

To:

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Please ask for: Gail Hancock

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Our Ref: GH/dh

Date: 25th May 2021

Dear Colleagues

Re: Exploitation - Your views are important

I am sure you are all aware of the Local Safeguarding Practice Review (LSPR) that was recently undertaken to reflect on the experiences of three of our young people in Gloucestershire. The LSPR focused on the risks centred on the exploitation of the individuals and the response to this by the safeguarding partners in Gloucestershire. The LSPR concluded, amongst a number of recommendations, that a review of the Child Exploitation Strategy was required.

As a result of the above activity, a Task and Finish Group has been established that includes members of the Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnership (GSCP) Child Exploitation and Missing Sub Group, along with the National Working Group (NWG) who are tasked with preparing a new strategy. The new strategy will be entitled '**Young People Away from Home or Care**'. This change reflects the evolving risks of exploitation that children can be exposed to by extra-familial perpetrators.

We are all very much aware that child exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. This can result in them engaging the exploited child or young person in sexual or criminal activity. This new strategy will include the county's response to children who have suffered, or are at risk of exploitation. Although the definition relates to under 18 years, the strategy will include the county's provision for all care experienced young people up to the age of 25 years.

As practitioners or managers working directly with young people, it is important that your views are ascertained to help shape and inform the new strategy for the county. Please take some time to share your views to help improve our service provision for all young people who are affected by exploitation.

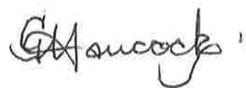
A survey has been prepared to ascertain your feedback and can be accessed using the link below:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/survey-professionals-young-people-out-of-home-care-strategy>

The link will remain active for a period of 4 weeks. Please can you take the time to provide your feedback, views, thoughts and opinions about how you would like to see the development of this strategy to improve our protective offer with children and young people in Gloucestershire.

Thank you in anticipation of receiving your feedback, your contribution is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hancock', written in a cursive style.

Gail Hancock

Interim Director for Children's Safeguarding and Care