

# People Scrutiny Commission

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024



**Report of:** Fiona Tudge, Director Children and Families Services

**Title:** Children and Families Services Response to Extra-familial Harm

**Officer Presenting Report:** Fiona Tudge, Director Children and Families Services

## **Recommendation:**

For People's Scrutiny Commission to note the report and make comment on the services' current provision and plans to safeguard children from extra-familial harm

## **The significant issues in the report are:**

- The increasing numbers of young people being referred for services due to professionals identifying extra-familial harm and increase in child vulnerability to extra-familial harm due to poverty and inequality
- Assurance of the appropriate application of a statutory social work threshold for children experiencing extra-familial harm at the front door
- The launch of the new Strategic Partnership for Exploitation with Barnardo's bringing together a single recovery service for children and young adults experiencing sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation or being reported as missing reducing silos
- The reduction in capacity for children to access specialist recovery services for exploitation
- The work underway in children and families' services to review pathways for allocation and response to adolescents experiencing extra-familial harm as part of the Our Families model
- Commissioning of a new service to provide Independent Missing Return Conversations (part of the Strategic Exploitation Partnership) to address performance in offering children missing return conversations
- The risk associated with no current government commitment to continue Violence Reduction Partnership funding for serious violence prevention following March 2025

## 1. Summary

'Extra-familial harm' refers to a broad category of harm types including exploitation by criminal and organised crime groups and individuals (such as county lines and financial exploitation), serious violence, modern slavery and trafficking, online harm, sexual exploitation, teenage relationship abuse, and the influences of extremism which could lead to radicalisation. Harm can occur in a range of extra-familial contexts, including school and other educational settings, peer groups, or within community/public spaces, and/or online. Children may experience this type of harm from other children and/or from adults. Children of all ages can experience extra-familial harm however the majority are teenagers. Often, these different harm types share overlapping drivers, methods and consequences for young people. Many young people experiencing extrafamilial harm also experience harm within their home leading them to harm complex intersecting needs.

Working Together 2023 sets out the requirement for local authorities to safeguard children from extrafamilial harms as we would children abused within the home - 'Where children may be experiencing extra-familial harm, children's social care assessments should determine whether a child is in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 or whether to make enquires under section 47 of the same Act, following concerns that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm' (Working Together 2023).

## 2. Context

### Scale

In the 2023 calendar year Bristol City Council received the following number of contacts to the First Response service where the **primary** referral reason related to extra-familial harm. Please note that other contacts may have included concerns about extra-familial harm alongside a primary referral reason related to harm within the home such as neglect or domestic abuse:

Harm Type	2023	2022	Percentage change between calendar years
Child Criminal Exploitation	426	379	+12.4%
Peer sexual abuse	314	278	+12.9%
Child Sexual Exploitation	303	243	+24.7%
Child substance misuse	191	168	+13.7%
Serious youth violence	141	94	+50%
Radicalisation	8	8	0%
<b>Total contacts</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>+18.4%</b>

The overall increase in contacts about extra-familial harm of 18.4% is significantly higher than the overall increase in contacts about all abuse types of 4.5% between 2022 and 2023. This demonstrates a significant increase in referrals from professionals and members of the public identifying concerns about extra-familial harm. It is thought that this increasing awareness of extra-familial harm reflects a growing awareness of extra-familial harm as a safeguarding issue as this has become increasingly explicit within each iteration of the statutory guidance. Furthermore national inquiries such as the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the national profile of serious knife crime deaths and incidents have further propelled demand. However, the service is also mindful that this increase has occurred in the context of austerity and cost of living challenge and we recognise poverty to be a significant driver of a child's vulnerability to extra-familial harm (21% of Bristol's children live in poverty<sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1530-jsna-deprivation/file>

and pressure on preventative services with national and local reductions in universal and targeted youth provision.

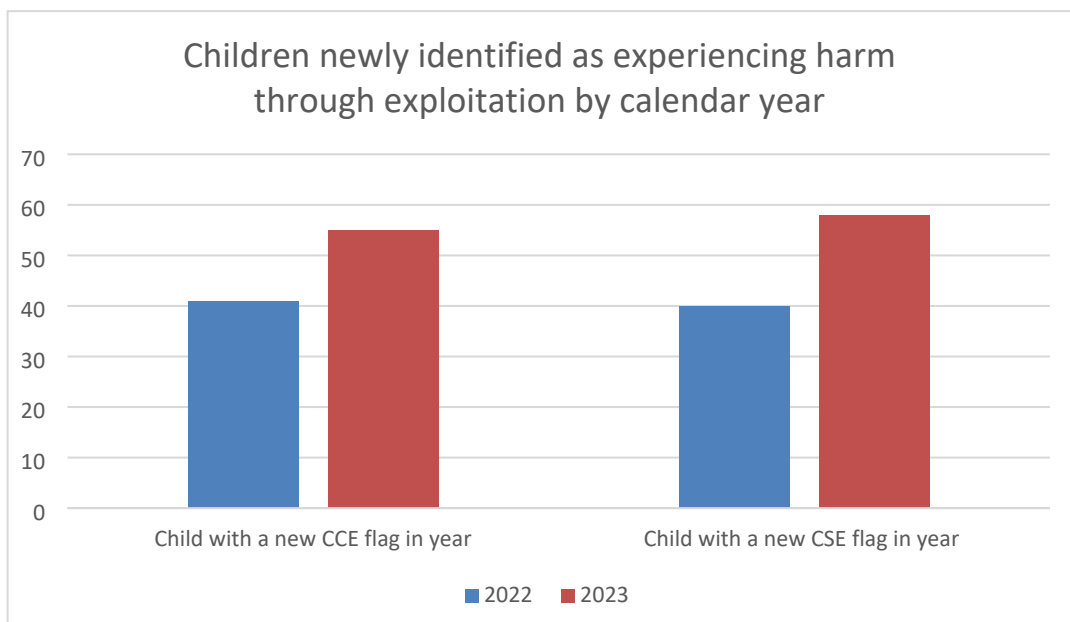
Children referred as a contact to the First Assessment Service have a range of needs from requiring advice and guidance, to early help and preventative services and specialist child protection and safeguarding. The following data demonstrates the pathway of support for children referred to the service.

- 26% Opened to social work team as a new safeguarding referral
- 20% Opened to social work team for investigation in the Multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)
- 10% Opened to early help team within children’s services for support
- 15% Advice, guidance and signposting
- 25% No further action assessed as required
- 4% Other outcome (eg information shared with existing involved lead professional)

These percentages when reviewed against data for the pathway for all contacts received in the year, demonstrate that 8% more contacts triaged by First Assessment about extra-familial harm are opened to social work teams and 2% more opened to the social work team in the MASH with 10% fewer provided advice and guidance. No further action rates of 25% are the same as for contacts to children’s services across all referral types. This provides good assurance of Children and Families’ services recognition of extra-familial harm as a significant child safeguarding issue. It also reflects the significant demand and role on Children and Families statutory social work services in responding to community and extra-familial harm issues.

Once allocated to a social worker a child is assessed and should exploitation be identified a hazard flag is added. In 2023 97 children were open to a social worker due to child criminal exploitation and 118 children were open to a social worker due to child sexual exploitation across the year.

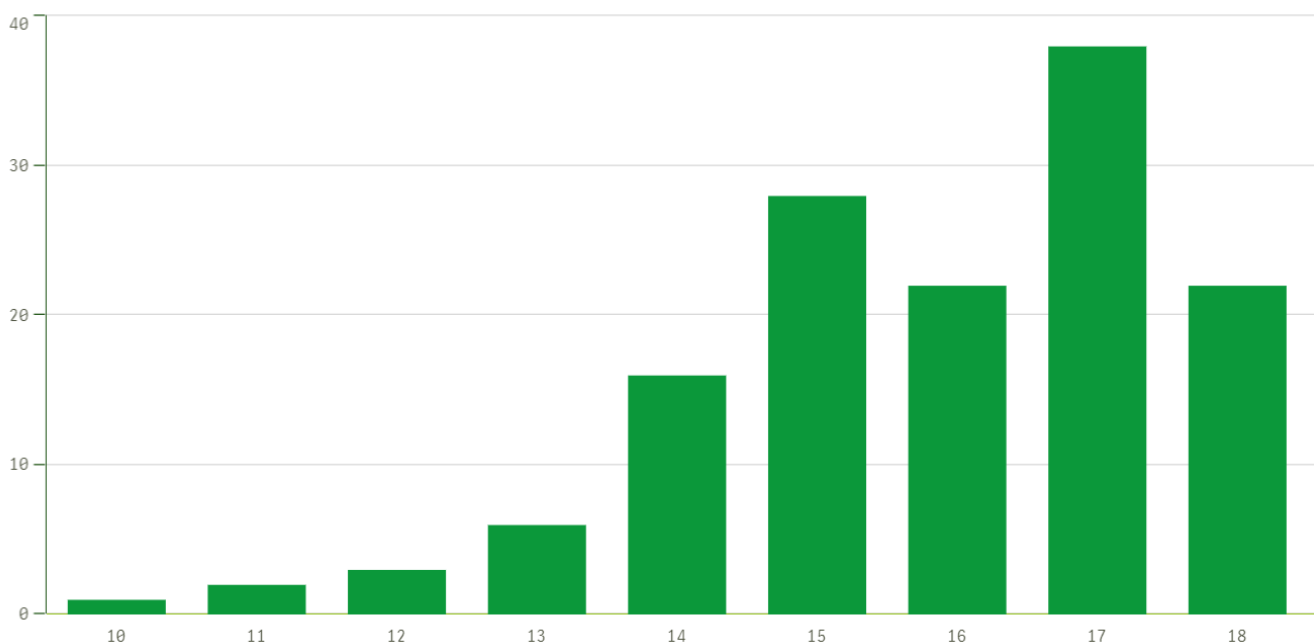
The follow data reflects the proportion of children open to the service in 2023 who were assessed as requiring a safeguarding response due to extrafamilial harm related to exploitation meeting the threshold for an exploitation flag. This reflects again the increasing numbers of children identified as experiencing exploitation as compared to the previous calendar year.



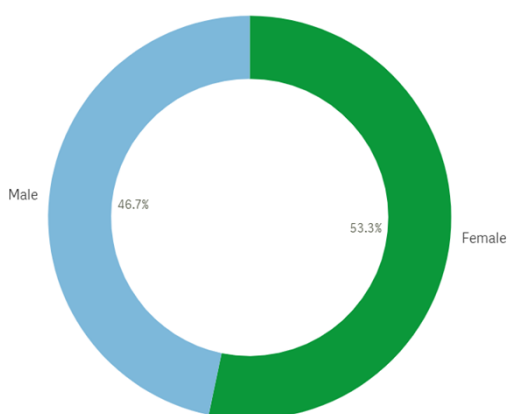
## Demographics

The following demographics reflect the snapshot of children with an exploitation hazard flag at the start of February 2024 open to the service.

**Current Age**



The majority of children open to the service experiencing exploitation are aged 14 and above.



Females are more likely to be identified as being exploited however the type of abuse experienced is highly gendered with 82.7% of children with an exploitation flag for child criminal exploitation being male and 86% of children with an exploitation flag for child sexual exploitation being female. This is broadly in line with national research.

27% of children with an exploitation flag have an EHCP reflecting national research that children with SEND are at more at risk of being exploited in the community.

Ethnicity of child with exploitation hazard*	Percentage
White British	63.2
White Other	4.9
White and Black Caribbean	12.3
Other mixed background	4.9
Black Caribbean	5.5
Other Black Background	4.9
Afghan	1.8
Asian	1.8

Other	1
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\*(please note some children will have both CSE and CCE hazards but they have only been counted once in this data so this reflects a total of 163 children)

Ethnicity data highlights that children from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds are disproportionately likely to be assessed as experiencing criminal and/or sexual exploitation.

**Our Protective Response to Exploitation**

Bristol City Council work with a multi-agency partnership to safeguard children from sexual and criminal exploitation. Children are supported by social workers and strengthening families workers alongside a multi-agency team of professionals including the Operation Topaz specialist police team who are working to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of sexual and criminal exploitation and the Barnardo’s BASE and ROUTES support and recovery specialist services who offer victims of exploitation non-time limited trauma-recovery informed support from a multi-disciplinary team including social workers, youth workers, mental health practitioners and sexual health nurses.

In 2023 our contract with Barnardo’s running BASE and ROUTES ended and we procured a new jointly funded strategic partner for exploitation and missing with a pooled budget across Bristol Children and Families Service, Bristol Public Health, OPCC and Bristol Public Health. We are also partnering with South Gloucestershire Children’s Services delivering exploitation services cross-border. The BNSSG ICB committed ongoing funding to maintaining the sexual health services, embedded Forensic Psychologist and CAMHS nurse in the team. This Strategic Partnership was won by Barnardo’s and a newly designed integrated service which reduces the silos between different types of exploitation and extra-familial harm pathways for recovery and support will be launched in April. The new service further integrates Bristol City Council’s Children and Families Services and the specialist recovery services offered by Barnardo’s and the wider partnership including them moving onto recording on Bristol City Council’s recording system enabling closer joint working between the professionals coordinating the safeguarding and recovery support for the child.

Despite the financial challenges in the system, Bristol City Council have prioritised maintaining the funding levels for children accessing recovery services from the Bristol Strategic Exploitation Partnership although there has been no uplift since the previous contracts were awarded in 2017 meaning a real terms cut to service. Unfortunately the OPCC were unable to continue their investment in the Child Criminal Exploitation support and recovery team run by Barnardo’s ROUTES. This reduction in funding means that there is a reduction in specialist recovery services for children in Bristol. We have sort as a partnership to mitigate these impacts through BNSSG ICB Vanguard investment in group work for children and review of the model of delivery. We have also been successful in bidding to the Home Office for a specialist young women and girls worker until the end of 2024. However this is a significant risk for the partnership in ensuring that children receive the services that they need, particularly in the context of rising demand. The result is that some children are receiving specialist support later when their needs are higher and more complex requiring longer intervention. A key aim of the Strategic Partnership is to work to identifying opportunities for attracting investment to the service.

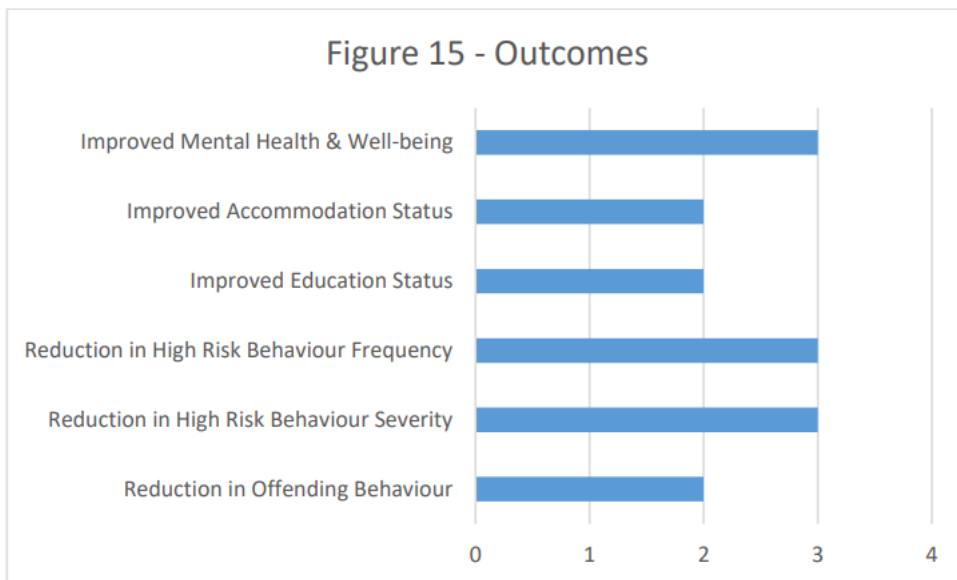
In Quarter 1 of 23-24 BASE/ROUTES were working with 86 children and young people experiencing exploitation, 50 experiencing and recovering from child sexual exploitation and 36 experiencing and recovering from child criminal exploitation. Outcomes for children experiencing sexual exploitation were positive exploitation with 100% of children closed in Q1 having achieved positive change in one or more identified areas of need. Outcomes for children experiencing child criminal exploitation are lower with 60% of those closed in Q1 experiencing positive change. This reflects the national picture where there is extensive research to identify “what works” in supporting young people to exit and recover from child criminal exploitation. The invention outcomes are broadly in line with national programmes.

In 2023 Operation Topaz had multiple successful prosecutions related to individual sexual offences against children. There has been one multi-victim prosecution with an adult perpetrator of sexual exploitation sentenced

to 18 years in prison for rape and sexual offences against five girls<sup>2</sup>. Prosecution of adults for criminal exploitation remains a challenge due to victims low confidence in authorities and low willingness to engage with providing evidence. Therefore we are working as a multi-agency partnership to utilise victimless approaches to disrupting criminal exploitation such as disruption of county lines drug dealing.

In 2023 we continued the roll out of the two year Safer Options Trauma Informed Consultation Service which is a Forensic Psychologist led service supporting the social worker, BASE/ROUTES worker, education and police team to formulate and structure their support for young people experiencing exploitation with the most complex needs. This service is led by AWP and funded through BNSSG ICB. This service is still in its early stages with young people continuing to receive support therefore there are only a small proportion of children who have reached the stage of review with outcome capture, however of these there are early signs of it improving outcome for these children. Additionally, where problems have arisen, it has been reported that these have resolved more quickly, and relationships have repaired more easily. This suggests increased resilience in the young people open to SOTICS, and the network of professionals and carers around them.

Outcomes for Children in SOTICS at Review Stage:



In partnership between Barnardo’s, Avon and Somerset Police and Bristol City Council, specialist exploitation workers from Barnardo’s join Avon and Somerset Police specialist police teams on late night patrols of hot spot areas for adult street sex work. Through this programme they engage with adult street sex workers supporting them to provide intelligence of children who may be being sexually exploited through street based sexual exploitation and also identify vulnerable children out in the community late at night and in the early hours of the morning who may be being abused through exploitation or at high risk. This work has been evaluated and found to significantly and meaningfully contribute to intelligence gathering and protection of children in the central areas of the city where the patrols happen.

The January 2023 OFSTED Inspection of Children’s Services in Bristol found that: ‘The response to children at risk of extra-familial harm, including when they go missing, is mostly strong. A well-established partnership approach means that early signs of exploitation are identified. Action is taken to reduce the risks that children face. Complex child protection strategy meetings help track and monitor risks to groups of vulnerable children. Weaknesses in the accuracy and use of data do, however, limit the ability of managers to identify and have oversight of some of the most vulnerable children’. The Safer Options manager has continued to develop processes to address

<sup>2</sup> [Curtis Otley jailed for rape and sexual abuse of girls - BBC News](#)

management oversight of the cohort including creating a weekly leadership oversight briefing where the cohort of children identified as at most need and risk are shared with each locality management team. Further work with the data team is required to strengthen performance reporting in the partnership and moving self-serve data tools into Power BI as part of the data transformation. Timescales for this are being established with the data and insight team through the Our Families Programme.

Auditing through the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership in Quarter 3 of 2023-24 highlighted further work is required to strengthen pathways for quicker access to services and strengthen the multi-agency case management of children’s plans. Through the DfE Enhanced Diagnostic Programme we have funded a full review of our pathway and work allocations for adolescents including those harmed through extra-familial harm and exploitation. We are using these findings to inform phase two of the Our Families Programme Operating Model design to improve young people’s outcomes and experience of services. We recognise that demand and capacity remains a risk to the effectiveness of these plans and therefore the continued investment in preventative services is key as is the One City approach to addressing inequalities, poverty and deprivation. The work outlined below through Safer Options and the Violence Reduction Partnership is fundamental to this, as is the police’s strategy for the prosecution and disruption of sexual offenders and organised crime groups, however funding for Safer Options and the regional Violence Reduction Unit ends in March 2025 with no clarity over ongoing government commitment to extend the programme and therefore Children and Families Services are working with partner agencies to try and identify sustainability options.

**Children reported missing to the police**

Children who are reported as missing to the police are at increased risk of harm in the communities. Therefore under statutory guidance Bristol City Council are required to offer all children who go missing an independent missing return conversation. This is in addition to children receiving a police missing prevention interview and engagement with their existing network and therefore some children choose not to take up the offer in which case advice and guidance can be given to the network or parent/carers.

Performance in this area has been variable over recent years with teams within the council struggling to provide the return home conversation consistently within statutory timescales of 72 hours in the context of workforce vacancies and competing demand from court work or duty and increase rates of children being reported as missing to the police. Performance for children not allocated a social worker who received the service from an independent provider was much better and more consistent. The service therefore balanced the risk of introducing a further professional into the child’s life and ensuring a consistent offer and determined that commissioning all missing return conversations to be delivered by an independent service provider integrated into our exploitation specialist service. This service went live in December 2023 so is in the early stages of delivery. We hope this will improve our offer to children.

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Percentage of episodes where child was offered a missing return conversation</b>	<b>Percentage of offered missing return conversations accepted</b>	<b>Number of individual children reported missing 1 or more times in the quarter</b>	<b>Number of total missing episodes in the quarter</b>
Q1 22-23	92	62	194	360
Q2 22-23	81	57	150	277
Q3 22-23	87	64	133	291
Q4 22-23	82	64	171	354

Q1 23-24	75	57	195	370
Q2 23-24	76	61	161	318
Q3 23-24	80	63	150	391

In 2023 the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership have been working with colleagues from Durham University on the Building Safety research, a programme designed to review and rethink the approach to missing children in care in the city given that children in care are disproportionately likely to be reported as missing to the police. This disproportionality is due to both their increased vulnerability with some children coming into care having learnt to cope with trauma at home by going missing in the community or due to being exploited in the community, and due to the protocols in place which can be applied more rigidly for children in care than children living at home leading to more children in care having police involvement when they miss their curfew or other normal behaviour by teenagers. The findings of this research are being published later this year and are informing the development of new tools to aid foster carers and residential staff to be proportionate in reporting children to the police, implement effective safety strategies and build young people’s confidence in returning home.

### Serious Violence

Avon and Somerset Strategic Needs Assessment has provided a definition of Serious Violence as being “public space violence for under 25’s (children and young people); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery.”

Information from the latest Problem Profile, completed by Safer Options in 2023 for the year 2022 demonstrates that 4274 Serious Violence Offences were recorded in 2022, a slight decrease since 2021 (1%). This decrease comes even though the final national lockdown was in place between January-February 2021, while the Night-Time Economy (NTE) was shut until July 2021.

National data for Violence with Injury Offences (which accounts for the majority of Serious Violence offences) shows a 5% increase in 2022 across England and Wales ([Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)) so it is positive to see this decrease in the context of a national increase.

Central Ward accounted for 22% of total offences in the last year- this includes offences that are linked to the Night-time economy. Robbery of Personal Property and Wounding with intent to do Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) Offences dropped by 9% and 13% respectively. Conversely, Robbery of Business Property offences increased significantly, by 73%.

Through our Safer Options meetings, detached youth work and community intel we can identify hotspot areas across the city that may not be identified through police data due to non-reporting. In response to this we can deploy our multi-agency detached youthwork teams to those areas to engage young people.

The harbourside remains the area of primary concern with high rates of serious violence. This is linked particularly around the Night Time Economy. We continue to have late night detached youth work in this area on Friday and Saturday nights which has supported a reduction in exploitation and has worked in collaboration with the GRIP funded response by the police.

Across all age groups, 190 serious knife crime offences were recorded last year- this is 27% lower than 2021. ‘Serious Knife Crime’ here relate to offences where injury has been caused and a knife flag has been applied. Offences where a knife has been seen or threatened have been excluded. 72% of offences took place during



night-time hours last year and 39% were recorded on weekends (65% and 44% in 2021 respectively). Central and Lawrence Hill were the two highest wards for serious knife crime in both last two years.

There are ongoing concerns of young people continuing to carry weapons out of a misplaced sense of safety or protection. Anecdotally young people are telling us they are carrying knives as they are feeling unsafe in certain areas and communities, this is mainly because of the negative online and media coverage not necessarily first-hand experience. We hypothesise that this is being re-enforced by national reporting of youth violence. We also see many young people exposed to violence between peers with videos of fights and similar on social media. These young people would not have been exposed to this previously and social media appears to be exacerbating some children's perceptions of being unsafe in communities.

### **Our Preventative Response**

Safer Options is the name we give to a co-ordinated whole system response to prevent serious youth violence and exploitation. Safer Options is every intervention and change made intentionally by communities, professionals and organisations to contribute to reducing serious youth violence and exploitation. Safer Options is designed to support what changes we make which are most likely to reduce and prevent serious violence in the city sustainably. Safer Options brings together over fifty organisations across the city all committed to contributing to reducing serious violence and exploitation. Safer Options Hub is a small team of practitioners who coordinate the partnership response to serious violence and oversee the commissioning strategy and public health informed response to serious violence. It is funded through the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Unit which has a constabulary wide hub and spokes model.

During 2023 the Safer Options hub and Youth Justice Service have continued to contribute to the partnership approach to manage and reduce Child Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence. In January 2024, the Avon and Somerset VRP Strategic Needs Assessment was submitted. This outlines the definition of Serious Violence, the partnership approach to tackling this and the goals for the Violence Reduction Partnership across the region. The SNA outlines the spend profile for the region, and the city of Bristol, and evidences the achievements in terms of numbers of children worked with over the period.

In the year 2022/23 Safer Options reached a total of 1,283 children, with 793 worked with via multi-agency detached youth work. Over 350 children were discussed at Safer Options meetings over this period with over 75 going on to receive tailored individual support. 793 young people were reached through multi-agency detached youth work teams, including Bristol Drugs Project, Bristol Horn Youth Concern, Creative Youth Network, Learning Partnership West, Local Partners. The importance of this community response has been further evidenced following the tragic deaths of Max Dixon and Mason Rist at the end of January 2024 in Knowle West where the Safer Options Hub worked in partnership with South Bristol's Senior Youth and Community Worker who coordinated an immediate youth work response supporting children in the local area within hours of the incident and across education and local community settings.

Improving education outcomes is at the heart of our preventative response recognising that children's education outcomes strongly correlate to their safety in the community and longer-term vulnerability to extra-familial harm and involvement in serious violence. Education Inclusion Managers funded through Safer Options are the main link between Bristol schools and Local Authority Children's Services for the improvement of educational offers and plans for children at risk of exploitation and serious violence. They are trusted professionals with key relationships with senior leaders at Bristol schools. They contribute to the contextual safety planning arrangements for children who have been identified as vulnerable to or are involved in criminality and exploitation. This includes working with Local Authority teams to build and improve educational offers for children who are missing education as well as advocating for children who are receiving inadequate educational offers, providing challenge to schools. They have also led on the development of policy and practice to develop school's safety planning and reporting procedures to improve their safeguarding approach to children at risk of extra-familial harm.

Notably, in the last 12 months they have updated the weapon in schools' guidance in line with the new child gravity matrix, liaising with senior colleagues in Police and Youth Justice. They have created a simplified electronic referral form for safer options partnership intelligence from schools. In the October to December term, EIMs have worked with 14 children on the Weapons in Schools programme, every child was also supported by the YJS as all children received an Outcome 22, Out of Court Disposal and there has been no reoffending and no permanent exclusions following the support. They have also worked with six children on the Drugs in School programme, again, with no further offending and no permanent exclusions. These children were also supported by the Bristol Drugs Project.

Over the October to December term, the Education Inclusion Managers provided over 300 consultations and supported 146 children individually. They have also delivered Child Criminal Exploitation workshops to 80 members of school staff. They are offering CCE awareness workshops to all secondary and ALP settings citywide to ensure that teaching staff can identify early indicators of exploitation and understand the routes for reporting.

Despite this extensive system change work, education outcomes for children in the city from deprived communities and those known to social care are a significant concern. The work of school partnerships to improve inclusion for children in the city remains crucial for ensuring children are safeguarded from harm.

As well as the strategic capacity building and education inclusion offer outlines above the Safer Options Hub and Youth Justice Service are delivering the following preventative interventions as part of the Safer Options approach:

- **Girls' groups** group programme supporting girls on the periphery of groups exposed to extrafamilial harm.
- **Detached and in-reach youth work** across the city linked to hot spots and areas of higher need. Model of "pop-up" youth club in summer holidays
- **Prevention Workshops in schools.** Universal workshops raising awareness on SYV, Exploitation, County lines, knife crime and negative influences of social media and working with young people to raise aspirations.
- **Weapons and Drugs in Schools:** 48-hour rapid response by Education Inclusion Managers putting in place risk assessment and preventative programme of work reducing exclusion.
- **Hospital Rapid Response:** 24 hours rapid outreach services from Barnardo's offering specialist support to any child referred by a hospital trust in the area with an injury from serious violence.
- **Targeted Group work:** Working in partnership with local youth organisations to co design and deliver. This programme is centred around supporting identified friendship groups of young people aged 11-25 involved in CCE/ SYV to manage conflict and improve relationships. Project Workers will create open and safe spaces for young people to share their experiences, challenges, and perspectives around living in the community, whilst supporting them with decision-making and goal setting. This includes our Barnardo's HEAL practitioners who offer trauma-informed community mental health support to children exposed to serious violence and exploitation.
- **Community Mentoring:** framework of 20 providers of community mentors across the city offering 3-12months of community mentoring support for young people at medium/high risk of exploitation and their siblings.
- **Parent Support Groups:** parent-led support groups in East Bristol providing advice, guidance, and peer support as parents of children affected by exploitation.
- **BDP New Leaf Project:** young people's substance misuse project for young people dealing or using cannabis (accepts referrals through out of court disposal as well as direct)
- **Connecting Communities:** 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.

- **Peer Influencers:** Young people with lived experience are employed by the Safer Options Hub to act as young advocates and quality assurance advisors working strategically with funded groups and decision-making boards to improve programmes for young people.

### Turnaround programme

The Turnaround programme is a Ministry of Justice funded Prevention and Early Intervention scheme delivered by Youth Justice Services. The programme began in December 2022, and Bristol YJS is currently funded to April 2025 to deliver that work. The programme offers support, resources and interventions for children identified as at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.

Bristol YJS has worked with 35 children and families so far under the Turnaround programme.

The programme takes a child-first approach, seeking to identify and facilitate young people’s engagement in positive activities in their community, creating opportunities for return to education provision where necessary. We report back on the children who have engaged with positive involvement in mental health, mentoring and supportive relationships, educational and vocational activities, sports, music, or social and emotional activities.

## 3. Policy

Safeguarding children from extrafamilial harm is a statutory requirement of the council under Working Together 2023 and as part of the duties of the Serious Violence Duty set out in the Crime, Sentencing, Police and Courts Act 2022. The council led approach to preventing serious violence is set out in the Safer Options 10 Year Approach policy document (see appendices).

## 4. Consultation

### a) Internal

Bristol Safer Options Hub  
Bristol’s Youth Justice Service

### b) External

Not applicable

## 5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) 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:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - 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.
- 5b) This report is not a proposal but provides a summary of activity being taken. Different types of extrafamilial harm impacts different groups disproportionately. For example child sexual exploitation disproportionately impacts young women and girls, children with learning disabilities and those living in residential children's homes. This has informed our development of our Strategic Partnership which includes a specialist young women and girls worker and a forensic psychologist who supports trauma-informed formulation and multi-agency working to ensure that interventions are appropriate to the child's learning and developmental needs, and trauma-histories.

#### **Appendices:**

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24 <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1530-jsna-deprivation/file>

Safer Options Approach 2020-2030 [syv-bristol-approach-2020-2030.pdf](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1530-jsna-deprivation/file) ([bristolsafeguarding.org](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1530-jsna-deprivation/file))

University of Durham Building Safety Infographics – 2023 Project Findings

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

##### **Background Papers:**

*<It is a statutory requirement to list papers used to prepare the report but not ones already published. If none insert "none" here>*