

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