



# Annual Report

September 2019- August 2020



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# 1. Introduction from the Independent Chair

This is our first Annual Report since the publication and implementation of our new safeguarding arrangements in accordance with the requirements of Working Together 2018. The report is published by the broader Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership but it is important to reflect that the three statutory and equal partners (Bristol Council, Avon and Somerset Police and Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG)) are responsible for putting in place effective arrangements to support the co-ordination, quality assurance and continuous improvement of activity to safeguard children and young people, and adults with care and support needs.

I was appointed in June 2019 to the role of independent chair to the Executive group and Partnership which means I facilitate key meetings and act as a 'critical friend' to scrutinise and support the evaluation of the quality and impact of safeguarding activity in Bristol. This includes chairing the executive meetings which are held eight times throughout the year.

The report sets out the significant changes that were made to strategic safeguarding partnerships during 2019-2020; these were in response to changes in statutory guidance for safeguarding children and young people. A considerable amount of time was spent during the period under review developing the new arrangements and agreeing and managing the business unit's capacity to support the delivery of core functions. Partners recognise there is further work to do in relation to development of the business unit arrangements in order to deliver to the agreed work programmes/statutory functions in a timelier way.

At the time of writing, we are still amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to be able to report on the significant amount of professionalism, reflection and leadership which I have seen throughout the pandemic, resulting in all agencies considering how to continue to deliver services effectively and safely. Where concerns have been identified all agencies have worked tirelessly to mitigate as far as has been possible, areas of risk.

All agencies are agreed that it has been a significant challenge to continue to offer services through what is a public health emergency on an unprecedented scale. We have locally learned and developed as we have progressed, but we are not complacent and suspect there may be even bigger challenges ahead. It is anticipated that there will be significant pent up demand and it is ever more important that we re-commit ourselves to working in partnership and viewing the protection and safeguarding for children, adults and communities as everyone's business.

In this report, the statutory partners set out critical areas of development to improve the effectiveness of the statutory partnership arrangements including the need for a robust multi-agency quality assurance framework, gathering and using the views of children and adults and their parents/carers to support the evaluation of safeguarding services. Sadly, there are cases where things have gone wrong for children and families, with tragic outcomes. Again, I have seen first-hand the quality of the work conducted to learn from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to ensure we reflect and learn from our most serious cases.

In addition, case auditing is also used to make a difference to either practice or service provision and importantly to recognise and build on strong, effective practice which already exists in many parts of the system.

To help with this shared partnership endeavour, I have observed honest and open conversations to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership and a programme of development has been agreed to strengthen the culture of shared ownership and accountability that is central to effective working and good outcomes for children, adults and their families. Partners have expressed their strong commitment to take action to improve safeguarding services where appropriate. It is a fact that delivering services within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed some of the desired progress against our strategic work programme, although that is not to say that important work hasn't or isn't taking place.

The achievements within this report reflect the committed individuals who either work directly with children, adults and their families or those with a specialist role in safeguarding in partner agencies.

On behalf of the 3 statutory safeguarding partners, thank you for the extraordinary work you have done in very challenging circumstances in 2019-20 and I look forward to continue to work with you towards what we all hope will be brighter times during the forthcoming year.

Best wishes,

**Ivan Powell**

Independent Chair, Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

## 2. Our story

from Local Safeguarding Boards to Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP)

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership came into effect on September 2019. The Executive Board was established to oversee the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for children (formally the LSCB), adults at risk (LSAB) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP). To deliver statutory duties to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children as required by [Working Together 2018](#), to help and protect adults at risk of neglect and/or abuse as required by [Care Act 2014](#); and to protect our local communities from crime and to help people feel safe in accordance with the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#).

In June 2018, [Working Together 2018](#) set out changes in the way agencies are required to work together to safeguard children and young people by September 2019. Instead of each locality having access to a Local Children Board, the government wanted each locality to have access to a team of Safeguarding Partners, who work collaboratively to strengthen the child protection and safeguarding system. The government specified that these Safeguarding Partners would be a team of key professionals from three sectors; the local authority, the clinical commissioning group, and the police.

In Bristol, the launch of the new arrangements into a multi-agency integrated safeguarding and community safety partnership reflected Bristol's ambition to work collaboratively across local agencies and organisations to develop an equitable and robust partnership. The details of the new arrangements can be accessed [here](#). This Partnership came into existence on 29th September 2019. The new Partnership is overseen by an Executive consisting of senior representatives from the three statutory partners: the Local Authority, the Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership was developed in affiliation with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership and meets the statutory requirements of these three Boards which it replaced.

Due to these changes, this annual report covers a 12-month reporting period of the KBSP; September 2019 – September 2020. The Strategic Plans were set in March 2019. During this reporting period we saw a national lock down in March 2020 as a result of COVID-19; with an unprecedented global response to this pandemic. Safeguarding children and adults was immediately identified as a key risk by the Partnership. Whilst the focus of this report is on how the safeguarding arrangements are working including relationships with strategic partners across the city, when looking to the future the short and longer term impact of COVID-19 is one of the key challenges facing the Partnership.

The Bristol Annual Report is designed to give an overview of the adult multi-agency work across Bristol in pursuit of the Government's aims to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Safeguarding adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned
- Raise public awareness so that communities, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect

- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

In line with statutory requirements and best practice this annual report will be shared with:

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care
- The Chief Executive, Bristol City Council
- Director of Children and Safer Communities
- Director of Adult Social Services
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Health and Wellbeing Board

This report has been authored by Laura Gajdus, Business Unit and Partnership Manager, Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.

The report was approved by the KBSP executive in April 2021 and published on the Partnership website in May 2021.

Should you require the report in any other format to support accessibility please contact Laura Gajdus – [laura.gajdus@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:laura.gajdus@bristol.gov.uk)

## 2.1 The journey

During 2019/20 the Partnership developed the vision of an integrated safeguarding and community safety executive. It was restructure to shape a shared strategic plan. To take forward these ambitions the Partnership recruited a permanent Partnership and Business Manager, Laura Gajdus in August 2020, to support us

to drive the work of the partnership. In the later part of the year we have grown the KBSP Business Unit building capacity to deliver our integrated strategic plan with the recruitment of a Domestic Abuse Project Officer; a Participation Project Officer and a Safeguarding Information Analyst.

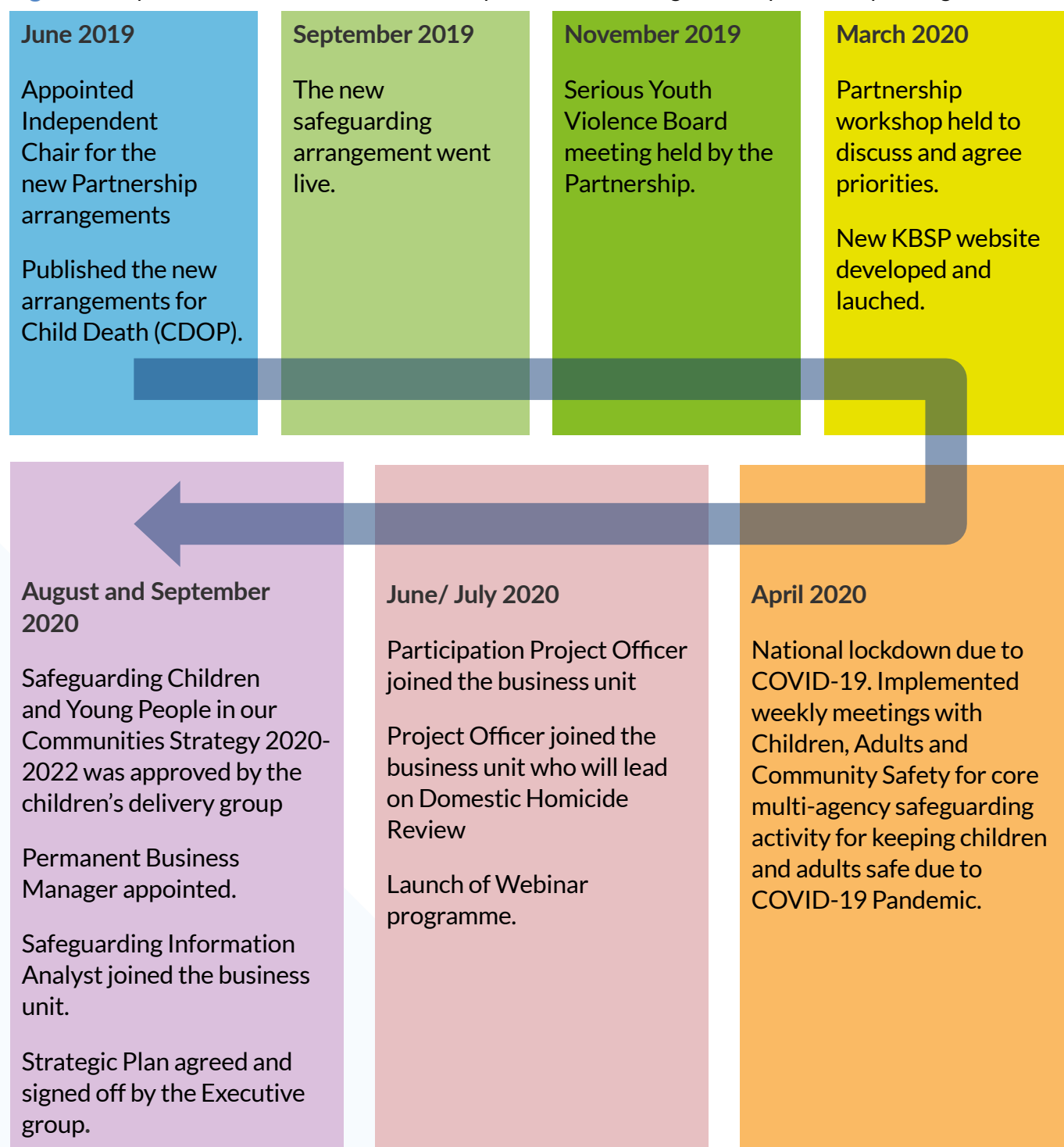
The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 Pandemic on 11th March 2020.

The Partnership's response to COVID-19 was swift to ensure minimum disruption to business continuity at the commencement of 'lockdown'. Partners worked together in holding weekly cell meetings for children, adults and community safety. These meetings are still in place today and provided robust and coordinated leadership to respond to the significant system disruption and impact on the partnership to safeguard children and adults. The purpose of these meetings is to assess the impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding duties ensuring business continuity plans were in place so those at risk were seen face to face. Strategy discussion, Child Protection Conferences, MAPPA, MARAC and Section 42 Adult Safeguarding enquiries were facilitated either in person where essential or remotely or through hybrid conferences during lockdown. The partnership responded agilely to the pandemic which minimised disruption to service delivery. The COVID-19 response structure enabled a joined-up approach across the partnership for vulnerable and at risk children and adults with care and support needs. The Executive Board continues to assess the key areas of risk presented by COVID-19.

Improvements to our governance is supporting better management and co-ordination of our priorities to secure improved safeguarding practices and outcomes.

Below are some key milestones and events which took place on our journey to establishing the new partnership arrangements.

**Figure 1.** Key milestones and events which took place to establishing the new partnership arrangements.





## 3 Strategic plan

The Partnership developed a strategic plan based on consultation with professionals in March 2020 (figure 2). The Partnership ensured that the delivery of the improvements identified would not be impaired by the transition period into the new arrangements. The Partnership produced a revised strategic plan in August 2020 which will cover the following three years (figure 3).

**Figure 2.** The partnerships strategic plan March 2020

### Priority One

Develop a whole-life course strategic approach to Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse

### Priority Two

Implement a contextual safeguarding approach to extra-familial abuse and risk for children and young adults

### Priority Three

Improve the participation of children, young adults and adults in safeguarding processes through Making Safeguarding Personal and developing participatory systems

### Priority Four

Ensure the focus on frail elderly vulnerabilities is maintained in the new arrangements



**Figure 3.** The partnerships revised strategic plan August 2020

## Our priorities

We believe that the delivery of these five priorities over the next three years will improve outcomes for the people of Bristol. We will measure this through our quality improvement, learning and performance frameworks.



### End-to-end excellence

- Integrated Partnership that is equipped to seamlessly meet the ever-changing needs of our communities
- Partnership of peer support and peer scrutiny
- Innovative quality improvement partnered with research
- Adaptive partnership leadership responsive to the needs of our communities
- Ensure the workforce is equip to support adults with disability and mental health appropriately where abuse and neglect is suspected



### Citizens of Bristol are our equal partners

- Ensuring individuals and their choices remain the centre of all work
- Increase and find different ways to work with citizens of Bristol to improve our policies, systems and processes
- Identify and Amplify seldom heard voices in decision-making
- Build a culturally competent workforce across the city
- Support the communities within Bristol to create their own solutions by providing information, tools and other resources they may need



### Domestic Abuse response across the life-course

- Commission and deliver domestic abuse services which are trauma-informed and recovery-focused
- Proactive in our outreach to victims and perpetrators
- Reducing demands for services as children live free from domestic abuse



### Seamless transitions

- Integrated out of hours and crisis services for children and families
- Co-located Adult Safeguarding Front Door
- Develop Transitional Safeguarding Approach for 16-25s
- Use of new technologies for safeguarding and partnerships



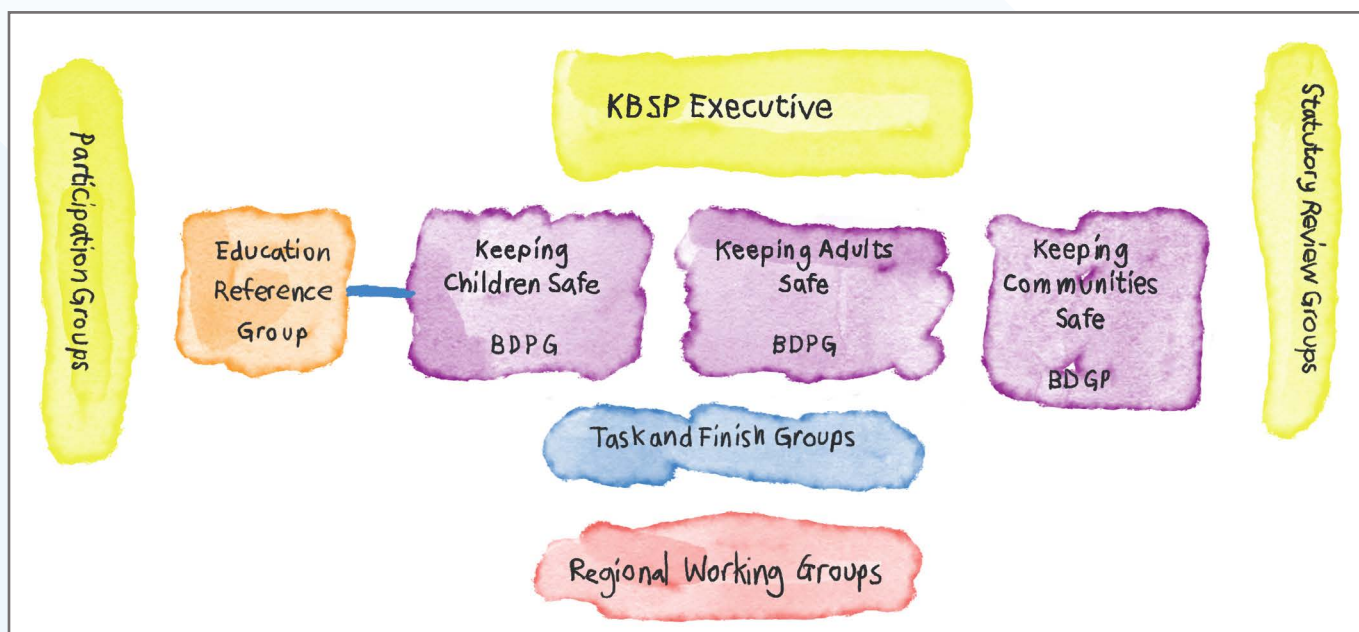
### Safe in our communities - Safe in our homes

- New Contextual safeguarding pathways to be developed
- To prevent and divert people away from street violence and organised crime in order to reduce reoffending
- Create conditions for quality domiciliary and residential care provision to flourish in the city
- A consistent approach is applied to challenge all forms of Hate Crime and discrimination

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership is committed to delivering inclusive and accessible services for all citizens of Bristol in a way that respects individual need and does not exclude anyone.

## 4 KBSP Structure

Figure 4. The KBSP Structure



### 4.1 Business Planning and Delivery Groups

The KBSP Executive lead the production of the strategic plan supported by the three multi-agency Business Delivery groups. The KBSP Executive provide support and challenge to the delivery groups and through this drive outcomes, quality, and performance. The groups drive the delivery of the plan and business planning in relation to;

- Keeping Adults Safe
- Keeping Children Safe
- Keeping Communities Safe

These groups ensure single agency and partnership work to protect children, adults and communities is coordinated and effective, have shared focus on early intervention, prevention and commissioning. The groups provide

exception reports to the KBSP Executive and seek assistance from the Executive to remove barriers to improve outcomes or to ensure appropriate engagement.

### 4.2 Sub and Task and Finish Project Groups

Working to the Business Plan there are a number of short-lived groups set up to deliver certain projects and pieces of work. Below is a summary of them and updates on what work has been completed this year.

## Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group

The Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board successfully applied to the University of Bedfordshire Contextual Safeguarding Scale-Up Project. This project began in April 2019 and was taken forward by the KBSP after its establishment. The project is an experimental system re-design project looking to operationalise Dr Carlene Firmin's theoretical concept of contextual safeguarding. The first year of the KBSP spanned the 6-18months of the project. The first year focused on system review. A team from the University of Bedfordshire undertook research across the system in Bristol to understand our current structure and opportunities to contextualise it. From April-September 2019 the partnership began to pilot contextual approaches in the system.

There are two levels to Contextual Safeguarding implementation.

Level 1 – this refers to work undertaken to strengthen our assessment and planning in domains outside the family home. Contextual safeguarding at this level challenges the principle that families are able to effectively safeguard their children from harm in the community when they are adolescents and when they are exposed to exploitation and violence.

In this area to date we have:

- Built contextual prompts into the SAF assessment
- Run initial training and introduction to contextual approaches through workgroups, one day training and Multi-agency Network Meetings
- Reviewed our YOT Asset assessment
- Built on existing expertise from specialist services and specialist roles to provide increasing peer group, school and community information to inform assessments and interventions

- Engaged with the national legal developments which are reviewing the framework and legislation in which we operate that reinforces a family focused approach
- Provided workforce briefings on integrating Signs of Safety, Systemic and Contextual practice in line with the Bristol Practice Framework
- Developed risk management guidance and pathway for children in care to enable multiagency risk assessment and planning where a child is not on CP Plan
- Promoted tools such as context weighting to early adopters across the partnership
- Trained 5 multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding Champions

Level 2 – this refers to the development of contextual pathway, assessments, planning and interventions whereby a social work assessment approach is taken to assessing the needs of a peer group or place so that the individual needs are understood in the context in which they are occurring. The theoretical principle of this approach is that you are likely to be more effective in creating change by intervening with the context in which the harm is happening than repeatedly removing and protecting individuals for that context

In this area to date we have:

- Trialled signs of safety contextual assessments of places and peer groups
- Trialled community observation, community assessment processes
- Trialled context conferences to respond to location risk
- Developed our complex strategies to include actions which are contextual not individual. For example increasing community guardianship at key times in certain areas; community safety redesign; restorative reiteration of children to youth services; engagement with businesses and public to build understanding and proactive response to children

- Developed peer, place assessment processes aligned to Bristol's practice framework
- Developed community consultation tools
- Run joint ASB Conference with Complex Safeguarding Strategy meetings about location of concern
- Run multi-family safety planning developing parent communication networks
- Peer group therapy alongside community mentoring
- Developed social networking analysis in peer mapping

Through this work we have evidence of reductions of risk and harm in communities in the city. The partnership is continuing to develop new interventions to improve our place base responses. We are developing an integrated Public Health Prevention and Contextual Safeguarding model to reducing serious violence and exploitation.

### Education Reference Group

The Education Reference group continued to meet from September 2019 and is chaired by the Team Manager of the Safeguarding in Education Team. The group is a single agency reference group which is made up of education professionals that oversee the policies, practice and procedures in place to keep children safe in education. The group support school, colleges, and other education settings to meet their statutory duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all their children. The group analyse the annual Schools Safeguarding Audit and report recommendations to the KBSP through the Keeping Children Safe delivery group.

It also develops and maintains an action plan to facilitate the KBSP strategic priorities. Progress against the action plan is reported via the Keeping Children Safe delivery group.

### Participation, Engagement and Community

This Task and Finish Group is a multi-agency group accountable to KBSP with the purpose of driving the delivery of the Board's strategic and business planning in relation to, increasing participation, engagement and communication with stakeholders and local communities. The group works in association with the delivery groups (Children, Adults and Community), as appropriate, to deliver shared priorities. The group aims to develop, produce and publicise an overarching Participation, Engagement and Communications (PEC) Strategy on behalf of the KBSP. The group is also working on improving participation and involve a wide range of adults, children, young people and families including those who do not usually engage at all in safeguarding processes through Making Safeguarding Personal and developing participatory systems. The group has been coordinating responses and establish clear pathways for different types of feedback including online, to contribute to the work of KBSP in Safeguarding and ensure this is communicated back to service users. The group has been developing an annual action plan that reflects the priorities of the KBSP Delivery groups as contained within the PEC strategy; providing reports, briefing and data to challenge and support the required outcomes of the KBSP in relation to its PEC priorities.

The focus of the group has been on developing the Partnerships website and ensuring the information is accessible to the public.

### Lead Professional

This is a new group which has been set up this year following the production of a Lead Practitioner protocol within the Partnership. The multi agency group are working together to embed a Lead Professional role for children and their families who are needing support at a Universal Plus level.



## Adult MASH working group

This group was established to develop a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) in line with the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership strategic plan. The purpose of the MASH will be to ensure effective multi-agency working and timely information sharing to improve the safeguarding outcomes for the citizens of Bristol. This group is working together to support and contribute to the development of the MASH, in particular identifying and securing the resources needed, flagging barriers and opportunities, operational issues and any risks that may arise. It has involvement from practitioners and partner organisations to ensure their views can be taken into account throughout the project. It also will oversee the preparation of any relevant guidance and, if necessary, make recommendations for policies for adoption by the KBSP.

## Neglect Task and Finish Group

This group came to an end in December 2020 as a number of objectives of the group were completed such as;

- Reduction in re-referrals for children impacted by Neglect since the launch of the Neglect Strategy
- Over 600 professionals trained in GCP2 (Graded Care Profile 2)
- Increase in evidence-based parenting programmes delivered
- Food poverty programmes launched across the city
- Neglect named and recorded across our policies
- Blue, red, amber and green (BRAG) completed on 55% of cases in the police, further work needed to continue the compliance and quality of this

## Partnership Response to Serious Violence

Avon and Somerset received Home Office funding to set up Violence Reduction Units in August 2019. A key early decision was to adopt a hub and spoke approach which recognised that there were serious violence issues across the area but they were of a very different nature in each local authority. All needed an evidence based, early intervention and long term approach – this was underpinned by research commissioned from the Behavioural Insights Team on the underlying causes of serious violence. The model allows each unit to be tailored to the local demographics and partnership landscape but also for best practice and cross border information to be shared. Highlights have included real progress with data sharing and the VRU (Violent Reduction Unit) App; significant developments in working with schools especially around exclusions and weapons in schools; good engagement with health colleagues especially around sharing data and a real focus on targeting County Lines.

The short term in year nature of the funding has been a challenge; there has been progress this year and the Home Office has also helpfully provided over £150,000 in emergency funding to assist with Covid activities. However, such important work based on a proven long term approach desperately needs a corresponding long term funding approach.

In Avon and Somerset, Serious Violence was initially defined as the principal offence categories “violence against the person” (VAP), sexual offences and “robbery” where the degree of harm or potential harm was such to deem it serious. For example, “Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm” is classed as serious violence, whilst “Common Assault” is not; and all VAP offences where a knife was present are categorised as serious because of the potential harm resulting from the presence of a knife. We

include domestic violence in our definition of violence and all serious incidents of domestic violence in our definition of serious violence. All occurrences of serious sexual assault or rape are categorised as serious violence. We exclude certain high harm offences, such as child neglect, from our definition of serious violence because we believe the underlying factors that drive them are different and will require different responses.

We acknowledge that some people have been both perpetrators and victims / survivors of serious violence.

In Bristol we are working to the Avon and Somerset definition with the exception of Domestic Abuse. Bristol VRU is a whole system response to Exploitation which includes Criminal exploitation, Sexual exploitation, missing young people, serious youth violence, knife crime and county lines. The approach integrates a public health prevention response and a contextual safeguarding protection response which focuses on peer groups, places and individuals.

Bristol's Preventing Gang Involvement and [Youth Violence Strategy 2017-2020](#) identified the direct correlation between gang-related violence and illicit drug supply.

The Bristol VRU (Safer Options) is governed through the multi-agency Serious Violence Prevention Group which reports to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Executive. This group has oversight of the delivery of the Safer Options plan and the changes to the services. Safer Options provides fortnightly briefings to relevant Cabinet Members on the development of the work. Key to the Safer Options development is a systems change pilot around contextual safeguarding that is being evaluated by the University of Bedfordshire. These changes to approaches and interventions are led through a multi-agency Contextual Safeguarding Steering Group which reports to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Executive.



## 5 Learning from Statutory Safeguarding reviews

### Children

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership submitted four rapid reviews since the legislation changed in 2018 to the National Child Practice Review Panel. Partners have shown a significant commitment to ensure the reviews were completed within timescale and the process has been managed by Child Safeguarding Practice Review sub group. The National Panel agreed with the sub group's decision that some cases would progress to a full review whilst others did not meet the criteria for a Children Safeguarding Practice Review. The reviews have identified key learning for the local safeguarding system, which aligns to the learning themes identified from local case reviews and published SCRs.

These cover;

- Learning in considering Cross-Border Peer-on-Peer Abuse and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Safeguarding supervision and management oversight
- Promotion of the Think Family Guidance and webpage to the Partnership
- Hearing and reflecting the voice of children and parents/carers
- Professional active engagement of fathers during routine appointments for children pre and post birth.

The KBSP did not complete or publish any CPSR (Child Practice Safeguarding Reviews) during this time frame. The Partnership did commission a joint non statutory learning review with South Gloucestershire in December 2019.

The review was completed in June 2020 and focused on children being remanded to a secure unit coupled with a deterioration in their mental health. The review wanted to ensure any learning could be taken from the systems between children in care, criminal justice and mental health.

Learning from this review included themes such as;

- Multi-agency planning arrangements
- Health Services for children in the Care system
- The CAMHS/Mental Health Services in the Community for Children in the Care System
- The response to child's mental health whilst in remand
- National capacity of secure mental health provision for children.

A joint Child Safeguarding Practice Review was commissioned by KBSP, South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership and North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership in January 2020. This was due to several recent rapid reviews being completed relating to Knife Crime. The three neighbouring local authorities agreed to complete a full thematic review jointly. The joint review would look into peer-on-peer abuse through knife crime in the context of CCE, County Lines and gang activity. This review began in April 2020 and is due to be finalised in June 2021. There has been significant delays in this review being completed due to a change in the reviewer and impacts of COVID-19.

## What's changed as a result of rapid reviews

- The police reviewed the grading of missing children at risk of CCE and trafficking.
- Training was delivered around supporting children through the NRM (National Referral Mechanism) process as well as training in relation to ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) and Injunctions.
- Extra familial abuse risk management protocol for children in care put in place March 2020.
- Bristol Serious Violence Group set up
- The ROUTES service is delivered in partnership between Barnardos and Learning Partnership West (LPW) with the aim of providing young people with an alternative pathway.
- Review of out of hours teams involvement in risk management meetings for children who are regularly at high risk of harm out of hours.
- Bristol Inclusion Panel has been reviewed.
- A multi-agency webinar on CCE delivered. The session was recorded and is available as a training resource on the KBSP website.
- The Safeguarding Children and Young People in our Community Strategy 2020/22 has been published.
- The Sufficiency Strategy in respect of placements for adolescents experiencing CCE and emergency placements has been completed.
- Weekly meetings between children's and adults services have been put in place to review children with SEND.
- Training embedded in the Training Offer for C&F in Bristol on Care act responsibilities and MCA (Mental Capacity Act).
- Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary reviewed the missing protocol and triggers for a joint manager review of the response to repeat missing persons in May 2020
- New prompts around balancing extra-familial and intra-familial risk have been added to children and family's assessment for Bristol social workers.
- The partnership have re-promoted 'Think Family' guidance and practitioners have been prompted to consider the impact of adult needs on children's safeguarding.
- The expectation of practitioners seeking advice on safeguarding situations which are unfamiliar has been reinforced.
- The adoption of ICON, a programme providing information on infant crying and how to cope in BNSSG CCG area.
- A review of the planning for COVID-19 response to promote maintenance of a public health nursing offer as a priority in any future pandemic plans given the research on increased risk of injury to infants throughout COVID-19.

## Adults

### Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The SAR/DHR sub group has had a busy year, with several reviews underway from previous years. There were two SARs which were commissioned by the Partnership. The first one was approved in 2018 but due to legal proceedings this was on hold until September 2019. The second review was commissioned in February 2020.

There were no SARs published by the Partnership during this time period.

## 6 Workforce development

### Overview

One of the core functions of the Safeguarding Partnerships is to deliver and evaluate a high quality multi-agency programme of learning opportunities that meets the development needs of the local children and adult workforce and ensures that the priority safeguarding issues are being progressed.

During 2019/20 The Safeguarding Partnership delivered 48 courses covering a range of safeguarding topics including;

- Child Protection for Managers
- Working Together: Our Shared Responsibility
- Advanced Child Protection Training for Safeguarding Leads & Specialist Practitioners
- Child Protection in reference to Faith and Culture
- Safer Recruitment
- Disabled Children and Child Protection
- Domestic Abuse and Child Protection
- Safeguarding Adolescents
- Courageous Conversations
- Sexual Abuse and Child Protection
- Parental Mental Health and Child Protection
- Working with Disguised and Non-Compliance
- Child Protection and Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness
- Female Genital Mutilation – Awareness
- Honour based Violence and Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation – Developing Knowledge
- Hate Crime training.

The courses have been attended by more than 1,300 delegates from a wide range of agencies. However, as of mid- March, all face to face courses were cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown. The safeguarding partnership provided a range of free eLearning resources and webinars covering a range of topics for both the adult and child workforce via the website.

Topics included;

**Safeguarding Boys & Young Men,**

**'The warning signs were all there but no one noticed' – Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation,**

**Forced Marriage,**

**Supporting Parents with Back to School – a webinar for professionals working with families,**

**Formulating Mental Health in Domestic Abuse,**

**100 days of solitude - the impact on adult mental health of the COVID-19 crisis,**

**Managing Allegations: The Role of the LADO,**

**Disclosures of Child Sexual Abuse: Understanding, Recognition & Response,**

**Child Death & The Joint Agency Response,**

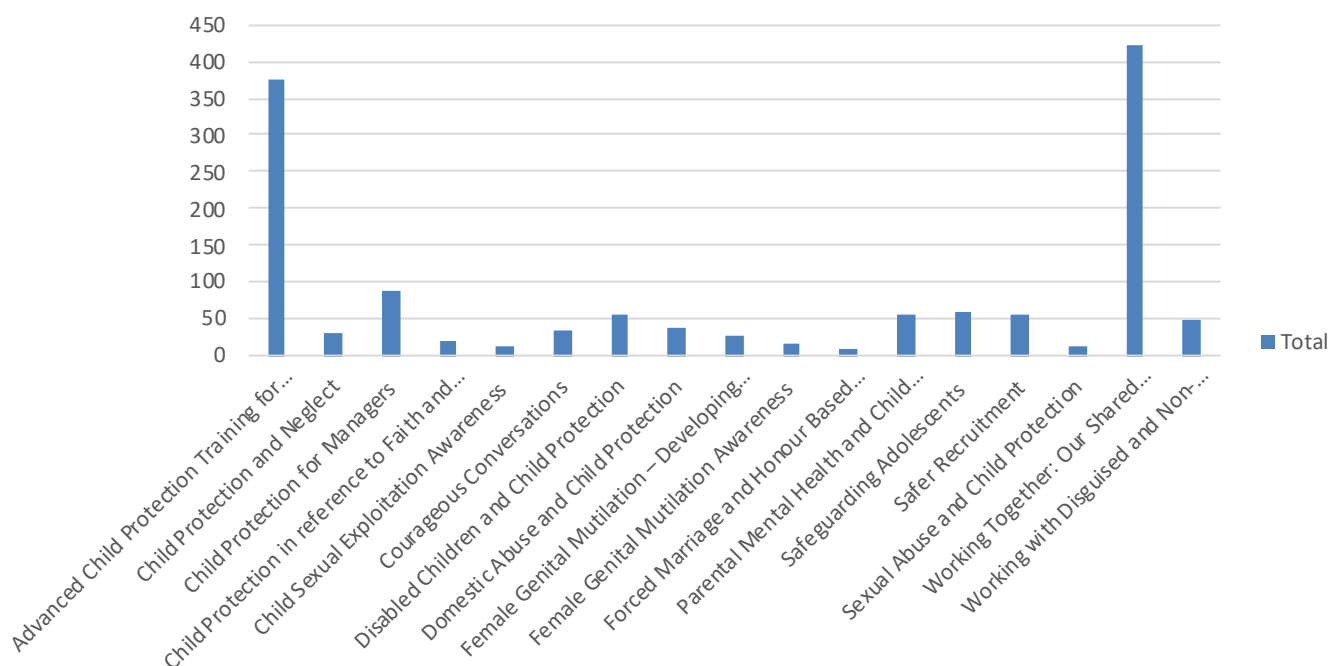
**Criminal Exploitation National Review - learning and how Bristol will respond,**

**Working with young people with sexually harmful behaviour.**

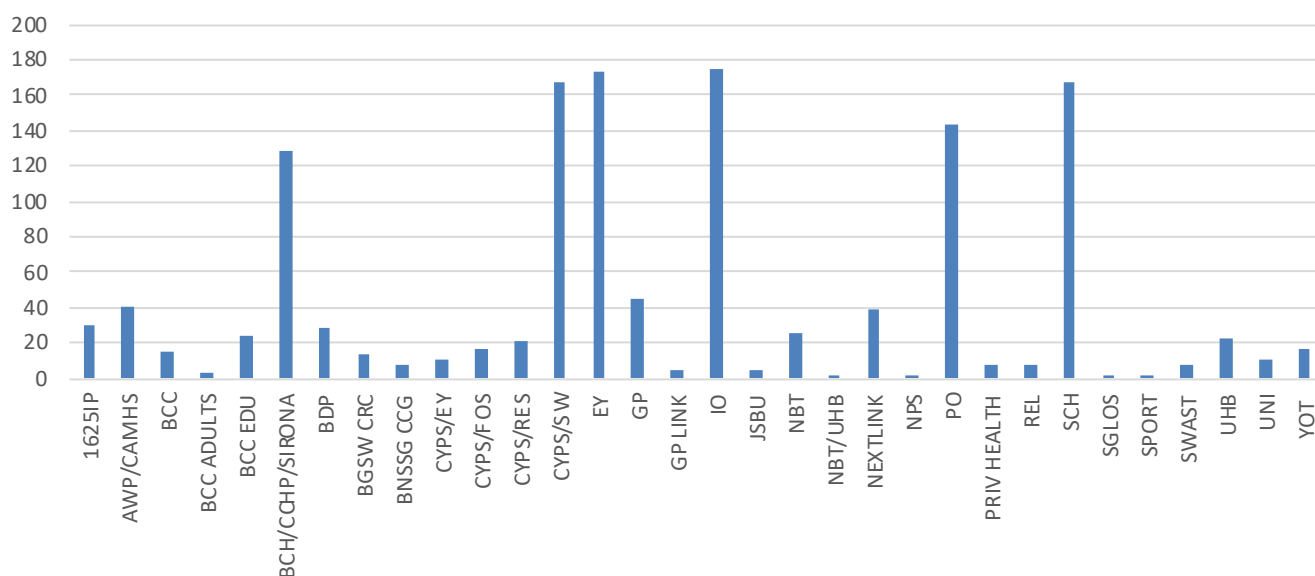
We saw a large number of professionals accessing these webinars and there was an overwhelming amount of feedback that

partners found these bitesize sessions incredibly informative. We have agreed to continue with facilitating these webinars into the planning of the business unit.

### Attendance by course



### Attendance by agency



The multi-agency training offer continues to be highly successful in Bristol, with consistently high feedback from delegates from all agencies. A selection of their comments is included here;

'I want to say a big thank you to Esther who created a safe and inclusive environment where each of us was encouraged to share our ideas and to not be afraid to make mistakes. The session was informative and interesting and made me more aware of challenging my own subjective bias. I came away with a solid understanding of how to work collaboratively with other agencies in the interests of safeguarding and child safety and protection.'

'Very good training and facilitated really well. Felt included in the course and able to share my practice and learn from others. It was fantastic to have a range of professionals there from different agencies - i would recommend this going forward as it really helped me to learn about other people's roles and how we can work together more effectively.'

'The training was fantastic, it has made me feel confident that I am providing the best safeguarding in my provision and I feel I can take back knowledge to my other practitioners, I would like to get other practitioners in the Nursery booked on to this course. The training was put together well and was easy to follow and understand.'

'It is a pleasure to say that this is one of the best professional training days I have ever been to, and would be grateful if this was fed back to the tutor. I have discussed with colleagues to try to understand why it was so good and in short:

1. Great facilitation - knowledgeable, appropriate level pitched, flexibility to respond to questions, great teacher.
2. Clear efforts to balance skill sets on tables.
3. Good management of skills and contributions from those in the room.
4. Pragmatic advice throughout. Thank you very much for your time and efforts - a really valuable day that will help how I practice.'

'It was excellent - information relevant and up-to-date. The use of case studies was really useful, particularly the input from the DS around one case study.'



## Transitional safeguarding event

On 10th June 2020 the partnership held a joint children and adults delivery group meeting where we discussed the priority of Safeguarding Transition in the city. We had representation from a wide range of strategic leads from Children's through to Adult services. The aim of this work is to develop a post 14 offer that supports transition into employment, independent and safe living, good health, positive relationships and community inclusion so that young people are able to maximise their potential and make a successful transition into adult life. Our aspiration is for Bristol to be a city of excellence for transitional safeguarding for young people aged 14-25 years. We will measure success of this work through;

- Increase in 14-16 year olds having transitional assessment and packaged support plan in place
- Reduction in 14-18 year olds NEET
- Increase in 14-25 year olds engaged in school, college and other learning opportunities.
- Increase in 16-25 year olds in employment, volunteering, apprenticeships schemes
- Increase in 14-25 year olds who have a trusted adult/mentor to help them plan for the future attend appointments/advocate
- Reduction in harm for those 14-25 year olds identified as victims of CCE/CSE
- Our Young People and families tell us they feel supported & have increased confidence to obtain a better future

The Partnership have further committed to this work through one of the strategic priorities being Seamless transition for 2020-2023. The Business Unit will support this work alongside the senior leads to continue to develop and project manage this work.





## 7 Independent Scrutiny

### Working Together 2018

The role of independent scrutiny is critical to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of services to protect children.

Independent scrutiny can also assist when there is disagreement between the leaders responsible for protecting children in the agencies involved in multi-agency arrangements.

It will be a local decision how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny. Safeguarding partners should involve a person or persons who are independent, for example by virtue of being from outside the local area and/or having no prior involvement with local agencies.

### Working Together 2018

A post has been funded across the Avon & Somerset geographical footprint to support provision of independent scrutiny. A peer reviewer workshop took place in October 2019. Key priorities were identified at this event:

- Contextualised Safeguarding
- Early Help & Relationship Building
- Transition into Young Adulthood
- Response to Domestic Abuse

Within each theme, a bespoke piece of activity will be developed, in order to provide a detailed understanding of the issues facing each partnership. This will be consistent activity across all five Local Authority areas, allowing for benchmarking exercises to be completed, but still allowing for local nuances in order to be reflective of local practice. Victoria Caple holds this post and has provided a report to the partnership. The report is available [here](#). The Partnership recognises the benefits of

rigorous and independent scrutiny of its safeguarding arrangements and believes that the effectiveness of those arrangements can best be measured through the analysis and challenge of performance information, the impact of quality assurance activity on outcomes for children and adults at risk, and its arrangements for and response to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).

The Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Executive has supported the statutory safeguarding partners in the establishment of the new arrangements. In addition, the chair has worked with the Executive group to identify areas of challenge and to develop and monitor improvement plans. In evaluating the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements, the DHR/SAR and CSPR Subgroup will also consider the findings and recommendations of single agency inspections and Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

The following identifies a number of areas of scrutiny activity already undertaken by the Independent Chair of the KBSP during the current fiscal year:

- Scrutiny and challenge of data provision to the board
- Engagement with children and young people and assurance sought around their priorities being acted on
- Escalation of issues such as domestic abuse strategy delay and mental health provision for children
- Observations of the COVID-19 multi-agency response for children
- Assurance seeking around implementation of

contextual safeguarding

- Challenge to core partners on insecure funding arrangements for the partnership
- Scrutiny of decision-making by core partners in respect of rapid reviews and CPSRs and learning loop
- Sought assurance of compliance with s45 Modern Slavery Act
- Engagement with child death panel in respect of findings of annual report
- Provided statement to IICSA on effectiveness of partnership
- Scrutinised serious violence strategy
- Reviewed quality assurance reports in respect of children
- Escalated concerns in respect of serious organised crime coordination in the police and impact on safeguarding children from exploitation

Reviewers of quality assurance activity will work with the Chairs of the subgroups to conduct quality improvement activities aligned to the Partnership's Business Plan. All partners will be responsible for ensuring that learning from these is embedded in their own organisation and across the partnership.

## 8 Section 11 Audit

The Section 11 self-assessment audit tool was circulated to all partners across the four local authority areas in January 2020 to assess, monitor and evidence progress and achievements in relation to meeting safeguarding requirements. There were a total of 37 responses of which 13 were completed by Bristol. The Section 11 audit for 2019/20 has taken place in the year that each region has transitioned from the LSCB to the new partnership arrangements.

The five partnerships had agreed to come together and produce one combined audit response, but social distancing measures following the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, significantly impacted on the ability to do this. As such, it was agreed each area would complete the exercise in isolation and submit an individual response. It is hoped when the virus was being managed with the roll out of the vaccines; any future S.11 audits will be completed in Partnership, with the submission of an Avon wide response.

A report has been produced for the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and has drawn on the themes identified in the self-assessment process.



## 9 Participation and Community work

At the end of March 2020, the Executive Group agreed to recruit to a full time Participation Project Officer post to the Business Unit. The successful candidate came into role in July 2020 and has been leading on several Participation initiatives across the partnership.

The Project Officer has been working closely with the Shadow board which has been in place for several years in Bristol. Historically the group worked collaboratively with Bristol Children Safeguarding Board.

Our Shadow Board is made up of young people aged 13-25 who act as the Partnership's youth advisory and challenge group. All our members represent youth participation groups in the city including the Bristol Youth Council, Bristol Children in Care Council, Young Carers, Mentality, Freedom, and Unity. They are responsible for holding the Partnership to account on behalf of the children of Bristol.

Within this period the Shadow Board have undertaken several projects for the Partnership. They have taken part in projects that test the accessibility of services for young people. They have presented to the Executive Group, taken the lead in planning a workshop for young people; focusing on mental health during the national lockdown. They have provided input into the consultation of the alcohol and drug strategy for the city. Most recently the group was invited to a question and answer session with the new domestic abuse commissioner and met with the Post 16 and Transitions team to gain more understanding on the support they provide for young people aged 16-25.

There are additional projects which are being developed in the city to raise the voice of victims who have experienced domestic abuse.

This piece of work is in its early stages of development and will be reported fully in the following annual report.

Work is also underway to include parents in consultation within child protection conference development, co-facilitating training, and training as advocates.

The Are you OK campaign was launched jointly by KBSP and Bristol City Council in June 2020. The campaign was aimed at encouraging people to check in on their friends, family and neighbours. The campaign has been promoted city-wide, with an emphasis on domestic abuse and young people's mental health. The Shadow Board have undertaken projects that test the accessibility of services for young people. The business unit and Bristol City Council communication team worked together in designing graphics and a resource pack for the Campaign. Development work was also carried out to the KBSP website to ensure all services and contact details were available if member of the public needed them. Details of the campaign can be found [here](#).



In August 2020 the KBSP commissioned a short film with Unique Voice called 'Problem Child'. The film was aimed at professionals working with boys and young men. Through learning from a serious case review in Bristol the aim of the film was to draw attention to boys and young men as they are often under-represented within the safeguarding system. The Partnership wanted to challenge and highlight that sometimes unconscious judgements can influence the way in which adults see the problematic behaviour instead of a child who needs our help. The film wanted to support the change of preconceptions that some professionals may have, encouraging them to look beyond the behaviours and view the situation through the lens of safeguarding. The film can be found [here](#).



## 10 Work of the LADO



**508**  
contacts  
with LADO



**160**  
Referrals  
– decrease  
of 19%



**42%**  
Education  
sector

**61%**

Physical

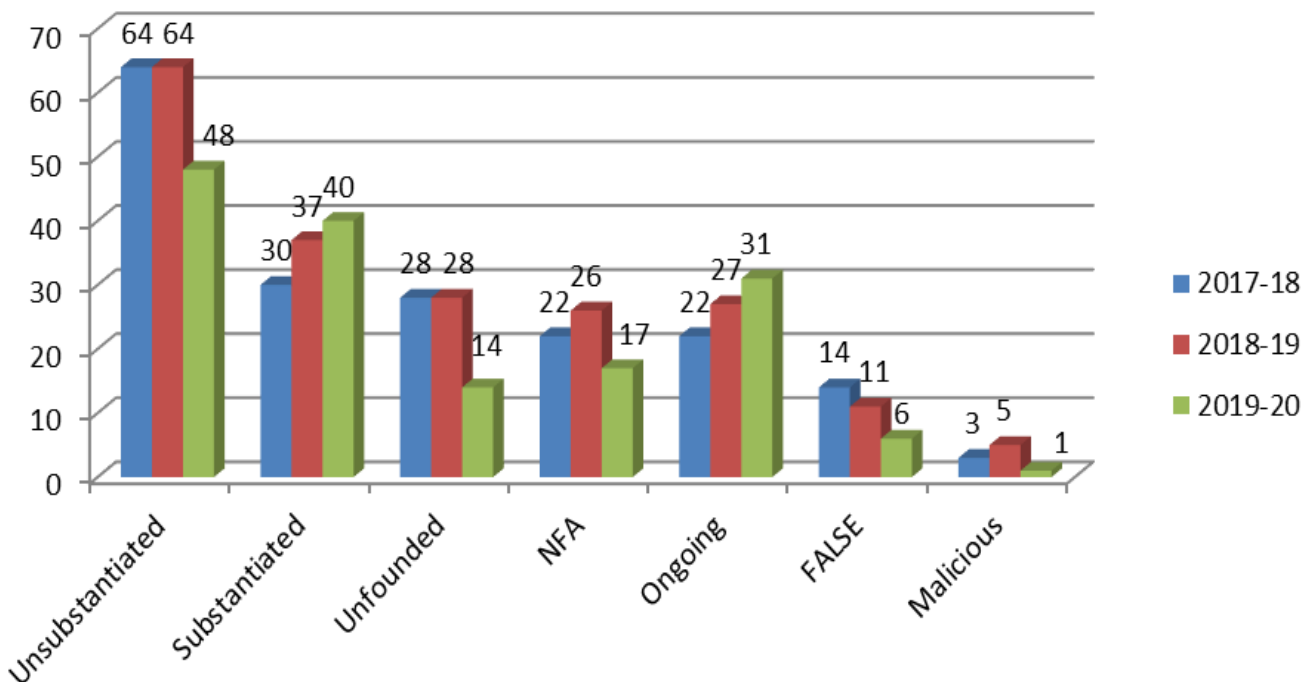
**27%**

Sexual

As with previous two reporting years the highest proportion of investigations concluded that the allegation was unsubstantiated. 48 (30%) followed by substantiated. 40 (25%).

Significant numbers of cases are ongoing; 31 cases (19%) which are not yet concluded. The majority of these are allegations which are being investigated by the police.

### Outcomes



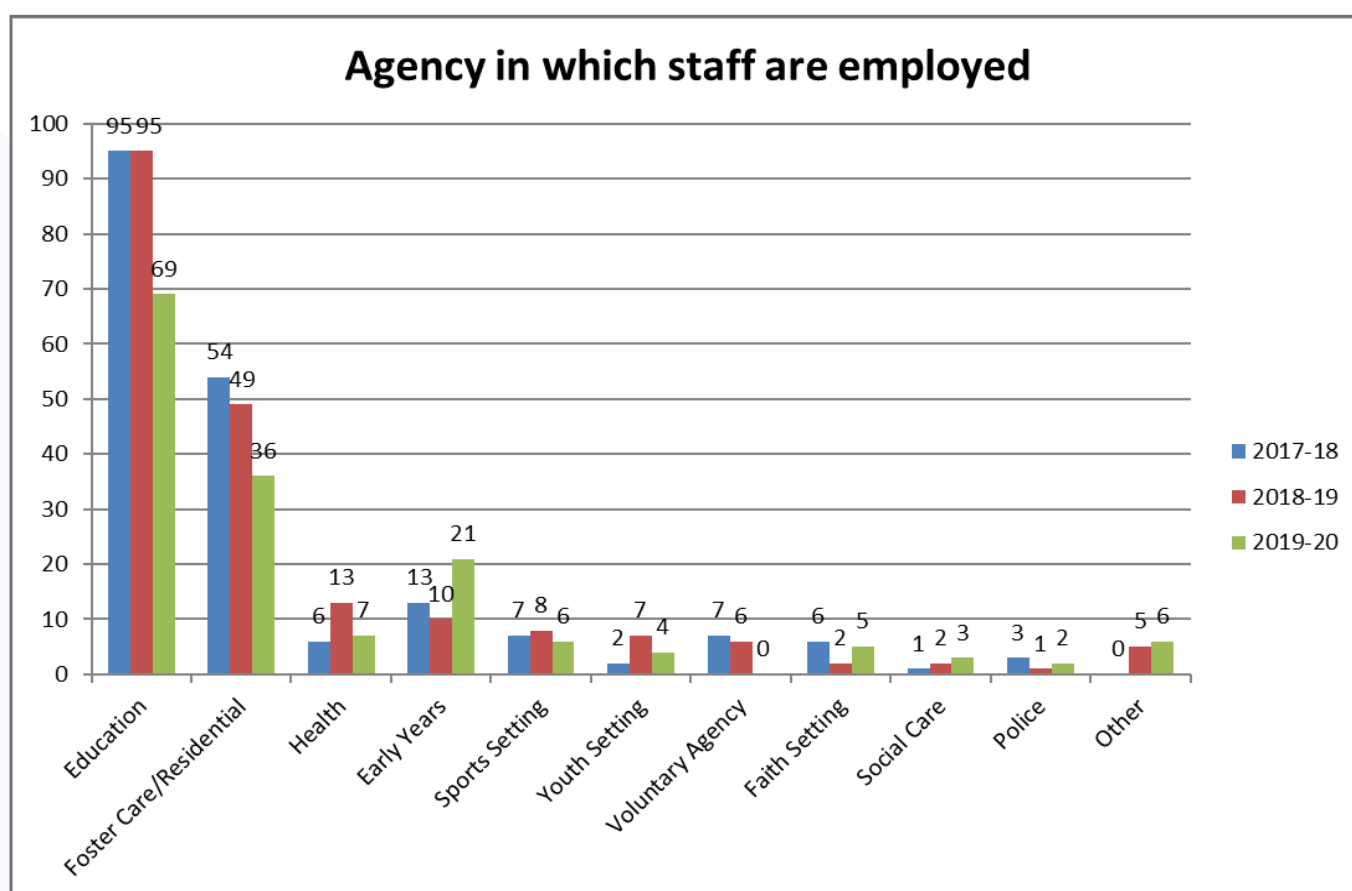
Source: Local Authority Designated Officer; Annual report April 2019 to March 2020



As with the previous two years in 2019-20 the highest number of allegations to the LADO were regarding education staff at 69, accounting for 43% of referrals.

The next highest number of allegations were regarding foster carers and residential care workers; 36 referrals (23 %) followed by referrals regarding early years workers; 21 (13 %).

In the reporting period there was a noticeable increase in allegations regarding early year's professionals; nursery workers and childminders, specifically allegations of a sexual nature.



Source: Local Authority Designated Officer; Annual report April 2019 to March 2020

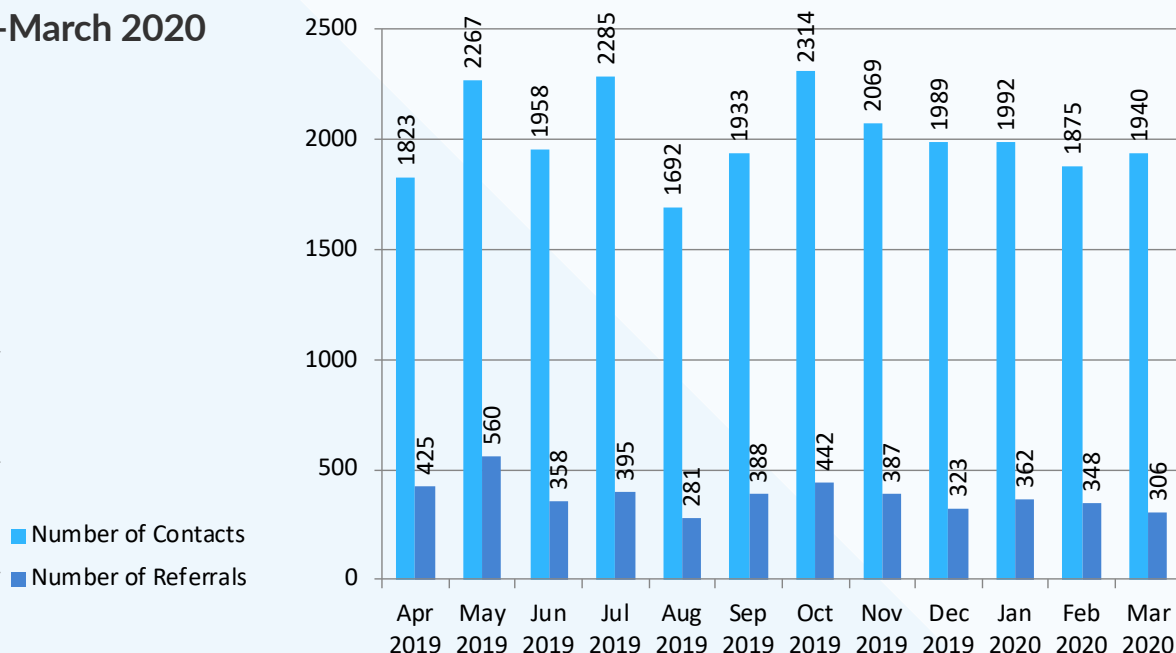
## Appendix 1: Safeguarding Data - Children's Social Care

The analysis for children safeguarding data in this section of the annual report has used information provided by Bristol City Council for the Safeguarding Children's Collection for March 2019/ April 2020, together with data from the Department of Education's Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) which provide easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government.

Please note that this time frame is different to the rest of the information in this report. It acts as a single central evidence base that helps support the Accountability Framework and Transparency Agenda.

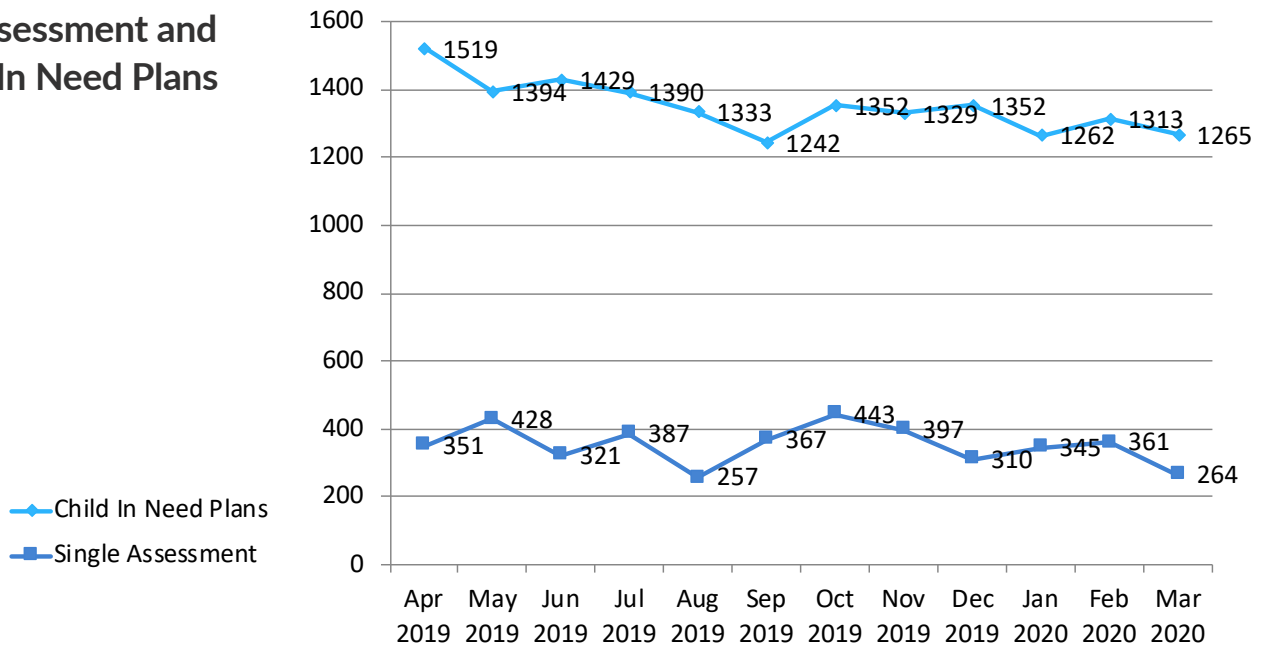
The Tool provides the functionality to 'benchmark' an authority nationally and against either its Region or Statistical Neighbours. The data items are presented largely in the form of tables and charts, which can be varied and 'exported' from the system for use elsewhere. Statistical neighbours provide a method for benchmarking progress. Other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics are known as statistical neighbours.

### April 2019-March 2020



Source: QlikSense Front Door App as at 04/01/2020

## Single Assessment and Children In Need Plans

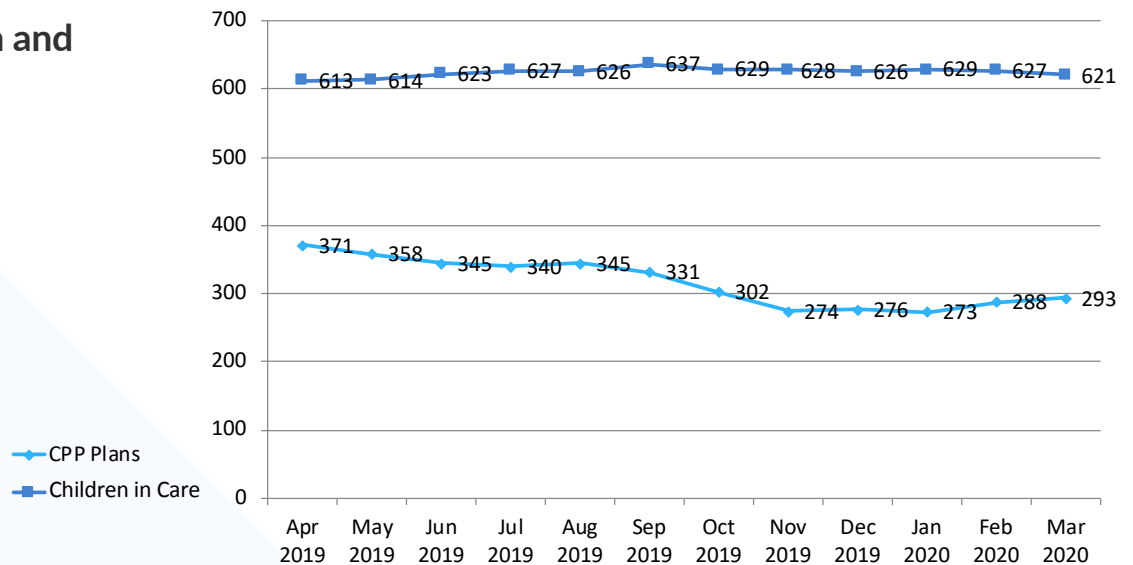


Source:

Child in Need Plans taken from CIN & CP App as at 05/01/2020

Single Assessment data taken from Front Door App as at 05/01/2020

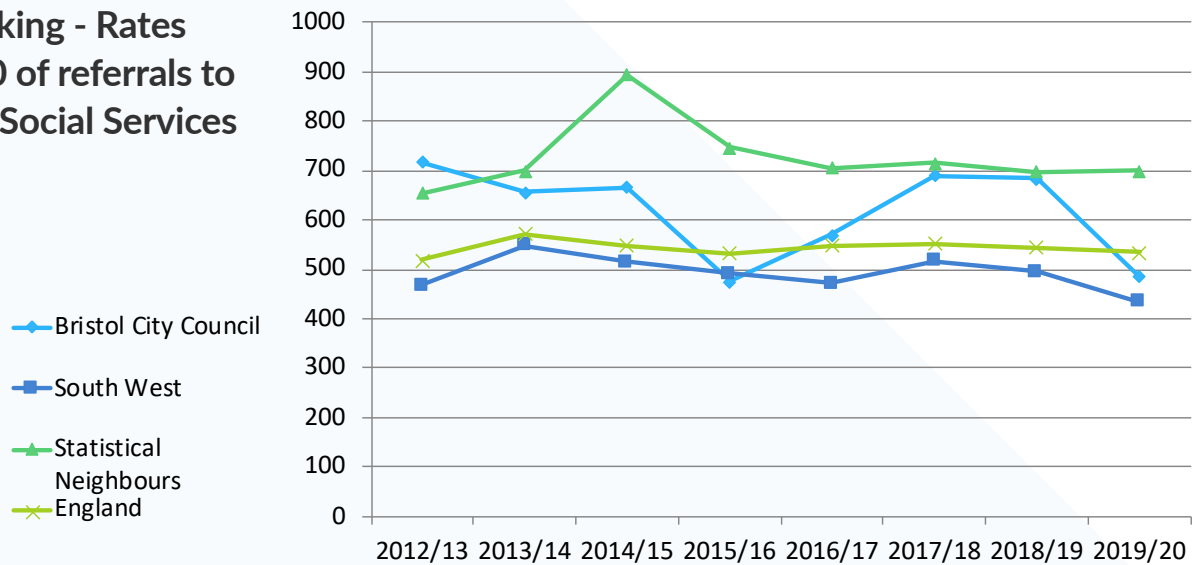
## Child Protection and Children in Care



Source:

[http://bireports.ds.bcc.lan/HDMSQL\\_Reports/Pages/Report.aspx?ItemPath=%2fReports%2fChildrens+Social+Care%2fChildrens+Social+Care+Reports%2fPerformance+Reports%2fCaseload+over+12+months](http://bireports.ds.bcc.lan/HDMSQL_Reports/Pages/Report.aspx?ItemPath=%2fReports%2fChildrens+Social+Care%2fChildrens+Social+Care+Reports%2fPerformance+Reports%2fCaseload+over+12+months) as at 04/01/2020 (Link inaccessible without login credentials)

## Benchmarking - Rates per 10,000 of referrals to Children's Social Services

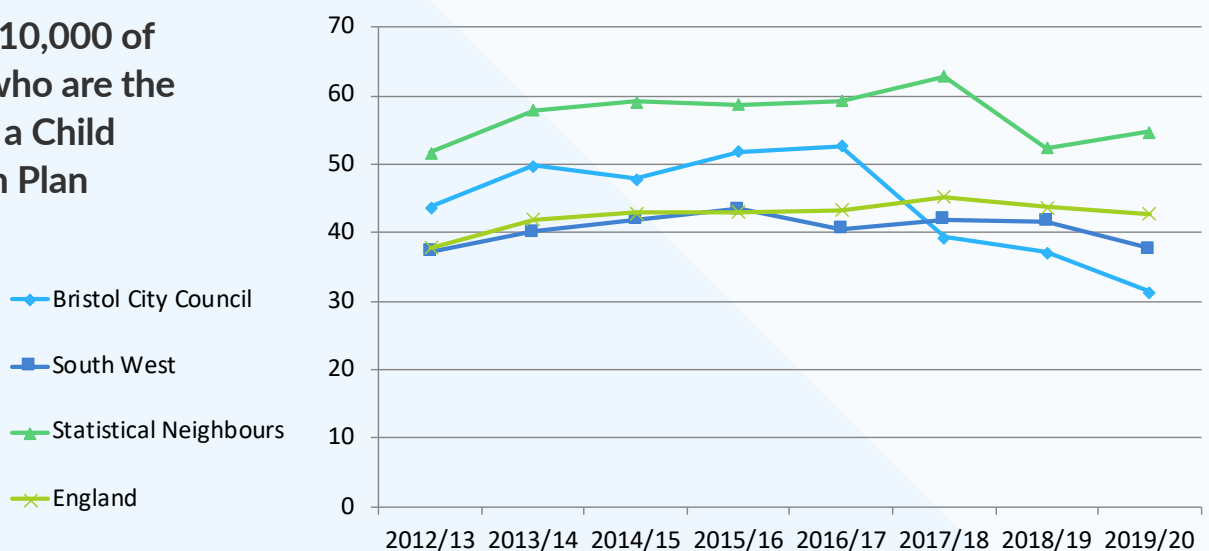


The Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest figures on referrals, assessments and young people who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) or are on child protection registers (CPRs) in England, for the year ending 31 March.

Please note that some of this data is heavily caveated

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

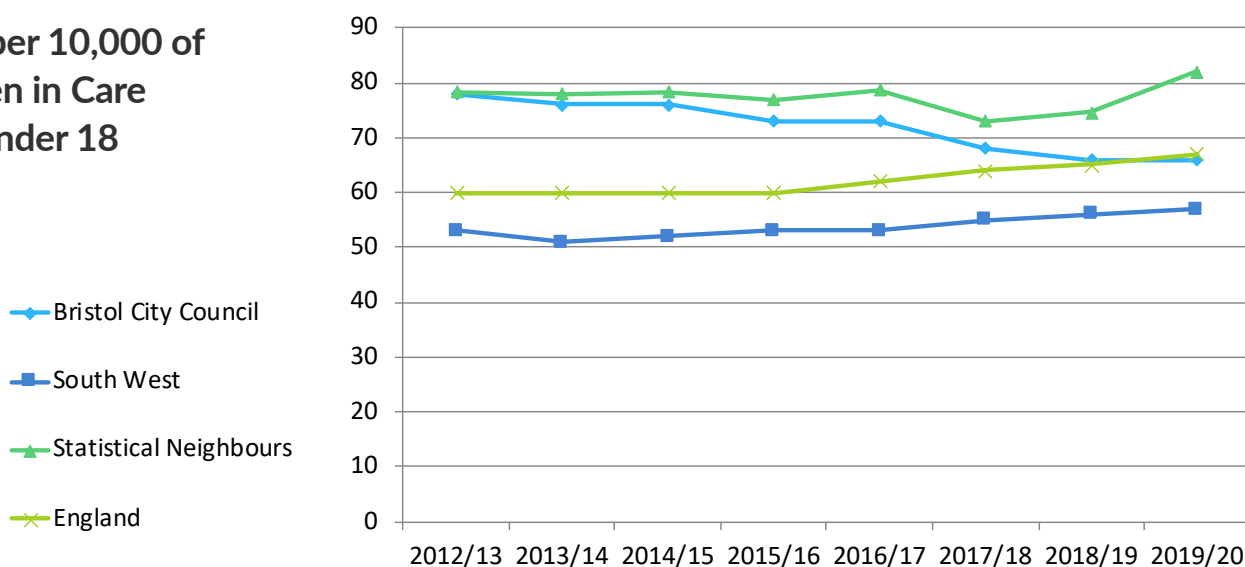
## Rates per 10,000 of Children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan



Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

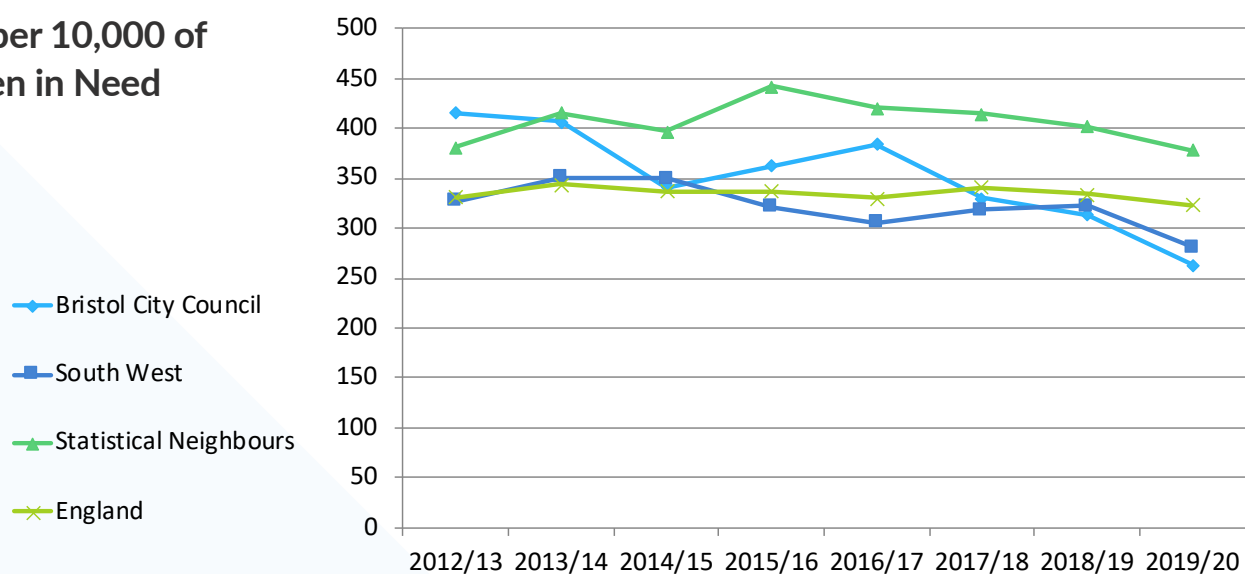
## Rates per 10,000 of Children in Care aged under 18



Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

## Rates per 10,000 of Children in Need



Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

## Appendix 2: Safeguarding Data - Adult Social Care

The analysis for adult safeguarding data in this section of the annual report has used information provided by Bristol City Council for the Safeguarding Adults Collection for March 2019/ April 2020, together with data submitted to the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC). Please note that this time frame is different to the rest of the information in this report. This has enabled BCC data to be compared year on year.

The SAC data is collected directly from all local authorities and collated by NHS Digital. In December 2020, NHS Digital published Safeguarding Adults Collection for the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020.

The data is available as experimental statistics, as due to local and national variation in how safeguarding activity is defined and reported, there are limitations in the interpretation and usage of the data.

The national SAC for 2019-2020 has been used to provide useful comparators where appropriate.

### Summary of Safeguarding Adults Activity 2019-2020

**5,540 Concerns Raised**

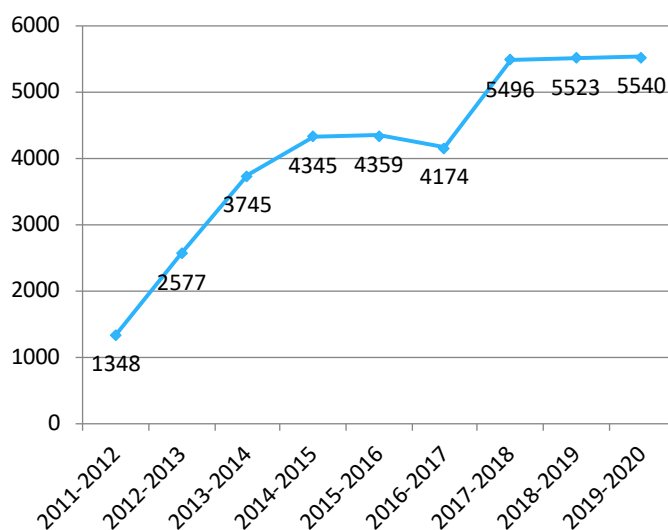
**Relating to 3,586 people**

**Leading to 1,410  
safeguarding enquiries**



## Adult Safeguarding Concerns Received per year since 2011/2012

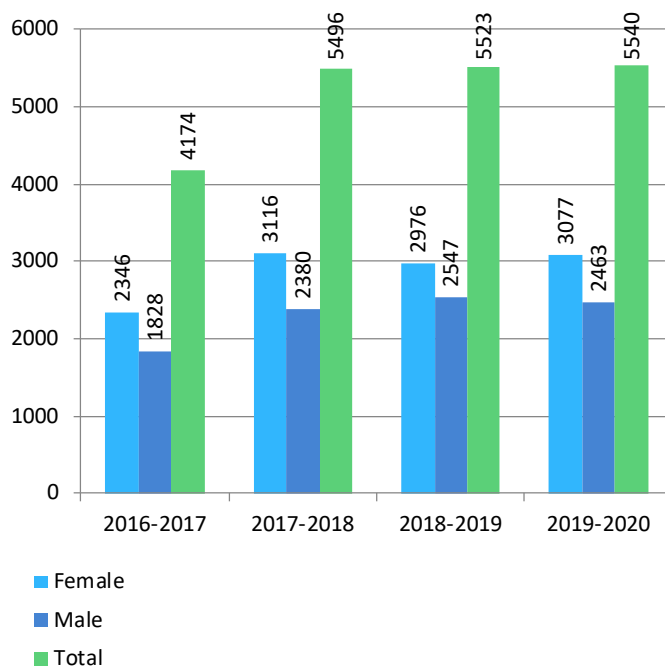
During the reporting period 2019-2020, BCC received 5540 adult safeguarding concerns related to 3,586 people. This is an increase of 0.3% compared with last year.



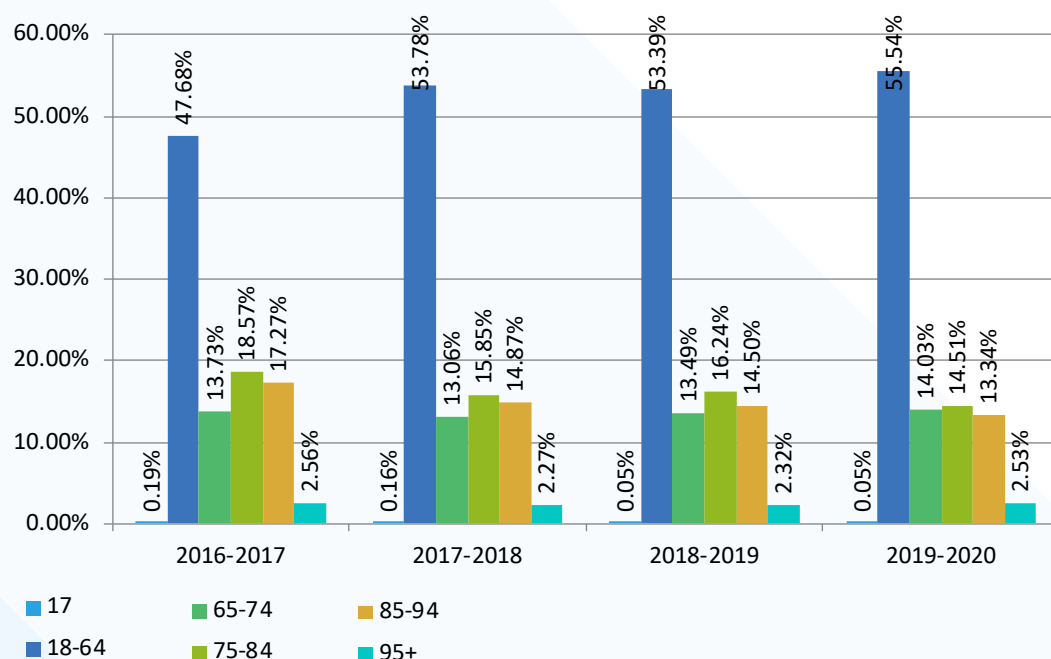
## Safeguarding Concerns by Gender April 2016-March 2020

As noted in the chart, the concern breakdown by gender shows that the number of concerns this year regarding men has decreased slightly whereas the concerns for women have increased. The overall number of concerns has increased.

This number includes counts of Concerns not people therefore one person could be counted multiple times.



## Safeguarding Concerns by Age Group April 2016-March 2020



The percentage of concerns raised relating to adults aged 75-84, 85-94 has fallen slightly this year in comparison with the previous year. However, there has been a slight increase in concerns raised for adults aged 18-64, 65-74 and 95+, whilst concerns raised for 17 year olds remained the same.

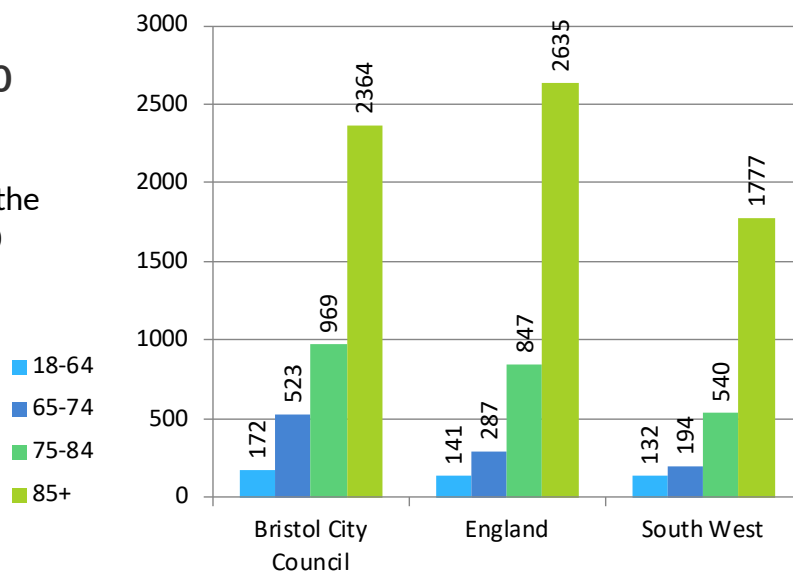
## Safeguarding Concerns

Of the 5540 concerns raised – 1410 went into the safeguarding enquiry process.

This is a conversion rate of 25.45% compared to 27.36% for the previous year and a national average of 37%.

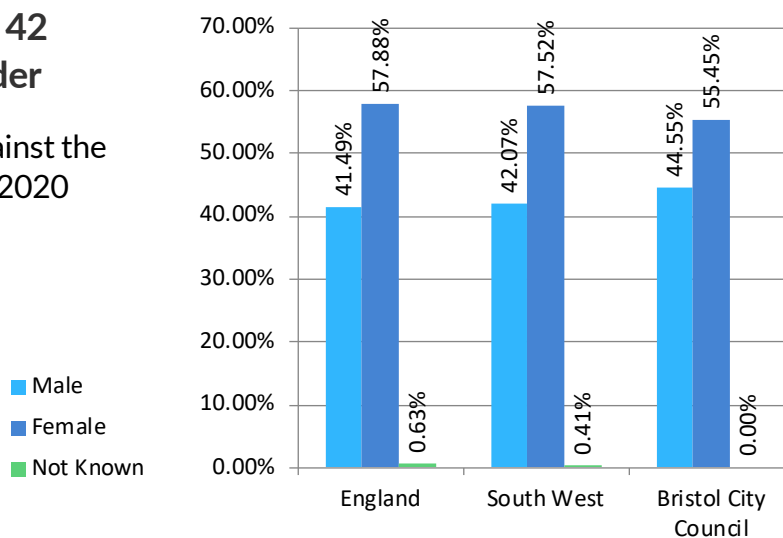
## Individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries per 100,000 adults by age group

This data has been benchmarked against the National Safeguarding Adults 2019-2020 Collection data.

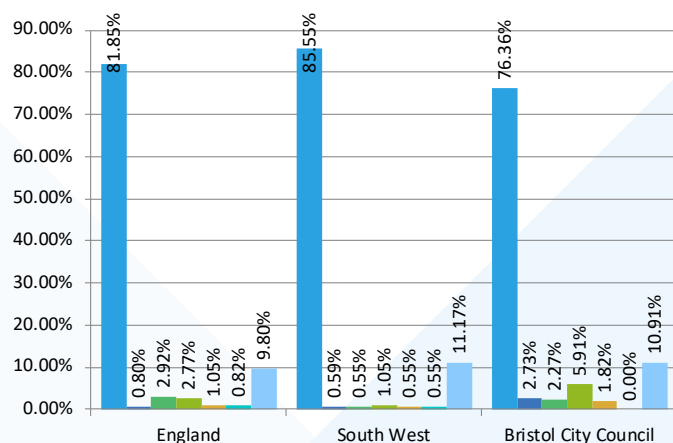


## Individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries by gender

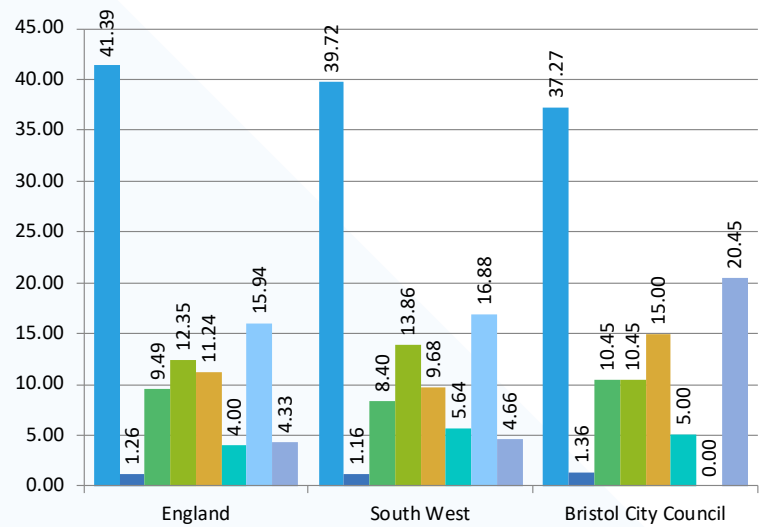
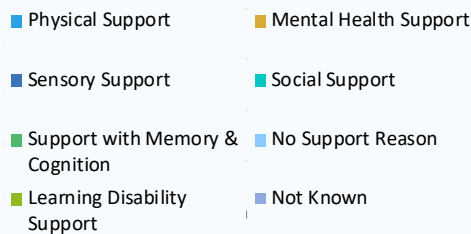
This data has been benchmarked against the National Safeguarding Adults 2019-2020 Collection data.



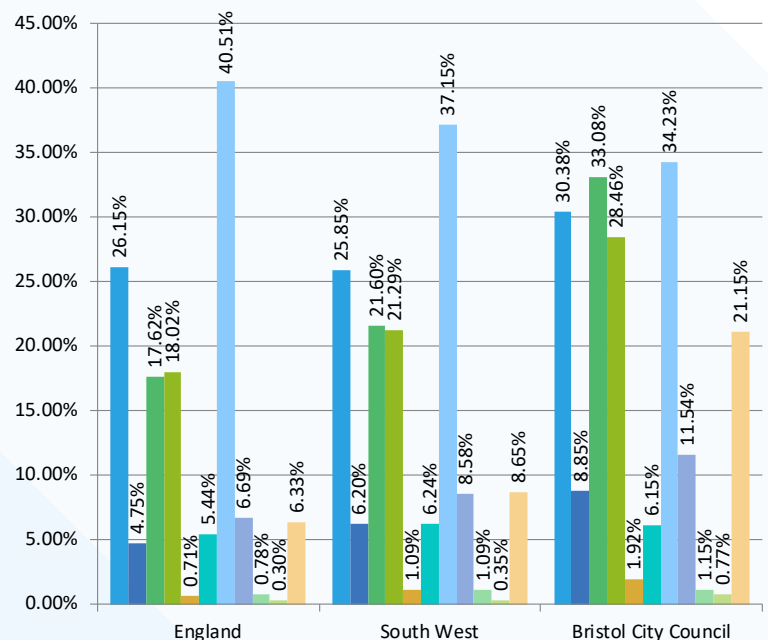
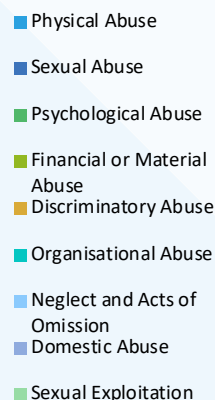
## Individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries by ethnicity



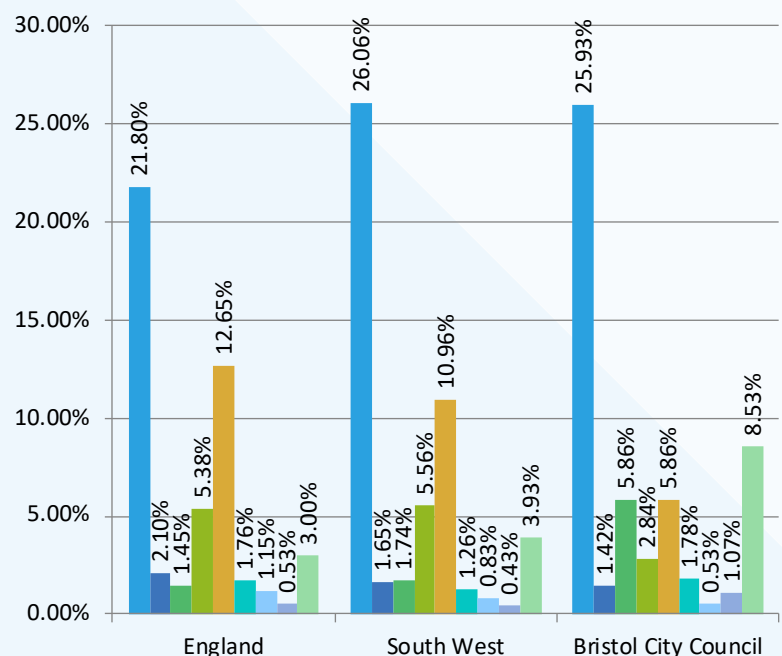
## Section 42 Enquiries by Primary Support Reason



## Concluded Section 42 Enquiries by Abuse Type

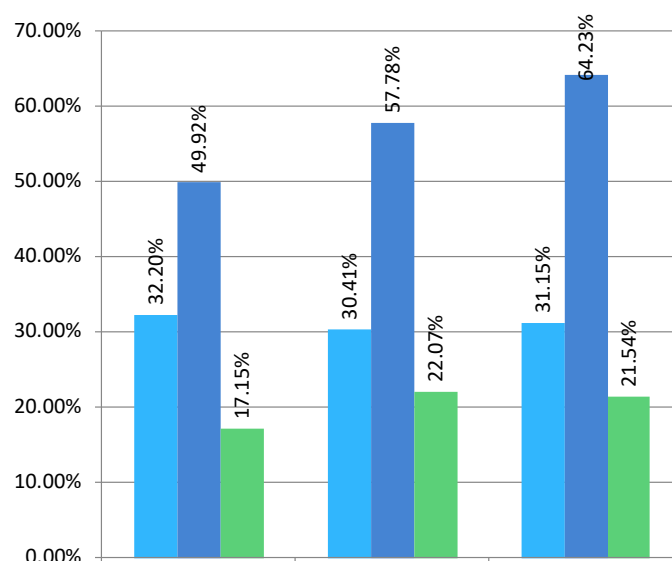


## Concluded Section 42 Enquiries by Location of Abuse



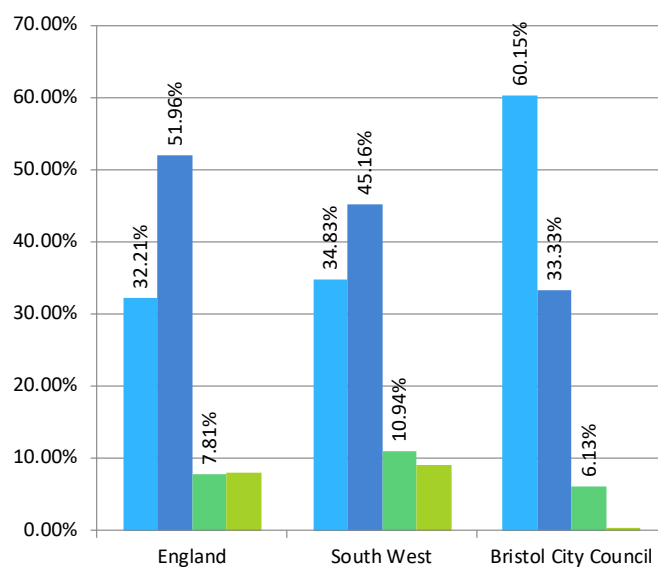
## Concluded Section 42 Enquiries by Risk Source

■ Service Provider  
■ Other - Known to Individual  
■ Other - Unknown to Individual



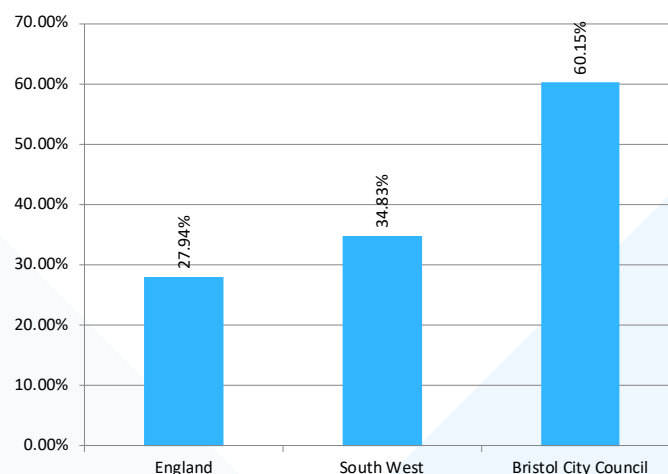
## For each enquiry, was the adult at risk lacking capacity to make decisions related to the Safeguarding Enquiry

■ Yes they lacked capacity  
■ No they did not lack capacity  
■ Don't know  
■ Not recorded



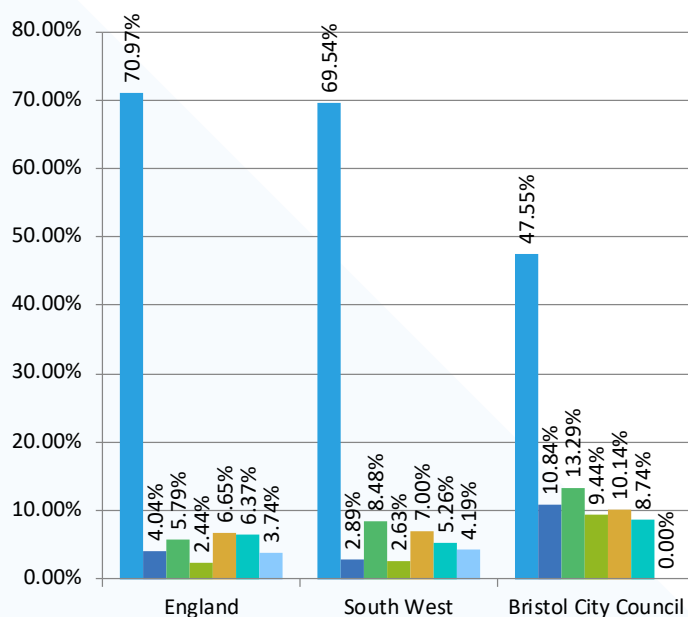
## Of the enquiries recorded where the adult at risk lacked capacity, what percentage had support by advocate, family or friend?

■ Had Support

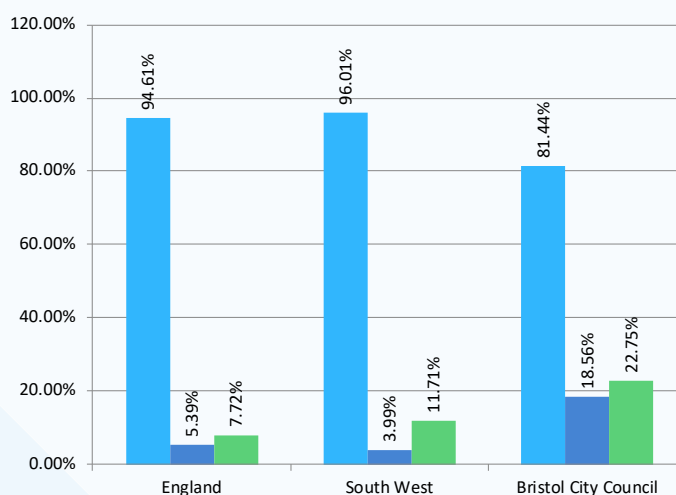
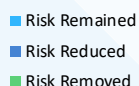




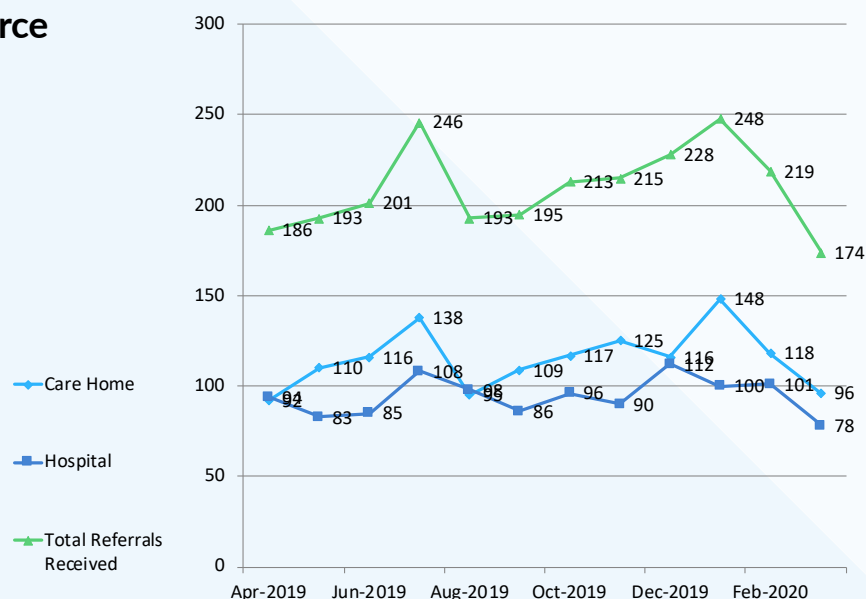
## Was a risk identified and was/any action taken/planned to be taken?



## Where a risk was identified, what was the outcome/expected outcome when the cases was concluded?



## DOLS Requests by Referral Source



## Appendix 3: Avon & Somerset Constabulary Data

The data below was produced at the end of 2019/20 and provides the Constabulary's data submission for Bristol. The data covers the 12 month period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 and the preceding 12 months for comparison.

### Data quality

There is a number of data quality issues that should be borne in mind when interpreting the data:

- case audits have identified that appropriate tags have not always been applied consistently over time, such as for Child Protection or Child Sexual Exploitation, meaning that some numbers reported here may undercount the actual numbers

- the failure to record a beat code in many reports means that data at local authority level under-counts the actual level. As the degree of undercounting at local authority level is not consistent across the two 12 month periods, like is not necessarily being compared with like
- the failure to record a date of birth in some reports can mean that a number of child victims or child suspects associated to a crime will not have been captured within this data, however Child Protection tags have been used as one means of mitigating this.

Table 1 provides data for Bristol for the agreed police child protection measures.

**Table 1.** 12 Month Rolling Police Child Protection Measures - Bristol (missing children)

Missing Children	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	375	424	-49	-11.6%
Number of Missing Children Reports	1,173	1,220	-47	-3.9%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	221	253	-32	-12.6%
Number of Children Missing from Care	58	59	-1	-1.7%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	39	45	-6	-13.3%
Percentage of Filed Repeat Missing Children with Interviews Completed*	80.5%	84.2%	-3.6%Pts	N/A
* based on having an officer completed return sign				

### Children Missing

The Constabulary has been pursuing a number of initiatives designed to improve its response to missing persons, agreed by the Constabulary Management Board in December 2018. It is likely that these initiatives will have contributed to the 11.6% reduction in the number of children

going missing in Bristol, and the 13.4% reduction across the force area as a whole, in 2019/20 compared with 2018/19. They are likely to also have contributed to the 12.6% reduction in the number of children going missing repeatedly in Bristol, and the 11.8% reduction in the number of children going missing repeatedly across the force area as a whole, across the two 12

month periods. The 3.9% fall in the number of missing children episodes in Bristol in 2019/20, compared with 2018/19, is below the 8.7% fall across the force area as a whole.

The numbers of children going missing from care in Bristol in 2019/20, compared with 2018/19, remained virtually unchanged, as did the number of children going missing from care repeatedly.

It is recognised that detailed information from Police Prevention Interviews needs to be shared with local authority partners, and information from local authority Return Home Interviews needs to be shared with the Constabulary, and for this to inform and drive partnership prevention and risk management work. The Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit has been working

to devise and introduce a Constabulary-wide process for action following the return of a missing person to ensure there is ownership and a greater focus upon working in partnership to identify and address the causes of the problem in order to reduce repeat missing episodes. This work focuses upon the key role of the Missing Persons Coordinators, the Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit and Neighbourhood teams to achieve the necessary problem-solving and risk management of repeat missing children. Work on this with partner agencies in Bristol is nearing completion, although COVID-19 has caused some delay in recent weeks, and the final draft proposal will be reported to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership for consideration and approval in the near future.

**Table 2.** 12 Month Rolling Police Child Protection Measures - Bristol (safety and anti-bullying)

Safety and Anti-Bullying	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	1,443	1,322	+121	+9.2%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	4,295	3,964	+331	+8.4%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	6,939	6,112	+827	+13.5%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 – 17	169	124	+45	+36.3%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	2,467	2,367	+100	+4.2%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	65	71	-6	-8.5%

## Safety & Anti-Bullying

The total number of child victims of crime in Bristol in 2019/20 was 2467, representing an increase of 4.2% on 2018/19 (100 more child victims), just under the 5.8% increase across the Force area as a whole. The number of recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes where the victim was aged 16 - 17 rose by 36.3% to 169 crimes.

The number of child suspects of crimes in Bristol rose by 9.2% to 1443 child suspects in the last

12 months, a smaller percentage increase than the 10.7% rise across the force area as a whole. In the last 12 months 379 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address is in Bristol, were arrested and brought into custody, 23 of whom were charged and detained. In the last quarter, January to March 2020, 113 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address is in Bristol, were arrested and brought into custody, one of whom was charged and detained.

**Table 3.** 12 Month Rolling Police Child Protection Measures - Bristol (child sexual exploitation)

Child Sexual Exploitation	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	65	90	-25	-27.8%

**Table 4.** 12 Month Rolling Police Child Protection Measures - Bristol (child protection)

Child Protection	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	896	921	-25	-2.7%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	163	177	-14	-7.9%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	311	336	-25	-7.4%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children	200	230	-30	-13.0%

## Child Protection

The “Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)” in Table 1 are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this particular measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. The measure was considered by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards to be a useful headline measure and includes crimes where the victim is a child, crimes where the suspect is a child and crimes where the child is an involved party. The measure also includes peer-on-peer crimes where both the victim and suspect are children. The measure includes non-recent child abuse allegations, regardless of whether the victim was a child or adult at the time of reporting.

The volume of Child Protection crimes is volatile, changing to a large degree from month to month. However, the overall volume during 2019/20 compared with 2018/19 remained relatively unchanged across the force area as a whole, falling by 0.7%, or 20 crimes, to 3002 crimes. The volume of such crimes in Avon and Somerset therefore remains high, against

a backdrop of sustained increases across the past decade. In Bristol the volume of Child Protection crimes fell by 25 crimes to 896 crimes in 2019/20, representing a 2.7% fall compared with 2018/19. Child safeguarding demand can be characterised as high risk/harm, high volume, often hidden, high complexity, high variety, and resource intensive.

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) is a threat of national importance and a Force strategic threat and priority. Over last decade the volume of CSAE crimes increased by 117.1% across the force area, although in 2019/20 it fell by 2.6%. The sustained increase in such crimes can be attributed to the work of agencies and partnerships to increase awareness of professionals and the public and efforts to improve the confidence of victims to come forward, and more recently through the increasing use of proactive means of identifying “hidden” abuse and exploitation, such as through Topaz.

Within the CSAE offences, sexual grooming offences has shown the most significant increases in each of the last three years compared with previous years, and rose by

46 crimes (23.8%) in 2019/20 compared with 2018/19. Sexual grooming is being better recognised. For example, the improvements in the way we identify the risks facing specific victims and opportunities for suspect disruption, achieved through the Topaz improved information sharing arrangements, intelligence gathering and the use of data analytics to highlight risk and priority, have increased the volume of sexual grooming offences being recorded. Topaz has led to improved engagement with potential victims resulting in additional disclosures; the Engagement Officers are converting over 50% of their cases to a disclosure of some sort, Section 9 or Achieving Best Evidence, well above the national average. Thorough investigations often identify further offences or victims, increasing the volume of cases.

Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences in Bristol fell by 14 crimes (7.9%) in 2019/20 compared with 2018/19, whilst CSE tagged crimes fell by 25 crimes (27.8%). Non-familial sexual offences against children in Bristol fell by 25 crimes or 7.4% across the two periods. Child Protection crimes for Cruelty and Neglect fell by 30 crimes (13.0%) to 200 crimes in 2019/20.

In the fourth quarter of 2019/20 58 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) to which the police were invited were held, of which the police attended 53. In the case of the five conferences not attended by the police, they were held virtually due to COVID-19 and the Chair advised the Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit of the outcome following the conference. Police reports were provided in advance of each conference.

Across the Force area as a whole, the Constabulary used police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 on 138 occasions in 2019/20, compared with 124 occasions in 2018/19. The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues, whereby 17 records in last 12 months, and 10 records in previous 12 months, were not linked to a beat code. There are 56 records of the use of these powers linked to beat codes in Bristol in last 12 months, compared with 35 records in the previous 12 months.