



Our review into serious youth violence in Bristol

Who we are and what we do

We are the **Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership**.

This review looks at **serious youth violence** in Bristol.

We commissioned this review after the tragic deaths of Max, Mason and Darrian, and after serious harm that happened to another young person in early 2024.

We know violence outside the home is complex.

We know there are lessons to learn that can help improve how we can work together to keep children and young people safe.

What our review looked at

Our review looks at **4 important questions**:

1. How are leaders and services dealing with violence?
2. What work has already happened to make this situation better?
3. Are the actions taken to keep children and young people safe the same across the city?

4. Is there a link between children not going to school and children getting hurt?

We will use these 4 questions to look more closely at how Bristol is tackling serious youth violence.

We will work together with

- children
- young people
- families
- communities

Main things we found out

There is a lot of expertise and hard work going on in Bristol.

But services are often working separately rather than together.

The system is sometimes too complicated and reactive with too many meetings.

We think work needs to be happen

- in a more straightforward way
- be more connected.

We need to use **data and evidence** across agencies to find out what is causing serious youth violence.

We know education is key to checking on young people and their safety, but this is not linked up to other work.

We found there were issues where things were not fair – children are still being treated like adults.

We are concerned about this and want to talk about what to do in a more open way.

What we need to happen

We need

- a strong plan to work on preventing youth violence and wider harm that takes place outside the home.
- to challenge adults who exploit and control young people.
- a greater focus on stopping this kind of violence from happening.

What is happening now

We know positive changes are starting to happen.

For example:

- We are building a better and more stable leadership.
- We are working in partnership with education leaders.
- We have a more public health approach to violence.

Our 7 recommendations for the future

We think Bristol should:

1. Make one clear plan across the city to tackle serious youth violence and other harm that happens outside the home.
2. Have less groups and meetings so the system is clear and more responsible.
3. Follow the national **Practice Principles** for child exploitation and harm that happens outside the home.
4. Make data sharing and analysis across all agencies better.
5. Have one strong Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group to deal with harm that happens outside the home.

6. Set up a **Prevention MACE** version of the MACE group led by schools that looks at early help and prevention.
7. Review and improve Bristol's prevention services, checking what works and how they are funded.

Key messages for Bristol

We want services to work together more closely.

Change should happen because of evidence, trust and a shared responsibility.

We know knife crime is a national problem and needs urgent action across the UK.

Bristol has caring, committed professionals who want to make things better.

By working as one team, using evidence and trust, Bristol can build a safer future for all children and young people.