

**Bath & North East Somerset Community
Safety & Safeguarding Partnership**



**Annual Report
Executive Summary
2021-2021**

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) is a multi-agency partnership developed in 2019 when the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards were abolished.

The change in legislation enabled B&NES to redefine its' safeguarding arrangements and look more holistically at how the needs of children, adults at risk, families and the wider communities could be met. Mindful of what was working well whilst recognising the need for continuous development, the unique Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership was constructed which merged the work of safeguarding children, safeguarding adults and community safety.

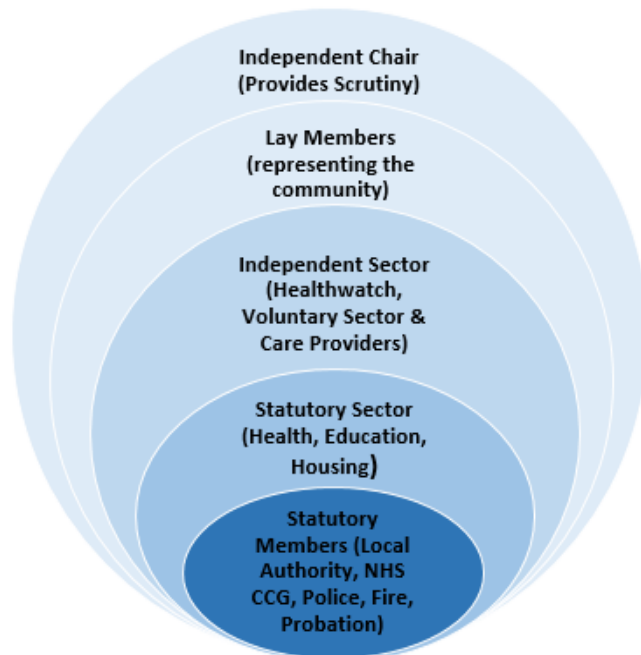


It was developed in affiliation with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and Responsible Authorities Group and meets the statutory requirements of these three Boards which it replaced.

Partners in B&NES continue to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children, adults at risk and communities, with the core purpose of:

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**
- Safeguarding adults with care and support needs**
- Protecting local communities from crime and helping people feel safer**
- Ensuring the effectiveness of what partners do both individually and together.**

The BCSSP is made up of the five statutory agencies with responsibility for safeguarding and community safety; B&NES Council, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Avon Fire & Rescue Service, the National Probation Service and other statutory organisations (e.g. Health) and independent sector organisations (e.g. Voluntary groups) to enable us to work effectively and with joint purpose to protect children, adults, families and communities who most need our help.



Our Statutory Duties

As the BCSSP was formed from merging three different statutory areas of work, we must ensure that our practice is compliant with the responsibilities set out in the legal frameworks for each of these areas.

Community Safety:

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime, address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities and facilitate the empowerment and strengthening of communities through the delivery of local initiatives. CSPs are a statutory body required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments). The 'relevant authorities' that form the CSPs are the Local Authority, Police, Health, Probation and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Safeguarding Children:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out that the three safeguarding partners should agree on how to co-ordinate their safeguarding services, act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others and implement local and national learning, including from serious child safeguarding incidents.

Safeguarding Adults:

The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. The overarching purpose is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs.

Partnership Structure

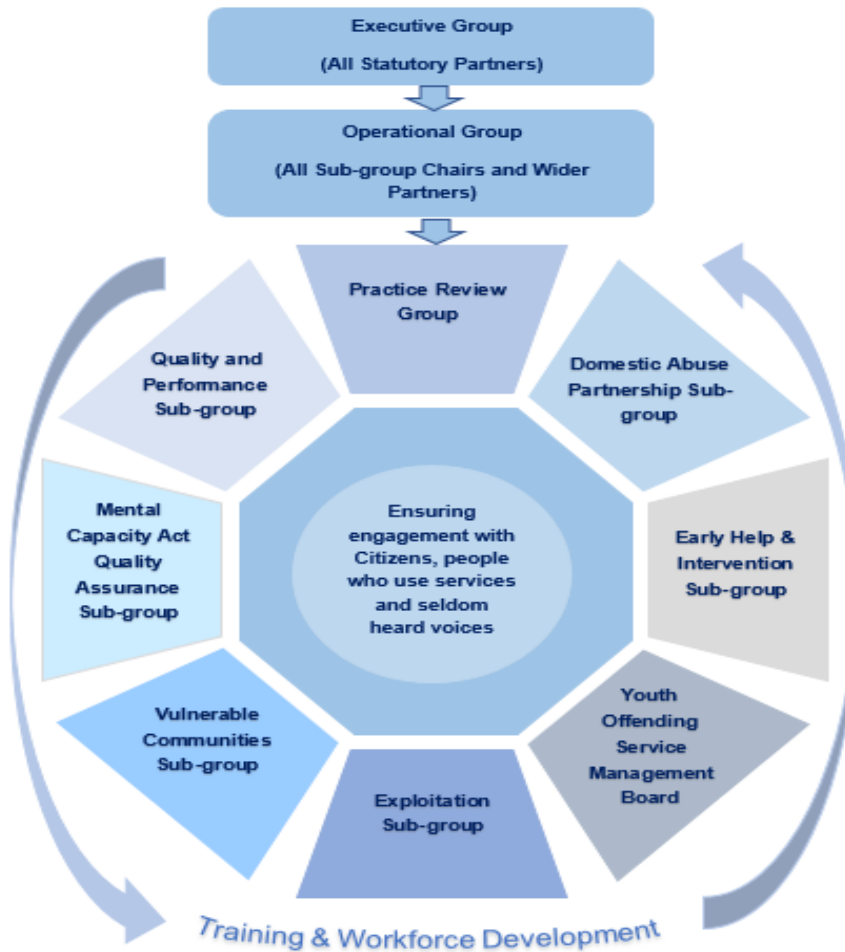
The Partnership is comprised of an Executive Group, Operational Group and nine thematic subgroups. Each subgroup develops its own workplan designed to progress the commitments within the BCSSP Strategic Plan. For 2020-2021, the BCSSP was still working towards completing priorities identified by the Local Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB), Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Responsible Authorities Group. The full annual report reflects on the subgroup achievements and challenges.

During 2020-2021, the Executive Group, in consultation with partners, developed a new strategic plan for 2021-2024. Each subgroup reports quarterly to the Operational Group on its progress towards the commitments set out in the strategic plan.

The new plan has four commitments:

1. Develop a 'Think Family, Think Community' approach
2. Learning from experience to improve how we work
3. Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention
4. Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership

Partnership Structure



Multi-agency Learning and Practice Development

The BCSSP has not published any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews or Domestic Homicide Reviews in this reporting period. The partnership has focussed on seeking assurance on previous identified learning and completion of reviews commissioned in this reporting period for publication in 2021-2022.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Practice Review Group has completed and submitted five rapid reviews to the National Panel in this reporting period. Partners have shown significant commitment to ensure the reviews were completed to a high standard and within timescale. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel agreed with our Practice Review Groups decisions, that the Rapid Review process had highlighted relevant learning, and nothing further could be gained from progressing to a full review.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The BCSSP Safeguarding Adult Reviews are managed through the Practice Review Group. During the period covered by this report, four referrals for SARs were received, of which three met the SAR criteria and it was agreed that a learning review would be beneficial for the other.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

In the period covered by this report, the BCSSP has had one DHR approved by the Home Office. It was agreed not to publish the full report, but a learning briefing was developed.

The case was referred prior to the inception of the BCSSP and was referred to the B&NES Safeguarding Adults Board to consider initial information, the Board recommended that the DHR process should be combined with a SAR.

Quality Assurance

Statutory audits.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations, agencies and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Section 11 self-assessment audit tool was circulated to all partners across Bath & North East Somerset in December 2020 to assess, monitor and evidence their progress in relation to meeting safeguarding requirements. Fifteen responses were received, and the findings have been analysed and a report produced and submitted to the BCSSP.

Section 175 Education Audit

All educational establishments have a legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires governing bodies of maintained schools and further education colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The mechanism by which the BCSSP established assurance was through individual schools self-evaluating their performance under an agreed framework. An audit tool was circulated to all education establishments and received a 100% return rate.

Safeguarding Adults Audit

The BCSSP has worked regionally with the four other Partnerships of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Somerset and North Somerset to develop one combined safeguarding adults' self-audit.

The combined safeguarding adults audit was proposed and agreed by the BCSSP Executive Group in March 2021 and work will be undertaken in 2021-2022 to develop an audit tool.

Training and Workforce Development

During 2021-2021, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the training programme has had to remain flexible and be creative.

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, the following has been achieved:

- 57 sessions comprising 22 different courses
- 1, 040 Inter-agency training places made available
- 819 Inter-agency training places booked
- 763 Inter-agency training places attended
- 518 professional training
- 70% evaluations completed demonstrating the impact of the training
- 1,034 E-learning safeguarding modules completed
- 6 single agency training courses provided, training over 422 individuals

Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic did have a significant impact upon the training and development programme and during the first quarter of the year, all pre-planned classroom training course were cancelled or postponed

Evaluation & Quality Assurance

Training evaluation has evidenced:

- An increase in practitioner's confidence in applying knowledge and skills back into practice, following training.
- An increased understanding of multi-agency roles and improved communication and information sharing between professionals.
- A greater understanding of legislation, policy, procedure and guidance and how to apply this into practice.
- Delegates found the training and trainer to be of high quality and beneficial in increasing their knowledge in the subject matter.

Partnership Achievements

During 2020-2021, the work of the partnership was impacted by the Coronavirus Public Health Crisis, and whilst it continued to carry out its statutory duties, it was cognisant of the pressure on its members who essentially needed to focus on their services response to the crisis.

Within its previous Annual Report, the Partnership identified ten key priorities for 2020-2021:

What we said we would do	What we did
Scrutinise available data from partners and develop a data dashboard to provide assurance to the partnership	A draft data dashboard was submitted to the Executive in December 2020, it was acknowledged that whilst it covered social care and police data, it needed further input from other statutory partners to be more effective. This work will carry forward to 2021-2022.
Embed Think Family, Think Community	An event was planned and scheduled but was cancelled in light of Covid restrictions, however, this work has continued and been given consideration within all sub-group meetings.
Increase the amount of online accessible learning options	Due to COVID, a number of courses were initially cancelled whilst the team worked hard to ensure all training was accessible virtually. Additionally, identifying the service need, three new e-learning modules were developed and ten new virtual training sessions. These were predominantly to assist volunteers and those who were moved into new roles due to Covid and also a number of multi-agency 'Early Help Briefings' to ensure practitioners were confident in all aspects of this function.
Continue to raise awareness of self-neglect and promote use of the policy	The self-neglect policy has been promoted in meetings. In response to SAR findings, the partnership will conduct an audit in 2021-2022 to gain greater understanding of how the policy is being used and the best way to promote its future use.
Share learning from local and national SARs, CSPRs and DHRs and seek assurance of its impact in practice	Learning has been shared via learning events, 7-minute briefings, or where possible, published reports. Audits have also sought evidence that learning is shared and applied.
Develop a Scrutiny and Assurance Framework that reflects the work of all partners	This was completed and ratified at Operational Group however, it remains a working document to encompass the work of our wider partners as it is shared with the BCSSP.
Hear and share individuals lived experiences to influence and improve services	The BCSSP has worked more closely with the In-Care Council and they have presented at the Operational Group to raise awareness of what they do. The Training and Workforce Develop initiated a project to understand how lived experience could be incorporated into training sessions.
Establish a robust audit process to provide assurance to the BCSSP	An audit proforma was developed that could be adapted for most audit themes. A standard form to present findings was also designed and agreed. The BCSSP had aimed to carry out a number of audits but this wasn't feasible as partners did not have capacity to take this on during the pandemic response. Statutory audits continued as usual.
Launch a new BCSSP website	This was completed and B&NES Council IT Team are responsible for website maintenance.
Integrate an all-age agenda encompassing Community Safety and Safeguarding Children and Adults into sub-groups	Sub-group members worked exceptionally hard and remained committed to embedding an all-age focus into the work of the sub-groups. Although not all themes can be applied to all-age, it has been beneficial for all to understand the pathways between children and adult's services