

# ***SAFER OPTIONS***

**Co-ordinated whole system approach to reduce and prevent exploitation and serious youth violence.**



## ***Message from safer options***

“Welcome to the Safer Options first newsletter! We are launching this newsletter to improve how we communicate with groups and organisations across the city about what’s happening and how we are working together. Safer Options is a partnership of all the organisations in Bristol who are working together to prevent exploitation and serious violence – that means you are also part of Safer Options! The Hub will be producing these newsletters every 8 weeks. If you want to take the opportunity to share anything with the network through our newsletter, please get in touch with us on [safer.options@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:safer.options@bristol.gov.uk)”

## ***Safer Options Team***



## ***History of Safer Options***

Safer Options was launched in 2018 as a community-led response in East/Central Bristol to increasing serious violence and child criminal exploitation involving young people. It was scaled up to a citywide response in 2019 after funding from the Home Office and introduction of an Avon and Somerset-wide Violence Reduction Unit in the police and integrated with our CSE and Missing response in October 2020.

## ***Safer Options Initiatives***

Over the last 2 years we have developed a number of local appropriate interventions, co-produced with communities and community group based on assessing local needs and relevant data. Some of these have included the development of 1 to 1 support - community mentoring/Youth work, delivering bespoke individual, trauma informed package of support, group work programmes, multi-agency detached youth work and community guardians.

**Peer Influencers** – We are recruiting young people to become peer influencers. The role of a Peer Influencer is to work closely with the Safer Options team to develop evidence-based interventions, evaluate the impact of interventions and support engagement with young people to understand the issues they face in relation to exploitation and Serious Youth Violence.

**Girls and Young Women's work** - Safer options have commissioned organisations to deliver gender specific group work considering resilience, prevention of exploitation and healthy relationships across the city. Please contact us at [safer.options@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:safer.options@bristol.gov.uk) for more information or for any referrals.

**Thematic Review** - The review done by Cross-Border Peer-on-Peer Abuse, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is now complete. The report has been published on Thursday 4th November 2021 and made available here: <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/children/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/peer-on-peer-abuse-and-child-criminal-exploitation-cspr/>

**Drugs in school pathway**- In September 2021, due to the success of the Education Inclusion Managers' work on weapons in schools, it was decided to develop a similar approach in order to support young people that have brought a controlled substance onto an educational setting's site. This is aligned to the National Police Chief's Council guidance and relates to minor incidents of drug possession. Settings can contact their local Education Inclusion Manager for support in the event of any drug incident and we will undertake an assessment which will lead to immediate intervention. This pathway's aim is to safeguard the child/young person and minimise suspension and expulsion.

**Education Inclusion Workers** - Due to a successful Police bid to the Home Office in August 2021, funding was made available for six school posts that could perform direct work around teachable moments. The purpose of these posts are to improve pupil engagement and to reduce rates of exclusion, so that young people have a better awareness of exploitation and criminality.

**Partnership training** - Safer options are working with a number of partners to deliver multi-agency training. We recently worked with LEAP. Leap delivered a 5 day training course to with partners to -

- Increase their understanding of their personal relationship to conflict
- Identify helpful and unhelpful language, narratives and tools for restorative work
- Explore the drivers and motivators for young people engaging in collective behaviour\*
- Learn conflict management frameworks and exercises to use with young people in 1:1 or group settings
- Understand the principles of restorative practice and how these could be applied.

The next part of this work be to develop bespoke operational conflict resolution planning and implementation with peer groups of young people. In the new year they will be offering Awareness raising training on conflict and resolution between peer groups for wider workforce These two-hour online sessions will be aimed at safeguarding leads, social workers, neighbourhood police and youth workers. We will also be working with SOLVE – The centre for Youth Violence and Conflict to deliver training to partners on Social Media, Music and Youth Violence or Tackling County Lines and Criminal Exploitation. Please email us at [safer.options@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:safer.options@bristol.gov.uk) for more information regarding the following trainings: Building context into assessment for social workers, Working with boys and young men impacted by CSE & CSE skills and practice.

**Connecting Communities**- Working with our community groups is a key to the success of the Safer options approach. We meet quarterly with VCS groups and providers currently working with or planning to deliver work focused on the issues CCE, SYV and CSE. The purpose of connecting communities is to integrate our VCS providers more into the Safer Options work, build capacity, sustainability and an opportunity for us to keep an open line of communication. We do this by identifying and delivering different training, sharing best practice, and supporting with funding opportunities and bids.

Please see below for the upcoming dates for the next connecting communities meetings.

**South** – 12th January 2022, 13th April 2022, 13th July 2022, 12th October 2022 @ 10pm -11.30pm

**North** – 13th January 2022, 14th April 2022, 14th July 2022, 13th October 2022 @ 11am -12pm

**East Central** – 18th January 2022, 19th April 2022, 19th July 2022, 18th October 2022 @ 1.30pm -3pm



**Parents support group** - Parents and Carers Speak is an informal group run by parents and carers for parents and carers with support from Full Circle Youth services and Bristol City Council Safer Options staff team. This group allows for a space and time to be heard, learn and grow together around the common issues being faced by our children and young people. To attend Parent and Carers Speak meetings or for more information. Please email [parents@fullcircleproject.org.uk](mailto:parents@fullcircleproject.org.uk) for more information. Parents group is the last Monday of the month at 6pm. Please click on the link for more information <https://mailchi.mp/a403ced43ff7/full-circle-lets-talk-nov-2021?e=8ce58670aa>

**Blunt Truth Workshop** -This workshop is a partnership programme with the NHS aimed to encourage young people to report to their school, the Police or through FEARLESS (youth arm of Crime Stoppers) should someone they know is carrying a knife. The ultimate aim of the workshop is to prevent assaults using knives and weapons from taking place through increased reporting of knife carrying and the dangers of assaults using knives. Please get in touch with [safer.options@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:safer.options@bristol.gov.uk)

## *Interesting podcasts and websites*

## *Just for fun - Slang words decoded*

- Carlene Firmin: Contextual Safeguarding: Re-writing the rules of child protection | TED Talk
- The real roots of youth violence | Craig Pinkney | TEDxBrum
- Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website. ([bristolsafeguarding.org](http://bristolsafeguarding.org))

Email us your answers on what you think these slang words mean and we will share the answers in our next newsletter!

- Sus
- Dope
- Bae
- OG
- Jelly
- Stan
- Spilling the Tea
- Goat
- Gucci
- Peep

