

Annual Report

2023–2024



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Foreword

This report has been produced with the support of Keeping Bristol Safe partners: Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Community Safety partners, Avon and Somerset Police, Child Protection Services, Education and health colleagues and experts by experience across services. It has been published by the five statutory partners (Bristol City Council, Avon & Somerset Police and Bristol, NHS North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, Avon Fire & Rescue Service, and the Probation Service) who are responsible for putting in place effective arrangements to support the co-ordination, quality assurance and continuous improvement of activity to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs and enhance safety across our community.

The annual report provides information and data around the activity of our safeguarding partners and the impact this is having across Bristol. It covers the training offer provided for professionals to enhance their practice through to changes in our Child Protection Services. There is an overview of learning and improvements of practice following statutory reviews: Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Child Protection Safeguarding Reviews.

Bristol was shaken in early 2024 by the tragic loss of Mason Rist, Max Dixon, and Darrian Williams following a rise in serious violence. Our thoughts and condolences are with the friends and families of those

involved. These tragic deaths resulted in rapid responses across the partnership in terms of scrutiny of practice, reviews of current arrangements and changes in strategic vision. We have strengthened our multi-agency response to serious violence across the city to ensure effective information sharing, critical updates to strategy and reviews of risk are shared and understood by all partners. This work will continue into 24/25 to reduce the chances of incidents such as these happening within Bristol.

In November 2023, Bristol appointed a new Independent Scrutineer. Ivan Powell was previously in this role and had been instrumental in many projects and effective changes across the partnership during his time here. Sally Rowe was successful in this appointment and will continue to drive the aims of the partnership forward while also reviewing current practice.

The new strategic plan has launched setting the priorities for the next three years (2023-2026) and the implementation of action plans for the groups to deliver against these. Regular reviews of the practice will happen through audits and scrutiny work to ensure that progress is being continually made.

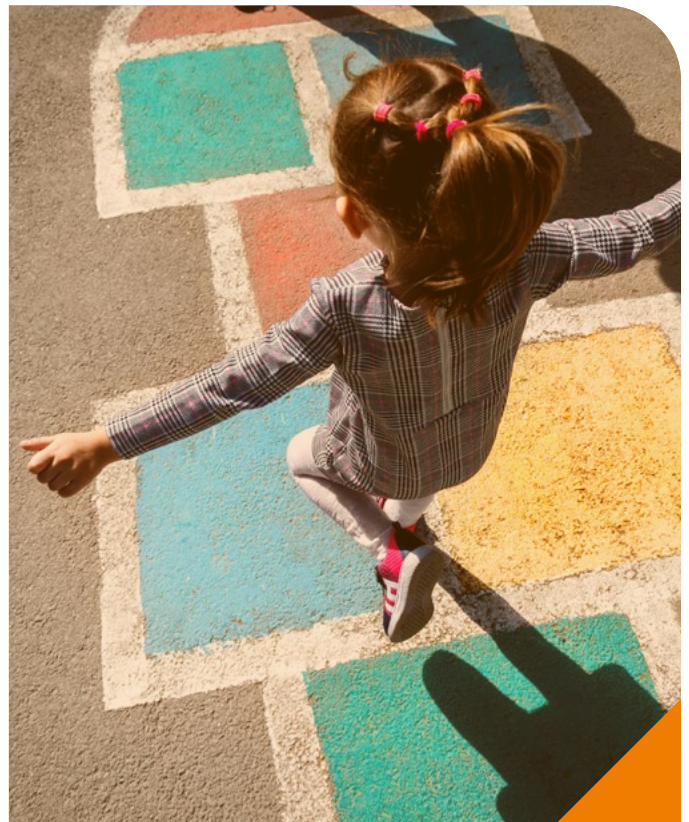
In 24/25 the partnership will continue to be working towards the new strategic plan whilst remaining informed through the voice of lived experience and learning following statutory reviews.

The implementation of Working Together 2023 will bring a focus on information sharing to improve joint working across agencies, proactive involvement of Education settings within safeguarding cases, as well as using data to make well informed strategic decisions for maximum impact. These changes will be implemented by December 2024 and will be monitored in early 2025.

Bristol City Council will be launching multiple new projects across 24/25. The new Domestic Abuse strategy will be published which has seen involvement from the Survivors Forum and includes the aims for Bristol council to become DAHA compliant. Due to the rise in self-neglect cases, Bristol Council will also be producing a self-neglect strategy for professionals to support the population they serve most effectively. Following learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Bristol council will launch an Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This will support risk assessing safeguarding cases, allocation of appropriate support options and effective multi agency working. Finally, this year will see the commissioning of the new substance use contract for Bristol with a go live date of 1 April 2025.

Work around serious violence will continue across 24/25 to provide assurance across the partnership and Bristol City itself. This area, alongside many others will continue to be supported with lived experience. Service user voice is paramount to shape informed decisions made by agencies. The report details work completed with groups of experts by experience within the partnership.

Finally on behalf of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and the Executive, we would like to thank the entire workforce for the commitment to safeguarding, the dedication to the people we serve in Bristol and the positive difference they make in the day to day lives of children, adults, and communities with our city.



Safeguarding Adults

Overview

Adult Social Care now have a clear vision for the future and Safeguarding will ensure its principles are applied to what we do in Safeguarding over the coming year which can be found [here](#).

BCC Adult Social care Strategic Safeguarding have been undertaking various review and quality assurance activities and we understand what works well in our Safeguarding systems and what areas need to be improved. Since then, we have implemented a continuous improvement plan to ensure rolling improvement to ensure a robust and resilient system that ensures we further embed 'Making Safeguarding Personal' and improve the way we work with people we safeguard. All our priorities link to outcomes from previous SAR actions.

The priorities have mainly focussed on:

- Review and streamline of systems and processes including improving the Safeguarding referral form which is underway
- Be an active part of key KBSP projects and workstreams – Self Neglect, Transitions, MASH steering group
- We have also worked hard to recruit to a full and robust Safeguarding Team who have the right skills and experience to take Safeguarding forward internally, including Strengthening our Organisational Safeguarding arm

Highlights and good practice

- **New Quality Assurance Framework** – We have worked in partnership with ADASS and our Principal Social Worker internally to create a new Quality Assurance Framework which now brings Safeguarding into Quality Assurance processes to ensure strategic oversight of Safeguarding operations and practice. This has included the introduction of listening audits to ensure that feedback leads to better outcomes and supports 'you said, we heard, and we did' is applied to Safeguarding work
- **Adult self-assessment bi-annual audit** – This audit tests effectiveness of adult safeguarding systems and has been shared across Avon & Somerset
- **Organisational abuse policy** – This has been created and shared across all partners to improve the safety of vulnerable people. An Alerters guide for adult social care has been produced to accompany this so that abuse is spotted and reported as efficiently as possible

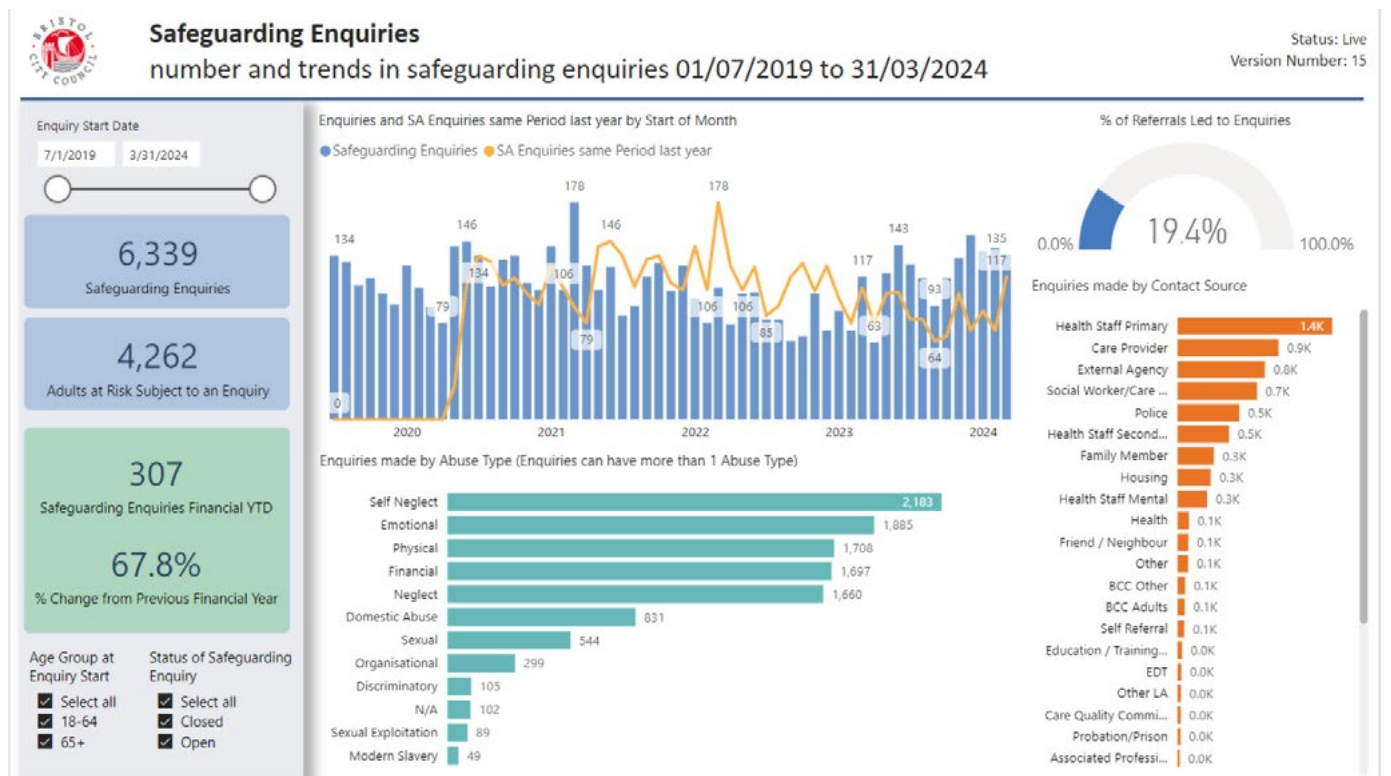
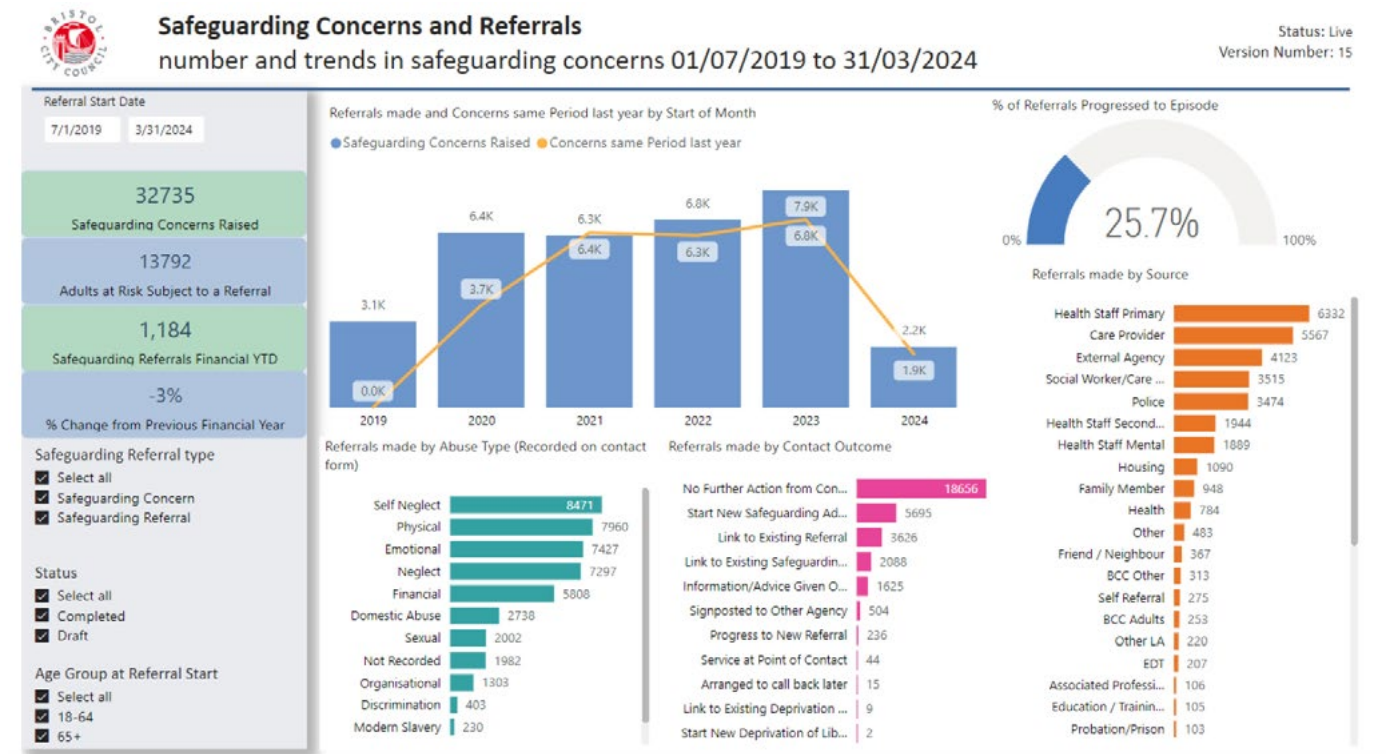
Changes in practice

- **Standard Operating Procedure –**
We have a new Standard operating procedure and released guidance on how to provide the best outcomes during Protection Planning discussions. This has supported better partnership working in some teams and areas
- **Safeguarding Discussion Forum –**
Our Safeguarding discussion forum has been running for 3 years now and this continues to be reviewed and improved each year. The forum supports practitioners to discuss challenging Safeguarding scenarios and receive advice, guidance, and escalation to move them forward to ensure better outcomes for the person



Data

We have constructed an adult's dashboard to show data on a variety of topics across the Adult Social Care brief. It looks at data across the previous two years so we can see trends, emerging issues, and areas for focus.





Safeguarding Profile

demographic profile of service users with an enquiry 01/07/2019 to 31/03/2024

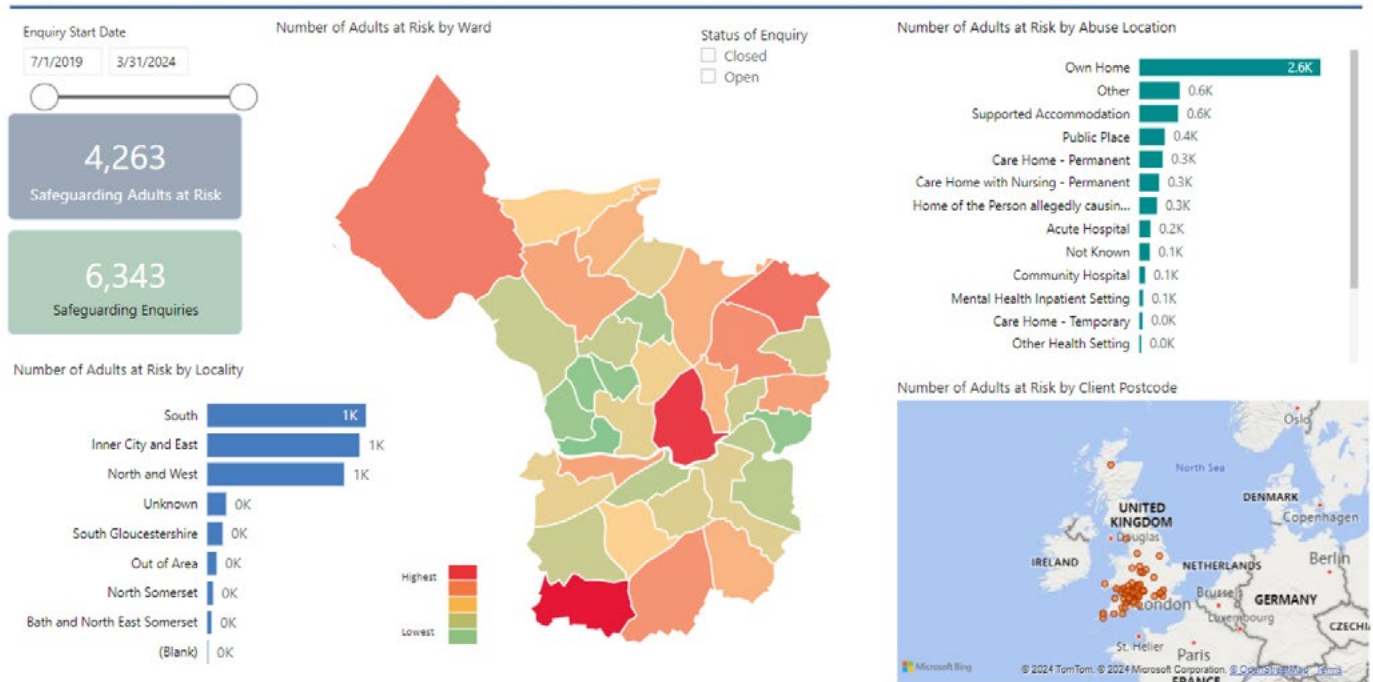
Status: Live
Version Number: 15



Geographic Profile

geographic profile of Adults at Risk with an enquiry 01/07/2019 to 31/03/2024

Status: Live
Version Number: 15

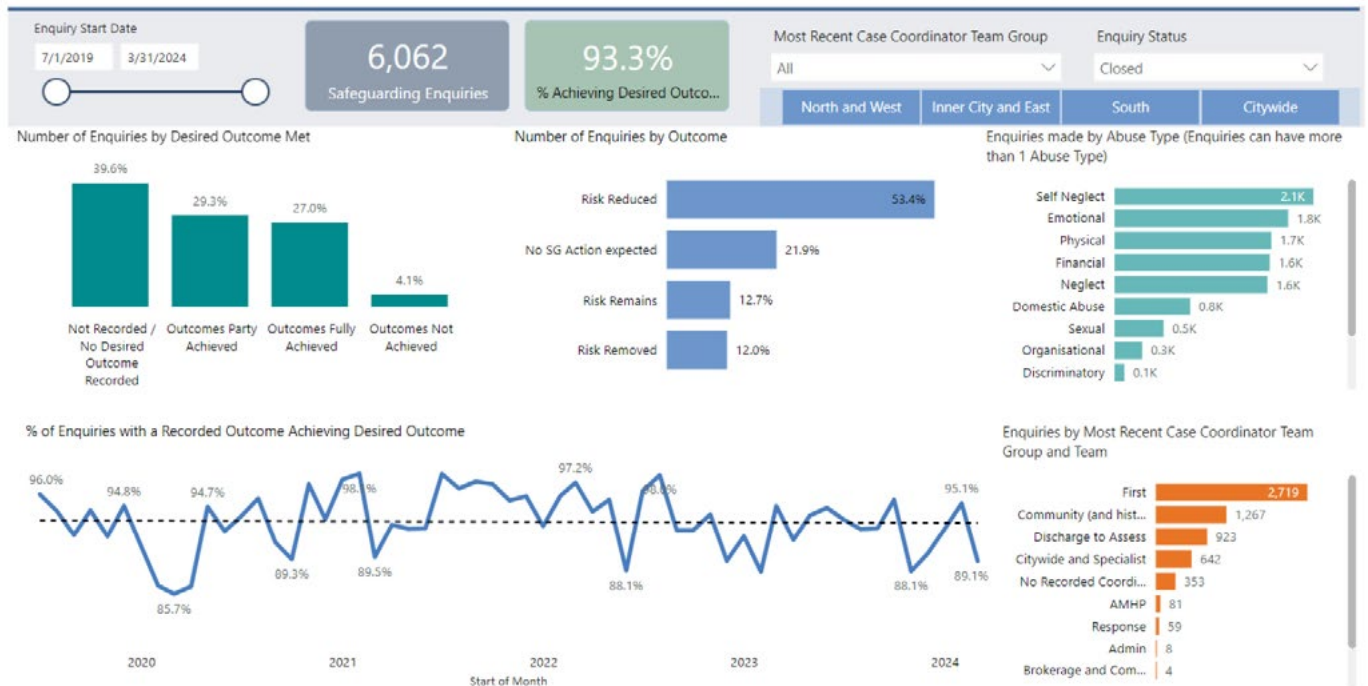




Safeguarding Outcomes

analysis of outcomes of Closed safeguarding enquiries 01/07/2019 to 31/03/2024

Status: Live
Version Number: 15



Emerging risks and areas of interest

- **Intersectionality in Practice** – Intersectionality examines how a person’s identities, such as their gender, ethnicity, and sexuality etc affect their access to opportunities and privileges. Avoidance of this is a risk to safe practice and good outcomes therefore it is a key driver for this and next years to ensure practice is safe, inclusive and that factors layers of risk into protection planning. We will achieve this through continued audits of practice and enhanced offer of staff training through KBSP

- **Professional Curiosity** – This is an area for development within Adult Social Care. This ensures we are asking the right questions to understand hidden risks, additional needs, or even potential abuse the individual is experiencing. We will be running campaigns and ensuring this is a focus of practice and reflection. We have linked this into the new Quality Assurance Framework, so it remains a key area of interest within practice
- **Self-Neglect** – This has been an area in which we have seen an increase in risk through more referrals to Adults Social Care with this concern and more Safeguarding Adult Reviews noting Self Neglect as a contributing factor to the individuals passing. This is a key priority for Adult Social Care. We intend on updating the Self Neglect toolkit with relevant policies and support services as well as refreshing the direction of the Self Neglect subgroup



Self-Neglect

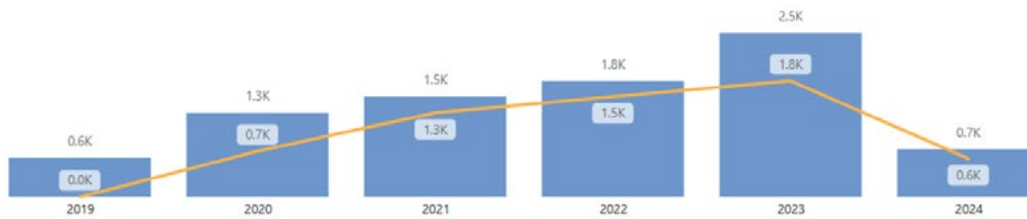
number and trends in self-neglect concerns 01/07/2019 to 31/03/2024



A recent LGA Review identified '58% of SARs analysed in the South West were cases of Self-Neglect (higher than any other region in the UK)' p.18

Referrals made and Concerns same Period last year by Start of Month

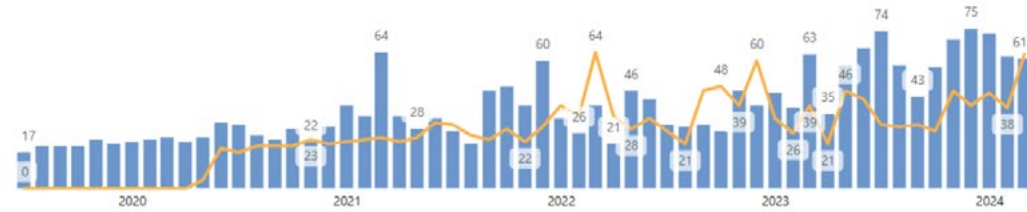
● Safeguarding Concerns Raised ● Concerns same Period last year



8,466 Safeguarding Concerns

Enquiries and SA Enquiries same Period last year by Start of Month

● Safeguarding Enquiries ● SA Enquiries same Period last year

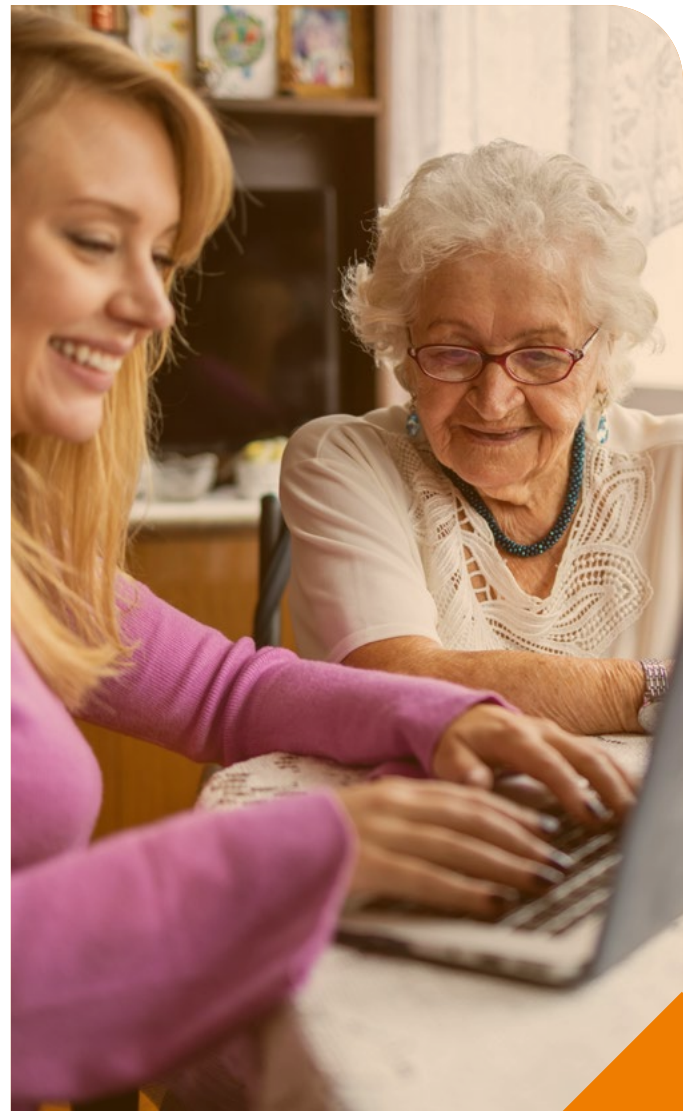


2,184 Safeguarding Enquiries



Focus for this year (24-25)

- **Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** – Establishing a MASH intends to improve processes, procedures and pathways and co-ordinated approach to risk management of complex cases. This will support identifying the most appropriate support options with the highest efficiency whilst managing risk effectively
- **Reduce wait times for a Safeguarding Adults response** – We are working hard to ensure that people do not wait for a Safeguarding response and is a key focus as part of on-going improvement plans and objectives. We are building stronger relationships with our partners to increase our visibility and accountability for these responses being made in a timely manner
- **Transitions** – We will develop the transitional safeguarding group with an updated forward plan, training and awareness raising, and additional policies all with the aim of reducing the risk of exploitation for this cohort



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Overview

The Keeping Children Safe delivery group have focussed on:

- Establishing and maintaining oversight of the Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Oversight of the new policy "Effective Support for children and families in Bristol" and monitoring it being embedded in practice
- This key policy focusses on ensuring that Alternative Learning Provisions have appropriate safeguarding policies in place
- Assurance of processes around missing children and the subsequent return conversations to gain a more holistic understanding of the issues for the child

In February 2024 there were the tragic deaths of three young people in Bristol which the group needed to change its focus and strategy to ensure reviews were conducted, learning was disseminated, and changes were implemented across the partnership within Bristol.

Highlights and good practice

- **Launch of Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** – Following the response to Ofsted report Jan 23, partners have worked together to scope and implement the best model to improve timely & co-ordinated responses to complex safeguarding cases
- **Operation Encompass** – This ensures schools have timely information about police attending incidents of domestic abuse involving children. It aims to improve link up between education and other agencies while assisting schools to understand children's context and provide appropriate support
- **Audits** – The Section 11 audit was successfully completed in conjunction with Avon & Somerset Areas, and it enables partnerships to test the effectiveness of safeguarding systems. The report has been shared and the recommendations will be implemented into practice moving forward. A harmful cultural practices audit has also been completed with all members committed to working on the recommendations
- **Successful Joint roll out of ICON** – This is training for young parents to advise them about parenting young babies and aim to reduce non accidental child injury such as shaking. This training was rolled out across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester (BNSSG) in conjunction with the Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- **Focus on training of the children's workforce** – We have invested in training for frontline staff to be culturally competent and confident in response to complex safeguarding issues using a trauma informed approach and improved resources for practitioners to better identify and support families

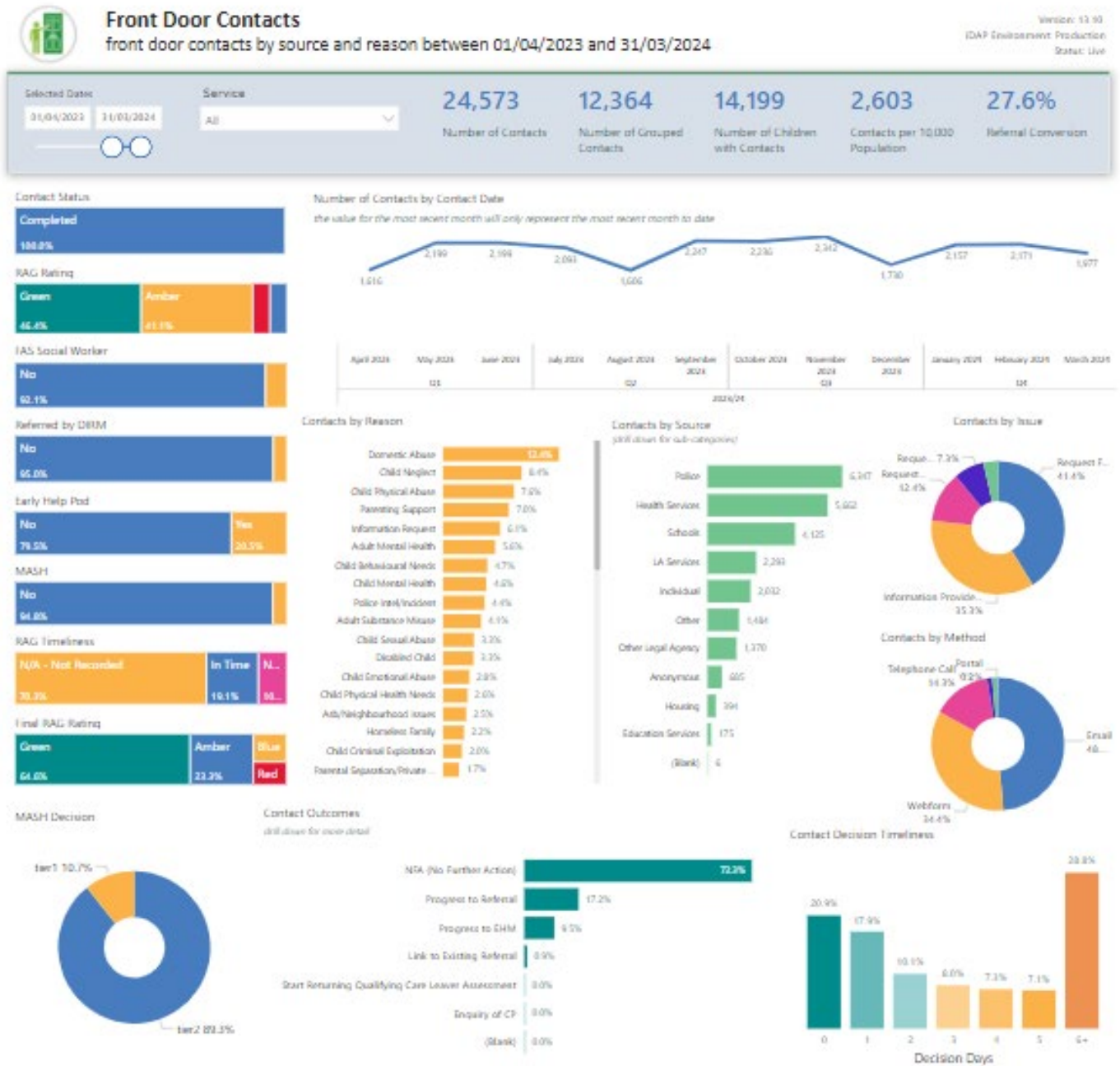
Changes in practice

- **Audit of strategy meetings** – Following reviews conducted within services and the Rapid Reviews from the deaths in February, this audit was completed and will create meaningful changes to practice with regards to the effectiveness of strategy meetings. These meetings, alongside child protection conferences, now have resources for parents to explain the process in a user-friendly way
- **Transitional protocol** – This protocol sets out city wide approach to working for 16–25-year-old at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE) who may need further support to transition into adulthood safely. A task and finish group was established to develop the protocol, and this has been shared with partners across Bristol



Data

The data below looks across the 2023-2024 year on a variety of topics across Children’s Social Care to oversee trends, emerging issues, changes and areas for focus.





Referrals

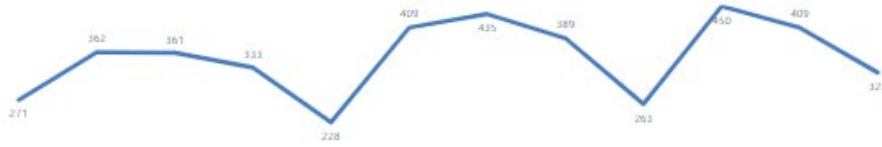
referral by source and reason between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024

Version: 13.10
IDAP Environment: Production
Status: Live

Selected Dates: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 | Service: All

4,233 Number of Referrals	3,675 Number of Children with Referrals	448 Referrals per 10k	2,333 Referrals with Assessment	81.5% Referral to Assessment Conversion	27.6% Contact to Referral Conversion
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Number of Referrals by Date (the value for the most recent month will only represent the most recent month to date)



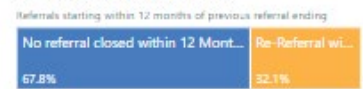
Referral Status



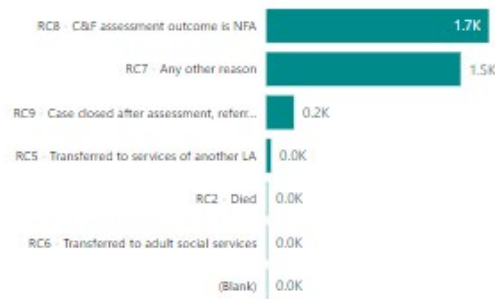
Re-Referrals (Benchmarking)



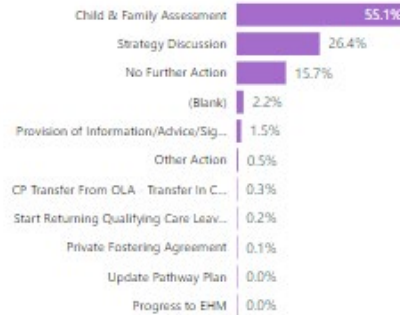
Re-Referrals (Alternative Measure)



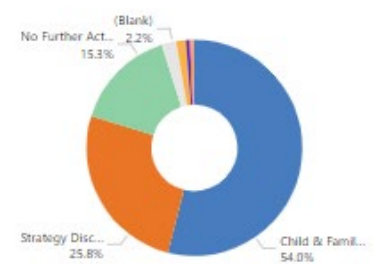
Referral End Reason (excluding Open referrals)



Referral Outcomes



Outcome of Previous Referral within 12 Months



Strategy Discussion and Section 47 Enquiries by total and outcomes

Version: 6.2
IDAP Environment: Production
Status: Live

Notes about this page:
Use slicers at the top of each visual to change the metric the visual is showing.

Select Date Range: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

Service: All

2,185

Strategy Discussions

231.4

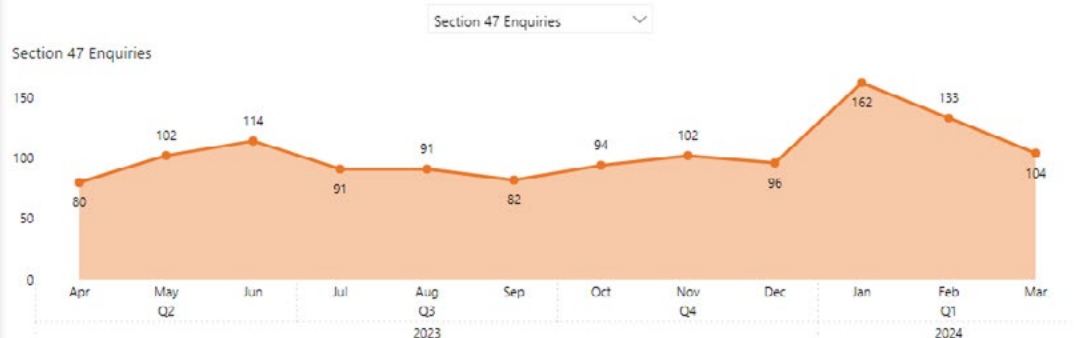
Rate per 10,000 Children

1,251

Section 47 Enquiries

132.5

Rate per 10,000 Children





Child Protection Conferences by type, status and timeliness

Version: 6.2
IDAP Environment: Production
Status: Live

Notes about this page:
Use sliders at the top of each visual to change the metric the visual is showing.

Select Date Range

01/04/2023 31/03/2024

263

Initial CP Conferences

71.1%

Initial CP Conferences in Timescales

507

Review CP Conferences

93.1%

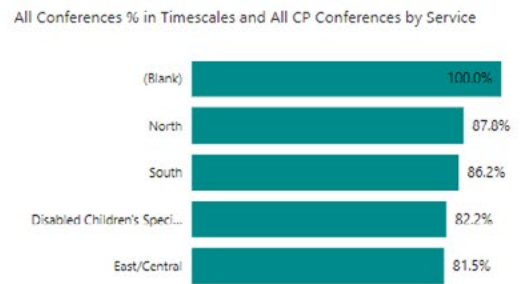
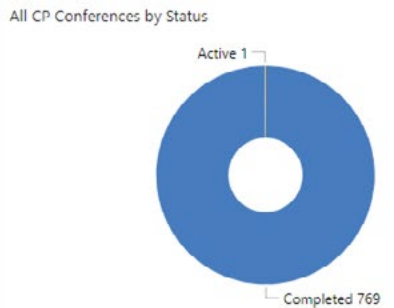
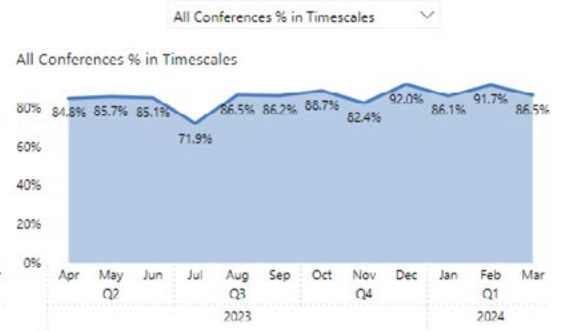
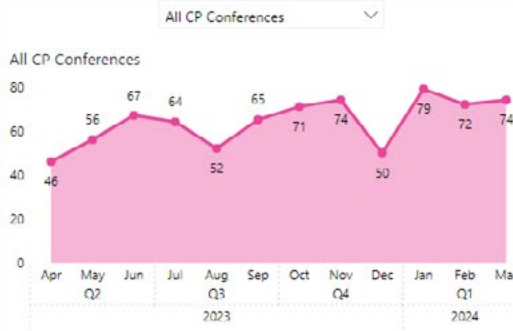
Review Conferences in Timescales

85.6%

All Conferences in Timescales

92.0%

ICPC with Outcome of CP Plan



Children Starting Child Protection Plans trends over time

Version: 6.2
IDAP Environment: Production
Status: Live

Select Date Range

01/04/2023 31/03/2024

503

CP Plan Starts

161

CP Re-Registration (Ever)

32%

CP Re-Registration (Ever) %

45

CP Re-Registration (within 2 yrs)

9%

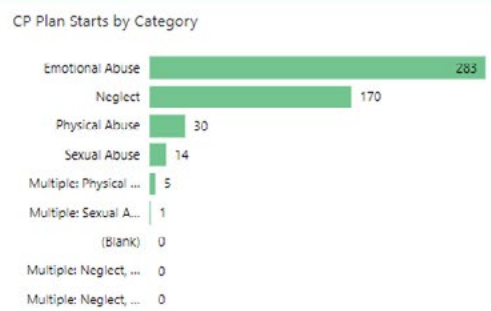
CP Re-Registration (within 2 yrs) %

28

Child Previously in Care

6%

Child Previously in Care %





Child Protection Summary

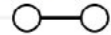
key metrics for child protection between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024

Version
iDAP Environment:Prod
Status

Quick overview of Child Protection pathway elements and links to more information...

Select Date Range

01/04/2023 31/03/2024



Clicking on the ⓘ icon will take you a page with more details about the selected metric...

* Please note 'Initial Child Protection Conferences' and 'Review Child Protection Conferences' is a count of meetings held, the count of children is the number in brackets.

Child Sexual Abuse Pathway

This year, the Partnership are proud to launch the Child Sexual Abuse Pathway and associated resources, supporting us to continue to improve our response to children who are harmed through sexual abuse. Conferences, newsletters, webinars, and training have supported us to promote the resources and build confidence across the workforce. We have seen increasing knowledge about the resources, and we are working to implement them in practice through a new workforce offer due to launch in September 2024.

The Children's Partnership have also worked to improve join up between CAMHS and specialist sexual abuse services; improved contact to assessment rates for referrals related to child sexual abuse; and the newly implemented Health Strategy team has led to improvements in CSA specialist paediatricians being involved in strategy meetings. As a partnership we have identified that work is now needed to

improve the quality of assessments about child sexual abuse and we hope to do this through the use of resources and improved access to consultation and advice through the Green House and Barnardo's BACE's consultation and professional support offers. [Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway | CSA Centre](#)

Information Sharing

Bristol have been partnered with the Department for Education (DfE) and Somerset in developing a model Safeguarding Data Sharing Agreement template and guidance. The partnership has been working to produce the first national Tier 1 Data Sharing Agreement for Adults, Children and Community Safety reflecting our combined arrangements. This work supports partners in sharing information proportionately and securely. We aspire to address some legacy practices where consent is relied on inappropriately as a basis for information sharing. The DSA will be finalised and published in 2024/25.

Children and Families View (CFV)

The Children and Families View (CFV) is a web-based report which displays person-level information from internal and external services across Bristol. This includes events, vulnerabilities and contact details for professionals from social care, the police and housing. The CFV button can be found at the top of a person's social care record in LCS or EHM.

The CFV is designed to make information retrieval quicker and easier for local authority staff in safeguarding roles.

The CFV can also support the case worker in discussions with other agencies enabling them to easily find contact details for example the designated safeguarding lead at the child's school or the housing officer for the mother. Discussions with these staff members enable the case worker to quickly identify the needs of the family, and to produce a plan for future support. It enables them to respond to events for example if children are linked to the committing of an offence the caseworker can check dates and type of offence, identify linked individuals to the same offence and take a trauma-informed approach to group supervision by presenting information from a range of services, including the police.

When completing a review, case workers can use the CFV to evaluate trends in events in relation to service involvements. This builds a picture of patterns in events and recurring factors affecting the family, to identify whether a change in support is necessary.

Bristol Child Protection Conference Service

The focus for 2023 / 2024 has been around preparation for Child Protection Conferences - if everyone is better prepared, we can have more meaningful conversations in conference, the service can develop safety plans alongside families, and appropriate next steps to reduce worries and increase the safety of children.

The Child Protection Conference Guide was launched in January 2024 to provide the information in one place. This aims to help build a better understanding and reduce anxiety about child protection conferences and process, for parents, children, and professionals.

Over the past 12 months Bristol has seen a steady increase in the number of children with a Child Protection plan. We have held 300 initial, and 549 review child protection conferences this year. We now have six Child Protection Conference Chairs to enable the service to meet this rise and facilitate conferences in a timely way. It is important that the right people attend conference from all the disciplines working with children and the parents / carers (adults) to ensure that there is a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children from harm.

The service has continued to provide training about child protection conferences and process. This includes a presentation within the KBSP Child protection training programme for partner agencies, and co facilitated training with Leanne Ellaway Specialist Social Work Lead for ROAD, to professionals within the Drug and Alcohol Support services across Bristol. This has given opportunity to professionals

working with parents / carers to increase understanding about child protection and their role in conference and as part of the wider network of support for parents / carers where alcohol and drug use is a significant concern for the care and safety of the child. There has been an increase in attendance and participation and offer for families from these services within the child protection process.

The service will extend the training offer with partner agencies. This aims to drive and support better attendance at conference from the key professionals that are working with the children and their families. This enables opportunity to work alongside families, talk about worries and strengths and be able to develop meaningful next steps that offer support and enable change, where there are worries for a child's care and safety.

The service will also develop ways to seek feedback from children, parents, and professionals to ensure that we continue to develop a conference model that is inclusive and supportive for families at difficult times in their lives.

Shadow Board

The Safeguarding Shadow Board is a forum for Youth Engagement across Bristol with a direct line into the Executive to get the voices of young people heard. The Shadow Board have contributed to the following projects throughout 2023/24:

- Met with the University of Bristol to discuss their survey on the prevalence of vaping among young people and how best to promote this survey to get the best engagement for it

- Discussed schools' responsibilities and practices with the manager of the Safeguarding in Education Team
- Contributed to the new domestic abuse strategy by talking about how service providers work with young people and what they feel an ideal worker and service should look like when supporting young people. This feedback was passed onto Next Link. They also raised an important discussion around keeping young people safe if they disclose that domestic abuse is taking place due to how schools respond
- Participated in the consultation on the proposed model for BNSSG sexual and reproductive health services

The Shadow Board have also published their report on the project on auditing First Response this year. This involved having young people ring up First Response with a scenario they had come up with during a planning meeting for this to see whether the changes that were identified as needing to be made had been.

They have also been instrumental in being part of interview panels for several senior positions within the council that have responsibilities that include services that support children and young people such as our current Executive Director of Children's and Education, Hannah Woodhouse.

In 24/25, the Shadow Board would like to have a focus on reducing serious youth violence and knife crime by engaging with the local police and Hannah on the approach the city is taking.

Emerging risks and areas of interest

- **Joint projects with Police** – Operation Encompass is a key area of focus. This has been implemented and will be regularly reviewed to ensure its functioning to support vulnerable children. There are concerns around delays in police decision making when allegations against professionals are made which instigates the LADO process. This is a national issue especially if downloading of technological information is required. We will be working with the police to support the delays and keep agencies informed of case progression
- **Childrens mental health** – There is a rising concern for the number of children awaiting inpatient beds for their mental health needs. We will be completing work to gain more insight into bed numbers across the southwest to ascertain need, gain updates and changes from units and share contingency plans for young people in need
- **Serious youth violence** – There are areas to develop in our governance and delivery of safeguarding arrangements for children at risk outside the home from exploitation and going missing and we are arranging an extraordinary meeting for July 2024. We will be building on Safer Options approach to further understand and tackle serious violence and build an integrated system to prevent and protect children. This includes establishment of a new Preventing Serious Violence Board to oversee the serious violence agenda

Focus for this year (24-25)

- **Data** – The partnership is committed to ensuring our decisions are data led to maximise the impact in areas of practice that need it most. There have been some difficulties with obtaining health data which will be a focus for the partnership in 24-25. Alongside learnings from statutory reviews, data must be used to inform decisions and review the impact that changes have had. We will be working with health colleagues to streamline the data requests and share in a thoughtfully analysed and digestible way for partners
- **Lived experience and youth voice** – We need to ensure that the voice of our service users are being gathered and held front and centre of all decision making. We aim to run larger focussed workshops and invite young people from a variety of areas, supported by different agencies, to make sure their voice is heard and shared across all levels of the partnership
- **Working Together 2023** – The implementation of the new statutory frame of Working Together 2023 is paramount for safeguarding compliance within Bristol. All changes must be made by December 2024 so the partnership will recruit to a fixed term position for supporting the changes required

Community Safety

Overview

The Partnership's statutory duties and activities are overseen and supported by the Keeping Communities Safe Group (KCSG). The Partnership has published its three-year plan in 2023 which outlines its seven thematic priorities.

The seven priorities are as follows:

1. Preventing and Reducing Harmful Drug (to include alcohol) activity and improve our support for those affected by harmful drug use
2. Preventing and Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
3. Preventing and Reducing Serious Violence
4. Domestic Abuse, including Violence Against Women and Girls and improve our support for those affected by these crimes.
5. Reduce and Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
6. Preventing and Reducing incidents of Hate Crime and improve our support for victims
7. Preventing and reducing Modern Slavery in Bristol and Improving our support for victims

It was recognised early in 2023, that there were two additional specific areas of work that require development at a strategic level – these being the co-creation of a local Reducing Reoffending Strategy and

the strengthening of our local Preventing Serious Violence Framework. These two areas of work were made additional priorities for the KCSG throughout 2023 and into 2024.

Early in 2023, KCSG created additional subgroups to strengthen delivery against each of the seven priority themes and has also refreshed its formal reporting schedule to effectively monitor progress and address barriers.

The Partnership has also received and distributed the Police and Crime Grant from the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and ensured that it has been used effectively to address crime and disorder matters in the city. The Police and Crime Grant has been used to support statutory functions such as the Youth Justice Service, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), commissioning of Domestic Homicide Reports whilst also funding a specific Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Worker and supporting smaller projects such as the Sanctuary Scheme and the purchase of bleed kits. This is the first year that the Police and Crime Grant has part funded a partnership data analyst who has in turn created a number of new dashboards relevant to the KCSG and has been working to produce a schedule of data analytics to include the production of an annual strategic assessment for crime, disorder and community safety – meeting the Partnerships Statutory Duty and enabling real time collation and analysis of police crime data.

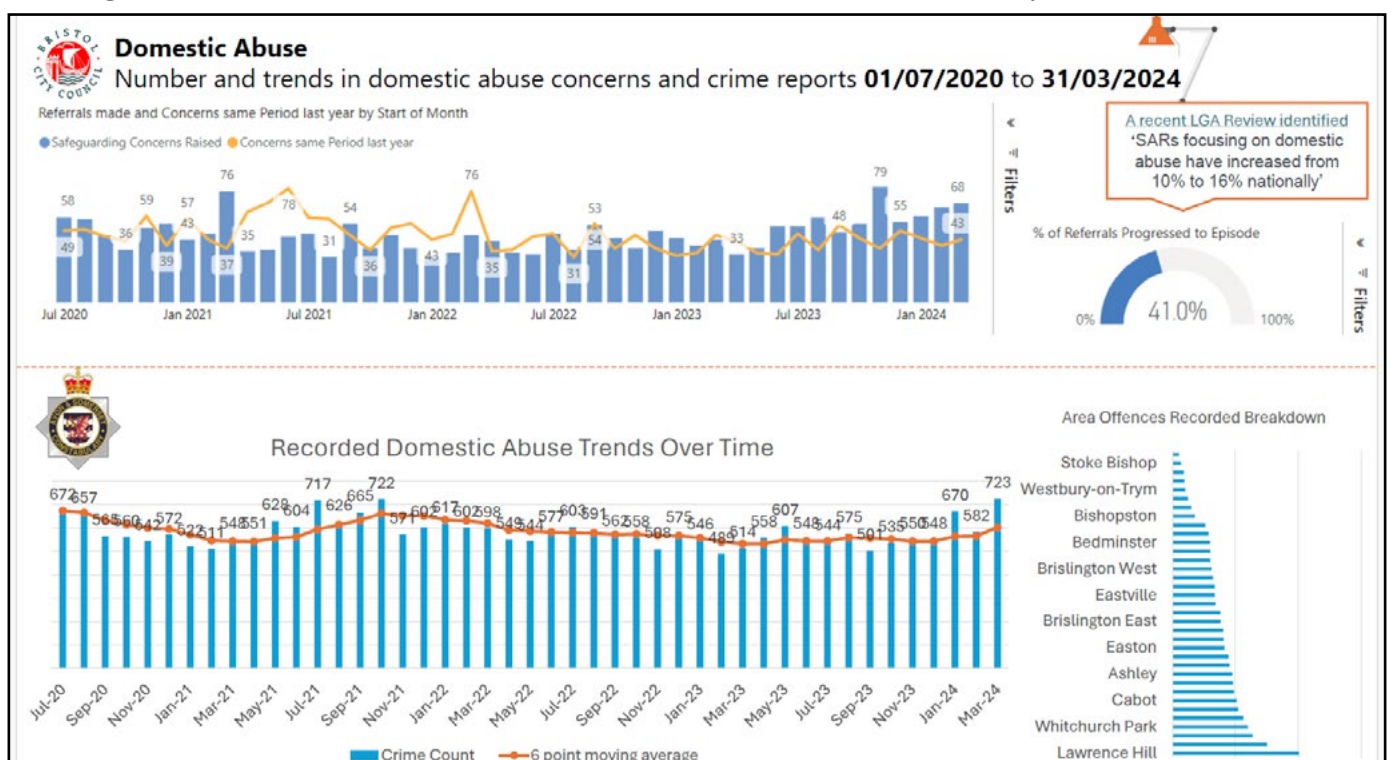
Highlights and good practice

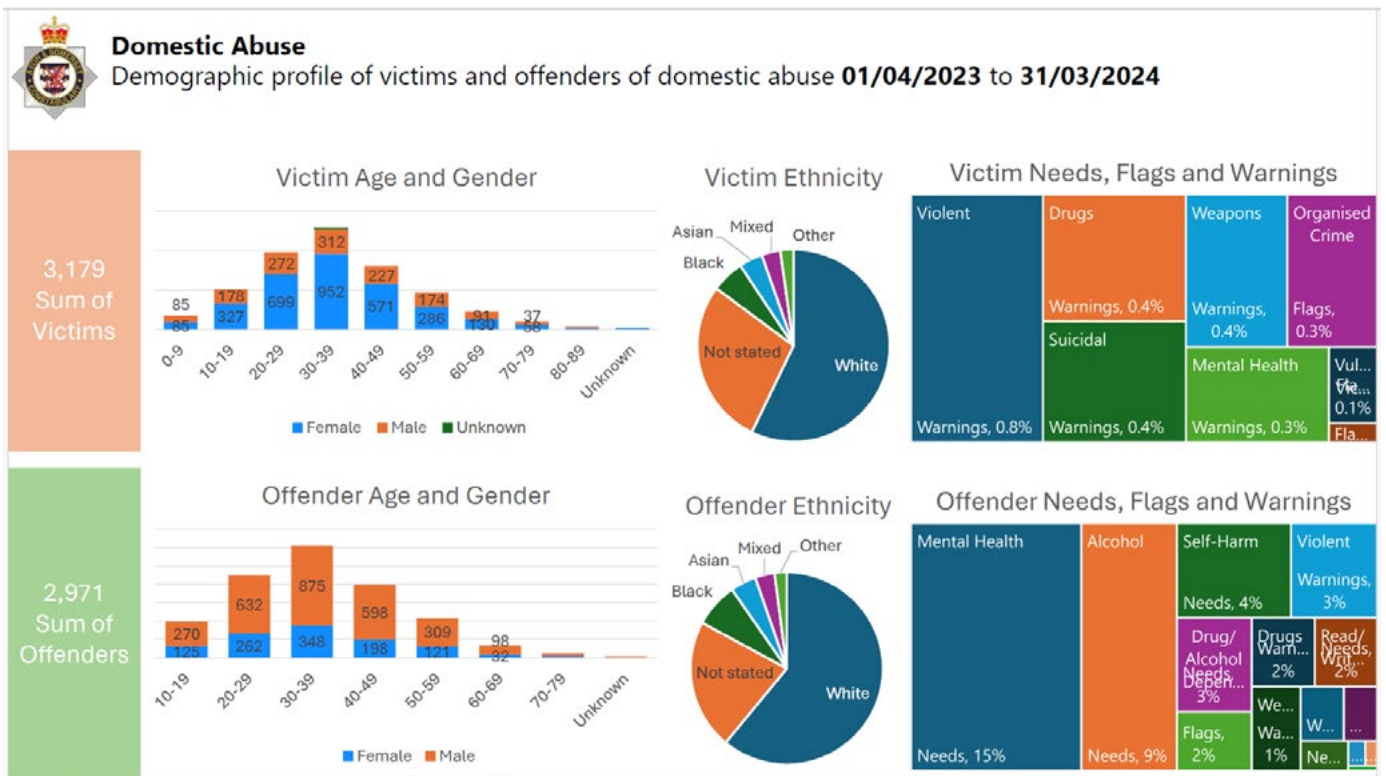
The Bristol Community Safety Partnership has gone from strength to strength in growing its strategic reach, having retained strength in its longstanding partnership groups such as the Strategic Partnership Against Crime (SPAHC) it has continued to build on more recent Partnerships such as the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) and the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group, whilst also formalising new and existing partnerships around Modern Slavery and Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) was the foundation from which our local partnership response was launched to deal with an incident in July 2023 that saw a significant increase in fatal drugs overdoses caused by synthetic opioids. The CDP network was mobilised in very quick time and ensured effective information sharing between drug service providers, hospitals, police, the Council, public health, and other key partners. This information sharing enabled effective action to be

taken to disrupt the relevant drugs supply chains, identified where risk was highest and ensured that vital safety messaging could be provided to vulnerable drug users. Local arrangements already developed through the partnership created an opportunity to collaborate with the University of Bath in delivering emergency testing of drug samples that supported the National Crime Agency and national partnership responding to the emergence of synthetic opioids.

The Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) delivery and operational groups have been working to improve the safety of women and girls, whilst being led by lived experience voices. The Survivors forum has supported and reviewed the new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy for the council. This group has also been instrumental with supporting the council's initiative to receive the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. This has made positive change to housing policies including training and development opportunities for staff. Below is a snapshot of domestic abuse reports:





Members of the local partnership have developed an 'acute phase incident response' model that has been implemented to very good effect during the year. The model sees an initial assessment of an incident undertaken by senior leaders from the police and council. In that process, the likely impacts of the incident will be identified, particularly in term of the local residents, identifiable sectors of the community and how it will impact on people feeling safe. Where those impacts will be significant, a partnership group is convened (usually within 24 hours) so that information can be shared between agencies and groups and resulting actions generated and coordinated. This response was activated in the hours immediately following the tragic murders of Eddie Kinuthia, Mason Rist, Max Dixon, and Darrian Williams, ensuring that there was effective communication between partners involved in policing, education, community

safety, youth services, health, and other key local services. By communicating across agencies, partners were able to identify and mitigate related risks and ensure the impacted communities were supported in the best way. Further developments have led to a refresh of serious violence frameworks and even the creation of the new Preventing Serious Violence board which will be able to tackle key issues at a strategic level and provide quick, effective planning when needed.

Addressing the cross-cutting nature of safeguarding children and adults and tackling crime and disorder continue to be facilitated by the current structure of the whole Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership. The KCSG heads up an emerging eco-system of Partnership groups that work together to meet the crime and disorder priorities set out in its Delivery Plan.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Forum

Over the last year the forum has been heavily involved in shaping the content of the new DA strategy through multiple workshops.

They input towards discussions on the strategy on the following topics:

- Rewording the prosper element to include progress as the forum felt that was more inclusive for survivors during their recovery
- Access to peer support including advocates & improving effectiveness of campaigns
- Understanding of the benefits system
- Secondary abuse and trauma informed approach
- Access to housing
- Focus on children's needs

They have also been involved in working on the council's initiative to receive the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. This will create positive changes to housing policies including informing the training development and delivery to housing staff.

A key area of work in 23/24 has been around the treatment of domestic abuse victims within the family court system. A letter has been sent to clerks offering to work with them to improve the experience of victims in the family courts through the guidance of lived experience.

This has been acknowledged and the group are looking to develop training for court staff in 24/25 and have received praise

for the standard of the work they have completed so far.

The forum has expressed their priorities for the next year are to look at mental health support provision for domestic abuse victims and survivors, to look at financial abuse and to create resources to increase membership of the group.

Emerging risks and areas of interest

- Over 23/24 there has been an increased number of incidents of Serious Youth Violence and in particular incidents of knife crime. This continues to be a concern for Bristol; both its residents and the services working within the city and will remain a priority for Community Safety. Work towards tackling knife crime in the city will be a focus throughout strategic meetings across the partnership
- Following an increase in both drug related overdoses and drug related deaths, there are concerns around the changes in a new drug market and the subsequent impact that this could have on health and crime. The CDP will continue to monitor changes and respond the new information regarding this. The partnership will be working on strengthening the communication pathways to share concerns across multiple stakeholders quickly and effectively
- Work towards tackling knife crime in the city will be a focus throughout strategic meetings across the partnership such as Preventing Serious Violence Board

Bristol City Council – Public Health Death Data:

Definitions:

***Drug Misuse Deaths Definition (following the Office for National Statistics definition):**

All deaths where the underlying cause of death has been coded to the following categories of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (excluding alcohol, tobacco and volatile solvents):

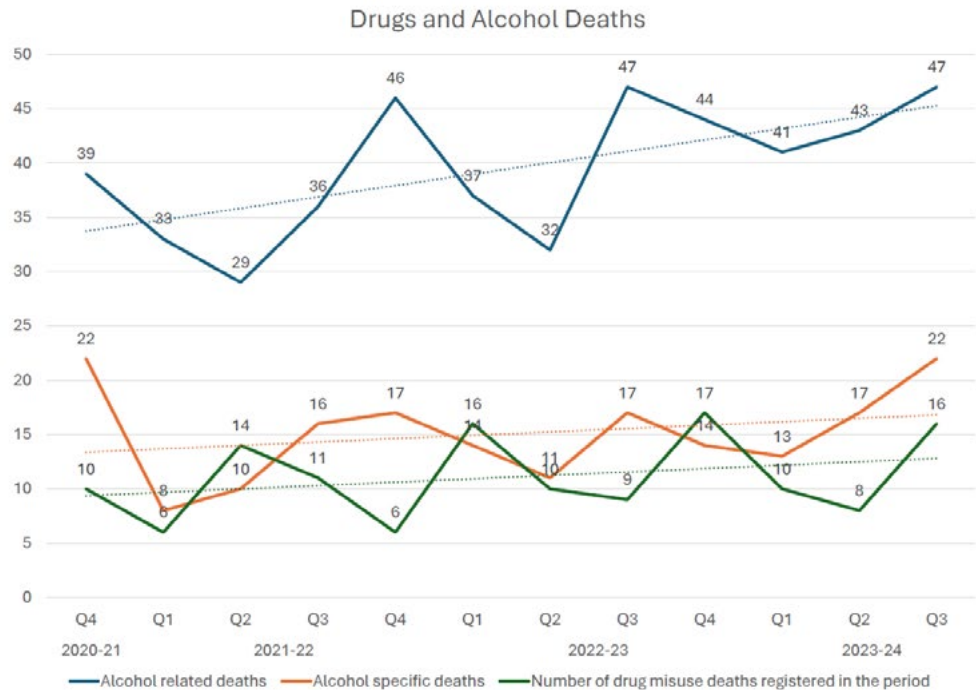
- i. opioids (F11)
- ii. cannabinoids (F12)
- iii. sedatives or hypnotics (F13)
- iv. cocaine (F14)
- v. other stimulants, including caffeine (F15)
- vi. hallucinogens (F16) and
- vii. multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances (F19)

And any deaths coded to the following categories and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death record:

- i. Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances (X40-X44)
- ii. Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances (X60-X64)
- iii. Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent (Y10-Y14)
- iv. Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances (X85) and
- v. Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents (F18)

***Alcohol related deaths definition (following the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities):** Deaths from alcohol-related conditions based on underlying cause of death, registered in the calendar year for all ages.

***Alcohol specific deaths definition (following the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities):** Deaths which have been wholly caused by alcohol consumption, registered in the calendar year for all ages.



Focus for 2024-2025

- For 24-25 KCSG aim to better coordinate partnership responses to more serious incidents of crime and disorder, especially regarding serious violence and knife crime, through progression of the One City approach to tackling serious youth violence, strengthening the local Preventing Serious Violence Partnership Board and continuing to develop the acute phase incident response model
- The KCSG will work towards creating a sustainable Preventing Radicalisation model following cessation of Home Office funding in March 2025 so that this work will still continue in Bristol
- The Combatting Drugs Partnership will begin preparations of re-commissioning of Bristol's substance misuse services, with new contract to be awarded from 1 July with new services going live in April 2025



Statutory reviews

Within 2023/24 the KBSP undertook several statutory reviews.

Statutory Reviews:

Number of Safeguarding Adults Reviews	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Initiated	2	0	0	0
Ongoing	7	9	8	7
Published	2	0	1	1

Number of Domestic Homicide Reviews	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Initiated	2	1	1	1
Ongoing	11	13	14	15
Submitted to Home Office	0	0	0	2
Published	2	0	0	1

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: We started 2 (both in Quarter 2) and are due for publication in 24/25.

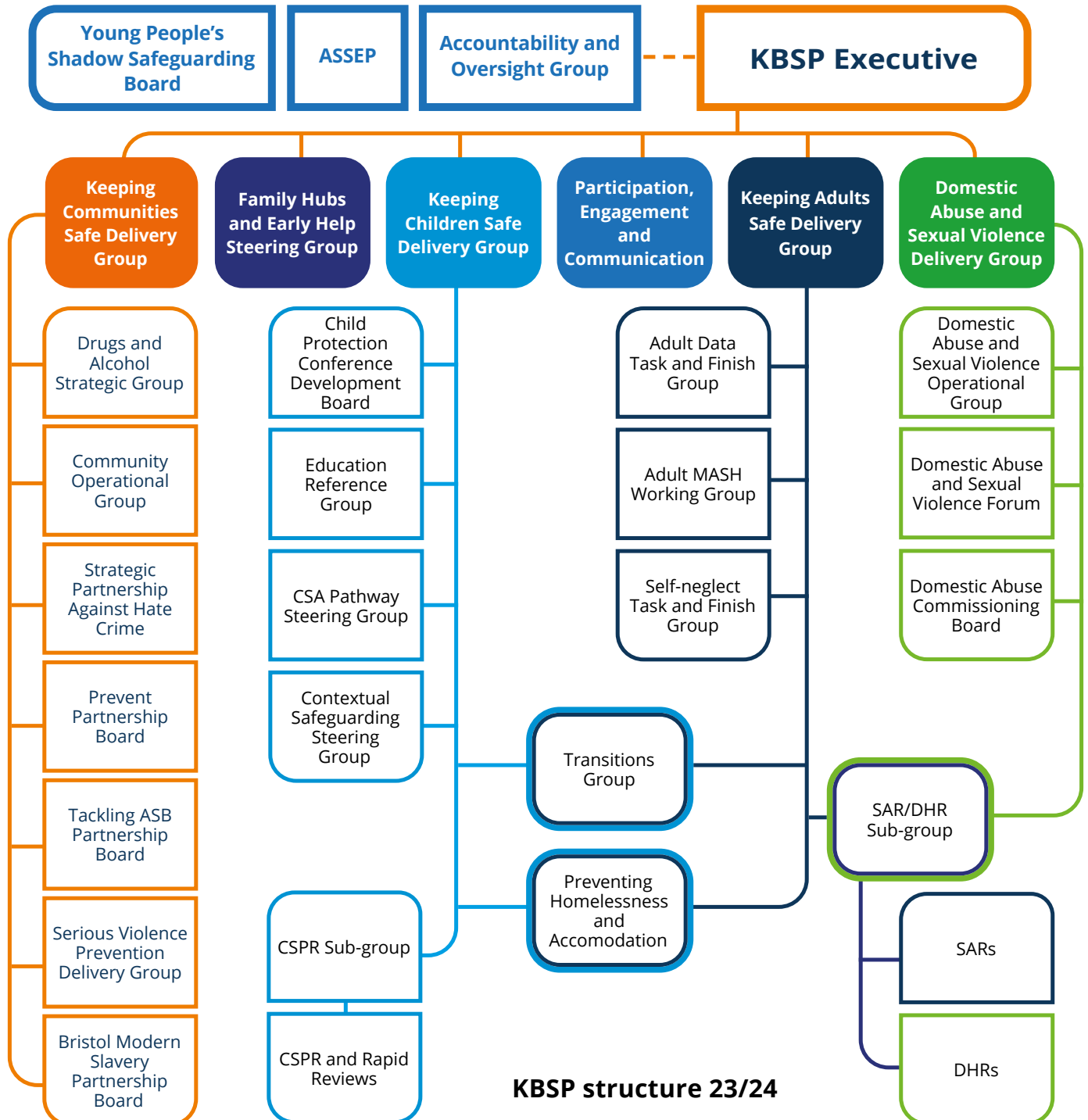
Regarding the learning from our Adult based reviews there was a clear rise in self-neglect cases. This follows a national pattern of an increase of concerns and referral made into social care around self-neglect. A recommendation which has been repeatedly made is for Bristol to hold an Adults Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to get direction and support for high risk or complex cases to get the correct support, information share and

construct risk mitigation as smoothly and effectively as possible.

Following the completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews over this year there have been two factors which are emerging concerns due to an increase in incidence: male victims and victims ending their life by suicide. The partnership will be completing awareness raising campaigns for male victims/survivors with lived experience guidance for maximum relevance and impact. Through the Domestic Homicide Review process, the partnership aims to identify areas to further support victims'/ survivors' safety but also their mental wellbeing. By taking a more holistic view on the case, professionals can support victims/ survivors with a multi-faceted approach to cater to their presenting needs.

The CSPRs are at an early stage, however the rapid reviews for them have highlighted learning across cultural competency and understanding across the workforce. The partnership will aim to address these issues through independent reviews, working groups and training needs analysis around the concerns raised. There has also been concerns around the exclusion of children from educational settings and the risks associated with this. The partnership will be working to ensure stronger links with statutory safeguarding partners and Education colleagues for smoother joint working and to improve information sharing across partners. This will be achieved by restarting the Education Reference Group and the creation of a broader information sharing agreement.

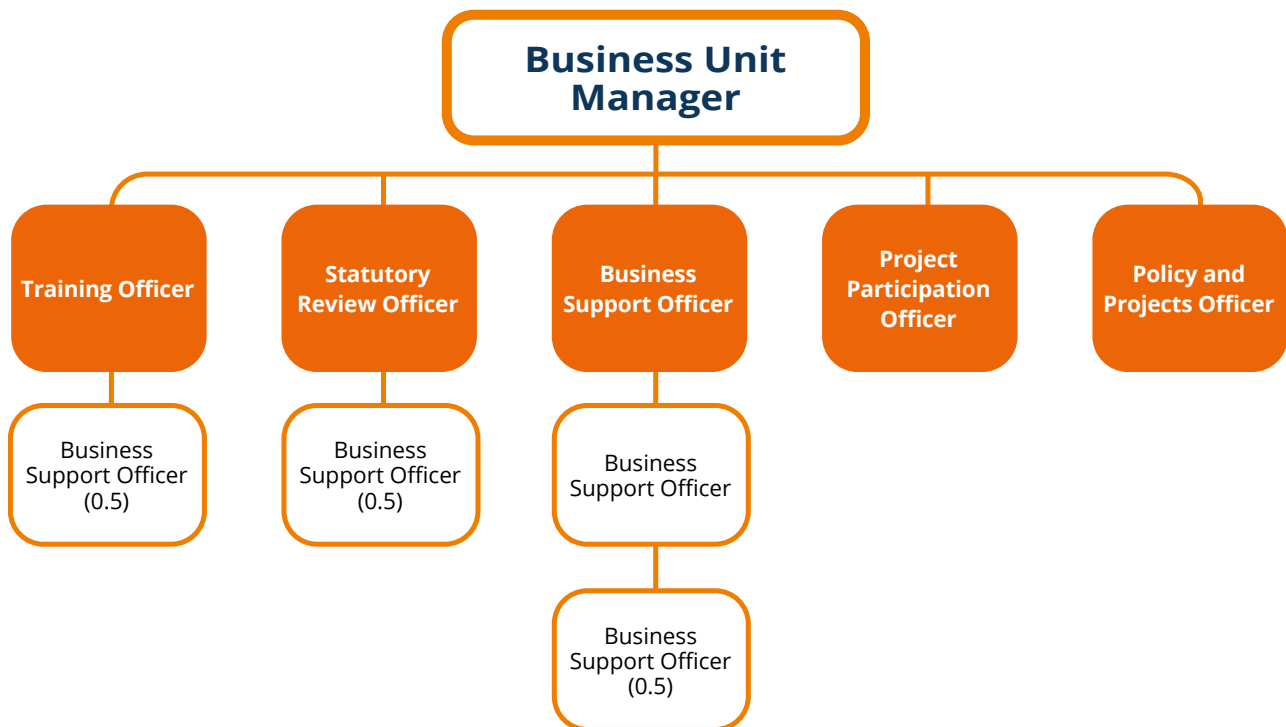
Appendix 1: KBSP Governance and Resourcing for 2023/24



This structure shows the strategic groups and their relevant subgroups, the purpose of these being to support the delivery of the KBSP priorities. In 24/25 there will be a review of the current subgroups and the

governance structure of the partnership to ensure communication is clear, escalation processes can be followed and to optimise the meeting to maximise impact against safeguarding priorities.

KBSP Business Unit structure 2023/24



KBSP Funding for 2023/24

Contribution towards Business Unit Costs	
Source	Contribution
Bristol City Council	112,931
NHS BNSSG ICB	43,548
A&S Police	25,672
Total	£182,151
Contribution towards Training	
Income from Training 23/24	52,273
BCC Contribution for training	30,000
NHS BNSSG ICB for training	15,000
A&S Police for training	5,500
Total	£102,273

Appendix 2: KBSP Training & Development

Income generated

Overall, in April 2023 - March 2024 the KBSP income generated as follows:

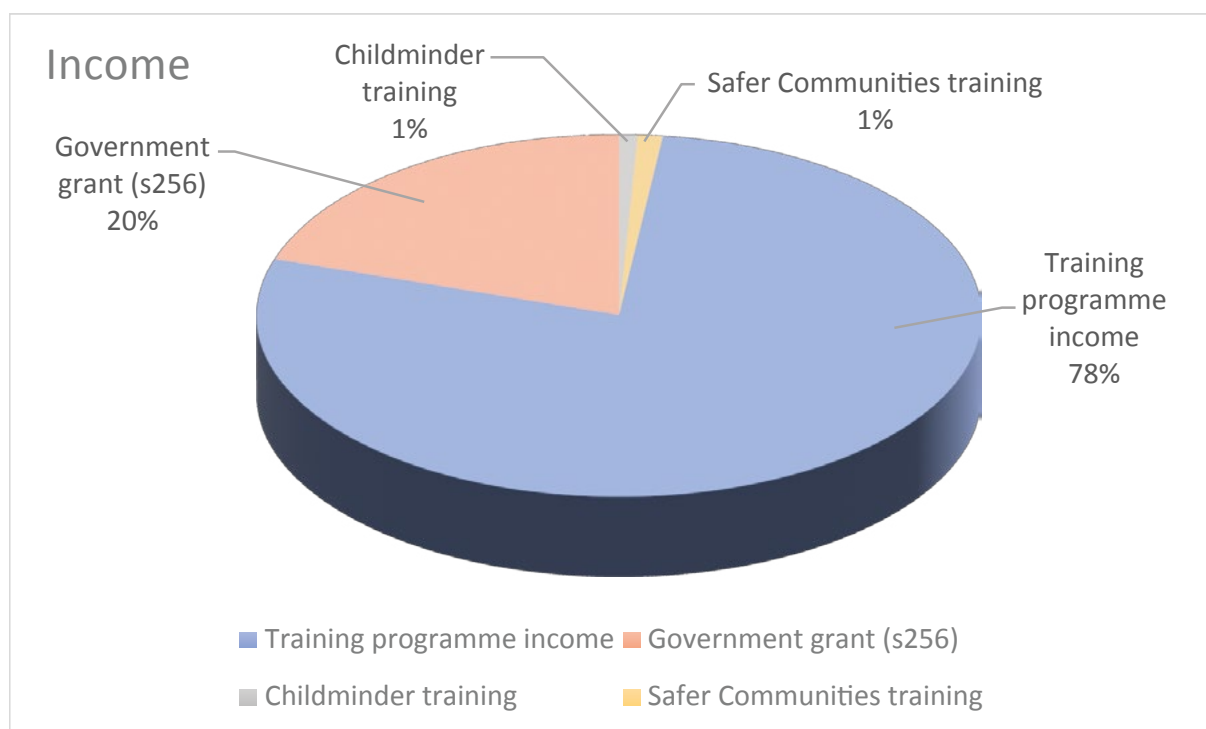
Training programme income = £53,550

- Non-funded places on the core KBSP inter-agency training programme
- Non-funded places on the specialist KBSP inter-agency training programme

Miscellaneous income = £15,130

- £14,000 Government grant (s256)
- £480 Commissioned single agency Childminder training
- £650 Commissioned development of Safer Communities training

Total income = £68,680



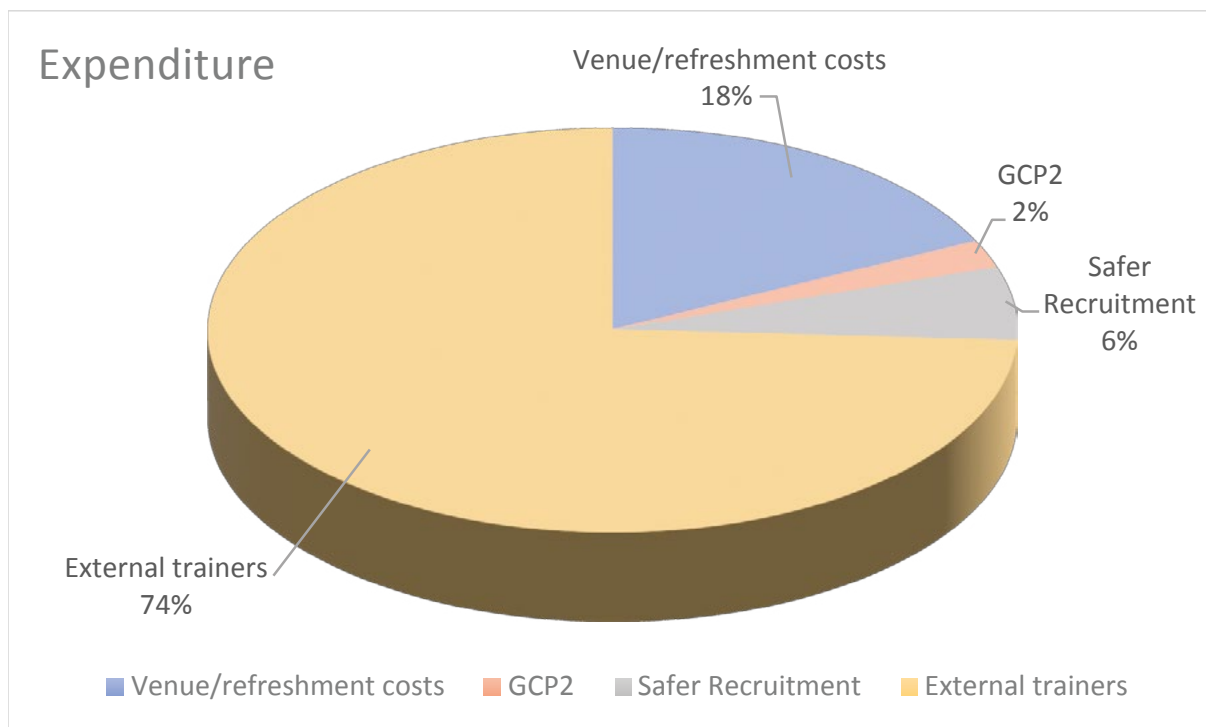
Expenditure

Overall, in April 2023 - March 2024 the KBSP training team paid out £32,695 in costs to develop and deliver inter-agency workforce training and development.

Expenditure includes:

- £6038 Venue and refreshment costs for in person training
- £650 Train the trainer costs for Graded Care Profile 2
- £1890 Train the trainer costs for Safer Recruitment
- £24,117 External trainers for specialist courses

NB: Some of the external trainer costs covered delivering core courses during a period between the previous trainer, Nat Keeley, leaving and the new trainer, Zoe Lynham, settling into the new role (£4,400).



Forward planning (April 2024-March 2025)

Training Programme

- The KBSP training team have reduced the number of dates for existing core courses on the inter-agency programme. This is due to small numbers of delegates attending multiple course dates this financial year. The aim is for courses to be fully booked, to reduce venue and other associated costs, to increase multi-agency working/networking and provide time for the Training and Development Officer to work on development priorities
- The number of specialist courses has been significantly reduced, due to lack of demand for places. Many of these are not cost-effective for the KBSP to run this financial year
- Course lengths have been reduced from 9am-5pm to 9.30am-3.30pm, to reflect feedback from delegates. Course content has been adapted accordingly
- The trainer developed course materials for a new, core course – Introduction to Adult Safeguarding. This is being rolled out in the training programme for 2024-2025
- The trainer is working on several projects with other colleagues/teams to develop course content for 'Harmful practices,' Disability and safeguarding and Discriminatory abuse webinars for later in the next financial year's training programme. The CSA (Child Sexual Abuse) Pathway/Signs and Indicators Tool is being promoted through multiple channels and we are exploring options for a core and specialist training offer for child sexual abuse

- The KBSP is supporting the roll out of ICON training in the area and will be holding a virtual training session in September 2024 with a colleague from another agency
- Safer Recruitment and GCP2 (Graded Care Profile 2) training are being offered in the next financial year's training programme

Training Delivery

- Training will continue in the agreed mode of delivery, as a hybrid model (half delivered online and half in person), which will mitigate costs on venues and refreshments
- The KBSP training team have evaluated local community venues to mitigate high venue costs and selected two to use going forward – Greenway Centre and the Bridge Professional Development Centre. We are still sourcing an alternative to Barton Hill Settlement/ St Werburgh's, due to issues identified by the new trainer. This will ensure that in-person courses are held in 3 different areas of Bristol

Income generation/expenditure

- The Trauma and Adversity specialist training was provided from a government grant secured instead of from the training team budget (2023-2024). This agreed funding was drawn down at the end of this financial year via an internal journal
- No new 'train the trainer' costs are expected in 2024-2025
- New training has been commissioned by Richard Hawkrige from Safer Communities, which will be income

generating. Other opportunities for revenue generation are also being explored with the Play and Youth Alliance, who wish to develop an annual, bespoke training programme with the KBSP, for their members

Evaluation

- The LMS will continue to enable more efficient booking of places on courses by delegates. It will also aid collation of useful data to evaluate the success of the training programme


Learning Management System – Phew

During a recent meeting with a representative from Phew (Kathryn Rose), the key recommendations were discussed:

- Continue with 3000 event licences @ £1.55/licence
- Carry over remaining eLearning licences (2942) to June 2025 and not purchase any new eLearning licences for this financial year
- KBSP Training team to evaluate how the eLearning licences might be used going forward


LMS Usage

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership - KBSP.SET			
05-06-2023 to 04-06-2024			
14-02-2024			
Events		eLearning	
Credits Purchased	3000	Credits Purchased	3000
Event Credits Used	1701	eLearning Credits Used	58
Current Events Credits	1299	Current eLearning Credits	2942
% Through Period	70%	% Through Period	70%
% Used in Period	56.7%	% Used in Period	1.93%



LMS – 5/6/24 – 4/6/25

Product	2023/2024 Pricing (£)	2024/2025 Pricing (£)	Notes
LMS Implementation	3295	N/A	One off fee
eLearning Set up	2040	N/A	One off fee
Event Licenses (3000)	1.46/license	1.55/license	6.5% increase
eLearning Licenses (3000)	1.88/license	2.00/license	6.5% increase
Total	15,154.60	10,650	



Key headlines

Course attendance

The courses with significantly higher attendance are:

- Working Together: Our Shared Responsibility – 268
- Advanced Child Protection training for Safeguarding Leads and Specialist Practitioners – 247

Multi-agency attendance

The highest attendance from multi-agencies is from:

- Independent organisations – 152
- Early Years – 130
- Local Authority (Children's workforce) – 87

Specialist courses

Specialist courses run by external trainers were not well attended over the year.

External trainer costs for these courses amounted to £19,717 and venue costs were £490, but in total, only 118 delegates in total attended them and not all of these were funded places.

Income generated by specialist course from non-funded places:

- Trauma & Adversity Training = £1400
- Courageous Conversations = £1200
- Raising Awareness of Child Exploitation: A Contextual Safeguarding Approach = £500
- Working with victims of Child Exploitation: Skills and Practice = £400
- Adult Exploitation = £300
- Working with Parents through Child Exploitation = £0
- Mental Capacity Act = £0

Total income = £3,800

Cost to run specialist courses = £20,207

Loss = -£16,407

This has been mitigated to a large degree by the £14,000 government grant, however, without securing additional funding for this financial year, these specialist courses are not cost effective to run.

Appendix 3: Safeguarding in Education Team

The Safeguarding in Education Team (SET) undertake activities related to S.175 (1) of the Education Act 2002 which places a duty on the Local Authority to ensure their education functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The team works with all educational establishments in Bristol on the Local Authority's behalf to ensure that settings comply with their own legal duties (reflective of their status) to promote the safety welfare of children.

Responding to deficits in practice

The team have responded to complaints from professionals, Ofsted, Regions Group, and parents. When a deficit in practice is identified, a School Safeguarding Advisor will meet with the headteacher/principal and the local governing body/Multi-academy trust to review practice, procedures and policy to test whether there is a need for further support or intervention in accordance with the Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance.

Complaint figures have dipped since last year.

2022-24	2023-24
785	60

Total number of complaints dealt with by the Safeguarding in Education Team about Bristol Settings.

Key reasons for complaints 2022-23:

- Unresolved issues around child-on-child harm and issues of prejudiced based bullying
- Management of behaviour and inclusion
- Lack of provision for children with Special Educational Needs
- Leadership and management
- The setting's response to prejudice related bullying
- Poor engagement with the parent/carer about their child

Work continues around the transformation of the Child, Families and Education directorate. Further work is taking place to ensure that Local Authority teams can more effectively respond and prevent schools/ education settings from hitting crisis point. Schools causing concern is currently held at Head of service level with the Directors Management Team. Wider meetings are convened to help feed leaders' information to the Department of Education. The model is interim pending the completion of the directorate transformation alongside development of the school improvement model.

Safeguarding Reviews

This academic year, the Safeguarding in Education Team have conducted six reviews. The reasons for these reviews:

- consideration for an independent outside perspective
- consideration for compliance with statutory guidance with a judgment around the effectiveness of procedures, policy, and practice
- provide reassurance from regulatory bodies either in preparation or following an inspection
- benchmark performance following a change in leadership

KBSP Returns from the education workforce

There have been poor returns for this academic year as it has been requested for the first time this year. Reasons for the rate of returns from the workforce have included:

- returns not being statutory (at the time of request)
- data drop requiring additional resource, time, and capacity to align record keeping across the workforce (each setting would record different data)
- resource and capacity of the workforce
- multi-academy pressure to complete their own audit and not the Local Safeguarding Partnerships' audit

For the academic year 2024-25 – the Local Safeguarding Partnership and Local Authority will be enforcing expectations from Working Together 2023 in line with paragraph 79.

Education providers, including multi-academy trusts, have a responsibility to play their full part in local safeguarding arrangements, including where their footprint extends across several local authority areas. This includes, but should not be limited to, responding to safeguarding audits of quality and compliance, as requested by the local authority and/or local safeguarding partners. This is to ensure that policies are consistent with the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and relevant legislation and/or regulations. They should also provide staff and governor training that meets local and national safeguarding requirements. Education providers where required should report their audits to their governing bodies and proprietors to be shared as requested by the LSPs. Training for designated safeguarding leads and designated teachers should include shared understanding about different levels of need and how these need to be responded to. Education providers also play a vital role in sharing and contributing to key information about children, including attendance data, exclusions, concerns about abuse, neglect, exploitation, and wider social and environmental factors including extra-familial contexts, which are a key aspect of keeping children safe.

The Safeguarding Audit (s.175 Audit) – 2022-24 (Biennial)

This is a mechanism to attempt to get a view from Bristol settings around their duties. This applies to all phases and sectors.

- 40 Fully completed
- 54 Partially completing the audit
- 71 Nil returns
- Top 10 Themes (areas of deficit from the sample size)
- Completion of a Prevent self-assessment and risk assessments
- Compliance with Domestic Abuse statutory guidance and the Right to Choose (statutory guidance on Forced Marriage)
- Having an easy read version of their child-on-child abuse/harm policy and having proportionate approaches to managing incidents
- Having a clear home to school agreements around setting out parental duties
- Being complaint with the Local Safeguarding Partnerships - Offensive Weapons and controlled drugs in Education setting guidance
- The setting has reviewed the curriculum against the principles of protected characteristics
- The setting has clear safeguarding procedures when there has been a critical incident or sad event
- There is effective curation of the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct which should include low level concerns and whistleblowing procedures
- The setting has published their measurable equality objectives and reviews them at least every four years



Training and CPD

The Safeguarding in Education Team offer two training courses which reflect local processes and procedures. Whilst settings do not have to commission the training, the workforce does appear to be engaging with local provision.

- There have been 161 new colleagues who have completed the Designated Safeguarding Lead training
- There have been 190 who have completed Designated Safeguarding Lead refresher training
- Governor’s development service has commissioned the Safeguarding in Education Team for 3 sessions which have taken place this academic year and have been oversubscribed. There continues to be a demand for this training
- Professional networks have taken place both face to face and online covering a range of topical safeguarding areas or updates from the KBSP across the locality and online
- There have been 12 Designated Safeguarding Lead networks
- 3 Governors Safeguarding networks
- There have been 3 early years networks

The team have been commissioned to provide specialist topical courses by multi-academy trusts and individual settings:

- Annual refresher courses
- Prevent
- Prevent for DSLs
- Tackling Female Genital Mutilation
- NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 Training
- Tackling Child on Child
- Tackling Sexual Abuse and sexual harassment
- Child Sexual Exploitation

Due to the significant incidents of murders and serious youth violence in the city, the Safeguarding in Education Team in partnership with the Educational Psychology Service have put on 4 face to face sessions this academic year to support education leaders to prepare and respond to critical incidents and sad events.

- 125 Education leaders participated (Headteachers, Designated safeguarding leads)
- 60 settings attended from the Early Years sector

The Bristol Safeguarding in Education Website continues to be developed to ensure that resources are accessible and local/national updates are curated.

The strategic governance of Safeguarding in education through KBSP Education Reference Group

The purpose, structure and function of the group is under review to consider workforce commitment and engagement with new statutory guidance. We are hoping the chairing responsibility will involve the education workforce in line with potential changes with Working Together to Safeguard Children.



Learning from statutory reviews

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have highlighted the important role of information sharing with education settings. The notification scheme has consistently been highlighted as the mechanism for this effective multi-agency working. Anecdotal feedback from the education workforce from receiving full safeguarding notifications are:

- Trauma informed approaches to behaviour curtailing needs for suspensions and exclusions
- Proactive and more effective targeting of early help provision at universal and universal plus thresholds preventing more acute escalations
- Support with increasing attendance
- Better working together and information sharing between agencies

Contextual Safeguarding approaches with peer groups and year groups.

Heads of Services for School Partnerships and Childrens Safeguarding and Targeted Services will raise this issue to the corporate decision pathways. This is likely to be progressed in Phase for of the directorate transformation if successful.