS including a 10 point strategic plan for safeguarding within Somerset ICS.</p> <p>The Acting Director of Quality and Nursing as executive safeguarding children lead attends the Somerset Safeguarding</p>

<p>blended approach of remote and face to face working required to support the resilience of the safeguarding workforce.</p> <p>Case for Change for vacant Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children post approved and recruitment in progress. Named GP SGC sessions increased as a temporary measure to manage risks associated with vacancy.</p> <p>CCG safeguarding team jointly delivered an all-day virtual training to CCG staff and GP safeguarding leads; positive feedback received regarding content and delivery.</p> <p>Significant support, advice and guidance provided by the wider CCG safeguarding team to an NHS provider identified as not meeting standards set out by CQC.</p>	<p>CCG safeguarding children team have been consistent members of the Covid Cells, some of which have now become business as usual.</p> <p>Supporting the development and implementation of the Linked Professional Approach; with the CCG sharing information directly with GP's about high risk children.</p> <p>Developed a system to ensure that GP's fully engage with their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to Child Protection Case Conferences, which will be fully embedded into contracts and practice in 2021 to 2022.</p> <p>Safeguarding children features in the commissioning cycle through ongoing development of safeguarding children schedules in short and long form contracts.</p>	<p>Significant assurance in relation to delivery of the safeguarding children's agenda has been provided through monthly and quarterly reports to the Patient Safety Quality Assurance Committee and the Quality and Nursing Operational meetings.</p> <p>CCG safeguarding team led on the health system response to the local Violence Reduction Unit particularly focusing on use of health data and scrutiny and oversight of frontline health practitioner's engagement in partnership working.</p> <p>Successful bid for health system representation within Somerset Multi-Agency Triage through a project funded by the Department for Education.</p> <p>Initial work undertaken to include key metrics for maternity services in the integrated safeguarding dashboard.</p>	<p>Children Partnership Executive sub group.</p> <p>The CCG designated leads have met virtually regularly with our provider leads across the ICS system to ensure robust communication is maintained, key messages are received, and emergent risks are identified and addressed promptly.</p> <p>The Somerset safeguarding system continues to meet monthly, providing an opportunity for a timely collaborative response to challenges within the local safeguarding children system.</p>
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Feedback from safeguarding colleagues:

"You're doing a great job – really appreciated"

LMC feedback in relation to work on the EHA and getting CSC to accept GP phone referrals during pandemic

"I feel very lucky with the working relationships in Somerset that we have established. Talking with colleagues from other areas it is very clear we have something special going on here! Thanks for your support and for taking the lead for the system re the ICS Task & Finish group, very much appreciated!"

I have worked with ** on several reviews. She brings a wealth of experience regarding safeguarding to help with the process, as well as her caring skills as a senior nurse. I have been impressed with her non-judgmental analysis and support. I have observed her on high level meetings and am impressed by her clear incisive thinking and analysis, and professionalism.

5 SUMMARY

5.1 Commissioners of health services have a duty to ensure that all NHS Trusts recognise the importance of robust and effective arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and young people across Somerset, and to provide assurance that they are fulfilling its statutory responsibilities for Safeguarding Children under section 11 of the Children Act 1989 (2004).

5.2 The CCG's Safeguarding Children Team strive to ensure all safeguarding children processes and systems put in place by 'health' and partner agencies are robust and effective. There has been a huge amount of work and developments to improve and build on existing relationships, systems and procedures in 2020 - 2021 including:

- Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (chairing 3 subgroups and attending all others)
- Pan Dorset and Somerset Child Death Review Arrangements: Designated Nurse and Designated Dr's for Child Death are CDOP panel members, management of the Child Death Coordinator who TUPE'd across to the CCG's safeguarding team.
- Avon and Somerset Safeguarding Strategic Partnership: membership of regional groups such as the ASSSP executive, data and performance, and complex safeguarding groups.

6 PRIORITIES FOR 2021 - 2022

- Embedding safeguarding within the Somerset Integrated Care System,
- Ensuring robust CCG safeguarding children governance and reporting processes are in place
- Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Implementation of health safeguarding system representation within the Somerset multi-agency triage through a project funded by the Department for Education.
- Implementation of learning from recent local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)
- Recruitment to Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children secondment through the agreed Case for Change
- Ensure the CCG and the services we commission fulfil our statutory safeguarding children functions.
- Ensure that GP's fully engage with their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to Child Protection Case Conferences
- Finalise work undertaken in 2020 - 2021 in relation to embedding key metrics for maternity services in the joint safeguarding dashboard.
- Continue to work collaboratively with local and regional safeguarding children partnerships; to improve quality and strengthen safeguarding children and child death review arrangements, mitigating where necessary organisational, partnership and system risks.

- Finalise with Human Resources a means of capturing CCG staff compliancy with mandatory safeguarding children training on the Electronic Staff Record.

Appendix 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CDR	Child Death Review
CLA	Children Looked After
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
CYP	Children and Young People
ESR	Electronic Staff Record
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GP	General Practitioner
HWB	Health and Wellbeing
ICS	Integrated Care System
NHS	National Health Service
PSQAC	Patient Safety Quality Assurance Committee
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SGC	Safeguarding Children
SSCP	Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership
SSP	Safer Somerset Partnership
SFT	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations
YDH	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust