

People Scrutiny Commission

13 December 2021



Report of: Ann James, Director for Children, Families and Safer Communities (Acting DCS)

Title: Contextual Safeguarding and Safeguarding Children from Extra-Familial Harm

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Becky Lewis, Strategic Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager

Recommendations:

That Scrutiny note this report into the development and impact of services for children who are at risk of or victim to abuse and exploitation outside of the home (extrafamilial harm including gang and serious violence responses).

The significant issues in the report are:

Highlighting the scale of the issue of extrafamilial harm in Bristol.

Provides an update on progress with the implementation of Contextual Safeguarding as an approach to support and build safety for children and young people.

Describes the developing Safer Options Approach to responding to exploitation.

Highlights the barriers of single-year funding cycles to a long-term response to extra-familial harm.

Sets out the plans for the development of a collaboration between Barnardo's and Bristol City Council focused on the delivery of Specialist Exploitation Services and building capacity across the sector.



1. Summary

- 1.1 Extra-familial harm refers to forms of abuse where children are harmed outside their family. This includes issues such as child sexual exploitation; child criminal exploitation including county lines; modern slavery; trafficking; peer-on-peer abuse including serious violence; harmful sexual behaviour and radicalisation. Through COVID-19 we saw a national increase in some types of harm, particularly child criminal exploitation through trafficking and county line drug dealing. This was therefore a focus of the People Scrutiny Working Group ‘Safeguarding children and young people within the context of COVID-19 response and recovery planning’ in October 2020 (Appendix 1) and this report seeks to provide an update on progress in these areas.
- 1.2 Over the last decade there has been increasing national policy and statutory guidance setting out local children and families’ services responsibilities to protect children from these types of harm. Concurrently there have been many concerns raised about whether the existing statutory framework for assessing and responding to the abuse of children is effective in these forms of abuse given that the core legislative instruments which direct our approach to safeguarding children (particularly Children Acts 1989 and 2004) focus specifically on parents’ capacity to safeguard and protect their children from harm. Research has found that in cases of extra-familial harm, while parenting can be a factor, parents have limited capacity or ability to influence and achieve safety for their children on their own, for example protecting children from organized crime gangs who are exploiting them. In response new ways for assessing and responding to extra-familial harm are being developed and piloted nationally and contextual safeguarding is one of these approaches.
- 1.3 Bristol City Council partnered with Dr Carlene Firmin and the Universities of Bedfordshire and Durham in piloting the design and implementation of Contextual Safeguarding in the Bristol multi-agency safeguarding system in April 2019 to improve how social workers and other professionals assess and respond to issues of extrafamilial harm. This is a three-year project which is coming to an end in March 2023.
- 1.4 Concurrently in April 2019 Avon and Somerset Constabulary was identified as a site for investment from the Home Office in Violence Reduction. This provided additional investment to the developing Safer Options team which Bristol City Council had introduced in late 2018 in response to rising levels of youth violence and exploitation in the city.
- 1.5 Furthermore Bristol was a site in the 2020 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse focused on Child Sexual Exploitation and Organised Networks. The Inquiry is due to publish its findings in the new year following delays due to COVID-19.
- 1.6 This report provides an overview of how Bristol’s Children and Families Services have worked to bring these different strands together to provide a more holistic integrated response reducing siloes for children and young people.

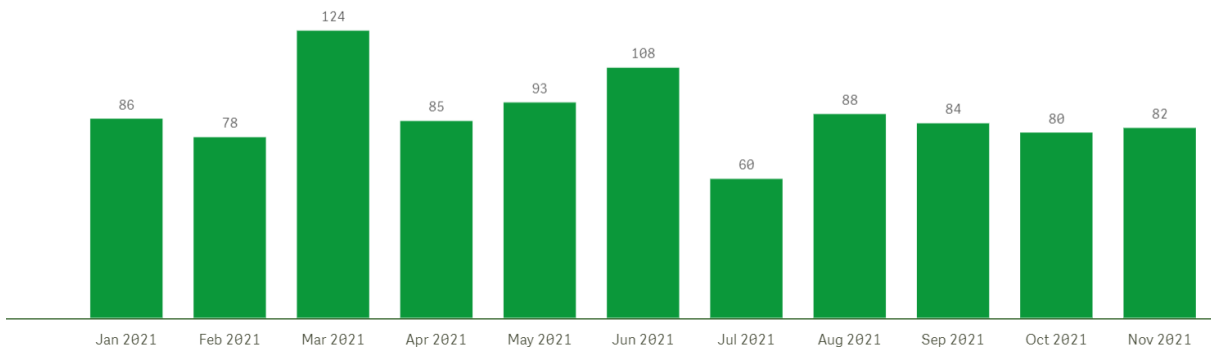
2. Context

Identification and Scale of Need

- 2.1 There is evidence of increasing awareness and identification of exploitation and extrafamilial harm

across the professional services in Bristol. This demonstrates both improved identification and benefits of information sharing, and increasing demand.

2.2 Between 1st January 2021 and 30th November 2021 Bristol’s First Response service received 968 contacts about 780 individual children where referrers were concerned about the child being harmed through extra-familial abuse. Of these children 29% required social work enquiries or assessment; 9% targeted early help services from Families in Focus; 18% information and signposting to other services; 15% other support or actions taken. 444/780 contacts related to child criminal exploitation and/or serious violence. 380/780 contacts were about child sexual exploitation and the remainder were about missing and/or radicalisation concerns. Police made 76% of the referrals to social care and are the organisation most likely to identify a risk related to extra-familial harm followed by 16% of contacts made by schools and education settings and 10% by health settings. The data demonstrates a peak in referrals made about extrafamilial harm in March 2021 towards the end of Covid-19 lockdown 3, and a further escalation coming into the summer.



Graph 1 – contacts to First Response where primary referral reason is extrafamilial harm in 2021

2.3 In the last 7 years Bristol City Council have identified an average of 123 children per year (high of 159 in 2018 and low of 104 in 2019) who are victims of child sexual exploitation and require Children and Families Service involvement due to ongoing safeguarding concerns. Findings made by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – CSE by Organised Networks which Bristol was a named core participant of, suggested that this figure was likely to be under-reported given the barriers to children being identified and/or disclosing their abuse. As of August 2021, Operation Topaz, the specialist police team working to disrupt offenders had 247 children known to Bristol City Council Children and Families Service flagged as being at risk or victims of sexual exploitation. The most recent South West CSA and CSE Problem Profile 2019 indicated an increase in incidents of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by 9% a year. 75% of victims where the incident is reported to the police in the South West region are female, 21% male and 4% were unknown.

2.4 The 2021 Bristol Strategic Needs Assessment update (Appendix 2) into child criminal exploitation and serious violence evidenced an increase in reported knife crime and serious GBH coded offences over 2020 during by young people aged 14-19 although this was in the context of a reduction in total serious violence recorded crimes overall. Avon and Somerset Police reported this occurring in the context of an increase in drug related crimes (see Appendix 3 Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Unit 2021 Strategic Needs Analysis) where drug supply in the city and region are a significant driver in increased of serious violence and child criminal exploitation between under 18s. Avon and Somerset police have identified that 51% of young people in the whole force area where there are concerns about them being criminally exploited live in Bristol. These children are concentrated in beats which are commensurate with the city’s class A drug markets and areas identified as those

with high levels of multiple deprivation; high numbers of problematic adult drug users; higher density of adults involved in organised crime gangs and serious offending. This highlights the need for a systemic approach to reducing child criminal exploitation recognising the context in which the exploitation occurs.

3. Progress at Implementing Contextual Safeguarding

3.1 Since the October 2020 People Scrutiny Working Group the local authority's focus on Contextual Safeguarding and partnership with the Universities of Bedfordshire and Durham have in line with the Working Groups' Recommendation 1. Bristol Children and Families Services have made significant progress in embedding Contextual Safeguarding approaches within our system. This has included:

- New referral picklists at the front door
- Changes to our statutory social work single assessment framework to include contextual prompts
- Development of a contextual safeguarding statutory assessment training
- Development of tools for assessing locations of concern including community engagement tools and surveys
- Pilots in social work led assessments of places and/or peer groups of concern including trialing Contextual Safeguarding Child Protection Conferences. A video made of this work with local young people can be seen under "Isaac's story – Location assessments" at [Isaac's story - Location Assessment on Vimeo](#)
- Pilots in use of contextual safeguarding risk assessment following incidents within schools
- Contextual safeguarding review of the Bristol Inclusion Panel
- Production of national practitioner briefings on embedding contextual safeguarding and relational practice and contextual safeguarding and systemic practice
- Contextual Safeguarding webinars and training for VCSE partners
- Increased investment in contextual safeguarding interventions including: increased detached and in-reach youth services outreach; family support groups; girls groups; conflict resolution; and new peer mental health support services which are in development.

3.2 The Contextual Safeguarding System Review conducted in October 2021 by Dr Carlene Firmin identified significant progress in implementing changes in all four domains of the review: **Target:** Seeks to prevent, identify, assess and intervene with the social conditions of abuse; **Child welfare:** **Incorporate** extra-familial contexts into traditional child protection and safeguarding frameworks; Develop **partnerships** with sectors/ individuals who are responsible for the nature of extra-familial contexts; Monitor **outcomes** of success in relation to contextual, as well as individual change.

3.3 One of the most significant changes this year has been the restructuring of our response to extra-familial harm and violence reduction. Prior to October 2020 our strategic leadership response to child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, missing, serious violence and trafficking sat with different Heads of Service and specialist practitioners were located in different parts of the service. The Safer Options violence reduction unit was finding increasing overlap between cohorts of young people with around 69% of their cohort regularly going missing (Avon and Somerset VRU 2021 Strategic Needs Assessment) and groups of young people being sexually and criminally exploited by

the same perpetrators or in the same area. We also identified that the factors which increased the risk of exploitation and extra-familial harm were the same across the different cohorts including: living in areas of high deprivation and crime; attending a pupil referral unit; experiences of adverse childhood experiences; experience of domestic abuse; childhood neglect; family involvement in crime. Therefore efforts to reduce and prevent exploitation could be between targeted collectively. We were also seeing duplication of operational meetings and children being discussed in multiple meetings because they were experiencing multiple types of harm.

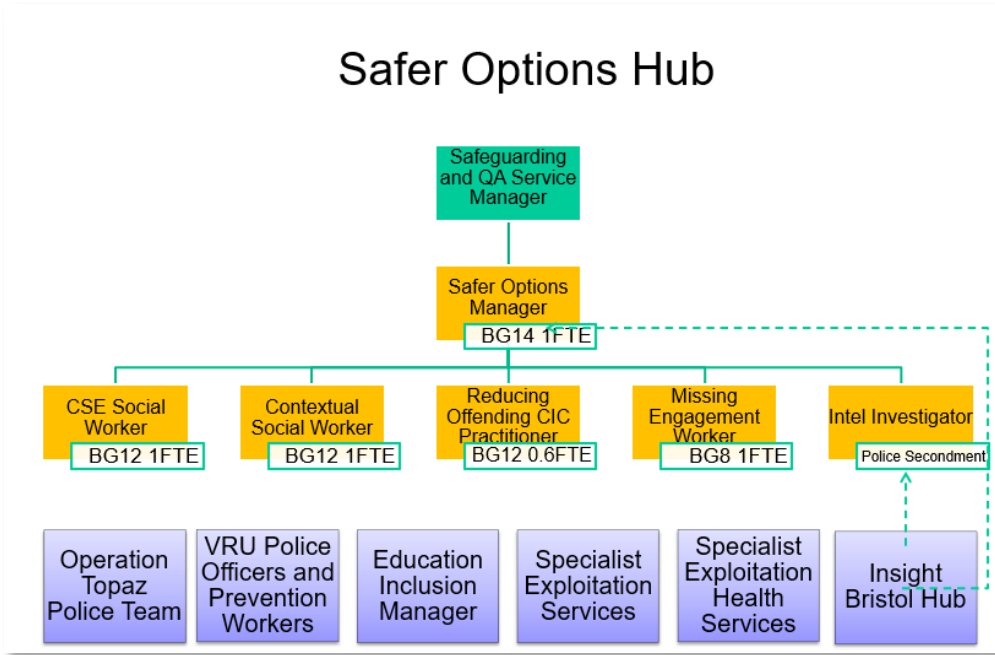
3.4 Safer Options is the name we give to a coordinated whole system response to prevent serious violence and exploitation. With the support of the University of Bedfordshire we restructured our Safer Options violence reduction unit and expanded it to form an integrated partnership responding to all forms of extrafamilial harm whilst maintaining its primary focus on the prevention of serious violence and exploitation. Safer Options provides an umbrella under which new initiatives are brought together to enable a coherent response to extrafamilial harm to develop.

3.5 Our aims for this work was to develop a coherent system which:

- Minimises duplication of safeguarding decision-making processes and maintains core assessment, planning and review pathways
- Recognises exploitation primarily as a safeguarding issue not a community safety/criminal justice issues
- Brings in non-traditional safeguarding partners into our safeguarding practices for information sharing and intervention including community intelligence, licencing, housing, community safety, businesses
- Improves live-time data and information sharing with the police
- Develops ways of assessing risk outside the family home within our statutory frameworks
- Retain focus and investment on early intervention and prevention whilst providing therapeutic services for those at the highest risk
- Builds multi-agency workforce skill and capacity in delivering services to adolescents as an expectation for all social workers and FIF workers

“There was a young person I was working with and he kept getting raised at Safer Options alongside a number of other young people. What we did was gathered up all of the workers and we had a separate meeting where we did peer mapping and figured out where they were hanging out and what they were doing. I think if Safer Options wasn't there that wouldn't have been an option, I don't think we would have even figured out that that network was quite so large ” **University of Bedfordshire Contextual Safeguarding Research into Safer Options**

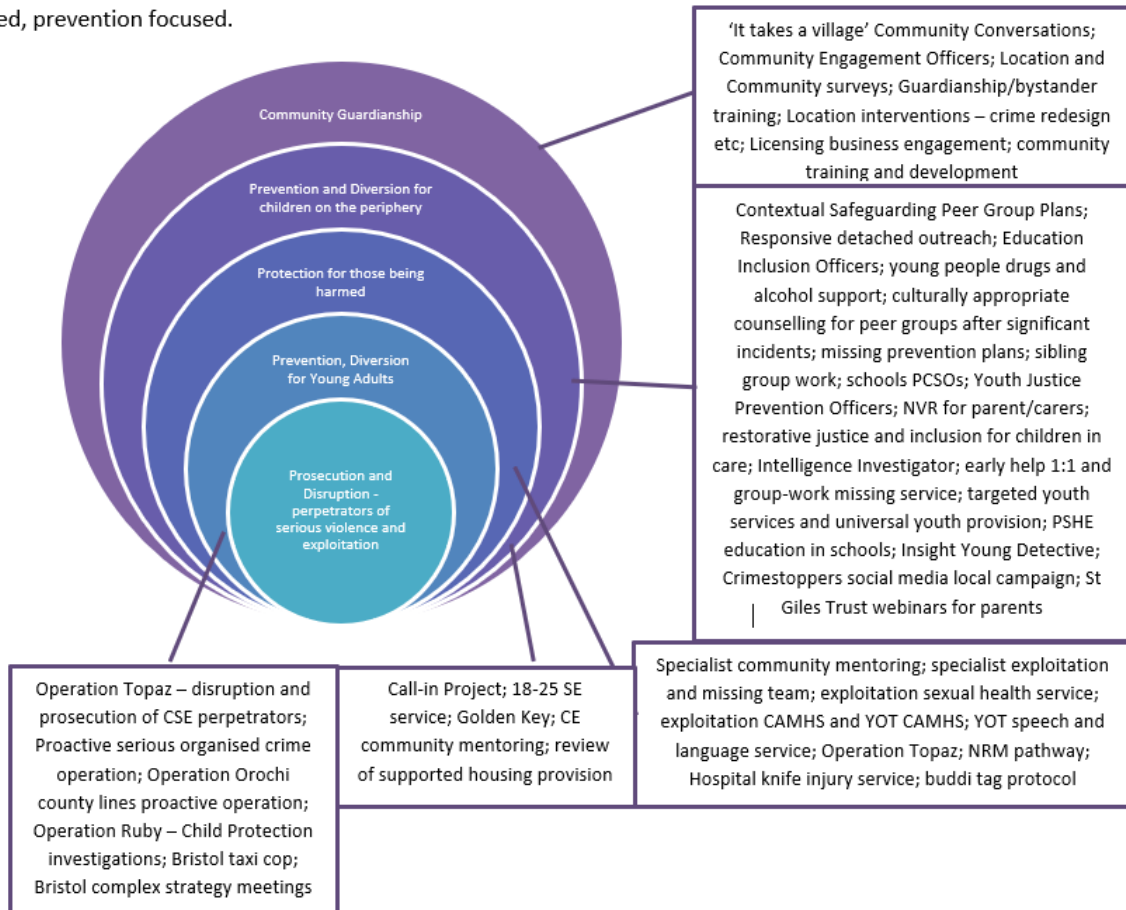
3.6 To coordinate this approach we brought together a central team in the council who are responsible for coordinating new initiatives, intelligence products and approaches to responding to extra-familial harm. They work with an extended virtual team across VCSE; Health; Education and Police coordinated through Social-care chaired weekly meetings in each locality.



3.7 The Hub has coordinated ongoing development of interventions across the city trying to intervene effectively across the system. A summary of interventions can be found at Appendix 3 of this report and depicted in the diagram below.

▲ **Safer Options (Violence Reduction Unit)**

Whole system response to CCE, CSE, Missing, Serious Violence and Knife Crime Concerns; intelligence led, evidence informed, prevention focused.



4. Challenges and Future Plans

- 4.1 Bristol is in its last year of the Contextual Safeguarding Scale Up Project. We are working with the Universities of Bedfordshire and Durham to co-create a toolkit based on our learning from the three-year programme to enable other areas to implement the changes we have made and continue in our journey of embedding contextual safeguarding. We are in early conversation with Dr Carlene Firmin about extending the collaboration for a further two years, this is reliant on research funding. Regardless of whether this goes ahead Bristol will remain a member of the National Contextual Safeguarding Local Authority Implementation Group to maintain our work with the research and innovation partners.
- 4.2 The work of Safer Options delivering a public health response to serious violence and implementing contextual safeguarding remains challenging in the context of rising identification of children and young people at risk and balancing the need to protect those already being harmed whilst investing in long-term prevention of harm. Demand on services coming out of COVID-19 continues to rise and particularly pressure in referrals for adolescents requiring support across a range of factors remains.
- 4.3 Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Children’s Partnerships recently commissioned the University of Bedfordshire to undertake a statutory Child Safeguarding Practice Review into all serious incidents where children have been killed or seriously harmed as a result of child criminal exploitation or knife crime reported to Ofsted in the area since 2018 (Appendix 4). This identified opportunities for the multi-agency partnership to further strengthen our response to safeguarding children from this type of extrafamilial harm including:
- Identifying funding for long-term commissioning of specialist services given the challenges of multiple pots of single-year funding in this area of work
 - Improve access to culturally appropriate post-incident support services for victims of serious violence crime
 - Work with partners across the region to build greater placement sufficiency for adolescents in care affected by extrafamilial harm
 - Work with schools and education settings to address high levels of managed moves and fixed term exclusions working to achieve zero-exclusions across the city
 - Further develop long-term case coordination arrangements across the partnership to provide adolescents the long-term support needed to be safe from and recover from exploitation and harm
 - Be assured that there are sufficient resources to tackle perpetrators of exploitation and that new innovations and investment such as in the specialist Operation Topaz police team are effective in achieving this
- 4.4 There is a multi-agency action plan in development addressing each of these recommendations. One key area that we are working on this year to build sustainability into the system and maintain our ongoing implementation of contextual safeguarding is to work to review our specialist exploitation services for adolescents in the city with the aim of launching newly designed services in April 2023.
- 4.5 Bristol City Council is currently entering its 27th year partnered with Barnardo’s in working to address child exploitation. Barnardo’s is currently the largest provider of specialist exploitation, missing and trafficking services for children across the city bringing together funding from Barnardo’s, Children in Need, Bristol City Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS England and the

BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver integrated services for young people up to the age of 21 experiencing exploitation, trafficking and extrafamilial harm. In 2022 Barnardo’s and Bristol City Council will be working together to review the as-is model which has evolved over the last three decades and partner with external evaluators and service redesign specialists to design services for the future. The products from this partnership will be available locally and nationally to other interested providers and will be led through a multi-disciplinary steering group.

4.6 The Barnardo’s Foundation is anticipating investing £280,000 of their charitable funds in Bristol to this one-year Children’s Exploitation Partnership with Bristol as the location for their core priority programme recognizing the long-standing multi-agency partnership in the city. The service design process will involve community groups, young people, parents and professionals in collaborative process to develop a model which better meets our new understand of contextual safeguarding and learning from Safer Options. Key to the model will be working to better integrate the pathway to services for children and their families as well as engagement with the wide range of community groups undertaking preventative work in this sector.

4.7 This work provides an exciting opportunity for elected members and communities to contribute to the long-term service design of specialist adolescent exploitation services in the city and will complement Mayoral and One City developments in 2022. We are also interested in continuing to develop contextual safeguarding approaches to exploitation and developing ways in which we can better work with non-traditional safeguarding partners across the council and partnership to continue to strengthen our response.

5. Policy

5.1 Safeguarding children from extrafamilial harm and implementing contextual safeguarding is a statutory responsibility of the local authority and other partners under Working Together 2018. This is reflected in the ‘Empowering and Caring’ pillar of the Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 which references ‘protecting children from exploitation or harm’ and is central to the Belonging Strategy – Belonging in Communities.

6. Consultation

a) Internal

Not applicable

b) External

Barnardo’s – presenting on their extra-familial harm services.

7. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 7a) 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 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.
- 7b) This is a paper about the wider impact and approach to extrafamilial harm rather than a specific proposal therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not provided. However Appendices 3, 4, 6 and 7 reference the over-representation of children from Black and minoritized backgrounds and/or living in areas of high deprivation who experience criminal exploitation.

Appendices:

1. Safeguarding children and young people within the context of Covid-19 response and recovery planning – October 2020 People Scrutiny Working Group report ([People Scrutiny Working Group Report - Final.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#))
2. Bristol Problem Profile – Serious Youth Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation 2021 update [bristol-problem-profile-2021-data-update.pdf \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](#)
3. Summary of interventions tackling exploitation and violence in Bristol
4. Child Criminal Exploitation and Peer-on-Peer Abuse Regional Child Safeguarding Practice Review [Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website. \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](#)
5. Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Unit Annual Report 2021 [PowerPoint Presentation \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](#)
6. Bristol Safer Options Approach [syv-bristol-approach-2020-2030.pdf \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](#)
7. Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Strategic Needs Assessment 2021 [final-as-sna-redacted.pdf \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

South West CSA and CSE Problem Profile 2019

Appendix 3 – Summary of Interventions to Tackle Exploitation and Serious Violence in Bristol

The following services are in addition to the core statutory social work and Families in Focus offer delivered for young people in Bristol by the local authority.

Education Inclusion

- Aims to support schools and colleges to reduce exclusion from school which is the most significant driver of increased risk related to exploitation and violence.
- 3 Education Inclusion Managers (one in each locality) work across primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, Alternative provision settings and the city's two main colleges.
- In October 2021 6 secondary schools across the city grant funded through Safer Options to pilot the recruitment of embedded pastoral staff specialist providing early support to children at risk of exclusion or alternative education offers because of needs which put them at high risk of exploitation or community violence.
- Weapons in Schools initiative: Understand that children carry weapons for a range of reasons, often because of fearing for their own safety. Instead of being reported directly to the police, children found in possession of a weapon in school will be referred to Safer Options for a bespoke package of support which is put in place within 48 hours. Headteachers are encouraged to consider early intervention and support, rather than immediate exclusion. 34 referrals in Sept 20- July 21. 91% children supported to remain in original school; 100% provided bespoke violence reduction intervention; 0 repeat incidents within an education setting in the academic year from children supported.
- Drugs in Schools initiative launched in September 2021: where children have been found to bring drugs into school, school provided advice and guidance, child provided rapid pathway to access specialist support services. In all referrals since schools went back permanent exclusion has been avoided and fixed term exclusion has been reduced.
- Alternative Learning taskforce. Safer Options working with Snowdon Village to build a multi-agency team linked to Safer Options within the academy providing intensive package of support to children in alternative education at the highest risk of violence and exploitation. Funded by the DfE for 2 academic years with twenty other pilot sites across the country.

Specialist Services Developed in the City

- Barnardo's run the specialist ROUTES and BASE projects working with young people up to 21 involved in serious violence or who are experiencing sexual or criminal exploitation through county lines (funded by Barnardo's, BCC, NHSE, CCG and OPCC). This project includes the Ambitions initiative, a project which supports young people to develop legal business initiatives. ROUTES is delivered in partnership with Learning Partnership West
- Barnardo's ROUTES rapid hospital support in partnership with NBT and UHB hospital. Provides offer support from a specialist worker within 24 hours of a young person presenting in hospital with an injury from a weapon or serious violence incident
- Barnardo's XPL project funded by Children in Need supports children experiencing extrafamilial harm that crosses different types (eg radicalisation, sexual exploitation, trafficking and/or criminal exploitation) piloting the opportunities and approach for delivering a more integrated exploitation service in the future.

- Barnardo’s Safe Choices and Safer Options Missing Engagement Workers. Work with young people who are reported missing to the police to prevent further missing episodes.
- Barnardo’s Home office funded Independent Child Trafficking Guardians working with children and young people who are exploited and coerced through forced labour, criminal exploitation, drug dealing and modern slavery. This is a statutory service required under the Modern Slavery Act.
- Golden Key Call-In programme. partnership project between Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Bristol City Council and Golden Key, who delivers the programme. This is a deferred charging project. The project seeks to divert young people involved in drug-related offending away from the cycle of criminality by giving them the opportunity to take part in an intense six-month programme of mentoring, learning and activities (for young people 16-21 years old in East/Central Bristol).
- Safer Options Community Mentoring – a framework of 15 grassroots and community providers across the city providing preventative and specialist mentoring and 1:1 targeted support to young people, particularly boys and young men, affected by serious violence, exploitation and/or county lines drug dealing
- Operation Adder St Giles Trust Community Mentoring. Support for young people at risk of harm through drug use or drug dealing from St Giles Trust mentors with lived experience.
- Partnership with LEAP, an organisation specialising in conflict resolution. Training multi-agency team of 15 practitioners from 10 organisations across the city in conflict resolution to undertaken planned conflict resolution between groups where there is peer conflict and violence

Specialist Health Services

- Clinical Psychologist offering Enhanced Case Management in the Youth Offending Service. Due to be expanded in 2022 to children not involved in youth criminal justice service. Provides Enhanced Case Management support to the highest risk young people which includes multi-agency specialist case consultation and support.
- CAMHS Specialist Mental Health Nurse, embedded in the Barnardo’s ROUTES/BASE/XPL service providing clinical advice, guidance and support to young people who have experienced exploitation.
- Unity Exploitation Sexual Health Clinics. Run three times a week from the Barnardo’s ROUTES/BASE/XPL service offering specialist sexual health support to young people who have experienced exploitation and trafficking
- Peer mental health wellbeing workers – due to be implemented in 2022 to provide support to young people affected by their peers being harmed through exploitation and violence.

Policing responses

- Operation Topaz is a team of specialist police officers focused on prosecuting or disrupting perpetrators of sexual and/or criminal exploitation. The team includes specialist victim care officers who work with young people to understand their rights through the criminal justice service. The team specialising in building evidence against perpetrators which isn’t reliant on disclosures by young people.
- Safer Options includes specialist police officers and PCSOs who are responsible for coordinating the police’s response to violence reduction and implementing programmes which reduce violence and conflict. They work closely with schools and community groups

including sports clubs like Empire Fighting Chance and The Bristol Robins to deliver programmes across the city.

- Operation Avalon. A police investigation focused on disrupting county lines across the force.
- GRIP funded hotspot responses. Operates regular, intensive, high-visibility police foot patrols for short periods of time within specific areas where there is a risk of serious violence.

Preventative Services (this list is not exhaustive as there is a wide range of providers across the city who are delivering youth services which contribute to the prevention of extrafamilial harm but highlights key projects commissioned by Bristol City Council or linked to Safer Options multi-agency partnership)

- Creative Youth Network: targeted bespoke one-to-one youth support over 3-6 months as part of universal and targeted youth offer
- Girls groups: group programme supporting girls on the periphery of groups exposed to extrafamilial harm. One in each locality of the city.
- Detached and in-reach youth work across the city linked to hot spots and areas of higher need. Model of “pop-up” youth club trialled in summer 2021
- Blunt Truth: schools workshop partnership programme with the NHS to encourage young people to speak to their school, the Police or through FEARLESS (youth arm of Crime Stoppers) if they know young people who are knife carrying
- The Bright Outlook (NHS) Programme an NHS led anti-knife crime programme working with selected young people from secondary schools across Bristol.
- Bristol Drugs Project New Leaf Project working with children affected by their cannabis use
- Girls and young women groups run by Hope’s Place in South and Creative Youth Network in North Bristol. Providing support to girls and young women affected by serious violence and exploitation

Parent Support

- Support for parents of young people involved in crime, exploitation, serious violence to come together to discuss with expertise – CCE awareness workshops.
- Currently run in East/Central by Full Circle in partnership with Safer Options. New groups in North and South Bristol starting in November 2021
- Parents Plus Adolescents Programme and Non-Violent Resistance parenting courses - [Parenting courses currently running in Bristol - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/parenting-courses-currently-running-in-bristol)

Connected Communities initiative

- Launched in Jan 2021 by the Safer Options Hub
- Brings together practitioners and stakeholders from 27 community groups across the city to enable co-produced responses to serious violence and exploitation, information sharing, sharing of best practice, and continuing professional development opportunities.
- Offers training and development opportunities through the network.
- Supports community providers with bids for external funding and support.

Place-based community development and contextual safeguarding approaches

- Coordinated policing and multi-agency detached youth work to reduce anti-social behaviour and violence in identified hotspots across the city.
- Examples include funding the pop-up youth club in the Harbourside over the summer
- Social work-led safeguarding assessments and plans for areas where children are being exploited by organised networks which have led to reduction in children reported missing linked to those locations, reduction in drug dealing reports and young people reporting increased safety
- Community meetings following incidents co-developing responses to serious conflict
- Support to youth housing providers to managing matching of young people and preventative youth provision
- Training local businesses on exploitation, what to look out for led by the Operation Topaz Child Sexual & Criminal Exploitation prevention officer