

Audit Committee

8 March 2022



Report of: Ben Mosley – Head of the Executive Office, Bristol City Council

Title: Review of External Inspections of Council Services 2021/22

Ward: City Wide

Recommendation

Audit Committee is asked to:

1. Note the findings of the external inspections;
2. Note any improvement actions required as a consequence of the inspection findings and, where appropriate, the management response;
3. Note the assurance arrangements in place that oversee the council's response to inspection findings.

Summary

This report provides a high-level overview of external inspection activity of council services since February 2021. It sets out key inspection findings along with arrangements for implementing any recommendations arising from them. The report also provides a summary of the outcomes of any peer reviews relating to council services which may have taken place since February 2021.

The significant issues in the report are:

The outcomes of external inspections of council services are described in the report.



1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Audit Members of the external inspections and peer review activity that has taken place since February 2021. It summarises external inspection and peer review activity and sets out any key findings and recommendations.
- 1.2 The table in appendix A outlines the inspections and peer reviews which have taken place and the lead officer responsible for implementing any recommendations identified.
- 1.3 This report considers 15 inspections and peer reviews which have taken place since February 2021.
- 1.4 This report does not consider any External Audit report which has been considered by Full Council in the last 12 months.

2. CQC Ratings of Bristol Care Providers (adults)

- 2.1 Measuring the quality of care in the independent sector locally is important as an indicator of commissioning and contract management practice by the Council and provides reassurance to customers.
- 2.2 This enables the Council to manage risk and provider failure effectively. In order to be able to manage the contracts & the quality of such a diverse range of services and increase the performance and quality of these services, the Contract & Quality team works to the Quality Assurance & Contract Management Framework (QAF) and Performance Management Framework (PMF) which has been an essential part of supporting the improvements made to the quality of provision.
- 2.3 Care Quality Commission (CQC) suspended all regular inspections end of February 2020 and then all inspections from mid-March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. In line with CQC suspending regulated inspections and the wider Adult Commissioning team (including the Contracts & Quality team), Quality Assurance visits were suspended in March 2020 due to COVID 19.
- 2.4 CQC inspections restarted mid-August 2020 on a risk managed basis. BCC Quality Assurance visits restarted in Sept 2020 prioritising the highest risk services using more flexible QA practices to ensure COVID safe working for both staff and service users. Both CQC inspections and BCC QA visits are still being rolled out on a risk managed basis.
- 2.5 As an interim measure, CQC brought in the Emergency Support Framework to check and support services. CQC worked closely with BCC, BNSSG CCG, Public Health (BCC), PHE regarding COVID 19 outbreaks.
- 2.6 CQC resumed inspections of services at the end of August 2020 focussing on the highest risk services first. CQC are also carrying out a program of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) inspections of services – particularly where there are any outbreaks of C19 or where there have been any allegations about lack of or inappropriate use of PPE in

services.

- 2.7 The IPC inspections are very focused so will not lead to re-rating the services inspected but if any other issues found, then will lead to a full inspection. Any inspections that are not rated are noted below as insufficient evidence to rate). However, due to Omicron, CQC scaled back inspections to critical & high risk only during December 21 & January 22.
- 2.8 CQC are currently prioritising re-inspecting services where the services were rated inadequate, requires improvement or where there are current quality/ safeguarding concerns moving to regular routine inspections for services rated as good and outstanding after these have been completed. This does mean that services rated as outstanding / good may not have been reinspected for between 18 months to 3 years (whereas normally these would be inspected every 2 years)
- 2.9 There has been an increase in services rated as good over the first 6 months of the year and a reduction of services rated as requires improvement - there are 7 services in Bristol rated by CQC as Requires Improvement, one of which is due to close in February 2022. There have been no inadequate services in the Bristol area and have been no inadequate rating for the last 3 years.
- 2.10 CQC, BCC Safeguarding team, BCC Contracts & Quality team and BNSSG Safeguarding and Contracts team meet every 2 weeks to share information and concerns.

3. Inspection of Children's Homes

- 3.1 On 17 March 2020, all routine Ofsted inspections were suspended due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.
- 3.2 Ofsted inspections resumed in 2021. Please note that this report does not include Ofsted inspection of schools.
- 3.3 Across the city there are now six Children's Homes that are all Ofsted registered to provide care for children/ young people between the ages of 8 and 17 years, (although only 5 are currently open).
- 3.4 Bristol's Children's Homes are regulated by an Independent Visitor as per Regulation 44, part 6. The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015: Visits by the Independent Person must form an opinion as to whether (i) children accommodated at the children's home are effectively safeguarded; and (ii) the conduct of the children's home promotes the well-being of the children living there.
- 3.5 During lockdown some visits have been over zoom/ email. Interim Regulation 44 visitor arrangements were in place from March 2021- June 2021. A new Independent Regulation 44 visitor was appointed in July 2021 and monthly visits to each home are now taking place on site.
- 3.6 There have been 4 Ofsted Inspections of our Children's Homes since February 2021. Three

Children's Homes Full Ofsted reported 'good' judgements while another has been given a 'improved effectiveness' rating following an interim inspection in October 2021. With regards to this Home, the quality of care of the children and the management and leadership oversight were positively highlighted by Ofsted who recognised that the home and the children are well settled and achieving good outcomes.

3.7 One Children's Home has remained temporarily closed since the Ofsted compliance notice issued in December 2020 was successfully completed in January 2021. An independent review has been completed and is being disseminated to capture & share learning from the events within the home. The home is being refurbished whilst it remains closed. Although external recruitment has not been successful in appointing a new manager and team to re-open the home, recruitment will be resumed in 2022. A new registered manager & team will be recruited and will complete training and induction programs prior to the home re-opening in 2022. Children will be carefully matched with well supported preparation and move-in plans in when it re-opens.

3.8 A new Children's Home has been opened in Bristol since February 2021. Ofsted have visited and registered the new home and we are awaiting the imminent first full inspection of the home, which will take place before the end of March 2022.

3.9 Children Social Services have created and implemented a development plan for the service through 2021-22, which is linked to the individual development plans in each of the homes. The service will report on progress in the end report for March 2022.

4. Ofsted Focus Visit – Children's Social Care Front Door

4.1 Ofsted undertook a focused visit of the Council's children's social care front door under the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework.

4.2 Two inspectors undertook fieldwork over a 2 day period which included meeting with senior leaders, managers and practitioners and reviewing children electronic records.

4.3 Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for 'front door' services, including decision-making for referrals about children, child protection enquiries, decisions to step up or down from early help, and emergency action out of office hours.

4.4 The inspectors reported "The high priority given to the voices of children is a strong, positive theme that threads through all aspects of the work of the FAS and other front door services. This is the case at both the strategic planning level and at the level of work with individual children and their families. Social workers undertake meaningful direct work with children. Children's wishes and views are captured well. For example, some children have age-appropriate copies of safety plans. This means that they know they have been listened to and what to do should they need help again in the future."

4.5 Areas which were identified as needing to be improved were: (1) The consistency with which the reasons for contacting particular agencies to gather information about children and families are recorded. (2) How clearly and consistently the rationale for

dispensing with parental consent is recorded when this has been necessary before undertaking checks with partner agencies.

4.6 The recommendations from the inspection will be incorporated into the revised Improvement Plan that has not yet been finalised.

4.7 The full findings of the Ofsted visit can be read [here](#).

5. Peer challenge on Quality Assurance - Children's Social Care

5.1 In June 2021 Bristol City Council invited Wilshire Council to undertake a Peer Review of its quality assurance of Children Social Services as part of the sector led improvement.

5.2 The Peer Review identified the following actions:

- Programme of LGA led training for auditors and moderators rolled out across January and Feb (will be completed 15th Feb)
- Development of a new staff QA newsletter (complete)
- QA sessions delivered by QA social worker for staff (complete)
- Broadening membership of the learning panel to ensure increased cross-service consistency and understanding of grading and standards (complete)

5.3 While the Service did not produce a standalone action plan for this peer review the recommendations identified have been included in Service Plans. Many of the recommendations have been completed or are due to be completed this month.

5.4 For further information about this peer review please contact:
Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk

6. Bristol City Council Children and Families Services LGA Peer Challenge

6.1 The peer challenge was undertaken by 5 peer reviewers who hold senior positions within Children Services in Local Authorities across the country. The reviewers met with practitioners, managers and senior leaders and undertook audits of children's records.

6.2 The focus of the peer challenge was on children in need of help and protection, children subject of child protection plans and the work of the First Assessment Service (front door).

6.3 The Key lines of Inquiry for the peer challenge were: (1) Are children and families supported at the right level in our system/proportionate to need? (2) How effective are our services at improving the sustainability of outcomes for children?

6.4 The overarching message from the challenge was "The practice culture is strong, focused upon helping families make effective changes and your staff speak with passion

about Bristol's children and families. We have seen some weaknesses in the application of child protection thresholds and adherence to core case work processes. A rebalancing which retains all of your strengths complemented by being brilliant at the basics will leave you in a very strong place".

6.5 The recommendations from the review are being incorporated into the revised Improvement Plan that has not yet been finalised.

6.6 For further information about this peer review please contact:
Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk

7. Preventing and Reducing Youth Homelessness in Bristol

7.1 MHCLG (now DLUHC) focussed visit 16 June 2021 to consider the effectiveness of the Council's approach to preventing and reducing youth homelessness in Bristol.

7.2 The visit focussed on 7 key areas:

- Joint strategic commitment to prevent youth homelessness
- Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) and Prevention
- The MHCLG and DfE Joint Guidance and Preventing homelessness for 16/17 year olds
- Corporate Parenting and accommodation planning for care leavers
- Planning successful transitions for young people leaving custody
- Commissioning and move on options
- Working together and Partnership arrangements.

7.3 The visit was undertaken by the MHCLG Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST). The visit involved Service Directors from Children Services and Housing, Operational Managers, Commissioners, Frontline staff from BCC Children's Services, Housing Services and Providers.

7.4 The advisors recommended 3 key priorities to strengthen our approach:

- Improve our homelessness systems knowledge, practice, recording and data locally, and Hcllc submissions.
- Review our processes and practice to ensure compliance with the DfE/MHCLG joint guidance.
- Ensure there is joint commitment across Housing and Children Services not to use unsuitable accommodation for 16/17-year-olds.

7.5 An Action Plan has been developed jointly between Housing & Landlord Services and Children, Families & Safer Communities.

7.6 The Action Plan is monitored through the KBSP Preventing Homelessness and Accommodation (PHA) Meeting.

7.7 For further information about this peer review please contact:
Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk

8. National Independent review of Prevent May 2021

8.1 During the passage of the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 on 12 February 2019, the government committed to carrying out an independent review of Prevent. The report, including any recommendations of the review, must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, as required by the act.

8.2 William Shawcross was appointed as the new Independent Reviewer of Prevent on 26 January 2021. The independent review will consider the UK's strategy for protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and will make recommendations for the future. An updated Terms of Reference for the Review were published on 22 March 2021.

8.3 William Shawcross visited approx. 8 local authorities to undertake a national review. The majority of the Local Authorities visited were Home Office Prevent priority and funded areas.

8.4 Bristol was an exception as a Non Prevent priority area. The visits included meetings with a range of key stakeholders from the local authority, police and community members/organisations.

8.5 Meetings with Police considered critical issues relating to the Prevent strand of Contest.

8.6 The report was due to be published in September 2021, to be laid before Parliament in December 2021. The report publication has been delayed and the Home Office is yet to issue an update as to when the report will be published.

8.7 There is no current action plan in place.

9. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Thematic Inspection on education, training and employment (ETE) services across the Youth Offending Team

9.1 HMIP are undertaking inspections across six local area Youth Offending Teams during November 2021 to February 2022.

9.2 The inspection evaluated how effectively the local area:

- identifies the needs of children and young people who are known to the YOT.
- Ensures effective case management of both out-of-court, and court disposals.
- Meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

9.3 The fieldwork element of the inspection was carried out remotely by a team of 7 inspectors including 1 Ofsted inspector.

9.4 The inspection comprised interviews with YOT practitioners around a selected sample of children, a series of interviews and focus groups around ETE services for children, and conversations with young people supported by the YOT. The Ofsted inspector also spoke to educational settings for a selected sample of children.

9.5 The inspection across six local areas will culminate in a thematic best practice report (without judgements) and individual YOTs will not be named, except for areas of best practice. The report will be published May 2022.

9.6 Although the published report will not name Bristol YOT the inspectors have provided verbal feedback on their findings and recommendations specific to Bristol. The findings will be collated within a joint Education and Children, Families and Safer Communities action plan that will be monitored through our Improvement Plan and Youth Justice Board.

10. Compliance audit Report – Homes England

10.1 The Compliance Audit Programme checks compliance with the Homes England policies, procedures and funding conditions. Standardised checks are made by provider-appointed independent auditors on an agreed sample of schemes which have received Homes England funding under current and earlier affordable housing programmes.

10.2 On review of the evidence provided, the outcome of the audit has shown the provider has complied with all the programme requirements and guidance. A GREEN grade has been assigned and no breaches were identified.

10.3 Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/compliance-audit>.

11. External certifications

11.1 Each year there are a number of external certifications the Council has to achieve to continue to access critical information to aid the services we provide. These are -PSN (Public Services Network) – Connection to central government data sets; NHS Toolkit – connection to NHS data sets; GIRR – connection to the police network.

11.2 Each of these connections requires The Council to submit evidence of controls that we have in place to demonstrate a level of Information Security and Data Protection

Compliance.

11.3 These submissions are then assessed by the relevant external body to determine our suitability for connection to these external services. The Council has achieved the required compliance to require certification.

12. Management Systems Assessment Report

12.1 This is a recertification audit of the systems and controls in place at Bristol City Council to the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 and to the scope: The Direct activities, products and services provided by Bristol City Council within its boundaries – The activities of schools, the Bottle Yard Studios and companies for whom the council is a shareholder in are excluded.

12.2 A short review of the management systems and changes over the last six months identified minimal changes to the systems had taken place. The scope of the system remains unchanged currently and following elections the Elected Mayor remains in office giving some stability to the direction.

12.3 Four minor non conformity issues were reported in the report, which will be addressed by Heads of Service in consultation with service Director.

13. Local Government Association Equality Framework for Local Government scheme

13.1 As previously reported to this committee, in March 2021 the Council hosted a peer challenge from the Local Government Association as part of the latter's Equality Framework for Local Government scheme. This is an independent external assessment by critical friends, looking at the Council's performance on equality, diversity and inclusion across four key themes: Leadership and organisational commitment; Understanding and working with your communities; Responsive services and customer care; Diverse and engaged workforce.

13.2 The process included a written self-assessment and a three-day virtual peer visit, which included 26 interviews and focus groups with staff, Members, managers and partners.

13.3 A report has been considered by Full Council as part of the Council's formal Annual Report on Equality and Inclusion. This report provides a precis of the LGA's recommendations and the Council's response [[link](#)].

14. Digital transformation at Bristol City Council through ethical data governance and responsible innovation report

14.1 The CDEI is an independent expert committee, led by a board of specialists, set up and tasked by the UK government to investigate and advise on how we maximise the benefits of these technologies. Its goal is to create the conditions in which ethical innovation can thrive: an environment in which the public are confident their values are reflected in the way data-driven technology is developed and deployed; where we can

trust that decisions informed by algorithms are fair; and where risks posed by innovation are identified and addressed. More information about CDEI can be found at www.gov.uk/cdei

14.2 To understand BCC's approach to data ethics, the CDEI reviewed available and relevant material, conducted 18 interviews with 23 BCC staff, held four workshops, and had discussions with civil society and academics. The interviews and workshops were with staff across relevant directorates and units in BCC, which the CDEI used to gather a broad view of data ethics practices at BCC. The CDEI had access to forms used for data protection impact assessments, and business case development; the draft Information Governance Framework; terms of reference for data governance boards; texts on the working of Insight Bristol; and other similar documents.

14.3 The project with BCC was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic, which unfortunately imposed limits on the nature of the interaction that CDEI and BCC staff could have. Meetings, interviews and workshops were held virtually.

14.4 The CDEI did not conduct a full review of data governance practice at BCC and this report is not an endorsement of any activity at the council. The CDEI works to help organisations such as BCC to consider data ethics, and not to conduct an audit or provide a regulatory function.

14.5 As data-driven decision-making becomes more widespread, there are ever more teams and projects in large public sector organisations that are working in ways that raise data ethics questions and the CDEI prioritised practices and projects at the council that would best inform BCC staff and council strategy.

14.6 Key recommendations in the report include:

- Start deliberating with local citizens about BCC's approach to responsible innovation.
- Demonstrate commitment to trustworthy data use by showing the effectiveness of Insight Bristol, clearly and consistently communicating the purpose of the project, and installing a governance framework that guards against undue expansion.
- Embed responsible data and technology innovation governance through the new Data Insight and Analytics Board Recommendation four: boost transparency by publishing a central register of data-driven projects

14.7 The CDEI report informed the DII Strategy which went to Cabinet in October 2021. For further information please see: [DII Strategy Cabinet Pathway Report.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) and [Data, Insight and Information Strategy \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)

15. PNC Information Assurance Audit Report

15.1 The National Police Information Risk Management Team's audit activities have been temporarily adapted due to COVID-19. The temporary process involves the review of documents and conducting of virtual meetings, without a physical site visit. This audit was conducted based on the temporary process and therefore did not involve a site visit.

15.2 Purpose of the audit was to assure PIAP and Police National Computer Services (PNCS) that Police National Computer (PNC) data is being accessed, handled, held and used in an approved and secure manner in accordance with the Supply Agreement and relevant legislations including, but not limited to, Data Protection Act (2018), Computer Misuse Act (1990), Official Secrets Act (1989). The scope of the audit is to cover the security and information assurance of PNC data.

15.3 Bristol City Council (BCC) is host to the National Trading Standards South West Regional Investigation Team. It has had a PNC terminal since 2009, and acts as a hub for the fourteen (14) Trading Standards organisations throughout the South West. PNC information is used for investigations and prosecutions purposes by checking nominal and vehicle details of rogue traders. PNC checks may also be performed on witnesses that support the investigations.

15.4 BCC Trading Standards is a relatively light user of the PNC, making approximately 20 searches a month.

15.5 NPIRMT considers the security measures taken by Bristol City Council Trading Standards to protect PNC data need improvement. Management action is required in the following areas:

- Recommendation 1: PIAP's approval to share PNC reports via email
- Recommendation 2: PIAP's approval for the uploading and storage of PNC data on external systems
- Advisory 1: NPPV clearance for Trading Standards Officers who have access to PNC reports

15.6 These recommendations have been incorporated into the Bristol City Council's Trading Standards Service Plan.

16. The Inspection by the Human Tissue Authority of the Flax Bourton Public Mortuary

16.1 The Public Mortuary at Flax Bourton has been licensed by the HTA since 2009. This was the fourth inspection of the establishment; the last inspection took place in January 2016.

16.2 Since the previous inspection, there have been no significant changes to the licence arrangements or the activities carried out under the licence.

16.3 The HTA found the Designated Individual (DI) and the Licence Holder (LH) to be suitable in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

16.4 The Public Mortuary at Flax Bourton (the establishment) had one minor shortfall which was found against standards for Premises, Facilities and Equipment.

17. Bristol Floating Harbour – Water Safety Review

17.1 Following RoSPA's extensive review of water safety commissioned by Bristol City Council in 2018 a significant amount of work has been done to further reduce the risks to people visiting the Floating Harbour. The city council commissioned RoSPA to review progress and where possible identify any further reasonably practicable measures to reduce risk further.

17.2 The Floating Harbour and River Avon in the vicinity of the harbour was re-visited in September 2021, this sampling included times of high and low usage during daytime and evening. The aim of the review was to help ensure that the floating harbour continues to have an acceptable level of safety which meets with stakeholder expectations. The outcome of the review is this report, namely an evaluation of the areas, the improved safety controls that are now in place, and recommendations to further reduce risk.

17.3 The Consultant looked at the following issues:

- The locations most likely to be used by locals throughout the year.
- The intensity of use through the day e.g. early morning commuting and midday activity.
- The areas most likely to be used outside daylight hours.
- Emergency response arrangements around the water.

17.4 Approximately 16km of waterfront within the Floating Harbour, Feeder Canal and sections of River Avon were assessed in daylight. Key areas where the night economy is close to the waterspace were visited during evening hours. The review took place in fine autumn weather of September 2021. The locations visited include all the publically accessible sections of the Floating Harbour and riverside from Netham lock to Howard Lock. The River Avon upstream of Netham Lock to Hanham lock was surveyed from a boat. Three locations were un-accessible, the Chocolate Path due to collapse of the river bank, areas around Totterdown Basin which are undergoing redevelopment and the riverside path beyond St Phillips Causeway is closed due to erosion.

17.5 Ten recommendations to improve water safety were identified which can be seen in appendix A. The Harbour Estate Managers has developed an action plan to respond to these recommendations.

17.6 For further information please contact stephen.peacock@bristol.gov.uk

18. Building Condition Report -Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol City Council

- 18.1 Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) were appointed to undertake a condition survey for Bristol City Council.
- 18.2 The Council last undertook a similar exercise in March 2016. It has commissioned the survey to support an application for Government grant funding for maintenance and improvement works via the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND).
- 18.3 RLB inspected the property on 23rd, 24th & 26th August and 3rd September 2021.
- 18.4 The survey found that Bristol Museum and art Gallery is generally in poor condition, with significant investment and repairs to preserve the building and enhance visitor experience, and to improve staff facilities.
- 18.5 It is recommend that most significant defects such as those posing the greatest risk to the building fabric, H&S and visitor experience are prioritised.
- 18.6 For further information please contact Stephen.Peacock@bristol.gov.uk

19. Action Plans

- 19.1 Recommendations and feedback from external inspections and peer reviews are reported back to Executive Directors and if necessary, the Corporate Leadership Board.
- 19.2 Where appropriate, action plans or management actions have been agreed and developed to implement the recommendations identified. For further information about action plans that have been developed following an inspection or peer view, please contact the Executive Director with responsibility for the service.

20. Risk Assessment

- 20.1 This is a report for Audit Committee to consider and note.
- 20.2 The findings of any external inspections and peer reviews are reviewed by Executive Directors, which informs the Council's Corporate Risk Register.

21. Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

- 21.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 21.2 Members should note there are equality implications regarding the findings and recommendations from the external inspections and peer review reports, which they may wish to consider on a case by case basis.

22. Legal and Resource Implications

22.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Ben Mosley

Head of the Executive Officer

February 2022

Appendix A	Date	Directorate & Lead Officer	Context/Background information	Key findings/recommendations
Report				
Digital transformation at Bristol City Council through ethical data governance and responsible innovation	February 2021	Resources Directorate Tim Borrett – Director: Policy, Strategy and Partnership tim.borrett@bristol.gov.uk	The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) is an independent expert committee, led by a board of specialists, set up and tasked by the UK government to investigate and advise on how to maximise the benefits of these technologies. This report makes four recommendations for how BCC can strengthen its ethical data governance. The recommendations follow work undertaken by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) during a partnership project with the council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start deliberating with local citizens about BCC's approach to responsible innovation. 2. Demonstrate commitment to trustworthy data use by showing the effectiveness of Insight Bristol, clearly and consistently communicating the purpose of the project, and installing a governance framework that guards against undue expansion. 3. Embed responsible data and technology innovation governance through the new Data Insight and Analytics Board Recommendation four: boost transparency by publishing a central register of data-driven projects
The Inspection by the Human Tissue Authority of the Flax Bourton Public Mortuary.	May 2021	Resources Directorate Head of Statutory Registration, Yvonne Dawes	HTA must assure itself that the DI is a suitable person to supervise the activity authorised by the licence and that the premises are suitable for the activity. The statutory duties of the DI are set down in Section 18 of the Human Tissue Act 2004. They are to secure that:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The HTA found the Designated Individual (DI) and the Licence Holder (LH) to be suitable in accordance with the requirements of the legislation. 2. The Public Mortuary at Flax Bourton (the establishment) had one minor shortfall which was found against standards for Premises, Facilities and Equipment.

		Yvonne.Dawes@bristol.gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the other persons to whom the licence applies are suitable persons to participate in the carrying-on of the licensed activity; • suitable practices are used in the course of carrying on that activity; and • the conditions of the licence are complied with. 	3. The HTA has assessed the establishment as suitable to be licensed for the activities specified, subject to corrective and preventative actions being implemented to meet the shortfall identified.
LGA Remote Peer Support Equality Peer Challenge	March 2021 (report issued June 2021)	Resources Directorate Tim Borrett – Director: Policy, Strategy and Partnership tim.borrett@bristol.gov.uk	Bristol City Council commissioned the LGA to carry out an Equality Peer Challenge against its Equality Framework for Local Government. The Framework was updated in 2020 and the Council agreed to pilot a new style peer challenge which no longer makes awards of Excellent or Achieving. This peer challenge seeks to provide a peer perspective of the council's achievement and progress to date and areas for further development, utilising the LGA's Equality Framework to do so. It considers where the council is now and how it can make further progress.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Member training on E&I generally to include awareness of EQIAs and the importance of equality and inclusion issues in their community leadership role. 2. Review the Equality Charter with partners to ensure a connection between its aims and actions. The Equality Charter is currently a statement of commitment to equality and inclusion with each signatory responsible for developing and monitoring its own actions 3. Keep under review the mechanisms for the different Mayoral Commissions to work better together. 4. Continue the work to embed and improve the quality and consistency of EQIAs. 5. Continue to work with the Staff Led Groups to fine tune their participation. 6. Agree workforce representation targets for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and other protected characteristics.
National	May 2021	People	William Shawcross visited approx. 8 local authorities to undertake a national review.	The report was due to be published in September 2021, to be laid before

Independent review of Prevent May 2021		Directorate Hugh Evans Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk	The majority of the Local Authorities visited were Home Office Prevent priority and funded areas. Bristol was an exception as a Non Prevent priority area. The visits included meetings with a range of key stakeholders from the local authority, police and community members/organisations. Meetings with Police considered critical issues relating to the Prevent strand of Contest.	Parliament in December 2021. The report publication has been delayed and the Home Office is yet to issue an update as to when the report will be published. There is no current action plan in place.
Peer challenge on Quality Assurance - Children's Social Care	June 2021	People Directorate Becky Lewis – Strategic Safeguarding & Quality assurance Service Manager becky.lewis@bristol.gov.uk	Peer Review of quality assurance by Wiltshire as part of the sector led improvement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QA Framework is a good basis for triangulation. It includes the overall systemic approach and ensures a robust process for audit, moderation and learning back within the organisation. 2. Family and child views embedded in audit practice and data collecting. BCC's QAF puts child and family views at its heart including gaining views at the start of the audit. 3. In terms of the audit tool, SMART audit actions can be found in the audit tool with a section for supervision discussion and recorded actions. This really ensures the learning is fed directly back into the team.
Management Systems Assessment	June 2021	Growth and Regeneration Directorate	This is a remote surveillance audit of the systems and controls in place at Bristol City Council to the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 and to the scope:	A short review of the management systems and changes over the last six months identified minimal changes to the systems had taken place. The scope of the system

Report		<p>Giles Liddell Project Manager – Environmental. Bristol City Council Climate Change and Sustainable City Service</p> <p>giles.liddell@bristol.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Direct activities, products and services provided by Bristol City Council within its boundaries – The activities of schools, the Bottle Yard Studios, and companies for whom the council is a shareholder in are excluded.</p>	<p>remains unchanged currently and following elections the Elected Mayor remains in office giving some stability to the direction. Representative from BCC had been at CoP26 considering how the outcomes are likely to impact on BCC and its objectives and targets. But as BCCs has already been recognised “Worldwide” by its recent award from CDP. The Council has achieved an “A” rating for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This put Bristol in the Top 10% of cities around the world. Additional resource has now been made available for internal auditing. Skills are being developed after a successful two-day training course on an IRCA approved course. All previous audit NCs and findings had been addressed and were reviewed at the beginning of the audit.</p> <p>4.</p>
Preventing and Reducing Youth Homelessness In Bristol	July 2021	<p>People Directorate</p> <p>Fiona Tudge – Head of Safeguarding and Areas</p>	<p>MHCLG (now DLUHC) focussed visit 16 June 2021 to consider the effectiveness of the Council’s approach to preventing and reducing youth homelessness in Bristol. The visit was undertaken by the MHCLG Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST). The visit involved Service Directors from Children Services and Housing, Operational Managers, Commissioners, Frontline staff from BCC Children’s Services, Housing Services and Providers.</p>	<p>The advisors recommended 3 key priorities to strengthen our approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve our homelessness systems knowledge, practice, recording and data locally, and Hcllc submissions - 2. Review our processes and practice to ensure compliance with the DfE/MHCLG joint guidance. <p>Ensure there is joint commitment across Housing and Children Services not to use</p>

		fiona.tudge@bristol.gov.uk	<p>The visit focussed on 7 key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint strategic commitment to prevent youth homelessness 2. Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) and Prevention 3. The MHCLG and DfE Joint Guidance and Preventing homelessness for 16/17 year olds 4. Corporate Parenting and accommodation planning for care leavers 5. Planning successful transitions for young people leaving custody 6. Commissioning and move on options 7. Working together and Partnership arrangements. 	unsuitable accommodation for 16/17-year-olds
Building Condition Report -Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol City Council	September 2021	<p>Growth & Regeneration Directorate</p> <p>Jon Finch, Head of Culture</p>	<p>Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) have been appointed to undertake a condition survey for Bristol City Council (BCC). BCC last undertook a similar exercise in March 2016. This now requires updating to support an application for Government grant funding for maintenance and improvement works via the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND). RLB inspected the property on 23rd, 24th & 26th August and 3rd September.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bristol Museum and art Gallery is generally in poor condition, with significant investment and repairs to preserve the building and enhance visitor experience, and to improve staff facilities. 3. It is recommend that most significant defects such as those posing the greatest risk to the building fabric, H&S and visitor experience are prioritised.

<p>PNC Information Assurance Audit Report</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>G&R Directorate</p>	<p>To assure PIAP and Police National Computer Services (PNCS) that Police National Computer (PNC) data is being accessed, handled, held and used in an approved and secure manner in accordance with the Supply Agreement and relevant legislations including, but not limited to, Data Protection Act (2018), Computer Misuse Act (1990), Official Secrets Act (1989).</p>	<p>NPIRMT considers the security measures taken by British City Council Trading Standards to protect PNC data need improvement. Management action is required in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PIAP's approval to share PNC reports via email 2. R2 PIAP's approval for the uploading and storage of PNC data on external systems NPPV clearance for Trading Standards Officers who have access to PNC reports
<p>Bristol Floating Harbour – Water Safety Review</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>Growth and Regeneration Directorate Eric Dougall - Harbour Estate Manager eric.dougall@bristol.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Consultant looked at the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The locations most likely to be used by locals throughout the year. • The intensity of use through the day e.g. early morning commuting and midday activity. • The areas most likely to be used outside daylight hours. <p>Emergency response arrangements around the water.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the water safety policy for the council which includes consideration for proposed developments in and around water and adoption of other water bodies. Consider the inclusion of water safety education within schools within the policy. 2. Ensure the water safety partnership is fully operational and is well supported by appropriate organisations who contribute to overall safety in and around the Floating Harbour. 3. Unauthorised open water swimming is an

				<p>issue and provision of a formal area to swim is being considered. RoSPA can support the development of an options proposal for consideration by the City Council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Develop a permanent solution for the temporary edge protection control measures implemented to reduce the risk of entry to the water along Princes Quay.5. It is recommended that further work is undertaken to restrict easy access by cyclists to Princes Wharf from the cycleway over Prince Street Bridge. The access point identified in should be modified to deter cyclists from entering the wharf at that point and encourage them to follow the designated cycleway.6. Consider further solutions to restrict unintentional access to the water's edge along Welsh Back. A number of measures have been taken but there are further opportunities to reduce risk as a result of potential redevelopment in this area.7. Eastwood Farm Local Nature Reserve is known to be a location from which people swim in the river. Consider
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				<p>information/warning signs at the access points to this area to advise persons of the risks of swimming in the river with an operational navigation</p> <p>8. Continue work to ensure grab chains are consistently deployed along sections where egress is difficult.</p> <p>9. Consider how to implement greater consistency of edge protection in the vicinity of mooring bollards. It is recognised that there are operational reasons for requiring access to bollards.</p> <p>10. Supplementary 'Site Risk Register and Level Rating' sheet items addressed</p>
LGA: Bristol City Council Children and Families Services Peer Challenge	October 2021	<p>People Directorate</p> <p>Hugh Evans</p> <p>Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk</p>	<p>The peer challenge was undertaken by 5 peer reviewers who hold senior positions within Children Services in Local Authorities across the country. The reviewers met with practitioners, managers and senior leaders and undertook audits of children's records. The focus of the peer challenge was on children in need of help and protection, children subject of child protection plans and the work of the First Assessment Service (front door). The Key lines of</p>	<p>The over arching message from the challenge was "The practice culture is strong, focused upon helping families make effective changes and your staff speak with passion about Bristol's children and families. We have seen some weaknesses in the application of child protection thresholds and adherence to core case work processes. A rebalancing which retains all of your strengths complemented by being brilliant at the basics will leave you in a very strong place".</p>

			<p>Inquiry for the peer challenge were:</p> <p>23. Are children and families supported at the right level in our system/proportionate to need? How effective are our services at improving the sustainability of outcomes for children?</p>	<p>The recommendations from the review are being incorporated into the revised Improvement Plan that has not yet been finalised.</p>
<p>Children's Homes Report</p>	<p>October to December 2021</p>	<p>People Directorate - James Beardall</p> <p>james.beardall@bristol.gov.uk</p>	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform elected member's, partners and colleagues of progress and developments within the Children's Homes Service and The Children's Placements Service. This report includes information about OFSTED judgements in the last quarter.</p> <p>In addition to the oversight of the Registered Manager and Team Manager, the Children's Homes are regulated by an Independent Visitor as per Regulation 44, part 6. The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015: Visits by the Independent Person must form an opinion as to whether (i) children accommodated at the children's home are effectively safeguarded; and (ii) the conduct of the children's home promotes the well-being of the children living there.</p>	<p>There were 5 Ofsted inspection of Children's Homes in 21/22. For further information about these inspections please contact James Beardall.</p>

			During lockdown some visits have been over zoom/ email. There as been interim Regulation 44 visitor arrangements in place from March 2021- June 2021. A new Independent Regulation 44 visitor was appointed in July 2021 and monthly visits to each home are now taking place on site.	
Ofsted Focussed Visit inspection 7-8 Dec 2021	December 2021	People Directorate - James Beardall james.beardall@bristol.gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted undertook a focused visit of the Council's children's social care front door under the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework. Two inspectors undertook fieldwork over a 2 day period which included meeting with senior leaders, managers and practitioners and reviewing children electronic records. 	<p>A report will be published 31 Jan 2022 but there will be no inspection judgement.</p> <p>The recommendations from the inspection will be incorporated into the revised Improvement Plan that has not yet been finalised.</p>
Compliance audit Report – Homes England	January 2022	Growth & Regeneration Paul Sylvester	24. Compliance Audits check Provider compliance with Homes England's policies, procedures and funding conditions. Standardised checks are made by Independent Auditors on an agreed sample of Homes England schemes funded under affordable housing programmes.	On review of the evidence provided, the outcome of the audit has shown the provider has complied with all the programme requirements and guidance. A GREEN grade has been assigned and no breaches were identified.
Her Majesty's	January	People	HMIP are undertaking inspections across	The report will be published May 2022.

<p>Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Thematic Inspection on education, training and employment (ETE) services across the Youth Offending Team 17-20 January 2022.</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Directorate Executive Director – Hugh Evans Hugh.Evans@bristol.gov.uk</p>	<p>six local area Youth Offending Teams during November 2021 to February 2022. The inspection evaluated how effectively the local area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies the needs of children and young people who are known to the YOT. • Ensures effective case management of both out-of-court, and court disposals. • Meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve. <p>The fieldwork element of the inspection was carried out remotely by a team of 7 inspectors including 1 Ofsted inspector.</p> <p>The inspection comprised interviews with YOT practitioners around a selected sample of children, a series of interviews and focus groups around ETE services for children, and conversations with young people supported by the YOT. The Ofsted inspector also spoke to educational settings for a selected sample of children.</p>	<p>Although the published report will not name Bristol YOT the inspectors have provided verbal feedback on their findings and recommendations specific to Bristol. The findings will be collated within a joint Education and Children, Families and Safer Communities action plan that will be monitored through our Improvement Plan and Youth Justice Board.</p>
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			The inspection across six local areas will culminate in a thematic best practice report (without judgements) and individual YOTs will not be named, except for areas of best practice.	
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