

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 September 2023

TITLE	Annual amendments to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Constitution and terms of reference		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Fiona Tudge	Job title: Director of Children, Families and Safer Communities		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Holland, Councillor Craig and Councillor King	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans Executive Director of Adults and Communities		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval for the amendments made to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Constitution by the Keeping Bristol Safe Executive as one of the partnership's three statutory partners. This proposal includes updated arrangements for independent scrutineers' role, oversight and accountability arrangements for Lead members, decision making and commissioning for Statutory Reviews to ensure governance arrangements are compliant with statutory guidance Working Together 2018.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In June 2018, Working Together to Safeguard Children set out changes in the way agencies were required to work together to safeguard children and young people. This statutory guidance reflected the changes brought into statute by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Instead of each local authority being responsible for the running of a Safeguarding Children Board, the legislation requires each local authority area to have multi-agency safeguarding children's arrangements which enable agencies to work collaboratively to ensure the effectiveness of the child protection and safeguarding system. The government specified that these arrangements would be the joint responsibility of the area's: Chief Executive of the local authority, Chief Executive of the local clinical commissioning group, and the Chief Constable of the police force for the area. This provided an opportunity to the statutory agencies in the city to reconsider how they worked together to safeguard the people of the city. 2. Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership came into effect in September 2019 and was constituted to provide the city's leadership in safeguarding and community safety recognising that none of these issues could be tackled in isolation. The Executive Board was established to oversee the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for children, Local Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The partnership is required to meet Bristol's statutory duties to: safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children as required by Working Together 2018; help and protect adults at risk of neglect and/or abuse as required by Care Act 2014; and to protect our local communities from crime and to help people feel safe in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. 3. Our multi-agency safeguarding partnerships and community safety arrangements are essential to the protection of the city's most vulnerable citizens. In 2022-23 children's services received 23,041 referrals in respect to safeguarding children from abuse and neglect; adults received 5,813 adult safeguarding enquiries; 			

and community safety partners responded to (among other issues) 203 bladed weapons offences¹, 6,649 domestic abuse offences, 2,099 hate crime offences and 1,129 sexual offences². The partnership's role is to enable multi-agency partners across the city to come together to improve services for children, families, adults and communities, implement strategies for change and maintain oversight of the effectiveness of these arrangements so that we are able to take collective steps to ensure the policies, processes, services and systems are in place to identify abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity and prevent harm to citizens, particularly the most vulnerable – children and adults with care and support needs.

4. The issue of reducing serious violence in the city is a prime example of the importance of these integrated arrangements. The work of the partnership has contributed to a reduction in recorded serious violence offences in the city in 2022-23 when compared to the previous recent years demonstrating the positive impact of the ten-year Safer Option strategy³ which has implemented long-term public health response to serious violence including investment in education inclusion programmes; diversion from offending; specialist recovery services for victims of child criminal exploitation; and new policing approaches tackling county lines and drug supply. However, as seen by the recent tragic murder of a young adult in Bristol, more continues to need to be done to avoid needless loss of life and safeguard young people.
5. Under the KBSP's Serious Violence Prevention Group, the partnership has brought together childrens, adults and community safety partners to provide a whole-system response to serious violence. The children's safeguarding partners have taken steps such as implementing contextual safeguarding approaches which support services to recognise serious violence and exploitation as a form of abuse. They have developed multiple new services including working with the KBSP Domestic Abuse Board to provide earlier trauma-informed therapeutic services for child victims of domestic violence as analysis of serious incidents demonstrated that young people who had been exposed to violence themselves in childhood were more at risk of being drawn into youth conflict and exploited⁴. The adult safeguarding partners are working together to implement transitional safeguarding models which are approaches which recognise the impact of coercion and exploitation on young adults and their vulnerability in young adulthood. This has led to investment in improved multi-agency programmes of support for young people with complex needs such as programmes delivered through Changing Futures⁵. The community safety partners have contributed expertise such as changes to policing approaches to patrols and police presence in serious violence hotspots, implementing knife surrender bins and more CCTV and street lighting in areas with high ASB. These are some examples of how the integrated partnership have sought to safeguard those exposed to community conflict and serious violence and lead in taking steps to prevent serious violence in the city.
6. In this context the importance of maintaining effective scrutiny and oversight functions of the partnership is fundamental and the partnership conducts regular reviews of their governance arrangement. The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership's Constitution and terms of reference have been updated and amended by the Partnership following the annual review. The table of changes is at the start of the document.
7. The partnership is committed to reviewing the constitution on an annual basis. The Constitution was however last reviewed by the executive group in January 2021 and agreed by the Council cabinet in July 2021. The Constitution review is more than a year out of date. The reason for this is that the Executive Board wanted to provide time for the initial DCS funded review of the KBSP in the first half of 2022 and then again for the conclusion of the LGA review into the arrangements.
8. Officers recommend that Cabinet approve the changes to the Constitution and note that a further review will be undertaken following any changes that are made for the annual review in 2024. A review will be needed of the appendices. The current Constitution does not reflect arrangements agreed by the Executive since the last

¹ January-December 2022, other data provided is 22-23 financial year

² Data provided by the Community Safety's multi-agency insight hub for KBSP

³ bristolsafeguarding.org/media/yu5li4ke/syv-bristol-approach-2020-2030.pdf

⁴ <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/children/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/peer-on-peer-abuse-and-child-criminal-exploitation-cspr-2021/>

⁵ [Changing Futures Bristol](#)

review for the governance of the partnership, particularly in relation to Independent Scrutiny and the role of Elected Members.

9. The changes to the Constitution can be summarised as follows:

Throughout the document Clinical Commissioning Group has been replaced with Integrated Care Board

2. Membership of the Executive Board and Delegated Authority

2.4 – Several changes to personnel titles for the Executive Board to reflect current members

6. Role of the Independent Chair

6.9 – added in a bullet point to set out the arrangements of the independent scrutineer role for the children’s arrangements for the partnership

7. Oversight and accountability arrangements for Lead Cabinet members

7.1 - arrangements added to reflect new agreed arrangements

7.3 – changes to personnel titles within Bristol City Council

9. Decision making and commissioning for Statutory Reviews

9.1 – sentence added to reflect arrangements for commissioning Domestic Homicide Reviews

9.5 – bullet points added to set out the functions of statutory review groups

11 Business Delivery and Performance Groups

11.1 - Added in new groups to reflect the six business delivery groups

Appendices ordered as.

1. Code of conduct
2. Child Death Overview Panel
3. Agreement for provision of legal advice
4. Disclosure of Information from Statutory Reviews
5. Complaint Procedure for Statutory Review
6. Complaint Procedure
7. Complaint Acknowledgement template
8. Complaint response template

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet

1. Approve the updated Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership constitution and note that a further review will take place in 2024.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

This change ensures that Bristol can meet ‘Empowering and Caring’ Key Commitments through clear multi-agency partnership governance for safeguarding children.

City Benefits:

This change ensures that our governance is compliant with our legal requirements and duties in respect of multi-agency safeguarding children and adults’ arrangements.

Consultation Details:
The changes to the constitution have been consulted on with multi-agency partners who form the Keeping Bristol Safe Executive.

Background Documents:
[Working together 2018](#)

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This report does not present any direct financial implications to the Authority. Decisions and actions of the partnership that have a financial impact will be assessed as they arise.

Finance Business Partner: Andrew Osei 7 August 2023

2. Legal Advice: There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. The Council must approve any changes to the Constitution as one of the Statutory Partners. The report complies with the requirement in the Constitution for an annual review and this indicates good practice in terms of governance arrangements. The amended constitution gives effect to changes in the operation of the partnership arrangements. The constitution sets out how the arrangements comply with legislation and statutory guidance in respect of the Board and BCC as Statutory Partner.

Legal Team Leader: Nancy Rollason Head of Legal Services 11 August 2023

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader Alex Simpson Lead Enterprise Architect 13 July 2023

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking agreement to amendments made to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Constitution by the partners of the Executive. There are no significant HR issues arising from this report for Bristol City Council employees

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 13 July 2023

EDM Sign-off	Abi Gbago Executive Director Children & Education	19 July 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllrs Craig, Holland and King	7 August 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	7 August 2023

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO

Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO