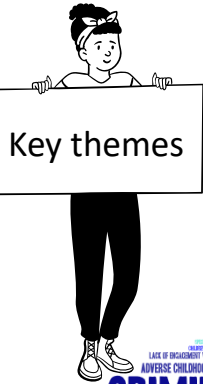


Learning Brief – Serious Youth Violence Rapid Review (1)

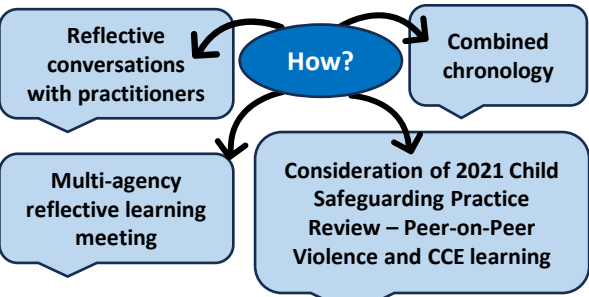
Commissioned by KBSP and contributed to by North Somerset Children’s Safeguarding Partnership



Contributors: local authorities (BCC & N Somerset), Avon & Somerset police, AWP, Barnardo’s, SWAST, education, probation, youth justice and health services



Key themes



Learning identified

Safeguarding children within intergenerational hyperlocal conflict

- Consider how fear within the community (e.g. risk of being targeted and harmed solely due to where they live) might be impacting on access to basic, universal services such as youth provision, schooling, housing and local amenities.
- Professionals need to understand the nuances and interconnectedness of some extended families e.g. through use of genograms or ecomaps.
- Evaluate systems for identifying and reviewing risks for children who are missing education or NEET and believed to pose a risk of harm to others through child violence but are not currently supported by youth justice services.

Quality and depth of child and family social work assessments and interventions

- Assessments should consider the child’s extra and intra-familial risks and needs holistically, including the broader context or their history.
- Professionals should take a youth-focused assertive outreach approach (persistent contact, building trusting relationships, elevating youth voice, introduction to resources and services for those disconnected from education and employment, leading to positive life outcomes that reflect their needs, interests and aspirations).
- Ensure there are no gaps in the level of detail and quality of information sought from other professionals when analysing cumulative risk.
- Improve frequency of visiting children and families to support engagement with services.
- Take a more youth-focused approach when strengthening the support (and its speed) received by families experiencing breakdown where the young person is unable to live at home.
- Respond to the intersectionality between a child experiencing harm outside the family, the impact on their family life, exclusion from school and homelessness.

Effective multi-agency oversight and planning for individuals involved in serious violence

- Share information at Safer Option meetings to facilitate purposeful interventions and actions for individuals and groups of children.
- Intelligence products need to appear in a timelier manner to respond to fluctuating tensions and conflict.
- Improve systems to identify and review children posing a risk to others or at risk themselves through serious violence and exploitation.
- An agreed intervention pathway should be developed for children suspected of using weapons in an assault against other children, including support and enforcement elements.
- Strengthen information sharing cross-border through the VRU framework, deciding how best to share, record and respond to this consistently within existing children’s social care structures.

Learning identified

Access, timeliness and capacity within evidence-based prevention offer

- The partnership needs to understand the current intervention offer and identify opportunities to strengthen it.
- The partnership should review the balance of resources and services for targeted and specialist intervention in line with a tiered public health model.
- Expand resources and training for providing urgent first aid and bleed kits in areas of increased conflict.

Systems for addressing severe and persistent low educational attendance and children missing education

- The response to children missing education who are affected by extra-familial harm needs to be wider than the Safer Options approach.
- The partnership wishes to identify opportunities for the education sector and universal settings to engage young people within education.

Quality of disruption and enforcement

- Police investigations need to pursue every potential line of inquiry including the scope of searches for weapons or arresting suspects
- Work is required to improve the identification of child safeguarding issues in vehicle stop and searches e.g. completing a BRAG risk assessment tool.
- There is a need to build community confidence in reporting and supporting investigations into youth assaults and conflict-based crime.

Multi-agency professional culture

- There is a need to follow-up or strategic challenge regarding concerns for children in respect of long-standing attendance issues, thresholds for intervention and delays in police intelligence reports.



 KBSP
Executive to
commission
a CSPR

Developments
needed to
respond
effectively to
hyperlocal
conflict in
South Bristol?

How can
existing
resources be
utilised more
effectively to
improve severe
and persistent,
low,
educational
attendance?

Rapid
Review
by Becky
Lewis

Immediate recommendations

- Undertake an analysis mapping all partnership youth violence services in Bristol at each tier of intervention against the identified cohort.
- Develop an intervention offer and review process for all children suspected of using a weapon in an assault in the community.
- Redesign of the adolescent safeguarding pathway and case allocation to take into account learning from this review.
- Establish capacity and improvement plan for improved multi-agency intelligence products about conflict to inform timely decision making.
- Police teams undertaking stop and search to be reminded of the indicators of safeguarding concerns and have expectations around use of BRAG reinforced.
- Police to review approach to investigating child-on-child violence involving assaults with weapons.
- Safer Options Hub and North Somerset VRU to work together to agree approach for information sharing about children cross-border on a regular basis and how to share this with relevant professionals – e.g. establishing a locality link arrangement.
- Establish regular reporting to KBSP Executive on the progress of educational attendance plan in respect of the cohort of children who are vulnerable to serious violence/CCE.
- Develop practice briefing of key learning to circulate to stakeholder from this rapid review.