

Bristol Harm outside the Home Strategy 2025–2030



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1. Foreword

As a safeguarding partnership, we understand that as children grow older, they may face harm and risks from outside their homes and families (often referred to as extra-familial influences or harm outside the home). These external threats can have severe consequences for children, young people, young adults, their families, friends, and communities. The fear of violence and exploitation can lead to anxiety, hindering some of our young people from fully enjoying their childhood. This strategy reflects the Bristol Keeping Children Safe Partnership's ongoing commitment to a collaborative approach in addressing all forms of harm outside the home.

We will focus on the environments and contexts where this harm occurs, aiming to create safer spaces for children, young people and young adults. A coordinated, multi-agency response will be dedicated to prevention and early intervention for those at risk of harm outside the home. We will provide targeted, timely protection and support to those experiencing such harm, reducing the risks they face while helping them recover and rebuild their lives. Our approach will also prioritise identifying, disrupting, and pursuing those who exploit or harm children, young people and young adults in Bristol.

The views and voices of children, young people, young adults and families are central to this strategy and to everything we do as a partnership. Our approach will continue to be shaped by lived experiences of children, young people, families, and the wider community and robust multi-agency intelligence. This strategy has been developed with valuable input from our partners, stakeholders, children, young people, young adults and families. We want to express our gratitude to all who have contributed and dedicated their time.



2. Introduction

We are pleased to introduce the Bristol Harm outside the Home Strategy 2025-2030 – our joint partnership response to the complex risks facing children, young people, and young adults in spaces beyond their families and homes.

This strategy outlines our multi-agency approach to preventing and responding to the risks faced by children, young people and young adults (up to 25 years of age) from harm outside the home, ensuring they all feel safe and are safe.

This strategy outlines our multi-agency approach to identifying, preventing and tackling harm experienced in community, peer and online contexts. It covers young people up to the age of 25, recognising their developmental needs and vulnerabilities.

Our work brings together the local authority, Police and justice sector, health, education, schools, the voluntary sector, and faith groups. It is grounded in statutory guidance - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) - which define the responsibilities of Local Authorities and partners in ensuring the safety of children, young people and young adults, and aligns with the serious violence duties outlined in the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy 2024-2025. These duties mandate specified authorities to collaborate and develop plans to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area.

Critically, our commitment to addressing harm outside the home is inseparable from our commitment to anti-racism. We recognise that racism, inequality, and intersecting forms of oppression can amplify vulnerability to harm and reduce access to support. We will embed anti-racist practice across all areas of our

contextual safeguarding work, recognising and addressing the ways in which systemic racism impacts children and families. Informed by the “It’s Silent”: Race, Racism and Safeguarding Children panel briefing (March, 2025), we will ensure that racialised experiences are not overlooked, that professionals are equipped to identify and respond to racism as a safeguarding issue, and that the voices of Black and global majority children are actively centred in both practice and system design.

Therefore, the work developed from this strategy will:

- Actively identify and challenge racial biases that may influence how we understand, assess, and respond to harm occurring outside the home.
- Recognise the impact of systemic racism on individuals’ experiences of safety and harm in public spaces, online, and within peer groups.
- Ensure equitable access to support and resources for all individuals, regardless of their race or ethnicity, who experience harm outside the home.
- Work in partnership with communities to develop culturally responsive and anti-racist approaches to prevention and intervention.
- Continuously evaluate our practices to identify and address any racial disparities in how this strategy is implemented and its outcomes.



We believe that a truly effective approach to tackling harm outside the home must be an explicitly anti-racist one, working towards safety and justice for everyone.

This strategy builds on Bristol's proactive efforts to address violence and exploitation. We have invested in a dedicated Contextual Safeguarding team that supports early intervention, targeted care, and system change. The team has been developed to offer assistance and direction in the form of changes that contribute to the protection of young people from harm outside the home. Additionally, it seeks to guarantee that children, young people and young adults who have been mistreated outside of their family receive the appropriate care. The team expands and develops our Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) funded Safer Options offer. Through this strategy, we aim to build on our progress and create a safer Bristol, where no child or young person is left vulnerable to harm beyond their home.

We already have examples of success that we will build upon to ensure professionals and local people can identify what we are currently doing and what we will achieve through our ambitions to tackle and reduce serious violence and exploitation.

The partnership action plan has been developed alongside the strategy. The action plan describes how we will make the best use of resources to make our communities safer, work together to reduce the impact of violence and exploitation by empowering communities and address the risk factors that can lead to being a victim or perpetrator of violence and exploitation.

3. Who is this strategy for?

At the heart of Bristol's approach to harm outside the home lies the evidence-based recognition that children, young people and young adults up until the age of 25 have distinct safeguarding needs, particularly during adolescence and early adulthood. This period is marked by biological and neurological developments that impact on emotional regulation, social relationships, risk-taking behaviours, and increased exposure to external environments such as schools, communities, peer groups and online spaces.

In recognition of Transitional and Contextual Safeguarding models as best practice, we are committed to implementing a model that ensures continuity of care beyond the age of 18. This includes adapting services, commissioning frameworks, and professional practices to support seamless, developmentally appropriate intervention, recognising that current systems and commissioning arrangements — which draw a sharp line between childhood and adulthood — often fail to meet the complex needs of adolescents. Whilst most young people navigate this transition without significant issues, some are vulnerable to risk and harm in these external contexts, which can include:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation, including county lines and serious youth violence
- Child-on-child abuse
- Modern slavery and trafficking
- Online harm and abuse

This strategy outlines the partnership's intention to take an all-age approach and provide a robust early help offer for young adults. In this strategy paper, the term 'young people' includes the stages of adolescence and early adulthood by describing individuals up until the age of 25.

Why harm outside the home?

Traditional child protection systems, and the legislative and policy framework which underpin them, were designed to protect children, young people and young adults from risks within the home or from care givers. This strategy has been developed to protect children and young people when the risk of harm comes from outside of their home or families recognising that many of today's most significant dangers – such as exploitation, violence, and abuse occur in public or digital contexts.

To meet these evolving risks, we must develop new models of safeguarding to go beyond familial harm. Contextual Safeguarding provides a whole system, placed based approach to identifying, assessing, and responding to risk within

these external environments. It also recognises factors that contribute to safety for children and young people, such as the sense of belonging created through engagement in meaningful education, training or positive activity (such as sport). Creating the conditions for all children to engage in positive opportunities is therefore a key objective within the preventative arm of this strategy.

The statutory and voluntary organisations that were consulted for the writing of this strategy are committed to tackling all forms of exploitation across Bristol working collectively as set out in this strategy.

While prioritising harm outside the family, this strategy recognises the significant impact of all forms of harm and their intersection with exploitation risks. The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership recognises that adverse childhood experiences, inter-generational trauma, and familial links to exploitation are important factors. Avoiding a rigid separation between “intra” and “extra” familial harm is crucial for effective protection. While working to prevent and tackle harm outside the home for children, young people and young adults, there can be interrelated concerns which need to be considered and addressed. The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and the individual partners have in place a range of other policies and processes that interlink with harm outside the home to ensure that all forms of harm are considered.

These include:

- Missing from home and care protocol
- Youth Justice Plan
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy 2024 to 2027.
- Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy 2024-2025
- Bristol SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024 – 2028
- Bristol City Council Equity and Inclusion Policy and Strategic Framework 2023–2027
- Children and Education Plan 2025-2030
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy

The serious violence partnership

Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), which includes the contextual elements of the Contextual Safeguarding team is a collaborative partnership of multiple agencies who work together to address Serious Youth Violence (SYV), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The Bristol Violence Reduction Partnership includes the Contextual Safeguarding Team providing an umbrella under which new initiatives are brought together to enable a coherent response to harm outside the home. The Avon and Somerset VRP works to a hub and spoke model, with Bristol VRP being one of the five spokes. Collectively, the partnership has decided their approach will span all forms of extrafamilial harm.



4. Serious Violence Duty

This Strategy has been developed to support the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, established under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty, which is held by the Community Safety Partnership, sets out several obligations for local areas, including the formation of a local partnership to lead its implementation, the agreement of a local definition of serious violence, consistent data sharing practices, the completion of a Strategic Needs Assessment, and the development of a strategy outlining how serious violence will be addressed.

Under the Duty, responsible authorities are required to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence. This includes identifying

the types of serious violence present in the area, understanding their underlying causes, and creating and delivering a strategy to tackle them effectively.

The responsible authorities—also referred to as ‘duty holders’—under the Serious Violence Duty are:

- The Police
- Local Authority
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Justice Organisations
- Health Bodies

Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in Bristol is:

The Avon and Somerset VRP has a priority focus on the prevention and reduction of public space violence for under 25s (children, young people and young adults); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery. It is also recognized and

committed to supporting a joined-up response to existing partnership work to tackle serious violence across the whole pathway and in the broadest sense, including adult criminal behaviour, domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and violence against women and girls - Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy 2024-2025.

Key definitions

The concept of 'harm outside the home' encapsulates the multifaceted evolving nature of exploitation and risks to children and young people in various domains outside of their familial home. For this strategy, this umbrella term includes, but is not limited to, the forms of exploitation and extra familial harm defined below:

Child Sexual Exploitation

Occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or adolescent into sexual activity, in exchange³ for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. It does not always involve physical contact and can also occur through the use of technology (as defined by the Home Office).

Child Criminal Exploitation

Occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or adolescent into any criminal activity. It does not always involve physical contact and can also occur through the use of technology (as defined in the Serious Youth Violence strategy).

County Lines

A violent and exploitative form of drug distribution (and a form of child criminal exploitation). A common feature of county lines is the exploitation of children, adolescents and adults who are instructed to deliver and/or store drugs, and associated money or weapons, to dealers or drug users, locally or in other counties (as defined by the Home Office).

Serious Youth Violence

Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in Bristol, is defined as - The prevention and reduction of public space violence for under 25s (children, young people and young adults); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern slavery relates to the exploitation of children and adults in slavery, servitude, or forced or compulsory labour. Human trafficking is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children and adults through force, coercion, or deception for the purposes of exploitation (as defined by the National Crime Agency).

Debt bondage

A form of entrapment when a victim owes money to their exploiters and is made to repay their debt, either financially or through another means such as transporting drugs (as defined by the Home Office).

Serious Organised Crime

Criminals planning, coordinating, and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks (as defined by the Home Office).



5. Our vision

Our vision is for every child, young person and young adult in Bristol to be safe from violence and exploitation, and to be empowered to live safe and fulfilling lives. It is our belief that tackling extra familial harm is everybody's business, and that empowering families, communities, and other networks to ensure the safety of children, young people and young adults is paramount. This strategy is both a framework for action and a call to collective responsibility. Through early identification, information-sharing, and resilience within wider communities, we aim to disrupt harm and promote long-term safety.

What do young people tell us?

As part of the development of this strategy and the work undertaken to develop the Bristol Child Exploitation Collaboration we listened to children, young people, young adults and families across the city. They told us what makes them feel safe and unsafe, what support they needed, and their perspectives on harm outside the home in Bristol. Here are some of the things they said...

"As a young female, I feel really unsafe when I'm walking by myself sometimes" – Female, 15

"There needs to be more opportunities for young people to gain practical experience and skills, so that they are more likely to work" – Male, 16

"Sometimes the community don't really know what the young person's dealing with, that their being exploited and all that. So all they'll see is he's getting in trouble" Male, 21

"The way the lifestyle is glorified – county lines and all that – is very hard because yes, the money is nice to have. To sit there counting out £10,000 is lush, but you can't spend it. Kids don't realise you are doing 24 hours 7 days a week work. You can never put it behind you. The one thing I struggled with was the constant phone ringing, the sound of that ring tone sends you crazy after a while. Only 2 hours sleep a night. That's why in my music I refuse to glorify the lifestyle. When you see your best friend who you grew up with die, yeah. That's it. So at the end of the day, if more people would actually speak about the realistic side of the lifestyle, then maybe people would understand, but being truthful, it doesn't make money." - Male, 19

"....suddenly you realize how important it is for teenage females to kind of be reminded of how special they are and that you're not what happened to you. I think when something does happen to teenage girls, it really does lower your self-confidence..." – Female 16

This feedback reinforces our commitment to making the system more responsive, transparent, and supportive—especially for those at greatest risk.

"I would say the things I've seen is not good, but that's mostly because where I grew up. If you didn't live where I lived and you seen something for the first time, you'd be scared. Like, you wouldn't know what to do. But once you get used to it, once you just get surrounded by it all your life, it's like normal, that kind of desensitizes someone. Then it just makes you think, well, that's normal because it happens every day"- Male, 15

"It would be helpful to be given knowledge about different services and what you could potentially get access to and how, and what their procedures are because I've never dealt with social care. I don't know why they're asking me certain questions. You know, they were saying go to First Response, but I don't know who First Response are, you're talking to somebody who has never had dealings with social care, it can be really overwhelming not knowing the procedures and the next steps. So, someone guiding you through the process or just help familiarising yourself with how the agencies work and what they can offer and a comprehensive guide to that would be helpful" Parent

Acceptance is a big thing. If you tell them no, automatically you're going to be seen as the lame one, or as not like them. It doesn't even have to be forced, but if you want to be with them it's so easy to be manipulated without you even knowing it, because you want to be accepted. A lot of people are scared to be alone. If you're in a good group of friends but they kick you out, if a bad group come to you and ask you to do something, you'll do it just because you don't want to be alone" Male, 21

"A place for her to go, a decent youth club for the evenings, a youth worker who can try to help navigate young people through social media, peer pressure, you know, more hands-on grassroots rolling your sleeves up work" Parent

"You can't close the door to the outside world anymore, it follows you in through social media. They can't even close their bedroom door to it. There could be people verbally beating them up and you as a parent don't know as it's all on the phone. There is no escape for the younger generation, it fills their life, seeing what people are saying about them" Parent



6. What do we want to achieve?

The purpose of this strategy is to outline a strong, joined-up partnership response to harm outside the home across Bristol. As a partnership, we want to build on and continually improve the way we work together so that young people across the city remain safe in their environments and reduce the risks they face. We want to:

- Expand the scope of safeguarding: Recognising that children and young people's safety extends beyond the family home and involves identifying and addressing risks in various settings such as schools, neighbourhoods, online spaces, and peer groups.
- Strengthen community safety partnerships: By focusing on specific locations and contexts, the strategy aims to enhance the safety of these areas for all children, young people and young adults not just those directly at risk.
- Identify and disrupt perpetrators: Our efforts will include proactive disruption of those exploiting or harming children and young people, especially in organised or peer based networks.
- Improve information sharing and collaboration: Effective communication and information sharing between agencies, organisations, and the wider community are crucial for identifying and addressing risks effectively.
- Provide tailored support and intervention: We will provide appropriate support and intervention services to children, young people and young adults at risk, as well as to families and communities affected by these risks.
- Prioritise prevention and early intervention: The strategy emphasises prevention efforts and early intervention to address potential risks before they escalate into harm. This focus includes the role of schools in following evidence based strategies to engage young people effectively, including initiatives such as the use of sports mentors and teaching resilience.

This strategy incorporates learning from the Serious Youth Violence in Bristol: Rapid Review (Sept 2024) and is aligned with the city's wider ambitions under the Children and Education Plan 2025–2030.



7. Practice Principles

Bristol's vision for tackling exploitation and harm outside the home is rooted in eight evidence-informed principles (Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm). These principles were developed through national research by Research in Practice, the University of Bedfordshire, and the Children's Society in 2022 – and shaped with input from local authorities (including Bristol), and the expertise of those with lived experience. These principles will guide how we support children, young people and young adults across the city:

Principle 1 - Putting children, young people and young adults first

We will tailor our response to each child or young person, considering the unique context of their life. This involves keeping their needs central to all decisions, recognising their strengths and potential, and working in partnership with families and professionals. Our work will be developmentally informed and responsive to structural barriers, ensuring every child's rights and best interests are upheld.

Principle 2 - Recognising and challenging inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination

We are committed to addressing both interpersonal discrimination and structural inequalities that affect children and families. Our approach fosters inclusive environments and challenges systems that reinforce marginalisation. We will work to ensure that all voices, particularly those from minoritised or excluded groups, are respected and elevated in decision-making.

Principle 3 - Respecting the voice, experience, and expertise of children, young people and young adults.

We work with young people and will ensure we do not 'do to' them. Their experiences and expertise will inform our systems, services, and practice. We will prioritise ethical and inclusive participation, ensuring their voices are heard, particularly those often overlooked. Our safeguarding responses will be transparent, participatory, and grounded in trust.

Principle 4 - Being strengths-based and relationship-based

We view children and young people holistically recognising their assets and sources of resilience, rather than focusing solely on risk. We believe in the transformative power of relationships. Strength-based, relational working underpins our practice, and this will be modelled across multi-agency collaboration to foster shared ownership of outcomes.

Principle 5 - Recognising and responding to trauma.

Trauma shapes how young people relate, engage, and respond to support. We understand the deep impact of trauma on behaviour and development and avoid systems and processes that retraumatise. Instead, we will prioritise safety, enable choice and control, and support relational healing through consistency and understanding.

Principle 6 - Being curious, evidence-informed, and knowledgeable.

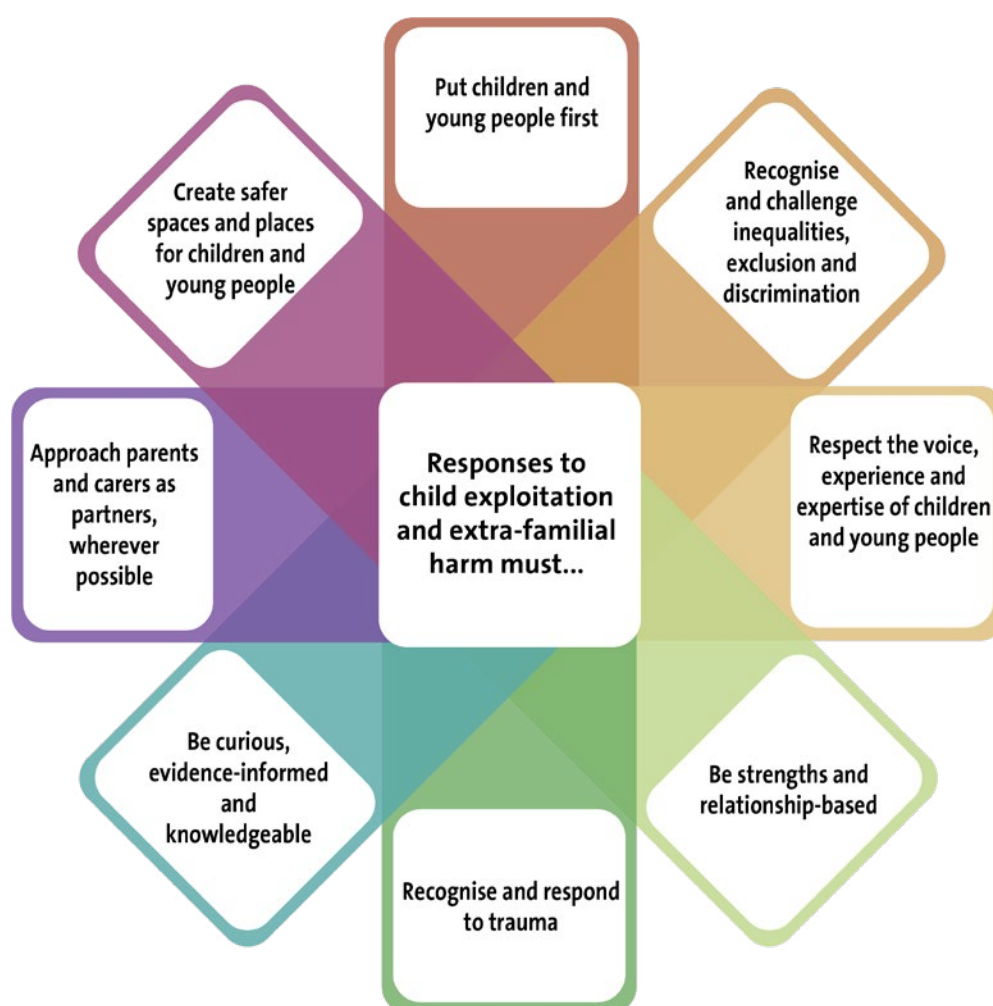
We adopt a reflective and questioning mindset. This includes using data and professional knowledge to build fuller pictures of children's experiences, seeking out what is unknown, and challenging assumptions. Our approach embraces creativity and values continuous learning, collaboration, and innovation across the system.

Principle 7 - Approaching parents and carers as partners, wherever possible.

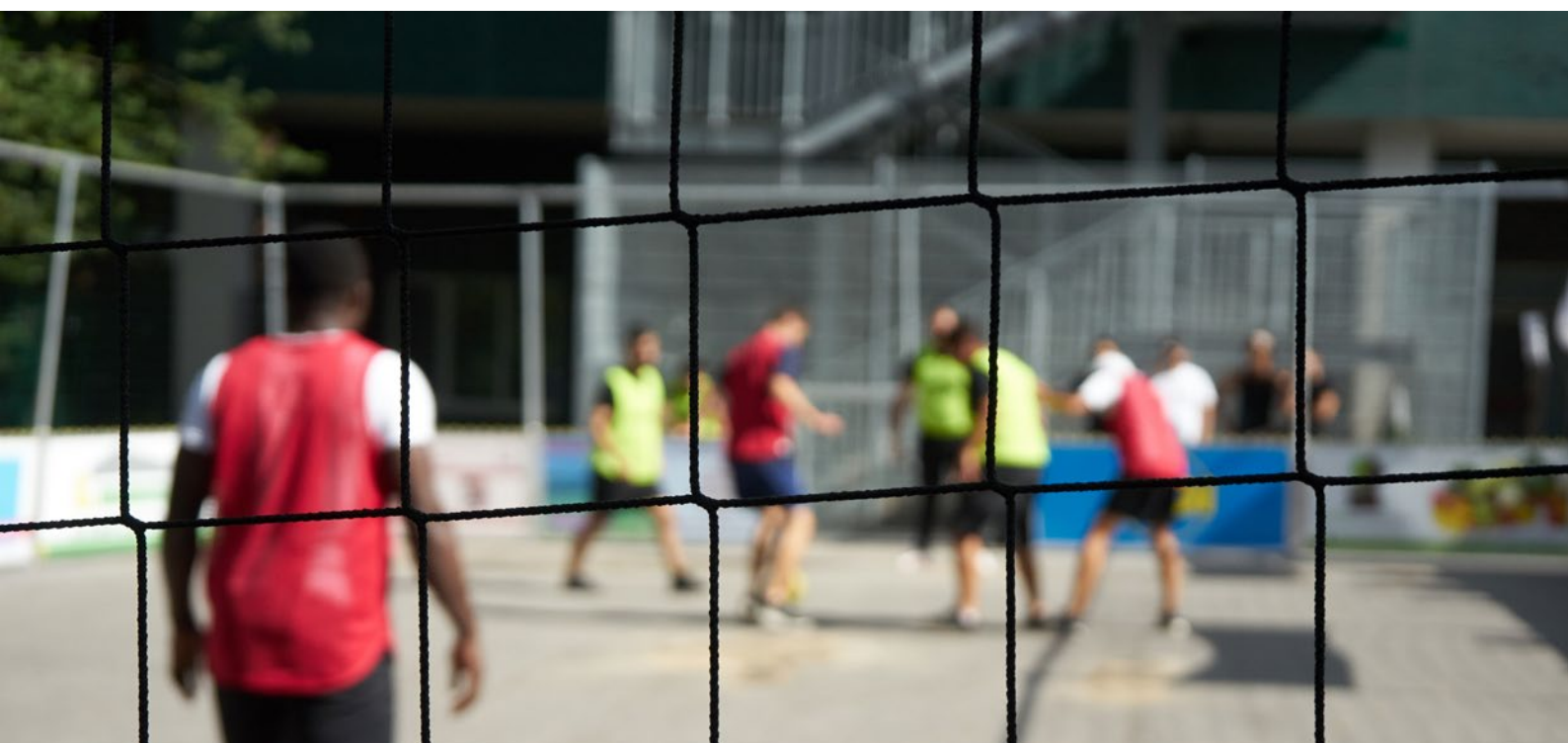
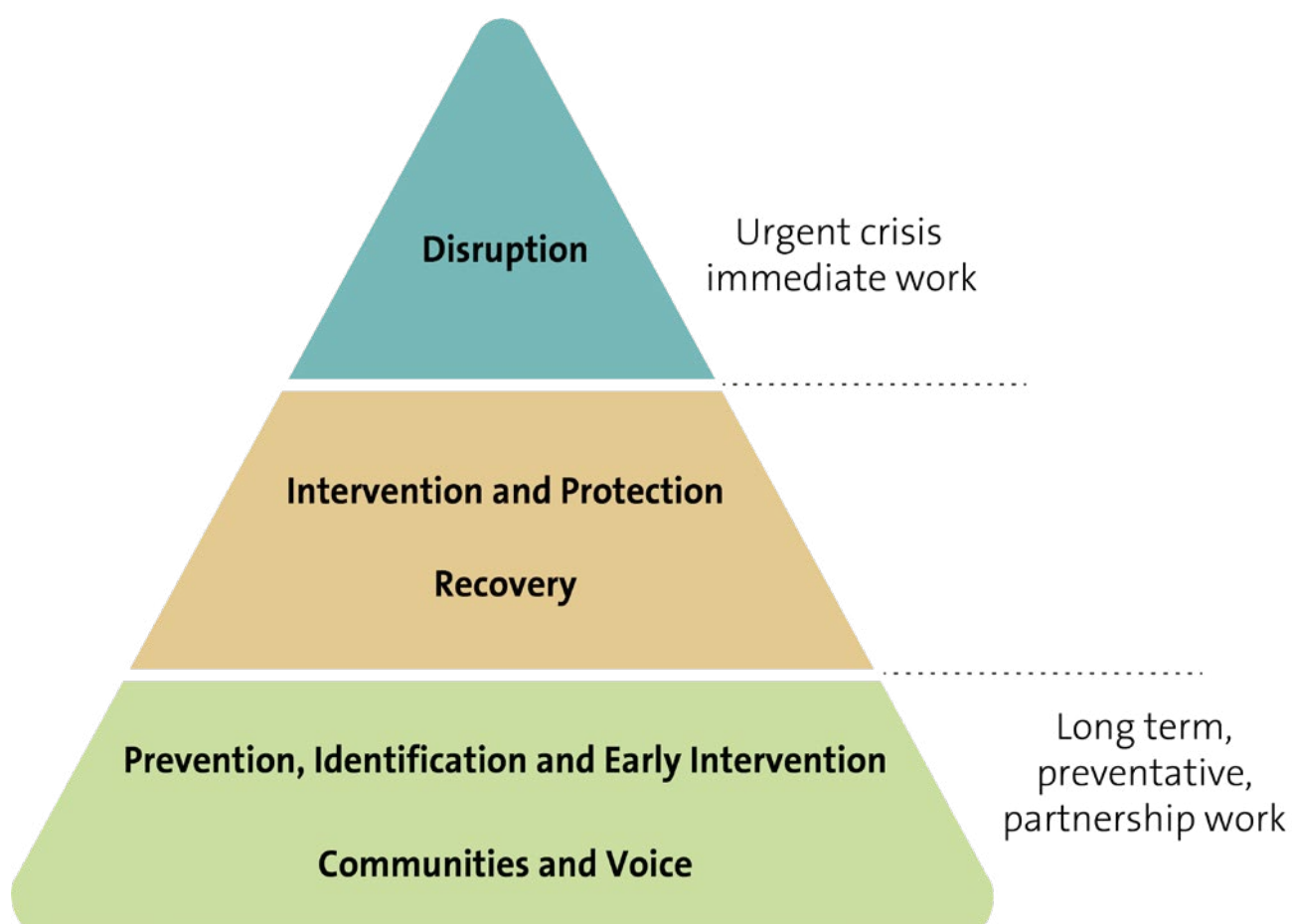
We value parents and carers as integral partners in safeguarding. We are committed to involving families as allies in creating safety and stability for children and young people. We recognise their insights, respect their contributions, and provide support that acknowledges the emotional toll of harm outside the home.

Principle 8 - Creating safer spaces and places for children, young people and young adults.

We will look beyond the individual to their environments. We aim to understand and improve the places where harm occurs, supporting safety not only physically, but emotionally and relationally. This includes amplifying youth and community strengths, tackling disproportionality, and enabling local counter-narratives to build confidence and resilience. These principles underpin all aspects of our partnership strategy—from practice and training to commissioning and leadership. By embedding them consistently, we aim to create a safer, more equitable city where all young people can flourish.



8. Key delivery themes & action plan



Delivery themes (detailed actions set out in the action plans):

Our strategy is built on two fundamental approaches:

- Long-term, preventative partnership work
- Urgent, coordinated crisis response

Together, these approaches are delivered through five key themes. Each theme has a corresponding action within the action plan that outlines lead partners, timelines, and performance measures. These actions will be overseen and monitored by the Preventing Serious Violence (PSV) Board.

Communities & Voice:

Children, young people, young adults, families, and communities will be central to shaping solutions. We are committed to authentic and empowering participation—moving beyond consultation to co-production. We will provide safe spaces for those with lived experience to inform design, delivery, and evaluation of services. Our approach will ensure that youth voice is embedded ethically and equitably, championing a Child First ethos that shifts responsibility from children to the adults and systems that surround them. We will also promote community-led narratives and target disproportionality in how harm is experienced and addressed.

We will prioritise youth voice in a way that is ethical, inclusive, and empowering—ensuring participation is meaningful and genuine. Young people will be engaged through safe and supportive methods that allow them to influence decisions and processes that affect their lives.

Our work will recognise and seek to positively influence the structural and social adversities that shape young people's lives. Our work supports a system-wide shift that sees safeguarding as a shared responsibility.

Prevention, Identification and Early Intervention:

We will focus on early action, rooted in community trust and systemic insight. Our partnerships with statutory and voluntary organisations will ensure a proactive response to risk and vulnerability. Schools play a central role in prevention and early intervention efforts. We will work closely with education providers to support attendance, inclusion, and engagement, recognising that access to high-quality education is a critical protective factor. This includes targeted mentoring, curriculum support, and social-emotional learning opportunities, particularly for those most at risk.

We will promote learning through Continued Professional Development and thematic initiatives such as Weeks of Action. Through collaboration with families, neighbourhood

networks, and cross-sector teams—including housing and licensing—we will build local resilience, improve early identification, and ensure coordinated, community-informed safeguarding responses.

We are particularly focused on identifying children who are not able to engage with their school environment, whether due to persistent absence, suspension, exclusion, or being classified as children missing education (CME). These young people often face an increased risk of child criminal exploitation. We are committed to strengthening multi-agency processes such as inclusion panels, alternative provision pathways, and youth-focused diversionary activities, working in collaboration with the partnership and communities.

A core aspect of our approach is to create and maintain safe spaces for children and young people—environments where they can feel secure, supported, and free from harm. These spaces are developed in consultation with young people and communities, and are central to both

preventative and responsive safeguarding work. This work extends beyond school settings, offering targeted re-engagement and pathways into education, employment, and training (EET) for those currently disengaged from mainstream provision.

Intervention and protection:

Bristol will improve integrated support and intervention pathways by encouraging innovative, evidence-based, person-led, and trauma-informed responses to those who are being harmed outside the home. This will include modelling systems leadership to promote change in Transitional Safeguarding. Work will be undertaken to ensure all children, young people and young adults who have been harmed outside the home have an identified enduring support worker.

Our approach includes embedding multi-agency responses to local hotspots, using shared intelligence to inform effective contextual safeguarding. We continue to strengthen our understanding of serious and organised crime and local drug markets through dynamic threat, risk, and harm profiling.

Disruption:

We aim to disrupt the conditions, individuals, and systems that enable harm. Our multi-agency approach uses contextual safeguarding and cross-border coordination to identify and address perpetrators—particularly those involved in organised exploitation. We will strengthen locality partnerships, integrate with

community policing, and use intelligence-led tactics to reduce weapons, challenge harmful peer dynamics, and ensure safer public spaces. Place-based safety planning and location profiling are key components of our disruption model.

Recovery:

Bristol will continue to support children, young people, young adults and families with rebuilding their lives, repairing broken relationships, and finding life purpose through positive activities. We will continue to promote interventions that are consistent, trauma-informed, and relational, where time and resources do not constitute obstacles to children, young people and young adults healing from the harms of exploitation.

We will offer positive diversion pathways for children and young people at risk of or affected by exploitation and violence, ensuring immediate and long-term support is available when harm occurs outside the home. As a partnership, we are committed to building hopeful, strength-based narratives that reflect a 'Child First' approach, promoting aspiration and potential in all young people.

9. Impact and action planning

Through our work across the partnership, we aim to demonstrate an impact on children, young people and young adults who are harmed outside the home.

The action plan sets out action for each delivery theme with lead partner, timescale and progress reporting. The action plan builds on what has already been developed by the Preventing Serious Violence (PSV) Board. The action plan will be overseen and monitored through the PSV Board. Our action plan also sets out the impact against each measure and how we will monitor and report our progress to the PSV board on a quarterly basis. The action plan (including our key performance indicators) allows an understanding of trends,

vulnerability factors, sources of harm and outcomes for those children, young people and young adults supported by the internal contextual safeguarding team and the wider partnership organisations. Outcomes for children, young people and young adults will be person-centred and focused on strengths, stability, trusted relationships and personal goals achieved.



10. Oversight & governance arrangements

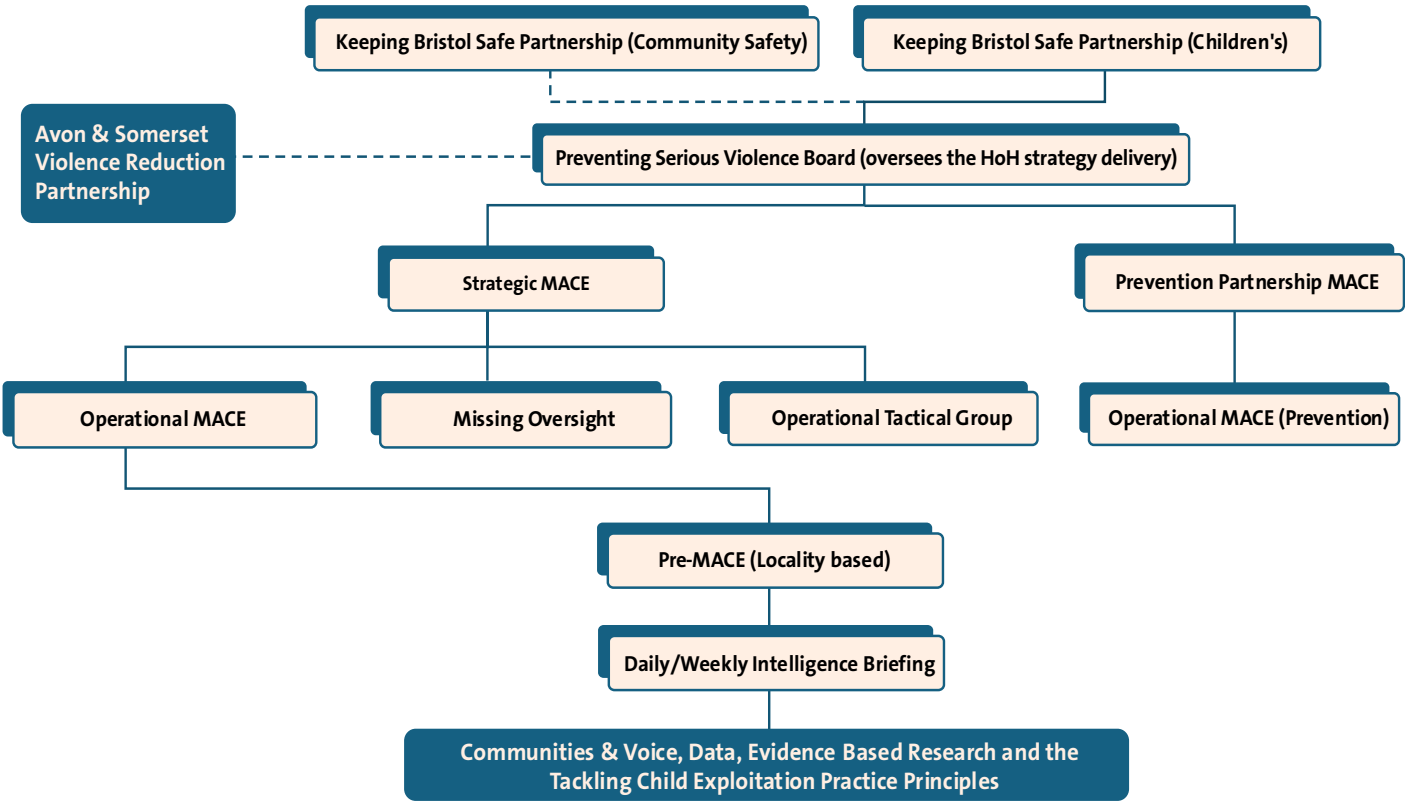
The Preventing Violence Board is the strategic board that will oversee the strategy and action plan for Harm outside the Home across Bristol ensuring an effective partnership response. The Preventing Violence Board is a sub-group of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Children’s Group.

MACE is a multi-agency structure involving both a strategic and operational meeting which responds to the strategic and operational agenda for harm outside the home. The MACE strategic meeting will report directly to the Preventing Violence Board and is the group that drives and ensures the delivery of the strategic aims across the partnership relating to safeguarding children, young people and young adults from harms outside the home.

The operational MACE will monitor the response to children missing from home or care, child exploitation, and serious youth violence as well as the effectiveness of inter-agency arrangements for identifying and supporting vulnerable children, young people and young adults in Bristol.

The progress of the action plan that sits underneath this strategy will be monitored by the Preventing Violence Board. Due to the nature of this work and the effective embedding of the work the partnership will produce quarterly reports on progress to the Preventing Violence Board, and the Safer Communities Board. A bi-annual report will be produced for oversight by the KBSP for children Board.

The PSV Board will oversee the delivery of the Harm outside the Home strategy, including regular data updates, community voice and research input. It will receive reports on a quarterly basis from the strategic and prevention MACE.



Our partnership working

This strategy reflects Bristol's long-standing commitment to collaborative safeguarding. We work in partnership with a wide range of organisations—from statutory agencies and community groups to national charities—to co-design solutions that are informed, inclusive, and effective. Through co-designing solutions with a diverse group of partners, the city aims to effectively prevent, address, and support victims in recovering from harm outside the home. The operational and strategic Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group brings together a broad coalition of agencies to foster innovative collaborations, enhance information-sharing, and identify key trends.

To promote shared learning, the Contextual Safeguarding team will collaborate with key partners in designing and delivering tailored professional development opportunities throughout the city. Collaboration with the voluntary sector ensures that the voices of victims are central to practical training, which is informed by current case studies and/or led by individuals with lived experience. Bristol remains committed to engaging parents, carers, and communities as essential partners

in safeguarding children, young people and young adults from exploitation. By providing opportunities for parents' and carers' expertise to shape strategic activities, governance structures, service delivery, professional development, and service reviews, their involvement will continue to be central to our approach.



11. Next Steps

The Bristol KBSP Children Board will oversee the implementation of this strategy, ensuring that it meets its vision, objectives, and commitments. Strategic MACE will lead relevant strategic activities across our partnership networks, with the Contextual Safeguarding Team providing direct support for changes in practice. This Harm outside the Home strategy will remain aligned with broader priorities outlined in the Bristol Children and Education Plan 2025-2030 continuing to support the city's commitment to safeguarding children, young people and young adults from harm outside the home. The Contextual Safeguarding Team will maintain a leadership role, facilitating collaboration among key partners, to include the Safeguarding in Education Team (SET) to ensure the strategy's approach to addressing harm outside the home is sustainable and effectively realised through joint efforts.

The challenges of child criminal and sexual exploitation, youth violence, missing children, modern slavery, and online abuse require continued vigilance, intervention, and support. Bristol has made significant strides in addressing these issues, but the persistence of these harms highlights the need for ongoing efforts to protect children, young people and young adults from exploitation and abuse.

Through targeted safeguarding initiatives, coordinated efforts among agencies, and focused prevention strategies, we can work to reduce these risks. By strengthening our preventative work (including engagement in education), improving our crisis response, and embedding an anti-racist, trauma-informed approach throughout the system, we will create safer environments where all children, young people, and young adults can thrive—free from harm and full of potential.





If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact
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