

# Bristol Children Exploitation Collaboration



Project Update Session  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2022



# Overview of activities

## So far we have...

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- **Interviewed young people** who are part of exploitation services
- Run a **Youth Workshop** with young people at Bristol Horn Youth Concern
- Run a **Parent Focus Group**
- Visited **Youth Settings** and captured views of workers on the ground
- Run a **Co-Design Workshop** with practitioners and social workers on how to link young people with more opportunities across the city
- Run **Co-Design Workshops** with practitioners and professionals within the council on how to improve the physical safety of young people
- Interviewed multiple leading **mental health specialists** to learn mental health models and best practise
- Interviews with **30 key stakeholders** from relevant statutory and voluntary agencies

# What we have planned...

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- **More interviews with young people** who are part of...  
The Call In, Routes, Base, and other community based programmes
- **Youth workshops** with Creative Youth Network and other community organisation
- **Interviews with parents** of young people who are part of specialist exploitation services
- **Co-design workshops** with young people and their trusted professional
- **Analysis** of research data and insights
- Playback findings and develop ideas with the **working group**
- **Playback emerging relevant findings** to wider professionals such as schools and police  
to capture their input
- Finalise **As-Is Service Map** with baseline data

**Hypotheses so far ...**

1.

We believe that if there is a **single front door**, young people who are exploited or are at risk of exploitation, will receive a faster, more effective response

2.

We believe that if all young people, who are exploited or are at risk of exploitation, work with a trusted professional who has **no time limit** on their intervention, that will create a strong foundation for a young person to recover from exploitation and build resilience

*“Something I always remember, on my first home visit when you met me and my mum, the first thing I asked is how long is this service for? Because I don't want to go to another worker in a couple of weeks time. And you told me there was no end date. And I said good. I've got used to social workers before and then they leave. Now it's been three years, and in that time I've had three or four social workers, 2 YOT workers and 4 schools.”*

– Male, 17, Routes

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*“Say like, you've never told anyone how you feel or your emotions. And then you get put in a room and you're forced to talk about the emotions. You're not going to do it. Like your mind is going to be racing, and you're not going to know how to feel. So sometimes some of us might need, like, you need to show them you understand how they feel, show them you understand and yeah, I care. I want to help you. Cause that's the best thing”*

- Male, 15, BDP





3.

We believe that if we help young people to **meet their needs** (see 'needs' visual), that will put them in a strong position to recover from exploitation and build resilience

# North Star

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## Contributing health needs

Neurodevelopmental  
Speech and language  
Sexual health

Exploration of  
**meaningful  
activities** (defined by  
a young person)

**Positive relationships  
with adults and peers**

**Physical safety**

A need for  
**psychological safety**

**Ability to self-soothe and regulate thoughts and emotions**

**Positive relationship with a trusted professional (no time limit on the intervention)**

4.

No single organisation can meet all the needs of a young person who is exploited or is at risk of exploitation.

We believe that meeting those needs **requires a change in how organisations, community members and others collaborate.**

*“By talking with multi agencies and having good relationships, like with the police officers that we had, we had a PTSO who was amazing and very dedicated but unfortunately moved on. We had an inspector, who's moved on, but who really understood some of the issues. So I think it's not only relationships with young people, it's relationships with multi agencies, that's the issue” - Stakeholder professional*

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*“We've created a society that has made it so some young people can't transition into an adult successfully. It's not because it's their fault. It's the system's fault. The system works in a way that works towards outcomes and goals. And if you can't enable the school to get a good Ofsted and if you can't enable a care home to show that it's giving you good care, then actually we're going to reject you constantly because you're going to impact the way we look as an institution. And that's the problem.” - Stakeholder professional*

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*“What as professionals we do is we go ‘risk high - no’, rather than ‘risk high - safety plan. What support do we need?’ I've seen that across education and in some youth settings they've banned young people from youth services because of the trouble they bring to their door” - Stakeholder professional*



5.

Young people don't always have a trusted adult who is not paid to support them. This puts them in a vulnerable position when the services end or during the out of service hours.

We believe that if we help young people build **support networks** through relationships with family and trusted community members, that would help them to sustain positive changes.

*"It's scary being on my own because all my life I've had social services or someone's helped me. I don't want to talk to anyone else because I get anxiety meeting new people. I was horrible to [worker] at first. I didn't want to see her or nothing, but she's just too nice. Now she knows how to work around me with a Dr. Pepper with crisps. I was horrible to her for 2 or 3 weeks. Usually it takes a whole 3 months for me to let someone in. She really got to know me - we did a facetime at first, then we came here, I was shy at first. She got to know me though, and now she knows me too well.*

*Seeing her made me feel safe and like I could talk to her about anything. I wanted to keep seeing her when I was 18. I wanted to stay with the same worker because I got to know her, I just felt comfortable - with everyone else you got to get to know them again. And then if you don't like them you go on a waiting list it's horrible. I didn't trust anyone else because I put my trust in someone and then they leave. I think I've just given up, I don't talk to anyone anymore. I've got counselling coming up soon but I don't think I'm going to do it"*

– Female, 19, ex-Base

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6.

Currently, service outcomes are not captured in a young person-centred way.

We believe that if we **capture outcomes in a young person-centred** way, we will have stronger evidence to make decisions that impact young people's lives

7.

We believe that if all specialist exploitation workers and community mentors have **clear and fast access** to speech and language, sexual health, and mental health specialists, young people will be in a strong position to have these needs met.





*“If you look at any research from the Youth Offending Service or findings of Criminal Exploitation, that early intervention point of understanding a child’s speech and language and their actual cognition and their needs gets missed, we leave it far too late. Really we should be doing this before any health and care plan needs assessment. It should be done before that stage but its not. So any child with a learning disability or profile of autism, the reasonable adjustments we will need to make to engage with that child and their family gets missed”*

– Speech and language expert

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## Next Steps

- Final interviews
- Insight development
- Co - design workshops
- Testing ideas