



KEEPING BRISTOL SAFE PARTNERSHIP:
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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Foreword

The report is published by the five statutory partners (Bristol City Council, Avon & Somerset Police and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, Avon Fire & Rescue Service and the Probation Service) who are responsible for putting in place effective arrangements to support the co-ordination, quality assurance and continuous improvement of activity to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs and deliver the community safety partnership.

This annual report provides information and data on how our local safeguarding system for safeguarding children and adults is working and for how effectively we keep our communities safe. It provides an overview of learning from children and adult safeguarding reviews and from our local domestic homicide reviews and how we intend to embed this learning in practice.

This year we celebrate the improvements in practice that we have seen across the system. This has included the partnership working with the National Centre of Expertise in Child Sexual Abuse to improve our multi-agency skills and practice in safeguarding and supporting children and their families; the development of new trauma-informed programmes across the city including Changing Futures providing us opportunities to put into practice our ambitions to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing multiple and complex disadvantage, particularly those young people transitioning into adulthood; and successfully secured £750k of Home Office Safer Streets funding (round 4) enabling interventions such as improved CCTV and lighting and the expansion of our Safety for Women at Night initiative within our city centre.

In 2022/23, Bristol was identified as a Prevent Priority Area, the only such area in the South West. As a priority area, Bristol City Council received funding to employ a Prevent Coordinator and a Prevent Education Officer, to work with schools and with other local authority areas to strengthen community cohesion and improve resilience. This work will be further developed in 2023/24, thanks to additional Home Office funding for projects and community engagement, working with a range of community groups to promote Prevent across the city.

We have strengthened our multi-agency responses to serious violence across the city, providing improved targeted interventions to young people and the disruption and prosecution of organised crime networks. Whilst continuing to build strong resilient communities, where people get along with each other, and hate crime and violence against women is not tolerated.

We have improved our approach to protecting our communities from the harms caused by drugs and our partners are working together under Operation ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) scheme. This scheme has enabled us to protect victims, place vulnerable people into treatment and help them recover

from their addiction, whilst strengthening enforcement for those who supply drugs and in doing so exploit our young people into criminal activity.

Our Bristol Exploitation Collaboration project further developed our safeguarding approaches with young people and their families, enabling us to listen and learn from their experiences, map the current services available and the effectiveness of these in meeting the needs of young people and families who need support.

We have strengthened our policies and processes for child safeguarding practice reviews, the multi-agency protocol working with harmful sexual behaviour and our local threshold document which sets out the effective support for children and families in Bristol and worked with other safeguarding partnerships across the south west region undertaking self-assessments and peer reviews such as a review of safeguarding in schools with Cornwall and in responding to the recommendations from the national review of Arthur and Star in conjunction with North Somerset and South Gloucestershire safeguarding partnerships.

We have undertaken quality assurance activities with adults who have care and support needs to ascertain their views of using adult services as part of the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda, to improve outcomes and plan to undertake audits focusing on self neglect and financial abuse in the new financial year. Sadly, we continue to see an increase trend year on year for Safeguarding Adults reviews and domestic homicide reviews. While this reflect growing awareness of the statutory processes and a culture of learning in the city, as a partnership we are concerned that this reflects the ongoing serious impact on individuals and services following COVID-19 and the current cost-of-living crisis with increasing rates of poverty in the city. We need to, and will, continue to challenge ourselves about whether there are opportunities for us to strengthen our safeguarding and preventative systems to minimise the tragic loss of lives.

This past year has seen an increase in the number of adults referred to safeguarding services because of self-neglect. The complexity of these cases has highlighted opportunities to change how we manage risk and co-ordinate targeted person-centred responses to these cases. Whilst the partnership ambition for an adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is yet to be realised, we recognise opportunities to strengthen early help responses for vulnerable adults before they reach statutory safeguarding thresholds, at which point intervention becomes more challenging.

In the children's system this report highlights the challenges of national multi-disciplinary workforce sufficiency issues. As a partnership we have identified that there are opportunities to strength some of our safeguarding arrangements to enable better joint decision making and timely responses to children and families through increased co-location and skill mix teams. In the coming year we will be focused on ensuring the implementation of a new threshold document, supporting the development of the MASH arrangements to increase the number of children supported under this framework, and promoting improved practice in child protection enquiries which we hope will lead to more timely access to specialist health services and medicals; reductions in repeat referrals; and improved outcomes for children across the system.

This report also sets out the achievements and the work that has progressed despite unprecedented pressures on services and this progress is testament to the strength of local relationships between practitioners and leaders. Building on these relationships will continue to be important and underpin the work we do.

Ensuring the partnership works effectively, improving the way it shares information and the ongoing development of our integrated governance to maximise improvements across the life course will be key in the future success of the partnership in safeguarding our communities in 2023-24.

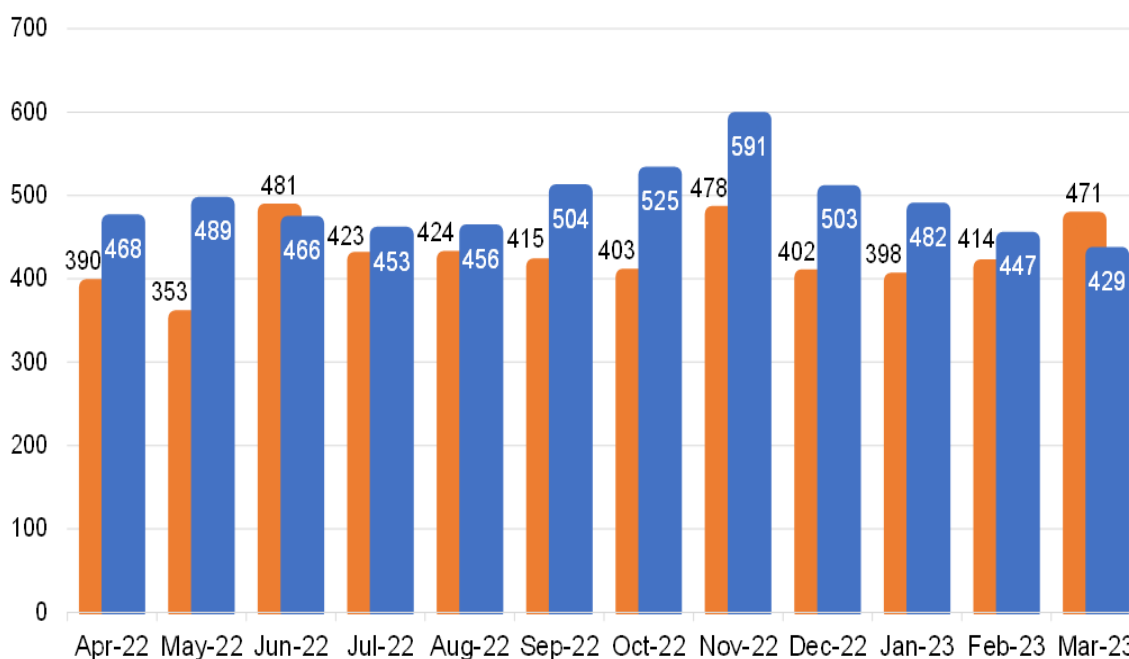
Finally on behalf of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Executive, we would like to thank the partnership workforce for their dedication in safeguarding and for the positive difference they make to the lives of our local children, families and communities.



Safeguarding Adults

Since emerging from covid into a cost-of-living crisis the Adult Social Care teams have not only seen an increase in referrals and concerns raised but also in the complexity of safeguarding concerns including more presentations of self-neglect and of dual diagnosis, including those with substance misuse eg alcohol and mental health issues. There were 5813 safeguarding concerns raised in 2022-23 reflecting a 15% increase from referrals made in the previous year. Of these concerns, 48.2% were repeat referrals where the adult at risk had another referral in the preceding 356 days. 10.7% of repeat referrals led to a new enquiry, 10.8% were linked to an existing referral, 5.32% were the first referral to lead to an enquiry and 73.2% did not lead to an enquiry.

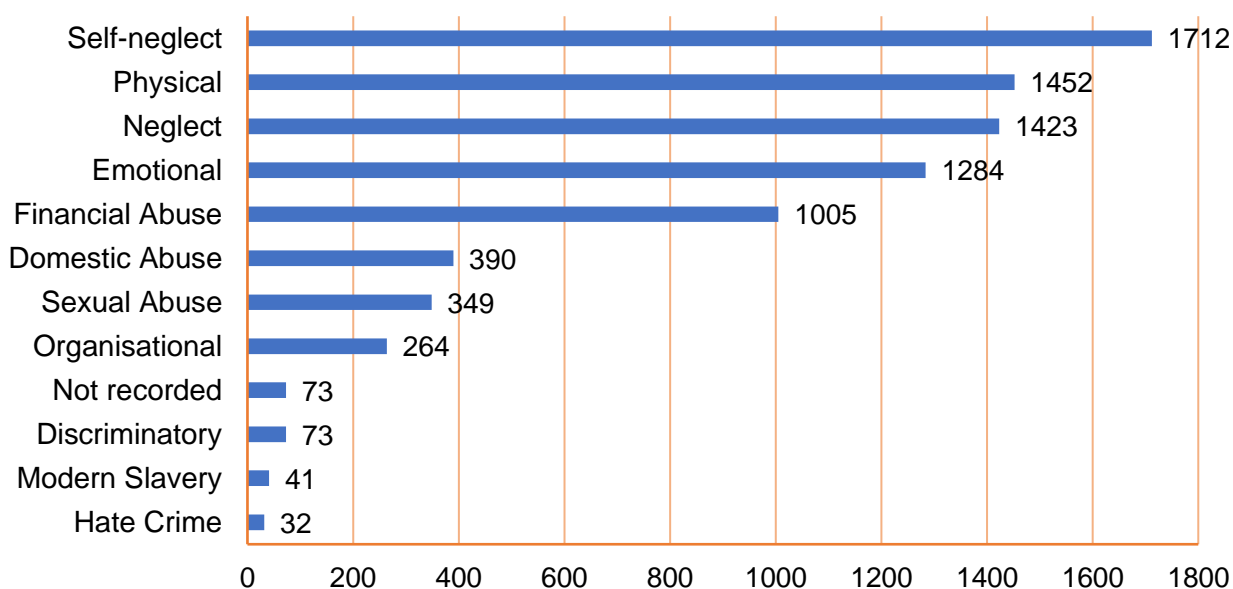
Fig.1: Referral data – referrals made in 2022/23, and referrals made in the same period in the previous year, by start of month



The analysis of ethnicity information showed those recorded with black British/African/Caribbean ethnicity had an average of 2.2 repeat referrals per person and those recorded with white ethnicity had an average of 2 repeat referrals per person. Those reporting White Roma ethnicity had the highest repeat referrals with an average of 3 repeat referrals per person, however, this reflects referrals for one adult at risk from a White Roma background who had previously had an enquiry. Going forward the KBSP will be improving the recording and monitoring of ethnicity using its adult data dashboard. This will include the standardisation of recording fields for all agencies who refer into Adult Social Care, enabling a greater

understanding and breakdown of ethnicity sub categories. We hope to finalise this work by Spring of 2024.

Fig.2: Referrals made by abuse type



The above Figure 2 describes the type of alleged abuse recorded before triage, note that an individual maybe assigned more than one abuse type. The highest number of referrals have been for self-neglect, followed by physical abuse and neglect. We also saw a 28% increase in reported modern slavery compared to the previous year.

Enquiries & Outcomes

A safeguarding enquiry is any action taken (or instigated) by a local authority (under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014) when there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult at risk is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

Following triage of the alleged safeguarding concerns, 1066 Section 42 enquiries were undertaken in respect to 918 individuals reflecting in referral to enquiry conversion rate of 18.3%. Compared to the previous year, we saw a 17.9% decline in enquiries undertaken, see figure 3. During 2022/23, 854 safeguarding enquiries were started and completed, a further 212 remained open at the end of March 2023. Consistent with last year, self-neglect was the dominant issue emerging in safeguarding enquiries.

While the KBSP continues to work with its partners to establish an adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) we recognise the continued increase in self-neglect and the complexity of these cases mean we must change our current arrangements. This includes the development of a new and improved risk management approach in the absence of a MASH model and the timely co-

ordination of multi-agency interventions to improve outcomes of our most vulnerable adults. The KBSP have a dedicated self-neglect group who will work towards this during 2023 and report progress to the Executive.

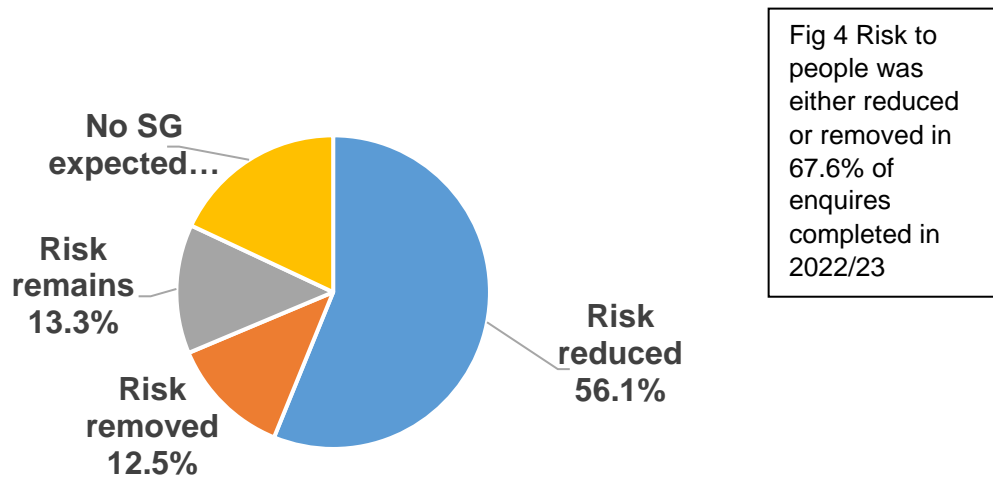


Fig 4

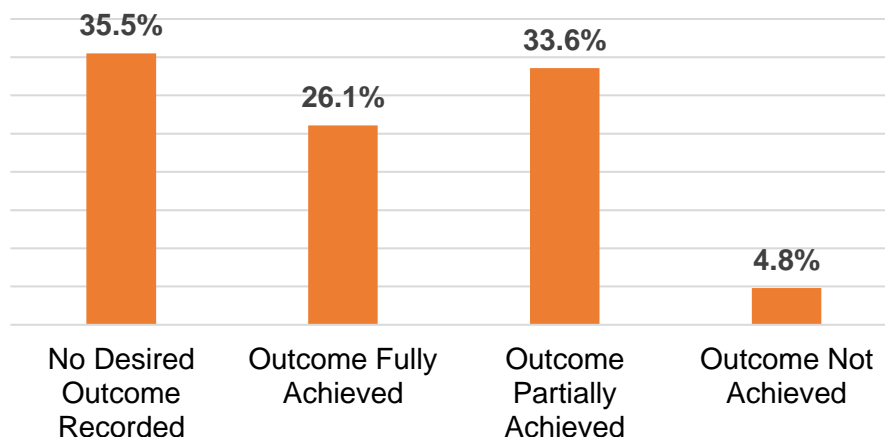


Fig 5: In terms of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP), 72.4% of completed enquiries recorded desired outcomes had been explicitly asked about.

Making Safeguarding Personal aims to make support and person-led and outcome focused. It seeks to engage the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control, improving quality of life, their wellbeing and safety. The KBSP recognise improving the voice of adult service users to better inform improvements to services is vital and we will continue to work with adult social care to develop this work further. Making Safeguarding Personal will form part of the impending inspection process of the Care Quality Commission, who will be looking to evidence through adult social care teams that when making safeguarding personal, providers and commissioners are “well-led, caring, effective, safe and responsive”.

Our future priorities for safeguarding Adults

The KBSP will be producing a new strategic plan in 2023 which will set out our priorities for the next 3 years until 2026. Going forward, developing a more co-ordinated approach to eliciting the voice of adult service users will be included along with priorities to tackle self-neglect and safeguarding those adults who suffer from multiple disadvantages. This will include the development of a more robust risk management approach, the review of current safeguarding adults' policies, procedures, and pathways to improve outcomes for these complex cases.

We also want to use national research and the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) to understand different people's needs and the complex factors that can lead to homelessness, drawing on the recent homelessness needs assessment by our local Public Health teams, and lessons learned from the Manchester thematic review and self-assessment process. In undertaking this work we aim to work with housing partners and other relevant agencies in providing an improved offer of support for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to complex needs, which may include substance misuse, mental health issues or other problems which could place their tenancy at risk if not addressed.

We will also work in collaboration with our neighbouring local authority areas to strengthen information sharing and better protect individuals and families who seek asylum and are in emergency accommodation including hotels having fled their own countries due to war and persecution.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Measure	Bristol 2020-1 (%)	Bristol 2021-2 (%)	Bristol 2022-3 (%)
Percentage of re-referrals within 12 months	23	26	23
Percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days	88	87	84
Percentage of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of s47 commencement	81	85	83
Percentage of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time	21	25	23
Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for at least 2 years at de-registration	0	2	4
Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months	8	7	8
Percentage of children who have been in care for at least 2.5 years, who have been in the same placement for the last 2 years	73	77	71
19-21-year-old care leavers – Percentage Total number in education, employment, or training (EET)	65	65	70

Fig 1 Overview of Childrens performance 2022/23.

We have continued to see strong performance across the children’s safeguarding systems. This includes in both short and long-term placement stability indicators despite growing pressure on securing placement sufficiency for our children and young people locally. This has been exacerbated by further increases in the increased number of children in care and the increasing demand to place children with complex and behavioural needs.

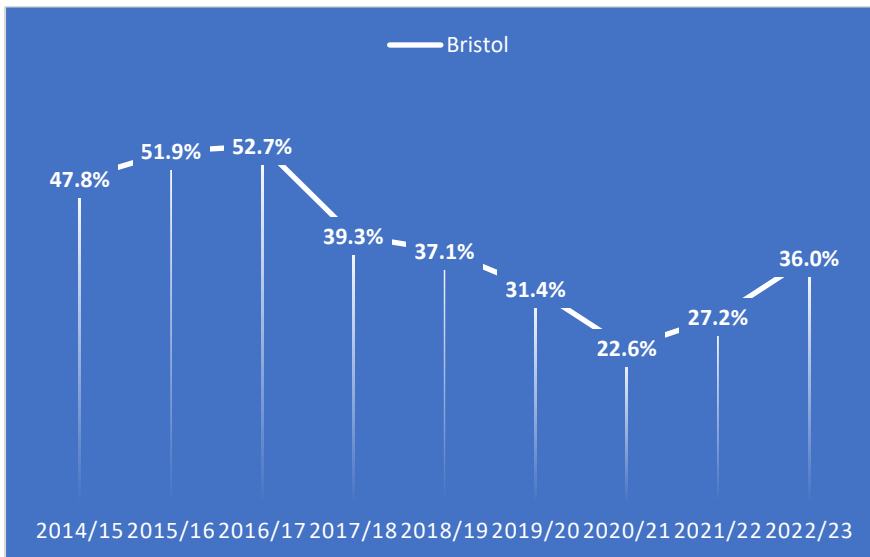


Fig 2: Rate of children who were subject of a Child Protection Plan 31 March 2023, per 10,000 children

In comparing figures from 2021/22 the partnership continues to show strong performance across key performance metrics for the children’s social care system.

Some indicators, most noticeably for the number of repeat or secondary Child Protection Plans, (Fig 3) has significantly increased when compared to 2 years ago increasing from 21 to 41 and our repeat referral rate now approaching national average whilst our repeat Child Protection rate is lower than the national average.

Fig 3 referrals which were within 12 months of a previous referral.

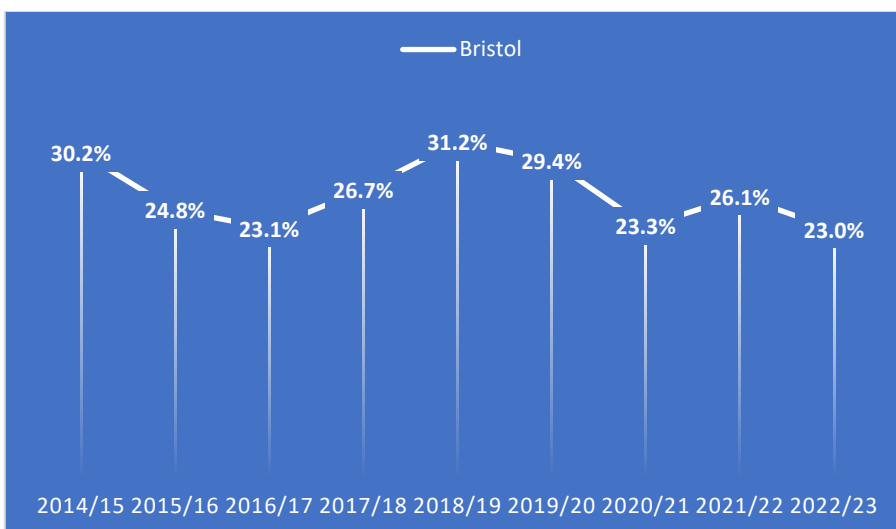


Fig 3: Repeat/secondary referrals for CPP with 12 months March 23

Fig 4: Front Door and Assessment

Measure	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	LA Quartile
Rate of referrals per 10,000	351	374	374	-
Referrals within 12 months of previous referral	23%	26%	23%	D
Those which went no further action	12%	13%	12.8%	D
Percentage of assessment (where child was assessed not to be in need)	30%	26%	46.5%	B
Assessment rate (completed per 10,000 children aged under 18 years)	307	346	404	-
Assessment timeliness 1: (within 10 working days)	14%	13%	12%	A
Assessment timeliness 2: (within 45 working days)	88%	87%	40%	B

Fig 4: Overview of Front Door for Childrens Services 2022/23.

Contacts to the front door (First Assessment) have remained consistently high, with partners and members of the public continuing to use the front door to share their concerns about children, to request early help and support for families, and to request information. The front door (First Assessment) service has recently realigned their structure and amended their processes to achieve improved efficiency, management oversight and timeliness of decision making. Improvements also include the implementation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which is a multi-disciplinary team located at Bridwell police station and the issuing of a revised multi-agency thresholds document for the workforce and partner agencies. Visiting timeliness for children with a Child Protection Plan has consistently remained over 90% for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Decision making in the front door has been deemed to be “sound” (LGA Peer Review 2021) with data and data sharing used effectively to support decision making.

This was also the view of Ofsted in December 2021 Focused Visit, when they stated, “Strong, effective leaders have systematically strengthened practice and decision making at the front door”

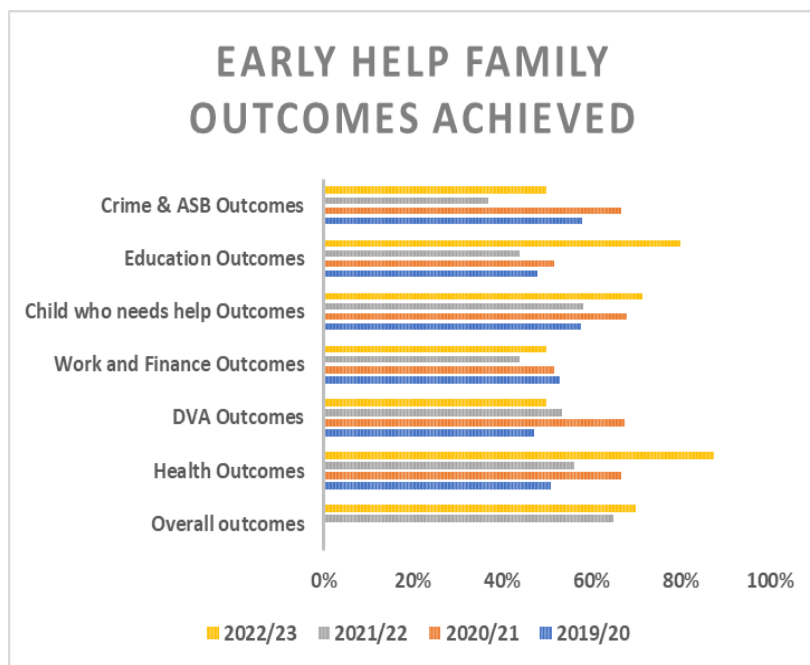


Fig 4: Early Help Family Outcomes Achieved

Good outcomes have been maintained for our care leavers, including retaining our high rates of young people in education, employment, and training and we will continue to focus our efforts to support these children achieve their potential.

Family hubs are community-based centres that offer a wide range of information, advice and support to all families, with a focus on early childhood development, parenting support, and family wellbeing. The aim of the hubs is to function as a ‘one-stop-shop’ bringing together a range of service providers and professionals under one roof. Family hubs are an important element of the Our Families programme, which aims to improve the lives of our children and young people and is one of Bristol’s four priority areas.

Bristol has secured £4.5m to implement Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme (2022-25). The programme’s core objective is to improve access to integrated universal and early help family services, including Start for Life services, in areas with the highest levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes. The aim is to provide support as early as possible to enable improved outcomes for the whole family.

Our Future Priorities for Safeguarding Children & Young People

- Improve workforce sufficiency and workforce development including Trauma Informed approaches and resources to better respond to complex safeguarding issues.
- Work with partners to develop contextual and transitional safeguarding approaches and pathways to protect CYP from criminal exploitation and child sexual abuse.
- Improve joint working within the MASH and for CYPs with acute mental health needs.
- Improve our safeguarding systems including review of our multi-agency child protection arrangements, including Joint Investigations and Best Evidence

Interviews, S47 strategy meetings, the alignment of MARAC, and updating our information sharing protocols.

- Listen to the voices of CYP and families gaining their views, including them in quality assurance activities and co-design of system improvements.
- Improved use of research and data to drive performance and evidence-based approaches and earlier identification of issues eg cost of living and neglect

Community Safety

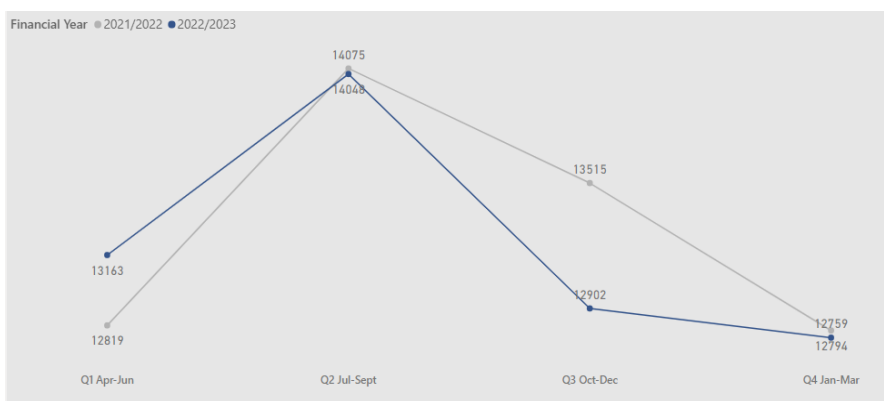


Fig 1 Overall crime recorded for Bristol 2022/23 (A& S Police Niche)

Fig 1: There was a slight increase in overall crime rates for Bristol in 2022/23 (12794) compared to 2021/22 (12759)

Fig 2 Shows all crime recorded by crime type, there were 14485 offences in 2022/23 compared to 12685 in 2021/22 This represents an increase of 14%, with Shoplifting up by 36% and violent offences against the person being the most reported type of crime.

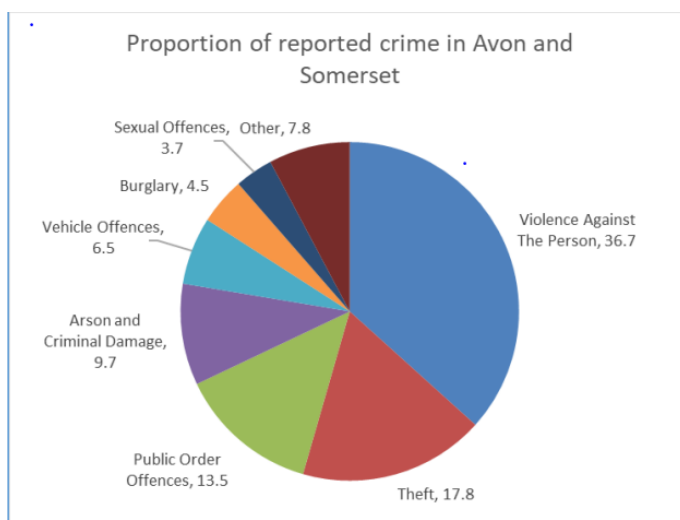
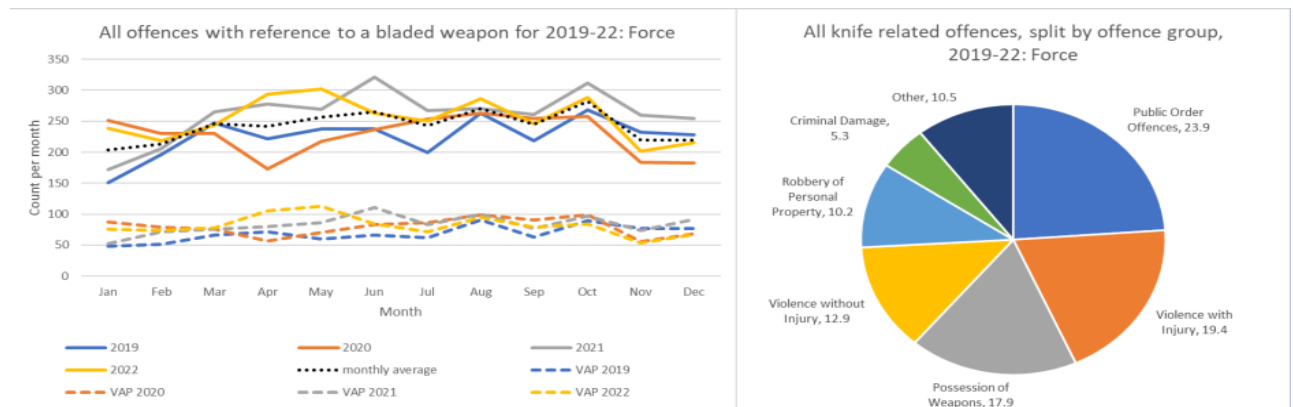


Fig 2 All crime recorded for 2022/23 (A&S Police Niche)

The Serious Violence Duty statutory guidance published in December 2022 acknowledges that the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act does not define serious violence for the purposes of the Duty, it calls on specified authorities to take into account the following

when determining what amounts to serious violence in their local area: 'specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing'. The Serious Violence Duty enables local areas to draw on evidence from their strategic needs assessment, considering geographical differences and new and emerging trends, to define serious violence.

The charts below give the breakdown of offence types, across the Avon & Somerset police force area with Violence Against the Person (VAP) accounting for 32%, divided further into violence with and without injury.



Bladed weapon offences by LA area (A&S Police Niche)

Local Authority	2019	2020	2021	2022
B&NES	37	36	20	21
Bristol E	66	58	47	62
Bristol N	87	70	78	94
Bristol S	52	41	52	47
North Somerset	125	50	65	52
Somerset E	39	49	54	52
Somerset W	65	70	57	68
S Gloucestershire	38	41	45	39

South Bristol and North Bristol have seen average increases of 6 and 10% respectively. North Bristol has seen the biggest rise, this being the highest populated urban centre in the A&S Police force area and linked to the night time economy.

The breakdown of serious violence offences for young victims (24 and under), shows that young females are more likely to be victim of gender-centric crimes, such as rape and sexual assault, than young males, although the number of suspected crimes that go under-reported will likely indicated that the proportion of males victims of these offences is higher than presented. Male victims are currently more likely to be a victim of offences that are deemed to have more 'intent' such as violence with injury (75%) or Robbery (17%)

In Bristol we continue to see the links with Drug dealing and county lines organised crime for the most serious conflicts in Bristol and serious violence incidents. Safer Options has a strong pathway to the New Leaf project which supports those age 11-19 who are struggling with their cannabis use in relation to youth violence and exploitation. In addition to this, St Giles Trust offer 1:1 mentoring, work with young people who are struggling with drug and alcohol use, drug dealing, exploitation, and 'gang' involvement; offering direct one-to-one mentoring support, advice and guidance, and providing the tools to help reduce risk.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) include abuse, neglect and parental drug or alcohol use: those experiencing four or more ACEs are almost seven times more likely to be a perpetrator of violence as an adult, and almost eight times more likely to be incarcerated in their lifetime, than those with no ACEs. Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset

safeguarding review found that of the young people involved in cases of serious peer on peer abuse and child criminal exploitation, “It is of note that for most of these young people, home was not a protective environment. Violence was normalised and early adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) combined with troubled family backgrounds to represent significant push factors towards harmful peer contexts outside the family home. Domestic abuse was identified in four of the eight cases; five of the young people had been subject to physical abuse from father or stepfather. Neglect and emotional abuse were also cited in two of the cases. Half of the families were involved in criminality, selling drugs and serious violence and a Bristol multiagency audit on CCE (2019) also identified this as a significant theme.

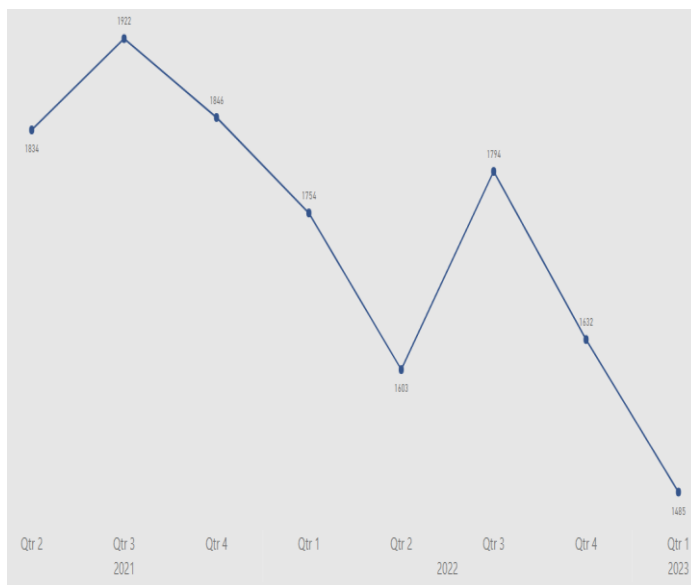


Fig 3: We have seen a decrease in the number of domestic abuse offences recorded in the past 12 months from 7351 offences in 2021/22 to 6469 offences in 2022/23. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) multi-agency group are responsible for the development of a strategy to address DASV and violence against women & girls. They work closely with the Keeping Communities Safe group who have introduced targeted initiatives to promote the safety of females in our city centre and violence associated with the night-time economy.

Fig 3 Domestic Abuse offences recorded (A&S Police Niche)

In 2022 the partnership commissioned Next Link to provide services for domestic abuse victims. They work in partnership with several other agencies, including Victim Support, who provide services for male victims, including safe house provision for men for the first time.

We have also received funding from the Domestic Abuse Act which has enabled specialist domestic abuse training for our housing teams and with the Hopes and Communities board are working to provide our local housing providers with Domestic Abuse Housing Association (DAHA) accreditation.

1625 Independent People provides housing and support to older adolescents aged 16-25 years who can be victims of domestic abuse by witnessing it within their own family or within their own intimate relationships. They work with Next Link along with Off the record, a local young people’s counselling service and Sign Health which supports deaf survivors of domestic abuse. NILAARI who provide therapy for Black and minoritised survivors also work with Next link, whilst the Bristol drug project will support victims and survivors who also suffer with addiction to alcohol and drugs.

In May 2022 Avon & Somerset police hosted a lived experience summit event for survivors of domestic and sexual violence which promoted the newly commissioned services and training that the Bridge (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) and the KBSP produced 2 videos

aimed at professionals and victims of domestic and sexual abuse to raise awareness of effective ways to engage and improve support to victims and their children.

In 2022/23 the KBSP worked in conjunction with public health colleagues to develop and deliver a series of training for domestic abuse. This improved training offer for professionals include:

- Understanding what domestic abuse is and components of abuse.
- Understand and emphasising with domestic abuse victims, survivors, children and non-abusive parents.
- Understanding who may cause the harm and what their behaviours may look like.
- Understanding how to respond to those who may have been impacted.

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for the KBSP and going forward we have highlighted the need to influence improvements in the way in which the family courts are responding to domestic abuse. Recent consultations at national and local level with victims have highlighted concerns due to the lack of expertise on dealing with child contact arrangements, with family courts often enforcing contact for children without full risk assessments and making mothers who have non-molestation orders meet with their perpetrators placing them at further risk of violence and abuse.

Fig 4 Violent offences: Violence Against Women & Girls (A&S Police Niche)

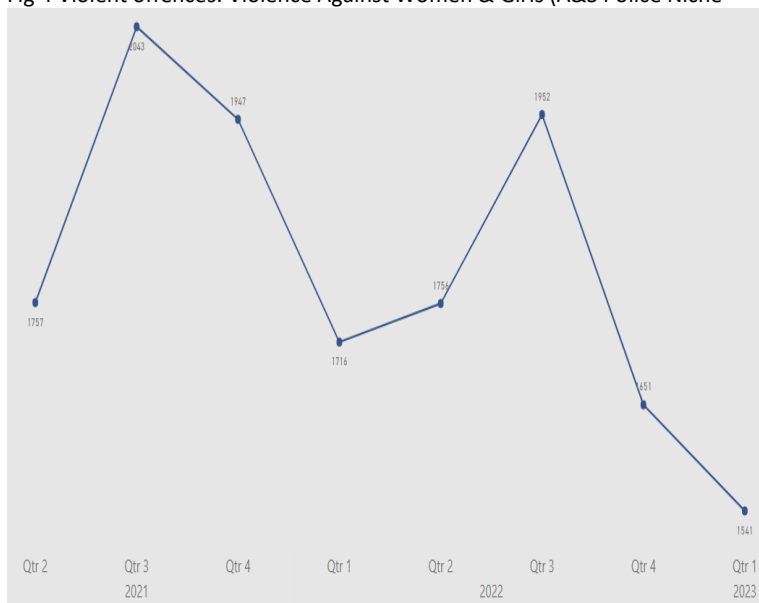


Fig 4: VAWG Offences In 2021/22 there were 7454 offences compared to 6850 in 2022/23. The KBSP DASV group are in the process of formulating a local VAWG strategy which will bring together multi-agency representatives to tackle domestic abuse, including support for non-abusive parents and their children, improving the family court and child contact process and bringing perpetrators to justice. It will also explore programmes to support perpetrators with behavioural change.

The Keeping Communities Safe Group work closely with the DASV group to address safety of women and girls within the city centre and improve violence associated with the night time economy.

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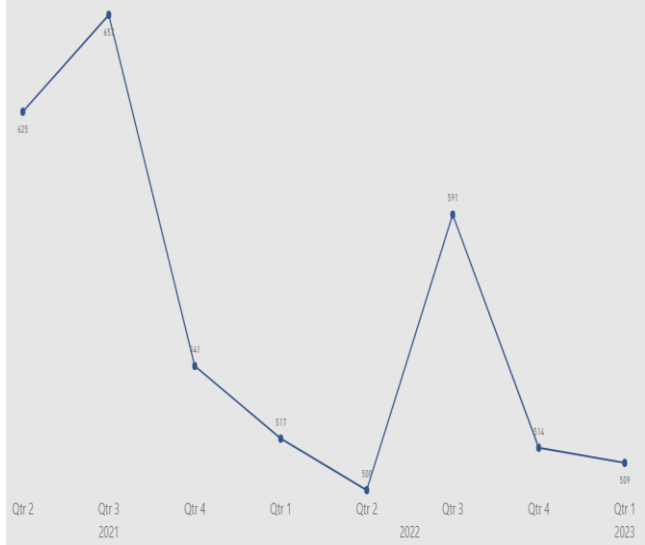
Fig 5: Hate Crime Offences. There was a slight reduction of hate crime recorded offences in 2022/23 (2099) compared to 2340 in 2021/22.

The KBSP have a Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime (SPAHC) which aim to Prevent hate crime by challenging the attitudes that underpin it and provide early interventions to prevent it escalating further.

They promote the increasing reporting of hate crime incidents, by building victim confidence and supporting other local partnerships and improving support for victims of hate crime by providing timely and effective support at the time of reporting and their journey through the criminal justice system. This is vital as only 50% of victims that report go onto support prosecution.

They also work to build understanding of hate crime by improving the collection of data analysis and the drivers of hate crime.

Fig 5: Recorded Hate Crime offences 2022/23 (A&S Police Niche)



A hate crime is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race, religion, sexual orientation or disability and motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

The KBSP promotes a zero tolerance towards hate crime and it continues to be a priority for us. In the past 12 months only 11% of hate crime offences resulted in a positive outcome and we know we must do more. The KBSP provides training for its workforce, and we use the local expertise of SARI a voluntary and community sector organisation who supports victims of hate crime to help us. We also promote hate crime awareness week.

Prevent

Bristol City Council received 37% of all referrals in Avon & Somerset between April 22 and March 23. This was the highest of referrals for all local authorities in A&S during that period. This is a 0.14% increase compared to April 21 to March 22.

92% of referrals involved males and 8% females. More than 60% of cases involved individuals aged either under 17 years (32%) or aged between 30 and 50 years (30%). 22% were aged over 50 and 14% aged between 18 and 30 years.

Channel cases increased compared to 2021/22 with 4 cases where young people were the subject, and 6 cases involving adults.

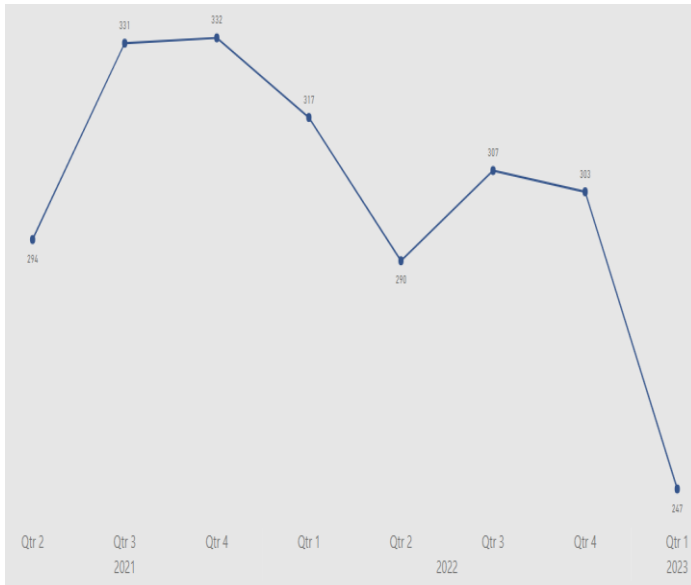


Fig 6: There were 1260 sexual offences recorded in 2021/22 compared to 1129 in 2022/23. (A&S Police Niche)

Fig 7: Serious Violence Offences in Bristol 2022/23 (A&S Police Niche)

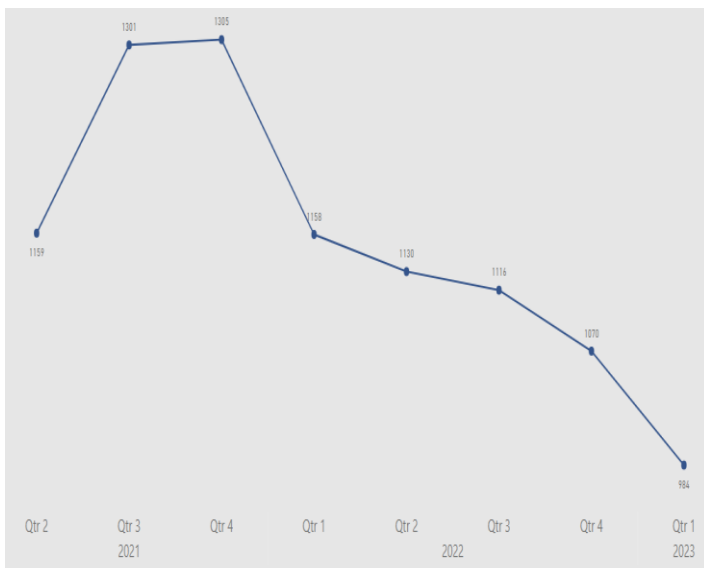


Fig 7: Serious violence has slightly reduced in 2022/23 (4300) when compared to 2021/22 with 4923 offences. The Keeping Communities Safe group have a dedicated Serious violence subgroup which is responsible for the formulation and delivery of a city-wide strategy. This strategy has been informed by a local needs assessment of serious violence (2022/23) and outlines the need to prevent people from committing serious violence by developing resilience and supporting positive alternatives and interventions.

Our Future Priorities for Keeping our Communities Safe

- The formulation of a strategic needs assessment for crime and disorder for Bristol.
- The development and implementation of a domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy and serious violence strategy for Bristol.

- Working in Partnership to provide a multi-agency response to combat drug and alcohol related crime and disorder including promoting a safer night-time economy.
- Addressing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crimes like burglary and vehicle crime
- Promoting community cohesion and tackling hate crime. Recognising multiple disadvantages, discrimination and intersectionality increases safeguarding risks.
- Engaging and educating local communities on community safety issues and working in partnership with other agencies in providing early intervention to help prevent crime, exploitation and radicalisation by extremist groups.
- Development of participation and engagement activity with local communities to gain views and evidence effectiveness of community safety initiatives.

KBSP Effectiveness: Key achievements and outcomes for 2022-2023

Keeping Children Safe

1. Worked successfully with the National Centre of Expertise in Child Sexual Abuse to improve multi-agency skills and practice in safeguarding and supporting children and their families.
2. Introduced the Changing Futures programme which seeks to improve outcomes for individuals from minority communities experiencing multiple and complex disadvantage, particularly young people transitioning into adulthood.
3. Review and promotion of new Harmful Sexual Behaviour multi-agency protocol and refresh of the escalation procedure for practitioners wishing to resolve professional disagreements.
4. Successfully introduced and trained workforce to increase trauma-informed skills and embed practice across the system to challenge victim-blaming and increase public confidence in services.
5. Successful implementation of the Early Help & Family Hubs programme, which strives to provide support and universal services which all families can access, and which can provide a 'gateway' into more targeted support for those who need it.

Keeping Adults Safe

1. The establishment of a Transitional safeguarding group to develop and implement an effective approach to assist young people who are at risk of exploitation to transition successfully into adulthood.
2. Completion of local readiness assessment and upskilling of the adult workforce on the implementation of new Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) which replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and the new Care Quality

Commission (CQC) inspection framework for adult social care KBSP Governance and Resourcing

3. The review of Avon & Somerset wide Regional Adult Safeguarding Policy and refresh of the local Escalation Adult Safeguarding policy for professional disagreements.
4. Development of risk enable toolkit for adult social care staff to improve identification and response to complex safeguarding cases.
5. Successful planning and delivery of Stop Adults Abuse Week in conjunction with other Avon & Somerset Safeguarding Partnerships, this included daily webinars on adult safeguarding themes and can be accessed via the KBSP Website training page.
6. Review of the KBSP Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) guidance and protocols

Community Safety

1. Successfully Published the Joint Local Police and Crime Plan / Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-2026 which details the 7 high level priorities for the Bristol Community Safety Partnership.
2. Rejuvenated the Bristol Strategic Partnership Against Hate Crime (SPAHC) which included A refresh the current hate crime plan, the creation of hate crime dashboard – utilising Power BI to pull data together from a range of partner organisations.
3. Review and standing down of the longstanding High Risk Case Review Panel Development of the new Hate Crime Operational Group (HCOG) which utilises the new dashboard data to identify hotspots, repeat victims, repeat perpetrators and high-risk cases and applying problem solving approaches to reduce incidents and impact.
4. Successfully applied for a Police and Crime grant which was utilised effectively to reduce crime and disorder in the city, some examples of this include:
 - Funding an ASB Problem Solving Partnership Project Officer to coordinate multiagency collaborative projects to reduce locational and cohort specific ASB in the City.
 - Part funding to LifeSkills Immersive Learning Facility – deterring young people from serious violence and the carrying of weapons.
 - Purchase of bleed kits (to be installed imminently in partnership with A&S constabulary.
5. Successfully introduced modern slavery awareness training and hate Crime training for the Partnership workforce on spotting the signs, supporting victims and improve reporting
6. Successfully secured Home Office Safer Streets funding (round 4) in July 2022 - to prevent neighbourhood crime, violence against women & girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Interventions being delivered include community participation, youth work, situational crime prevention such as CCTV and lighting, equalities training, substance misuse harm reduction and the expansion of the Safety for Women at Night agenda.
7. Secured Home Office Prevent grant funding for April 2022 to March 2023 for two specialist posts of Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer ensuring the statutory prevent duty is fulfilled.

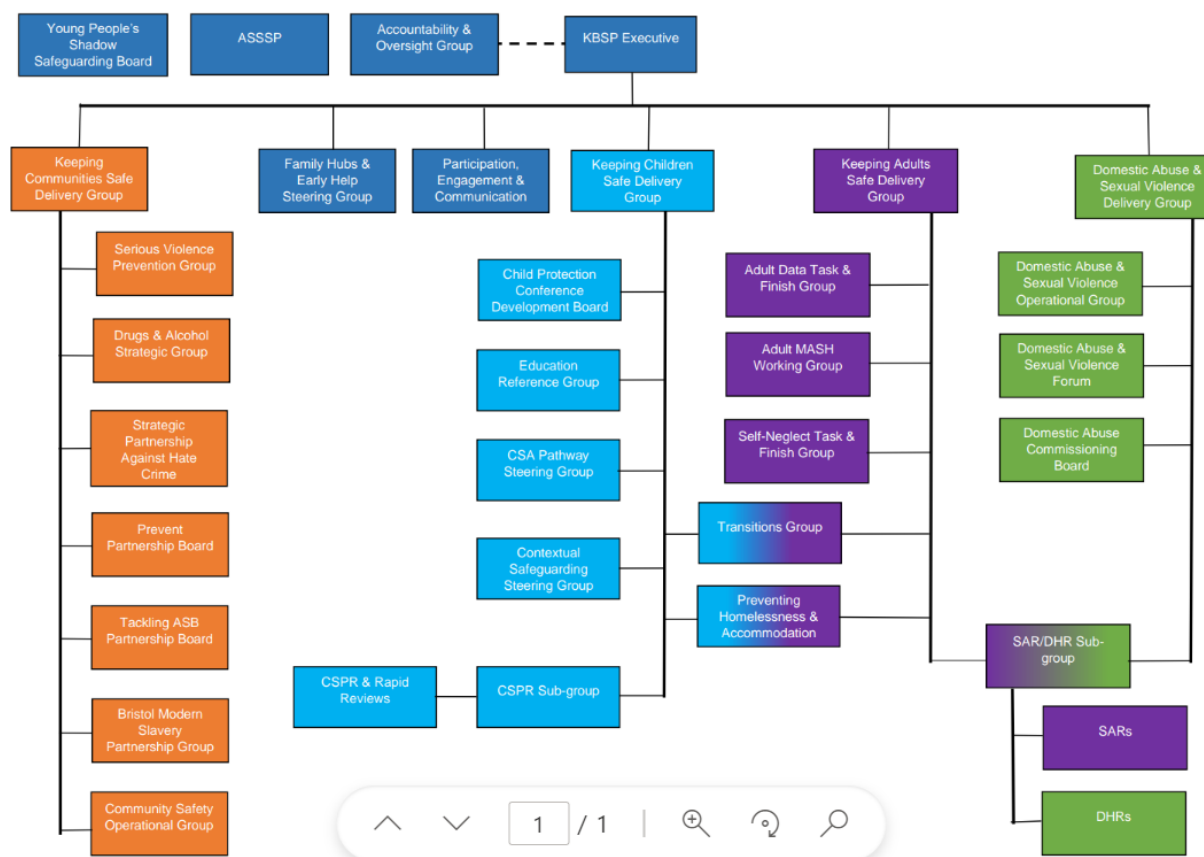
Appendix 1 KBSP Governance and Resourcing for 2022/23

The Partnership oversees the delivery of its statutory duties through the KBSP Executive, which has an Independent Chair, and includes a core membership of Executive Director of Children and Education (DCS) Bristol City Council, Executive Director of Adults (DASS) Bristol City Council, Superintendent of Neighbourhood and Partnerships Avon & Somerset Police, the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board, the Assistant Chief Officer of the Probation Service and the Chief Officer of Avon Fire and Rescue Service.

The Governance arrangements for the KBSP are set out in the [KBSP Constitution](#) document, which replaces the published arrangements document created when the Partnership was created in 2019. Our Constitution is reviewed on a biannual basis unless a review is instigated due to changes within the Partnership or legislation.

In addition to the five statutory partners the KBSP includes representation from the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, a representative from the Voluntary & Community sector and Education Sector (through a nominated Head Teacher) and the Directors from both Children and Families Services and Adult Services.

The current structure of KBSP 2022/23.



The Executive delivers its responsibilities through 6 key delivery groups:

- Keeping Adults Safe group
- Keeping Children Safe group
- Keeping Communities Safe group
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence group
- Serious Youth Violence group
- Participation, Engagement and Communication.

The Keeping Adults Safe and Keeping Childrens Safe groups undertake the delivery of safeguarding adults and children across the city. They are both strategic multi-agency groups which meet quarterly and report directly into the KBSP Executive.

The Keeping Communities Safe group performs the statutory duties of the Community Safety Partnership on behalf of KBSP Executive. This includes the formulation and production of a strategic needs assessment for crime and disorder and working in partnership with the police, criminal justice agencies and others to keep our local communities safe.

In 2022 central Government introduced changes under serious violence legislation placing a new duty on the Partnership to ensure it had a dedicated group to oversee the new requirements. The Serious Violence group delivers this on behalf of the KBSP an also reports progress into the Keeping Communities Safe group.

The KBSP created the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG) in 2021 in response to a legislative duty placed on Partnerships for domestic abuse. The DASVG holds the domestic abuse duty and works closely with the Keeping Communities Safe Group and reports directly to the Executive.

The KBSP also oversee the Early Help & Family Hub Programme. A dedicated group was established in 2022 and the first 3 family hub areas will go live in July 2023. A detailed structure chart and a breakdown of the KBSP budget for 2022/23 can be found at Appendix 1 of this report.

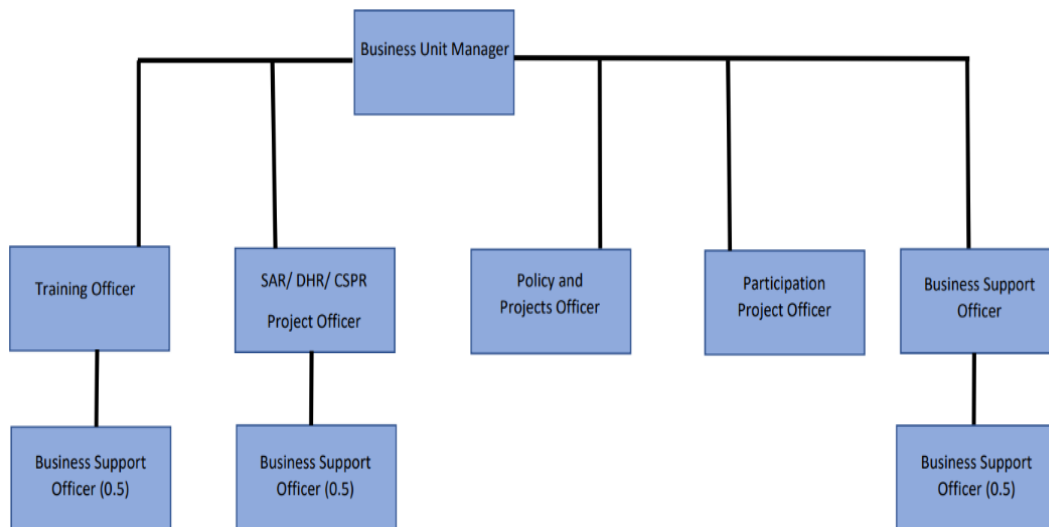
We believe that children and families, adults, carers and the local communities of Bristol must be listened to so that we can understand what matters to them and can make a positive difference into their lives. The Participation, Engagement and Communications (PEC) group works across all the strategic groups to ensure the voices of children, adults and local communities are heard. The group is supported by a dedicated PEC officer who co-ordinates consultation activity, on our plans and priorities sharing good practice, resources and tools in relation to effectively communicating with children, their families and communities, to maximise impact.

KBSP Subgroups

The six strategic groups have several themed subgroups which support the delivery of the KBSP safeguarding priorities. These subgroups have action plans which guide their work, and which enable the reporting of progress and performance back up to the strategic groups and into the Executive.

The Executive is supported by a Safeguarding Business Unit which co-ordinates the work of the partnership. This includes the partnership legislative functions of commissioning and co-ordination of statutory reviews, undertaking statutory audits and quality assurance activity. The unit delivers safeguarding training for the workforce and bespoke learning events and webinars to support learning from national and local reviews. The unit supports the administrative functions of the 6 strategic groups and Executive and co-ordinates participation and engagement activities across children and families, adults and carers and local communities.

KBSP Business Unit structure 2022/23



KBSP Funding for 2022/23.

The contributions from Bristol City Council, BNSSG ICB and Avon & Somerset Police for 2022/23 are as follows:

Contribution towards Business Unit Costs	
Source	Contribution
Bristol City Council	112,931
BNSSG ICB	43,548
A&S Police	25,672
Income generated carry over 21/22	112,584
Total	290,000
Contributions towards Training	
Income from Training 22/23	65,325
BCC Contribution for training	30,000
BNSSG ICB for training	15,000
A&S Police for training	5,500
Total	115,825

The above figures do not include costs associated with the statutory review process for CSPRs, SARs and DHRs.

THEMES FROM REVIEWS

SARs 2022-2023

- ❖ Self-neglect
- ❖ Covid-19
- ❖ Neglect
- ❖ Domestic abuse
- ❖ Exploitation
- ❖ Cuckooing
- ❖ Physical abuse
- ❖ Sexual abuse
- ❖ Financial abuse
- ❖ Emotional abuse
- ❖ Substance use/misuse
- ❖ Safeguarding in supported accommodation
- ❖ Mental health/capacity
- ❖ Complex health needs

DHRs 2022 -2023

- ❖ Coercive & Controlling behaviours
- ❖ Self neglect
- ❖ Substance misuse including alcohol and drugs
- ❖ Post separation harassment and abuse
- ❖ Mental health/capacity
- ❖ Complex health needs

CSPRs/Rapid Reviews 2022/23

Learning from statutory reviews

In 2022/23 the KBSP undertook several statutory reviews. The following tables show the number of reviews started and those ongoing for the period of this report.

Number of SARs					Number of DHRs				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Ongoing	7	8	8	8	Initiated	0	2	1	0
Initiated	1	0	0	0	Ongoing	11	13	14	14
Signed off by KAS board	1	1	0	0	Submitted to Home Office	0	0	3	1
Published	0	0	0	1	Published	1	0	0	0

The KBSP has identified several recurring themes which have appeared frequently across CSPRs, SARs, DHRs and Rapid Reviews. Demonstrating the need for improved information and risk assessment, further development and use of policies, and training and development of the workforce to embed new approaches, improve practice and understanding amongst professionals.

Professional curiosity – This has been highlighted both nationally and in our local reviews as an area for further development. Adults or young people rarely disclose abuse and neglect directly to practitioners which makes identifying and responding to abuse and neglect difficult for practitioners across agencies. The partnership recognises that conditions for practice are key in achieving what has been termed “professional curiosity” as it is not that practitioners are incurious but that systemic conditions can impact their ability to work effectively with individuals. We will be focusing our work on supporting practitioners to have the capacity to maintain reflexivity and curiosity in their work; the multi-disciplinary structures and co-location to aid consideration of multiple perspectives; and the training

and resources to support the development of analytical skills and practice.

The importance of history - Opportunities to reduce the risks to children, young people and adults are often missed because critical information in the family history has not been shared with agencies working with the children/adults. Therefore, interventions to support have not been based on a full understanding of the family history. Family functioning and history is a key part of assessments and includes both genetic and psycho-social factors. The experience and history of parents, and their experience of parenting, will have significant impact on the child's/adults lived experience. As a partnership we have focused on developing technical tools such as the Think Family Database and structures such as new structured decision-making tools to aid joint working, information sharing and embedding a trauma-informed approach across the partnership that considers the underlying needs of an individual or family.

Escalation – The KBSP Escalation policy for Children and Adults was refreshed this year and promoted through our networks and on our website so that all practitioners working with children, young people, adults with care and support needs ensure that their welfare is a priority. We will further encourage confidence and provide support for practitioners in using the escalation policy wherever there are concerns about practice, decision making or resource allocation.

Working with individuals with multiple disadvantage - Our local SARs have identified the growing trend in the complexity of needs for adults presenting to safeguarding and support services. There are many factors contributing to this including pressure on preventative services in the city and the impact of growing poverty and disadvantage. We recognise the need for practitioners to be skilled and confident in working to engage those with complex needs at an earlier stage, and to retain them so the appropriate levels of support and care can be provided to them when they need it. We need to improve our risk management approaches and work collaboratively across agencies to share risk assessments, information and provide targeted support to improve outcomes. This is especially important in supporting adults who self-neglect and victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). This year we have made changes with the adoption of the Child Sexual Abuse Pathway.

Contextual & Transitional Safeguarding – Bristol have made significant progress over the last three years in the identification and support pathways for young people harmed through exploitation and serious violence. This year this has led to a reduction in violence in some of our hotspot areas in the city and a reduction of Violence with Injury offences. Early intervention strategies have, however, identified an increase in young people carrying weapons and rates of serious sexual offences across the city have increases. Recent Rapid Reviews have highlighted the need to improve the earlier identification of those young people who may be at greater risk of exploitation and criminal gangs. In response the police have scaled up Operation Topaz, our specialist exploitation team, to improve disruption of those harming young people experiencing child criminal exploitation. This has led to emerging models for improving victimless prosecution for these groups. We have undertaken a system redesign project as the Bristol Exploitation Collaboration to redesign our pathway to services for child affected by exploitation and violence.

What we learnt from our Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews:



Support that fits into their world, instead of the young person having to fit into a system



Having previously worked with National Partners and the University of Bedfordshire in piloting a contextual safeguarding approach we will us this re-design project in 2023-24 to launch a new service for children and young adults harmed through exploitation and violence. Building improved recovery models and ensure we bridge the gap between children and adult social care to avoid the cliff edge that some young people currently experience on reaching 18 years.

Information Sharing - Local reviews continue to identify issues with multi-agency information sharing and this has also been highlighted nationally. Following a recent self-assessment of our safeguarding system for children and young people we have instigated a partnership review for all Tier 1 and Tier 2 information sharing agreements and protocols and we hope to finalise this work by Autumn 2023

Learning from National Reviews

In May 2022, the National Panel published its findings and recommendations for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk of serious harm. The review examined the circumstances leading up to the deaths of Arthur Labingo-Hughes (in June 2020) and Star Hobson (in September 2020) and considered whether their murders reflected wider national issues in child protection. As part of this work the National Panel also published a briefing note summarising the key learning and main practice/system issues for professionals to reflect on and asked local safeguarding partnerships to complete a self-assessment to consider these in responding to similar child protection cases. In reviewing these cases the National Panel found the following:

- Weaknesses in information sharing and seeking within and between agencies. A lack of robust critical thinking and challenge within and between agencies, compounded by a failure to trigger statutory multi-agency child protection processes at several key moments.
- A need for sharper specialist child protection skills and expertise, especially in relation to complex risk assessment and decision making; engaging reluctant parents; understanding the daily life of children; and domestic abuse.
- A need for leadership and management to underpin the above and which has a powerful enabling impact on child protection practice and creates and protects the optimum organisational context for undertaking this complex activity.

These are not new issues and both local and national reviews have previously reported similar concerns in these areas which safeguarding partnerships need to focus on and make necessary improvements. In responding to the National Panel, the KBSP have identified the need to improve its current practice and have assurance in the following areas:

- An immediate review of all current information sharing arrangements and protocols across the KBSP.
- The review of its current multi-agency strategy discussions to ensure the arrangements for conducting strategy discussion meetings are robust, with appropriate membership and are taking place in a timely and responsive way.
- Sufficient representation (including health, VCS and Education) and appropriate resources are in place from across all partnership agencies to allow for the necessary multi-agency engagement in child protection processes e.g., strategy discussions, section 47 enquiries and Initial Child Protection Conferences.
- Further improve the collection and analysis of children's safeguarding data to highlight areas of concern and support professionals to protect and safeguard children and young people.
- Provide training to improve engagement with families, and further develop professional curiosity and cultural competency across the KBSP workforce. Ensuring any referral received is not deemed malicious without a full and

thorough multi-agency assessment, including talking with the referrer, and agreement with a manager.

- Continue to develop our multi-agency support and practice in relation to domestic abuse including co-location of domestic abuse specialist workers within our family in focus teams.

Learning from the themes highlighted by the National Panel also include the need to continue to develop our practice frameworks to take account of intersectional thinking to explore how ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, and other social factors including age and how poverty shapes the identities and experiences of children and families. This will be especially important in developing our contextual safeguarding approach and in addressing serious violence and criminal exploitation, the impact of prejudice, bias, and disproportionality.

What we learnt from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews:



<p>Need for trusted and consistent relationships for adults with self-neglect.</p> <p>Need to improve risk management and multiagency responses for complex cases</p>	<p>Improve information & data sharing amongst agencies.</p> <p>Upskilling and training of workforce on MCA, domestic abuse and coercive control.</p> <p>Improved knowledge and pathways for transitional safeguarding and all age exploitation</p>	<p>Promotion of local directory of services and activities for adults</p> <p>Implementation of risk management tool for ASC</p> <p>Review of self-neglect pathways and procedures</p>	<p>Establishment of local MARM to manage risk for complex cases in absence of MASH.</p> <p>Improve quality assurance activity for adult safeguarding to check effectiveness of system and support CQC inspections.</p>
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Quality Assurance activities enable the KBSP and its partner organisations to monitor compliance with policies and procedures; evidence strengths and good practice; identify gaps and areas for development; drive learning and service improvement. The monitoring of the KBSP safeguarding response is set out below and recorded and monitored within the KBSP Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) the QAF is reported to the Executive on a six-monthly basis at the end of Q2 & Q4.

- Multi Agency Data
- Self-Assessment audits
- Statutory safeguarding audits, including S11& S175

- Multi-agency thematic audits
- Inspection findings
- Assurance reporting by partner agencies
- Service User feedback
- Evaluation of multi-agency training

The KBSP delivery groups report data and performance at their meetings, and this is reported to the Executive and the Accountability and Oversight Group on a six-monthly basis at Q2 & Q4. Further information on the KBSP data can be found in the appendices of this document.

Independent Scrutineer

The role of the independent scrutineer is primarily focussed on how well the statutory safeguarding partners are working together and with any relevant agencies and organisations, to ensure that local children are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted.

The Independent Scrutiny function is delivered by the Independent Chair of the KBSP. The areas of scrutiny framework activity during this reporting period are identified below.

The continuing year on year areas of scrutiny activity are:

- Scrutiny and challenge of data provision to the board
- Seeking assurance on the 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
- Engagement with West of England child death overview panel in respect of findings of annual report
- Engagement with local authority designated officer annual report
- Engagement with Safer Options (violence reduction unit) annual report

2022-23 Scrutiny framework activity:

April 2022 the Scrutineer reviewed use of graded care profile 2 and confirmed training modules available for staff and the profile of multi-agency attendance at these.

Bristol services provided evidence to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The Independent Chair contributed to that process. In May 2022 he attended the partnership workshop to consider the response to the organised abuse strand. In year scrutiny activity has been to pursue the outcomes of that workshop.

May 2022 the Scrutineer reviewed progress against the ten open action plans for rapid reviews across Bristol and took as an agenda item to the executive group to ensure they were fully sighted on them and for their action where barriers to progress existed.

May 2022 the Scrutineer confirmed that Local Youth Justice Board was operating in line with national guidance and was taking account of quarterly performance data on reducing the number of first-time entrants to the system, reducing reoffending and reducing the use of custody, improving resettlement and transitions outcomes (and comparison with YJS families as well as examining national averages) and;

Locally agreed performance data and indicators (for example caseload size, the profile and needs of the youth justice and out of court cohorts, demographics, disproportionality, numbers of children held in police custody, remand and custodial episodes, children requiring resettlement support and transitions to probation and other adult services)

The scrutineer provided an 'areas for assurance' report in respect of the learning from the Solihull joint targeted area inspection and Child Protection in England, presented to the partnership board and subject of multi-agency self-assessment and supporting action plan. This includes an ongoing action regarding the experience and wait times for children accessing CAMHS and specialist care provision.

The scrutineer has ensured that the partnership has reflected on local learning from case reviews and engaged directly with the national panel in the regional workshops held during this reporting year.

Other areas subject of scrutiny activity has been the partnership and police response to the learning from Child Q, in particular stop and search data provision and scrutiny. Feedback and reference to effective practice examples on the revision of the thresholds guidance document. Chaired the multi-agency case file audit on child sexual abuse, which demonstrated relevant elements for action planning but also the effectiveness of the audit process itself. Lastly the scrutineer has personally been involved in the development board discussions to improve the accessibility of parents and carers to the child protection conferencing process, which is being informed by those with lived experience.

Under the adults and community safety portfolio the scrutineer has pursued the police response to the national adults missing framework and has engaged with the Home Office regarding the update and revision of the Statutory Guidance for the conduct of domestic homicide reviews.

The role of the independent scrutineer is primarily focussed on how well the statutory safeguarding partners are working together and with any relevant agencies and organisations, to ensure that local children are safeguarded, and their welfare promoted. The role of the Independent Scrutineer is held by the Independent Chair of the KBSP. The areas of scrutiny framework activity during this reporting period are identified below.

Independent Scrutiny

As well as the challenge and oversight brought through the independent Chair who has held the scrutineer role since September 2019, elected members also have oversight of the KBSP performance and effectiveness through the Accountability and Oversight Group which meets on a quarterly basis and receives detailed presentations on the current performance of the KBSP against its strategic plan and operational business plan. This annual report will also be presented to this group.

The partnership is committed to involving young people and adults and works closely with the youth shadow board, whose activity this year has focussed on quality assuring our first response assessment service and campaigns to promote the mental health and wellbeing of our young people. We have also established a domestic abuse forum which provided information and lived experience to our colleagues in Public Health in the commissioning of local domestic abuse services.

Adult Self-Assessment (ASA)

The Adult Self-Assessment (ASA) Audit is a tool which is used by the Partnership to on a biannual basis to evidence and assure itself against its Safeguarding Responsibilities under the Care Act (2014) and the effectiveness of their local adult safeguarding arrangements. The five Avon & Somerset Safeguarding Partnerships work in collaboration on the 2021/22 audit, and we continue to work in conjunction with commissioners to increase the annual involvement of services. The next ASA will be undertaken during the reporting period of 2023/24.

Section 11 Audit

The section 11 audit was undertaken in conjunction with the four neighbouring authority areas of Avon & Somerset. Each Safeguarding Partnership identified three local organisations to participate in peer reviews and local reports with recommendations were published. The KBSP continues to collaborate with commissioners and through its network to annually increase the reach of the section 11 audit across the city.

Recommendations from the S11 2022 Peer Reviews included:

The KBSP to promote effective information sharing amongst all agencies and all KBSP member organisations should undertake a review of current policy and procedures on

Findings:

Robust mandatory inductions for newly recruited staff within organisations

100% Named Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) within organisations

Good evidence of Involvement of YP on interview panels and the voice of the child in development and improvement of services

Good network of agencies and local VCS expertise to support Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation

Further promotion of training offer needed and QA evaluation of training effectiveness within organisations

Improved induction to KBSP to be developed

New safeguarding forum to create a centre of excellence across the city

information sharing and include guidance for their staff on when and how this can be shared including sharing information between statutory and VCS organisations.

The KBSP to consider improved arrangements for those staff who work shift patterns when organising Strategy meetings, to maximise VCS practitioners contributions.

The creation of an introductory guidance/induction pack for new agencies and organisations joining the KBSP and the KBSP to investigate the establishment of central system to record consultation and engagement activity to reduce consultation fatigue.

To continue to develop training QA evaluation to track trends and ensure the training is effective, improving practice and informing future workforce development plans.

The KBSP to further promote their training eg on the NRM and improve workforce knowledge and confidence in responding to modern slavery concerns.

The KBSP to scope and develop a forum for local practitioners and managers to develop a centre of excellence approach to safeguarding across the city.

The KBSP have recently produced their next 3 year (2023-2026) Strategic Plan. This has involved consulting with professionals and local communities, considering local data and strategic needs assessments for crime, and those produced by public health colleagues including strategic assessment for drugs and alcohol and local housing needs. A partnership planning day was held in February 2023 and was attended by the Executive Members, Chairs for the 6 strategic groups, elected members and senior officers who support the work of the partnership.

This event and recent consultations identified the priorities of our new strategic plan, and we will formally launch this at the next Partnership event on 6th October 2023. We will report the progress against these in our future Annual Reports. These included:

Children	Adults	Communities
Build on Children’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements to improve the co-ordination of safeguarding responses, promote improved information sharing and better decision making.	To continue to work with partners on the creation of an adult MASH and improve the multi-agency co-ordination, risk management and response for those suffering from complex safeguarding issues eg self-neglect, dual diagnosis	Combating Drugs by working in partnership with other agencies Reducing drug and alcohol related crime and disorder, including that linked to the night economy and provide support for those affected by harmful drug use.
An alignment of MARAC to the Children’s MASH as a priority recognising children can be victims in witnessing (hearing and	Self-neglect is a priority for the partnership including the improvement of risk management approaches,	Prevent and reduce serious violence across the city by working in partnership with agencies to provide effective

seeing) domestic abuse and violence in the home and as older adolescents who may have their own abusive relationships	which has been identified in local SARs and in national reviews	interventions especially for those aged up to 25 years.
Improved effectiveness of strategy meetings, S 47 procedures and improving its Joint Investigations and Best Evidence Interviews	Safeguarding those who are experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantages.	Modern Slavery in support of the Avon & Somerset approach to identify and disrupt organised networks and provide support via NRM for individuals who are trafficked and exploited
Protect and support young people at risk of exploitation and serious violence by using a contextual safeguarding approach	To work in collaboration with neighbouring local authority areas to strengthen information sharing and better protect individuals and families who are seeking refuge and fleeing war and living in emergency accommodation eg hotels	To continue to work with other agencies to tackle Antisocial Behaviour and reassure local communities they are safe.
Work with the Centre of Excellence for Child Sexual Abuse in the development of new policies, procedures, and pathways to improve safeguarding outcomes for young people who have been victims of sexual abuse	Establish a transitional approach to safeguarding 16-25 years who may need additional help to transition into adulthood successfully, recognising some young people may have vulnerabilities which increase their risk of being exploited.	Reducing and protecting women and girls from violence by development and implementation of a local VAWG strategy and in undertaking multi-agency initiatives to tackle this issue
Improve transparency around children's social care by developing and sharing more online resources for children and parents and by engaging the lived experience of parents who have previously been involved in the child protection system.	Continue to work in partnership with the neighbouring authorities across Avon & Somerset on Stop Adult Abuse Week to raise awareness of safeguarding issues amongst professionals and local communities	Ensuring effective and co-ordinated Channel/Prevent process to protect and support young people from radicalisation by extremist groups
Children with the most acute mental health needs need good joint working between CAMHS, Children's Social Care, health, and	Ensure the workforce is trained in taking a trauma informed approach and understand the requirements of the of new Liberty Protection	Preventing and Reducing incidents of Hate Crime and improve our support for victims

<p>education. There is a need to improve this system and ensure more children get the right support, looking into CAMHS therapeutic offer and resolving the current issues around the delayed discharge of children from hospitals</p>	<p>Safeguards and the new Care Quality Commission Inspection Framework for Adult Social Care</p>	
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Approval of the Annual Report

This annual report was approved by the KBSP Executive on 3 October 2023. 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, Bristol City Council
- Director of Adult Social Services, Bristol City Council
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Keeping Children’s Safe Delivery group.
- The Keeping Communities Safe Delivery Group
- The Keeping Adults Safe Delivery Group

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 KBSP Training and Development
- Appendix 2 LADO Performance Report
- Appendix 3 Safeguarding Children in Education Team data
- Appendix 4 Avon & Somerset Police Data

Appendix 1 KBSP Training & Development

Figure 1. Course Attendance

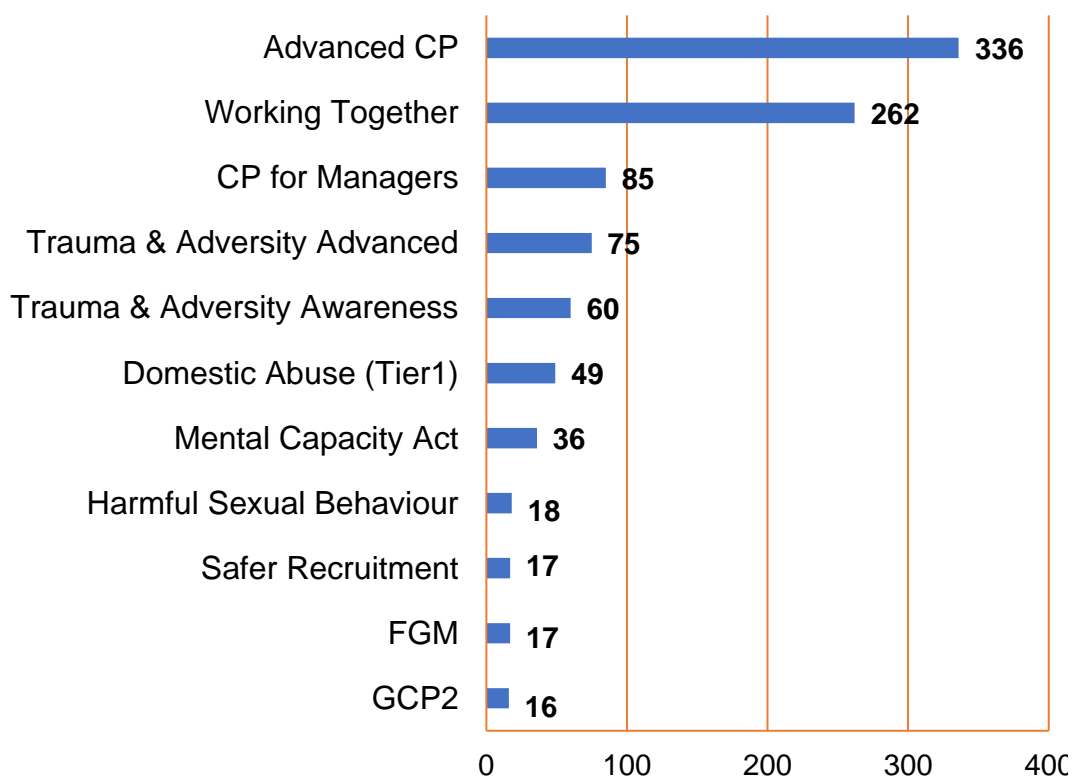


Figure 1:
Course
attendance
data

During April 2022 - March 2023 the total number of professionals attending inter-agency training with the KBSP were 969 delegates.

The KBSP training team delivered courses covering a range of safeguarding topics relating to children, adults and community safety. These courses include lived experience from Bristol citizens, to ensure their voices and experiences are directly reflected in our training courses.

The KBSP have also commissioned or partnered with independent trainers to deliver specialist topics such as Advanced Trauma & Adversity, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Mental capacity Act training. Please note that there were many attendees who booked for KBSP training but failed to attend their session therefore preventing other colleagues being able to utilise the space.

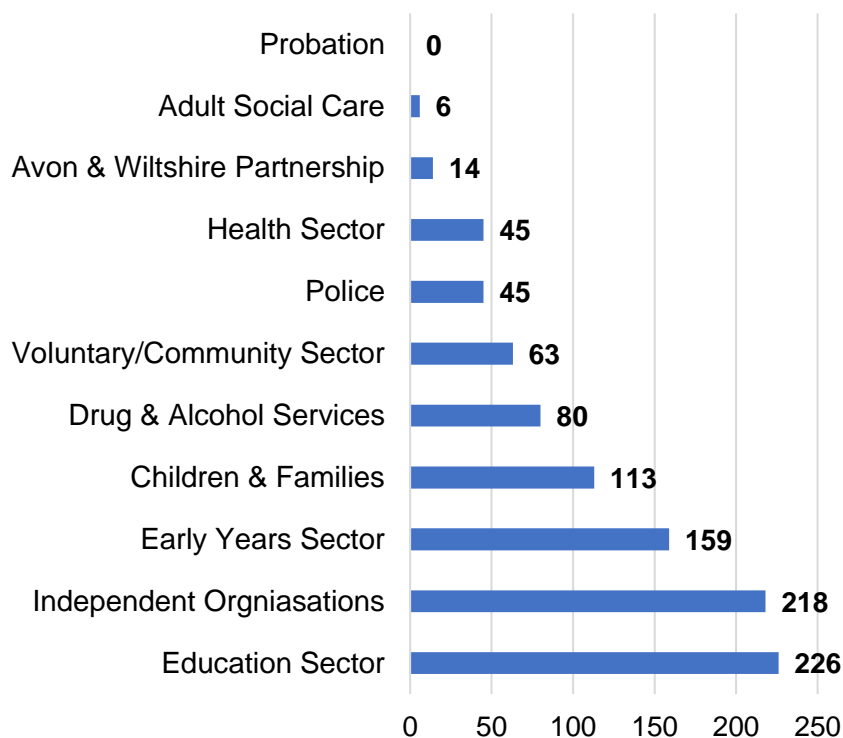


Figure 2: Attendance by agency data 2022-2023

The KBSP delivers and evaluates a high-quality inter-agency programme of learning opportunities that meets the development needs of the local children, adult, and community's workforce. These courses are attended by a variety of agencies across the city, including local authority social care staff, education, housing, police, and voluntary and community sector organisations. Please note there was no data available for voluntary/community sector for 2021-22

Inter-agency training opportunities for 2022–2023 included:

Working Together: Our Shared Responsibility – Initial/Intro course (Core course)

Advanced Child Protection for Safeguarding Leads and Specialist practitioners (Core course)

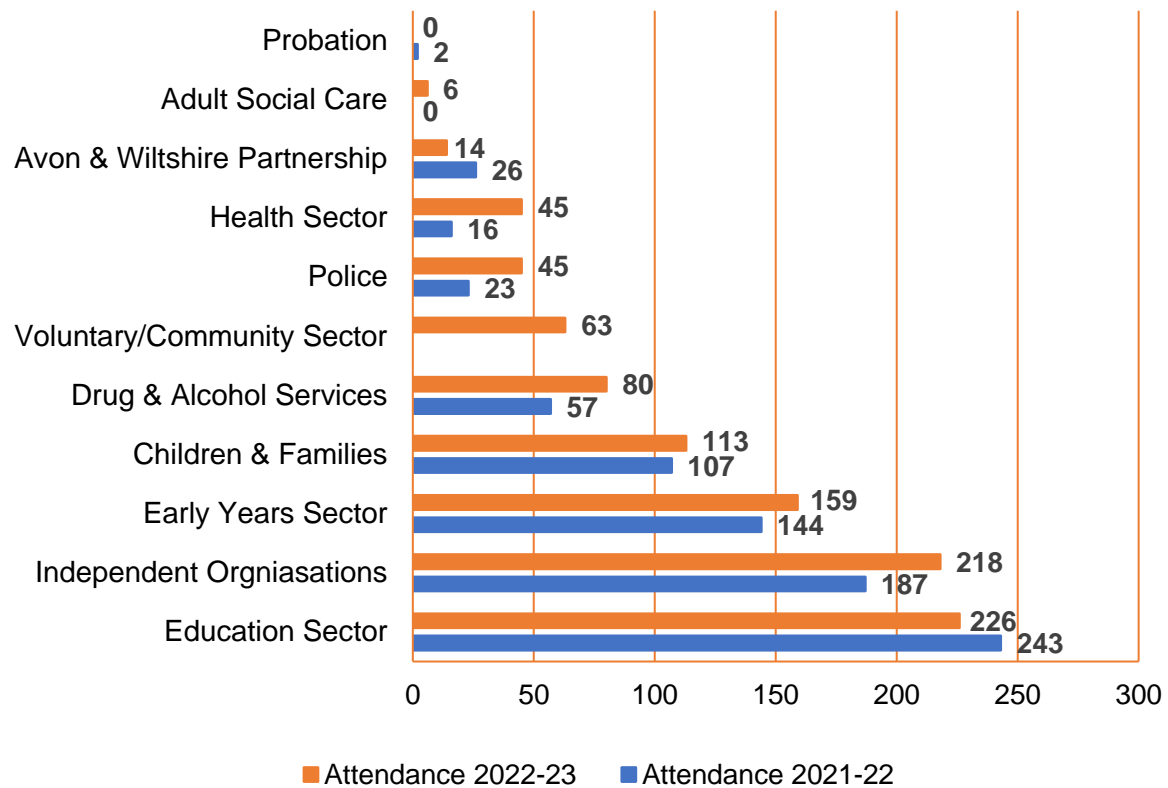
- Child Protection for Managers (Core course)
- Introduction to Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Tier 1 (Specialist course)
- Safer Recruitment (Specialist course)
- Tackling FGM; A Compassionate Approach to Working with our Communities within the Bristol model (Specialist course)
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour (Specialist course)
- Mental Capacity Act – Delivered by Dialogue (Specialist course)
- Trauma and Adversity Advanced training – Delivered by KCA (Specialist course)
- Trauma and Adversity Awareness sessions (free specialist course)
- Graded Care Profile 2 (Specialist course- Bristol's licenced neglect toolkit)

The KBSP training team have also provided 4 bitesize webinars on a range of safeguarding and community safety topics in keeping with the partnership priorities. These sessions are recorded so they are accessible for all. These can be found on the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website (bristolsafeguarding.org) Topics for webinars 2022–2023 included:

- Arthur and Star – National Panel Child Safeguarding Practice review- Child Protection system in England
- Harmful sexual behaviour protocol
- Self-neglect (in support of Stop Adult Abuse Week)
- Courageous conversations with families

The KBSP trainer has also been commissioned for 8 bespoke single agency training sessions to agencies who have requested additional training on safeguarding related themes.

Fig 3 Attendance compared to previous year



Feedback from attendees:

The KBSP training officer was a great trainer, very engaging and respectful for everyone's needs and experiences.

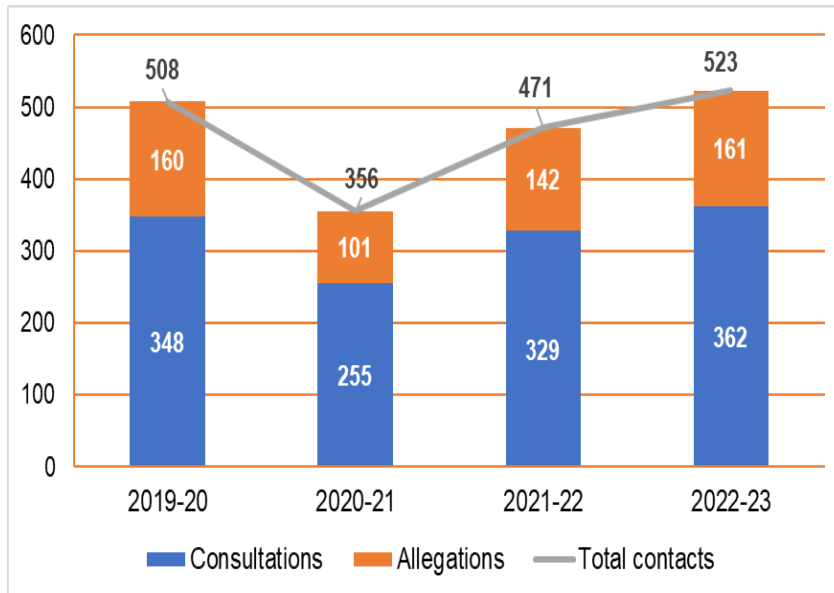
The training was well run and the trainer, was so approachable and friendly and helped everyone to interact without feeling nervous or judged.

The trainer was amazing at facilitating the training. She was able to keep the interest of everyone and make it inclusive and participative keeping everyone interested.

The trainer was incredible, very knowledgeable, respectful, caring, passionate and engaging - I loved her teaching style.

Appendix 2: The Work of the LADO

The below chart Fig 1 shows the number of consultations allegations and contacts year on year from 2019 when the KBSP was established to 31 March 2023.

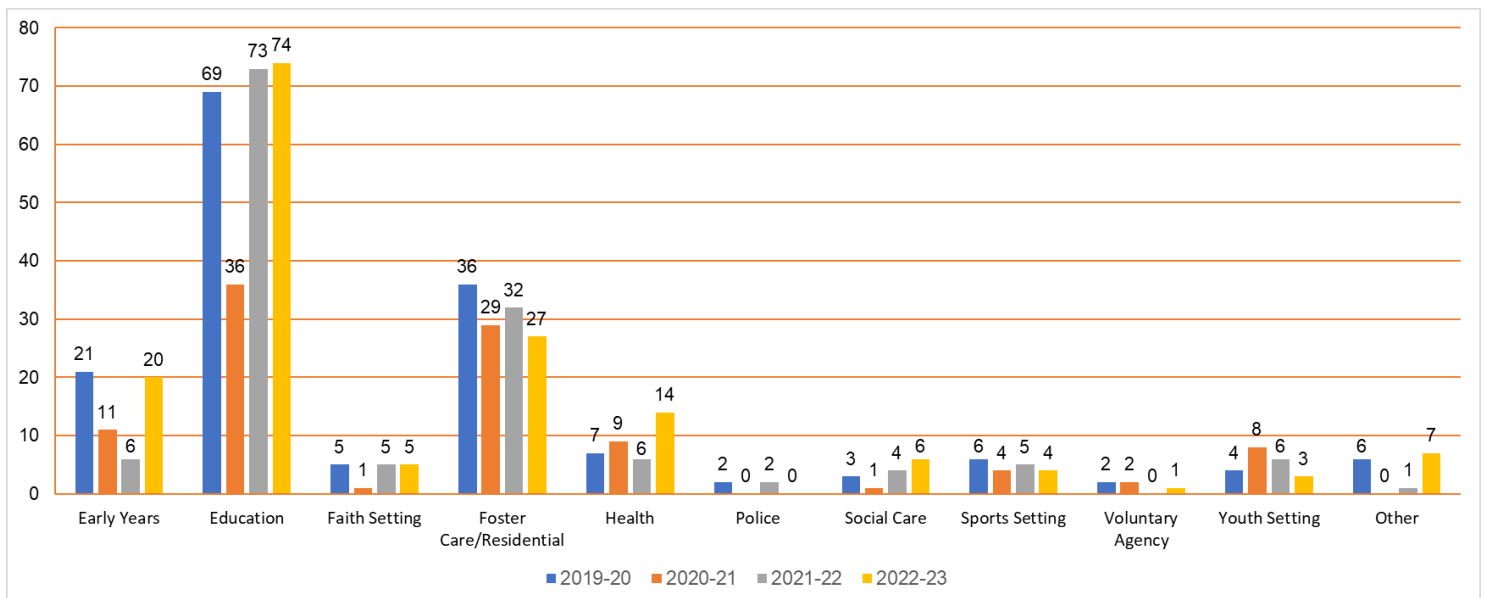


The number of overall contacts to LADO was 523 and number of those which hit the threshold in line with WT18 definition was 161.

The number of consultations undertaken, or which were categorised as low-level concerns were 362 during 2022-2023.

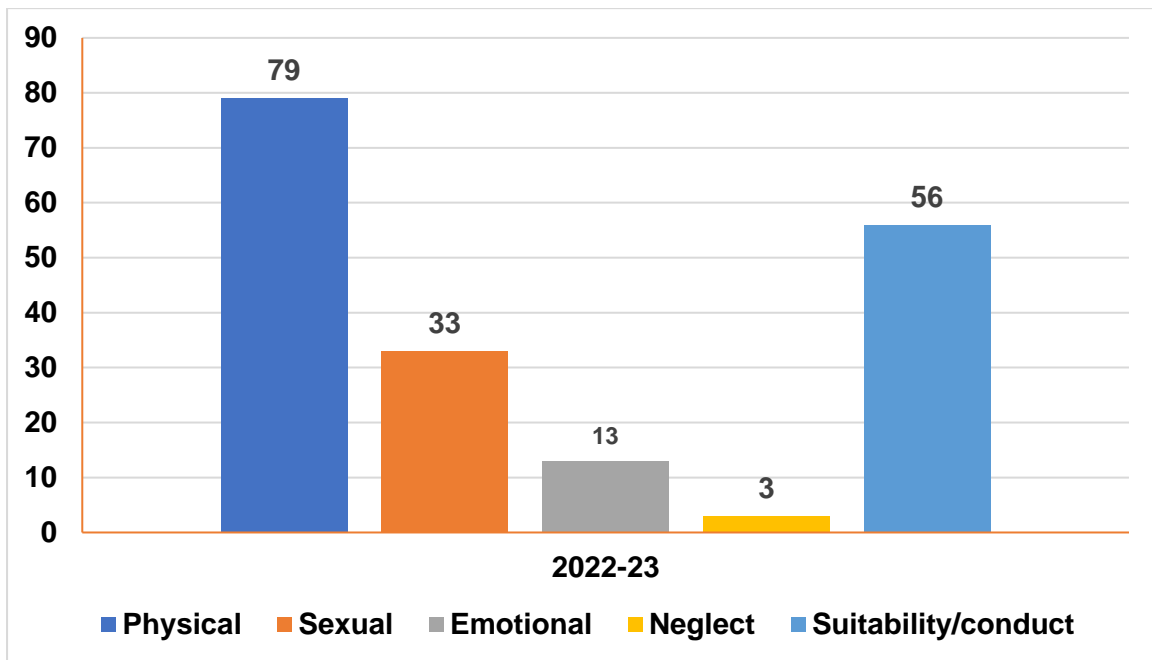
The number of referrals for 2022/23 was 161 when compared to the previous year (142 2021-2022) This constitutes an increase of 13%

Fig 2: Chart showing number and source of consultations, allegations and contacts made year on year from 2019 to 31 March 2023



Of the 161 referrals, 74 related to concerns or allegations of education staff.

Fig 3: Chart showing types of abuse for 2022-2023.



Appendix 3 - Safeguarding in Education Team

The Safeguarding and Education Team (SET) provide information, support and training for the educational workforce. They undertake activities related to S.175 (1) of the Education Act 2002 which places a duty on the Local Authority to make arrangements to ensure their education functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The team work with all educational establishments in Bristol on the Local Authority's behalf to ensure that settings comply with their own legal duties (reflective of their status) to promote the safety welfare of children.

The Safeguarding in Education Team undertake the following activities to achieve this:

Responding to deficits in practice.

The team have responded to complaints from professionals, Ofsted, groups and parents. When a deficit in practice is identified, a School Safeguarding Advisor will meet with the headteacher/principal and the local governing body/multi-academy trust to review practice, procedures and policy to test whether there is a need for further support or intervention in accordance with the [Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance](#)

Complaint figures have increased year by year. The increase is reflected both regionally and nationally. This may reflect the vulnerability within the education sector and the increased vulnerability of communities from wider contextual issues such as recovering from the pandemic, the wider political awareness of SEND and racism, and the current fiscal climate.

Number of complaints dealt with by SET 2022/23

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (to date)
54	79	85

Keys reasons for complaints have been:

- Unresolved issues around child-on-child harm.
- Management of behaviour and inclusion

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OFFER

The following training is made available through the SET:

- ❖ DSL Training
- ❖ DSL Refresher Training

Courses required of the Local Safeguarding partnership (mandatory)

- ❖ Police Safeguarding Notification Briefing.
- ❖ Graded Care Profile 2

Specialist courses (optional):

- ❖ Adverse Childhood Experiences Ambassador course for Education (FREE)
- ❖ Tackling Child Exploitation in Education training.
- ❖ Tackling Domestic Abuse Training.
- ❖ Tackling Female Genital Mutilation Training.
- ❖ Undertaking investigations training.
- ❖ Safeguarding Governors Training
- ❖ Children Affected by Parental Offending

- Lack of provision for children with Special Educational Needs.
- Leadership and management
- The setting's response to prejudice related bullying.
- Poor engagement with the parent/carer about their child.

The Safeguarding Audit (s.175 Audit)

The S 175 audit is a mechanism to attempt to get a view from Bristol settings around their duties. This was due to take place for the academic year 2022-23 but been delayed due to capacity within the team. The purpose of the audit which is bi-annual is to support governors and staff to consider what good practice looks like rather than being a 'tick box' exercise. Can reflect growth and movement evidencing work for regulatory bodies.

A working party has been established to convene data collection to standardise and provide a methodology for the regular collation of data from the education workforce. This will enable settings, children and families to be prioritised with targeted support.

Safeguarding Reviews

This academic year, the Safeguarding in Education Team have conducted four reviews. These independent reviews consider the compliance with statutory guidance and the effectiveness of procedures, policy and practice. Provide reassurance from regulatory bodies either in preparation or following an inspection and can enable the benchmarking of performance following a change in leadership.

Training and CPD

- There have been 179 new colleagues who have completed the Designated Safeguarding Lead training.
- There have been 187 who have completed Designated Safeguarding Lead refresher training.
- The [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) requires that all members of the governing body require safeguarding training which provides them with the skills and knowledge needed to carry out their roles, the Safeguarding in Education Team have been commissioned through the governors development service to deliver this and 4 sessions have taken place this academic year which have been oversubscribed, due to the interest shown.
- There have been six Designated Safeguarding Lead networks covering a range of topical safeguarding areas and which support colleagues to develop their skills and knowledge in this area.

- In collaboration with the Local Authority Designated Officer there have been two workshops delivered to support the workforce on dealing with low level concerns and managing those that meet the harm test.

The Safeguarding in Education Team have recently joined the new KBSP training platform and in future will use this to publish online versions of courses to improve accessibility and flexibility of learning. [The Bristol Safeguarding in Education Website](#) also continues to be developed to ensure that resources are accessible and local/national updates are curated.

KBSP Education Reference Group

The group meets 6 times a year and seeks to develop policy and practice to support safeguarding in schools including:

- Healthy Schools - Pupil voice survey results
- Learning from serious incidents and statutory reviews.
- Think family education app
- City Wide Safeguarding data
- Child on child working group
- Operation Encompass conversation from the Bristol Safeguarding Notification Scheme
- Bristol's EHCP process evaluation work with the Centre of Systemic Social Work.
- Young carers census and identifying young carers.

Operation Encompass and the Bristol Safeguarding Notification Scheme

This scheme is designed to provide timely information sharing within the education sector and provide trauma informed approaches to managing behaviour for children who have witnessed domestic abuse which has resulted in police attending their homes. The Safeguarding in Education Team process notifications to education settings, prioritising those with the highest risk. Data from consultation the Designated Safeguarding Leads in the Education Workforce indicates the negative impact for Bristol children in the following:

- suspension (4.76%)
- permanent exclusions (2.38%)
- significant harm experienced for a child (38.10%)
- decrease in attendance (40.48%)
- poorer education outcomes (35.71%).
- delay in early help and or mental health support (47.62%).

It is acknowledged that education contributions to statutory reviews (Child Safeguarding Practice reviews, Adult Safeguarding Reviews and Domestic Homicide

reviews) have nearly all referenced the Bristol Safeguarding Notification Scheme as helpful and can improve welfare and educational outcomes for children.

Going forward into the next academic year the team will focus on:

- The alignment of existing materials (information sharing protocol, paper work and training) for the Bristol Safeguarding Notification Scheme under the Operation Encompass banner.
- Develop and embed the use of the Think Family Education App for statutory school aged settings. This will not replace the notification system but provide a timely alert (but with no details) to settings where attendance data is shared with the Local Authority.
- Address long term resourcing within the team to ensure that the backlog of safeguarding schools notifications is managed more effectively and in a timely manner.

Appendix 4: Avon & Somerset Police Data

The data below was produced for the period of 2022/23 and provides the Constabulary's data submission for Bristol. The data covers the 12-month period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 and the preceding 12 months for comparison.

Child Protection

The “Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)” in the attached table are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. The measure was considered by the former 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.

Child Protection	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	433	481	-48	-10.0%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	109	122	-13	-10.7%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	162	161	+1	+0.6%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect	99	106	-7	-6.6%

The above table shows that the volume of recorded “Child Protection” crimes in Bristol fell by 10.0%, or by 48 crimes, in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months, falling to 433 crimes. This fall should be viewed in the context of sustained increases across the last decade and is just above the 7.3% fall recorded across the force area. These falls are not the result of changes in recording practices and represent an actual decline in identified offences.

The fall in recorded offences in 2022/23, compared with 2021/22, is most likely to be attributable to the marked increase in volumes recorded in 2021/22 as children had increased contact with professionals following the removal of measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the population. Care should be taken not to conclude that the prevalence of child abuse has fallen in the last 12 months. Demand on the system from Child Abuse offences remains high and the long-term trend remains one of significant growth. The volume of reported Child Abuse offences is expected to continue to increase at a moderate to high rate.

Within the broad measure of “Child Protection” crimes, there were small falls in recorded offences in Bristol in 2 of the 3 offence groups selected previously by the former local safeguarding children boards for reporting. Recorded Child Protection

Serious Sexual Offences fell by 10.7% or 13 crimes, a smaller rate of reduction than the 18.1% fall recorded across the force area. Recorded child neglect offences fell by 7 crimes, or by 6.6%, contrasting with the 7.6% increase across the force area. The volume of non-familial sexual offences against children in Bristol remained almost unchanged across the 2 periods, rising by 1 crime to 162 crimes, contrasting with the 8.0% decrease recorded across the force area.

Child Sexual Exploitation	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	196	220	-24	-10.9%

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a Home Office “offence type” and CSE offending is made up of a wide range of offences. A CSE flag is therefore attached to qualifying offences on police systems through an automated process. The number of Child Sexual Exploitation tagged offences in Bristol fell in the last 12 months, compared with the previous 12 months, by 10.9% or by 24 crimes to 196 crimes in total. This fall is 16.9 percentage points smaller than the 27.8% fall recorded across the force area. As highlighted in past commentaries, changes in this measure can be difficult to interpret, given that it measures both the effectiveness of activity to reveal this often “hidden” form of abuse and increase recognition and reporting, and the effectiveness of activity to prevent sexual exploitation, including repeat victimisation. This measure shows wide fluctuations in identified offences and the reductions reported here should not be interpreted as indicating a decline in the prevalence of CSE.

Safety and Anti-Bullying	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	624	719	-95	-13.2%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	1533	1553	-20	-1.3%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	2740	3215	-475	-14.8%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Aged 16 - 17	60	62	-2	-3.2%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	1002	1035	-33	-3.2%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	24	37	-13	-35.1%

The overall number of child victims of all crime types in Bristol fell by 33 victims to 1002 victims in the last 12 months, or by 3.2% compared with the previous 12 months. This fall contrasts with the 3.5% increase recorded across the force area. The number of child suspects of all crime types in Bristol in the last 12 months fell by 13.2% to 539 child suspects. This fall contrasts with the 2.7% increase recorded across the force area.

The number of Domestic Abuse Crimes with a victim aged 16 or 17 recorded in Bristol fell by 2 crimes in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months. The 3.2% fall is below the 7.7% fall recorded across the force area as whole.

The number of child victims of recorded Race Hate Crimes fell to 24 victims in the last 12 months from 37 victims in the previous 12 months. All forms of Hate Crime are

subject to a high degree of under-reporting, and it can reasonably be concluded that the actual levels are greater than the levels reported to the police.

Missing Children	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	149	107	+42	+39.3%
Number of Missing Children Reports	448	373	75	20.1%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	68	68	0	0.0%
Number of Children Missing from Care	14	13	+1	+7.7%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	7	10	-3	-30.0%

Missing Children

149 children were reported missing in Bristol in the last 12 months, rising by 42 children or by 39.3% compared with the previous 12 months. 68 of these children were reported missing repeatedly, unchanged from the number reported in the previous 12 months. The number of missing children reports rose to 448 in the last 12 months compared with 373 in the previous 12 months, an increase of 20.1%, just below the 23.5% rise recorded across the force area. By contrast, the number of children missing from care rose by just one child to 14 children in the last 12 months. The number of children going missing from care repeatedly fell by 3 children to 7 children.

Supplementary measures

In addition to the police measures originally agreed, the Constabulary has been providing the Partnership with supplementary data.

Initial Child Protection Conferences

The Police attended 63 of the 68 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) in held Bristol in the fourth quarter of 2022/23. Case Conference Officers did not attend 2 of the ICPCs held in March 2023 as the invitations described them as review conferences, which the Constabulary generally does not have the capacity to attend. The Police attended 95.6% of all ICPCs held in Bristol in 2022/23 (219 of 229).

Use of Police Protection Powers

Across the force area, the Constabulary used police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 on 318 occasions in the last 12 months, compared with 320 occasions in the previous 12 months. Whilst the volume remains high compared with historical levels, the data shows that the volume has stabilised when viewed at the level of the Force area.

The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues whereby 17 records in the last 12 months were not linked to a beat code. By contrast with the force-wide picture, the number of occasions when the Constabulary used police protection powers linked to beat codes in Bristol fell markedly in the last 12 months, by 42.1% to 73 occasions in the last 12 months.

The Avon & Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership established a Task and Finish Group to examine the possible causes of the increases in circumstances giving rise to the need to use these emergency powers and possible solutions. A baseline

report from police data has been produced as part of this work and has been shared with the Directors of Children's Services.

Children in Custody

In the last 12 months, 382 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address was in Bristol, were arrested and brought into custody, 18 of whom were charged and detained. Of these 382 children and young people, 106 were arrested and brought into custody in the fourth quarter of 2022/23, 4 of whom were charged and detained.