

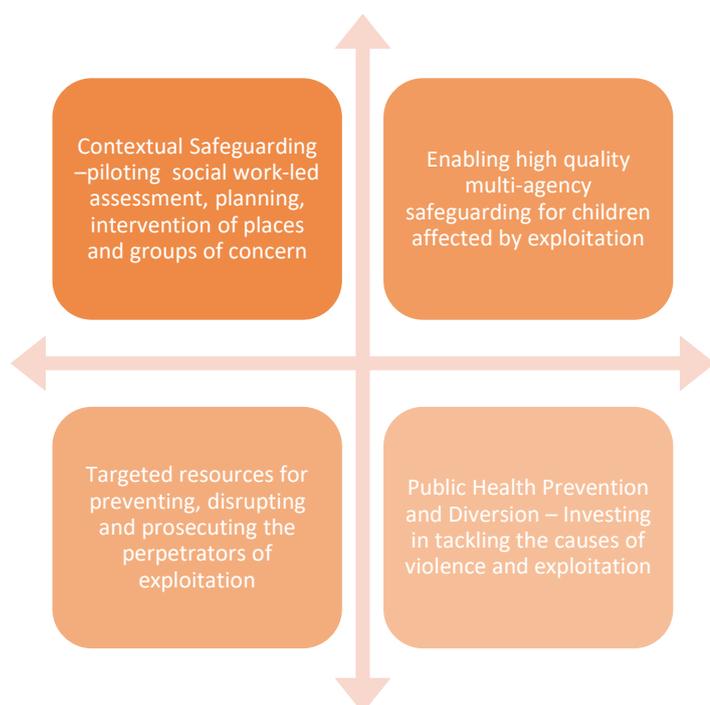
Appendix B

1. Our Response to Extra-familial Harm

“Tackling extra familial harm including exploitation and knife crime is a priority for the local authority and its partner agencies. Strong working relationship with the police have resulted in a shared culture of collaborative and child-focussed working. Children’s welfare is at the centre of practice and they are considered primarily as victims. Initiatives linked to drugs and the carrying of knives in education settings have resulted in fewer children being excluded.”

Ofsted Focused Visit, Dec 2021

Safer Options Approach



Safer Options is the name we give to a coordinated whole system response to prevent serious violence and exploitation.

Safer Options provides an umbrella under which new initiatives are brought together to enable a coherent response to extrafamilial harm.

Safer Options is Bristol’s devolved violence reduction unit which is part of the Avon and Somerset-wide violence

reduction partnership. In Bristol we have decided that our approach will span all forms of extrafamilial harm’

What this looks like in Bristol

Coordination

Multi-disciplinary team (Safer Options Hub) bringing together Violence Reduction practitioners and exploitation practitioners focused on workforce development; capacity-building; piloting new approaches; coordinating information; brokering bespoke support for children

Assessment	Maintained single early help and social care assessment framework for all types of abuse and neglect. No duplicate assessment process. Single assessment includes contextual safeguarding prompts and contextual safeguarding triangles to aid balancing extra-familial harm and familial harm. Training roll-out commenced following pilots with University of Bedfordshire.
Multi-agency leadership	Weekly multi-agency meetings in each of the three localities coordinating the areas operational strategic response to exploitation and serious violence. Chaired by social care Deputy Service Manager. Dynamic information sharing with increasing focus on contextual pathways for assessment and intervention with groups and places
Dynamic data products	Safer Options app; Police Violence Reduction app; Exploitation app. Live-time multi-agency Qlik apps which model known risk and use predictive analytics to enable strategic targeting of resource
Education inclusion	Multi-year investment in Education Inclusion Managers focused on delivering projects supporting schools to reduce educational exclusion. Recently scaled up force-wide as recognition of good practice model by Home Office.
VCSE Capacity Building	Commissioning and supporting attraction of external funding for targeted, proactive and specialist services working with children, their peers, and their families.

Participation and Community	Prevention	Proactive Rapid Response	Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Contextual safeguarding Tier 2 assessments •Peer Influencers •"It takes a village" community meetings •Community guardianship training •Training for taxis, hotels and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1:1 and group youth and community work •New Leaf Cannabis Project •Targeted schools work programmes •Detached and in-reach youth work •Peer mental health workers •Community mentoring programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weapons and/or Drugs in Schools 24-hour rapid education inclusion project •Hospital rapid response to victims of knife crime •Late night outreach in hotspots •Virtual conflict resolution team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Barnardo's CSE/CCE Service with co located CAMHS nurse; sexual health services •Independent Child Trafficking Guardians •Deferred charging diversion programme (Call-in) •Operation Topaz CSE/CCE Police team

While COVID-19 has significantly disrupted children's experiences in the community key impacts from our work with young people include:

Implementing Contextual Safeguarding - Progress

- Implemented pathway and process for location and peer group assessments and interventions
- Review of the Bristol Inclusion Panel
- Production of national practitioner briefings
- Contextual Safeguarding webinars and training
- 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.

"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