

# People and Communities Scrutiny Commission

27<sup>th</sup> January 2019



**Report of:** People Directorate

**Title:** Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership

**Ward:** ALL

**Officer Presenting Report:** Ann James, Service Director Children & Families Services

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## **Recommendation:**

To note the report

## **The significant issues in the report are:**

- Rationale for and principles underpinning the new safeguarding arrangements in Bristol – Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership
- Outline of structure, including key roles, responsibilities of partners with particular reference to Keeping Communities Safe
- Progress on arrangements for future scrutiny in relation performance targets and measurable outcomes



## 1. Summary

- 1.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 Cabinet agreed to constitute the new safeguarding arrangement for Bristol, namely, Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership consolidating the statutory functions of the four existing boards Safer Bristol Board (CSP), Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB), Bristol Safeguarding Children’s Board (BSCB) and the Children and Families Partnership Board (CFPB) to deliver relevant statutory duties in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, helping and protecting adults with care and support needs, and reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 This was in response to the required changes published in Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together 2018 that ended the local authority’s duty to hold a Local Safeguarding Children’s Board. It required the three statutory partners (Local Authority, Police Constabulary and Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group) ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements we in place to enable effective partnership working and assurance of the effectiveness of the safeguarding system.
- 1.3 Partners acknowledged the changing landscape of Safeguarding; for example with the focus shifting exclusively from intrafamilial abuse for children and adults at risk to include very complex contextual safeguarding concerns, and together Partners took the opportunity to propose a whole system approach that will facilitate innovative solutions to high risk complex situations.

## 2. Context

- 2.1 There are two key documents that set out the function, governance and terms of reference for the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership:
  - The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Constitution and Terms of Reference - Appendix 1
  - The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Local Arrangements – Appendix 2
- 2.2 Following the formal constitution of the Partnership on the 9th September 2019, the first 12 months will be transitional phase during which the functions that have been brought together will be developed and reviewed.
- 2.3 The work to develop a model that will allow effective safeguarding activity in the city is ongoing and will mature over the forthcoming year. The current working model comprises of the ‘Executive’ with senior officers who have delegated authority to speak on behalf of the safeguarding partner they represent, make decisions on behalf of their organisation or agency and commit them on policy, resourcing and practice matters. They will own the Strategic Plan for the Partnership and direct the business of the three multi-agency Business Delivery and Performance Groups, providing high support / high challenge to drive outcomes, quality and performance.

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<sup>1</sup> The Keeping Bristol Safe website is found at <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/>

- 2.4 These Business Delivery and Performance Groups are known as:
- Keeping Adults Safe
  - Keeping Children Safe
  - Keeping Communities Safe
- 2.5 The Business Delivery and Performance Groups will ensure single agency and partnership work to protect children, adults and communities is coordinated and effective. They will have a shared focus on service delivery, early intervention, prevention and commissioning arrangements. These groups will be action and task orientated, forward thinking and provide theme specific guidance and challenge to safeguarding partners. The groups will report on performance and delivery of plans to the Executive. Their membership includes statutory partners, relevant agencies, commissioners and providers. Each group is chaired by a senior leader from a statutory agency.
- 2.6 The membership of the Keeping Bristol Safe Executive is detailed on page 3 of the Constitution and Terms of Reference - Appendix 1.
- 2.7 The membership of each of the Business Delivery and Performance Groups is detailed in that group's Terms of Reference. For Children and Adults there has been an attempt to secure a smaller number of key participants, the Children's Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 3 for reference. The Terms of Reference for Adults and Communities will go to their next meeting for consideration and to be formally adopted. However it should be noted that the Keeping Communities Safe membership is proposed to be broadly the same as those who previously sat on the Safer Bristol Executive.
- 2.8 Working to the Business Delivery and Performance groups are a number of task and finish groups set up to deliver certain projects or pieces of work. These multi-agency groups will comprise membership of the wider Partnership and will draw on the expertise of specialist roles and participation groups across the city.
- 2.9 There are a small number of multi-agency groups already established to deliver key priorities for the city, for example the Domestic Abuse group, the Statutory Review groups and Contextual Safeguarding group.
- 2.10 A working structure can be seen in Appendix 4.
- 2.11 The Partnership recognise that data and performance information is key to understanding our business and enabling the identification of priorities for the city and tracking the impact of agreed actions. A new performance framework and dashboard are currently being developed, supported by Public Health, to provide strategic oversight of performance against priorities. This will be scrutinised by each Business Delivery and Performance groups and exceptions will be reported to the Executive.
- 2.12 The Partnership priorities are:
- Develop a whole-life course strategic approach to Serious Violence and Domestic Abuse
  - Implement a contextual safeguarding approach to extra-familial abuse and risk for children and young adults

- Improve the participation of children, young adults and adults in safeguarding processes through Making Safeguarding Personal and developing participatory systems
- Ensure the focus on frail elderly vulnerabilities is maintained in the new arrangements

2.13 To ensure improvements are not impaired by the transition to new arrangements and actions are finalised, the new Partnership will continue to deliver on the previous Strategic Plans over the next 9 months whilst the 2020-2023 KBSP Strategic Plan is consulted on and developed. Further detailed business activity such as delivering action plans from statutory reviews has transferred to the new arrangements as agreed by the outgoing Boards.

2.14 To ensure robust scrutiny, Partners agreed to appoint an Independent Chair with specific chairing functions that emphasise the scrutiny and challenge roles<sup>2</sup>.

2.15 The Local Arrangements (Appendix 2) also establish an Accountability Oversight Group, formed of Cabinet Members from Bristol City Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and a representative of the Board of NHS Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG), who will meet with members of the Executive three times per year to receive a report on the effectiveness of the new safeguarding arrangements.

2.16 As the democratic body with statutory duty, Bristol City Council Executive Director of People will, on behalf of the Executive, report to the relevant scrutiny commissions of BCC, namely People and Communities, on an annual basis to enable the commissions to review the work of the Executive and delivery against the strategic priorities.

### **3. Policy**

The report includes how Bristol City Council is complying with its duties in relation to children, adults, families, and communities in line with council policy and national legislation.

### **4. Consultation**

#### **a) Internal**

Not applicable

#### **b) External**

Not applicable

### **5. Public Sector Equality Duties**

5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion

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<sup>2</sup> The Independent Chair does not hold the independent scrutiny role as defined in Working Together 2018 for children’s safeguarding arrangements.

or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) An full EqIA was completed for the Partnership when it was presented to Cabinet seeking approval in June 2019 (see appendices).

#### Appendices:

##### 1. KBSP Constitution and Terms of Reference



Keeping Bristol Safe  
Partnership Constitutic

##### 2. KBSP Local Arrangements



Keeping Bristol Safe  
Partnership Local Arra

##### 3. Example TOR Business Delivery and Performance Group



Keeping Children Safe  
Delivery Group TOR DI

##### 4. KSBP Structure (working document)



KBSP Structure  
(working) .pdf

**5. EQIA**



EqIA - Bristol  
Executive Board Final.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

None