

Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership



**Annual Report
2020-2021**

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1. Welcome to the Second Annual Report from the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

This is also the first full year of reporting for the BCSSP since its establishment. And what a year - 2020 to 2021 was challenging, with all safeguarding and community safety partners stretched in responding to the pandemic; a year where all partners, continued to support the work of the BCSSP and to deliver in key areas through the work of the subgroups. I would particularly like to thank partners who have worked so incredibly hard throughout these difficult times, delivering services to the most vulnerable people in our communities. It has been my privilege to chair the partnership and I look forward to our continuing work together in the year ahead.

We saw a number of changes to the Executive Group and to the Operational Group, which is not uncommon as people move on, and though I am extremely grateful for the hard work of those members, I am delighted to report that continuity has been maintained and the strategic objectives of the partnership have been delivered. In 2021 we continue to review how we work to get assurance in respect of effective delivery across children's and adults safeguarding and community safety and it is likely that the way we deliver will be reviewed, yet further, so that we can improve and oversee how partners are working together efficiently and effectively.

Our achievements are set out in the work of the BCSSP subgroups and in the outcomes of the various statutory pieces of audit work undertaken, where we have the opportunity to review and seek assurance about the effective work of partners in ensuring the safety and safeguarding activity which is undertaken to improve the lives of those most vulnerable people in our communities. We also have responsibilities through the Community Safety element of our work to all citizens and visitors to Bath & NE Somerset and during this next year we want to focus on how we better promote the fantastic work of partners in this area of our work.

Learning from reviews, learning from how partners worked and sometimes have not worked as well together, is a key element of the work of the BCSSP. This is reflected in the work of the Practice Review Group which receives referrals for Child Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. These are all statutory reviews where the emphasis is on learning to improve practice in the future. These are highlighted in Section 3 of this report, and when published, can also be viewed in detail on the BCSSP website. Not all Reviews are published. In some cases, for reasons of confidentiality and personal protection, whilst the BCSSP will ensure that learning is implemented, it is not in personal or public interest for whole reports to be publicly available. I can assure you that any decision not to publish is considered thoroughly and that on the whole publication is agreed.

There are huge benefits in respect of our 'all-age' agenda, in respect of the work carried out by those who have responsibility for children's services, alongside services to vulnerable adults with care and support needs and in partnership with community safety. This means we effectively work and learn together, and this has been particularly important when considering delivery of preventative services for children in transition to adulthood and where support can be targeted at the right time to young adults to ensure they continue to be protected from harm.

I am delighted to introduce this annual report to you and hope that you will continue to have interest in our work as it develops in this current year.



Siân Walker

2. About the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

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.

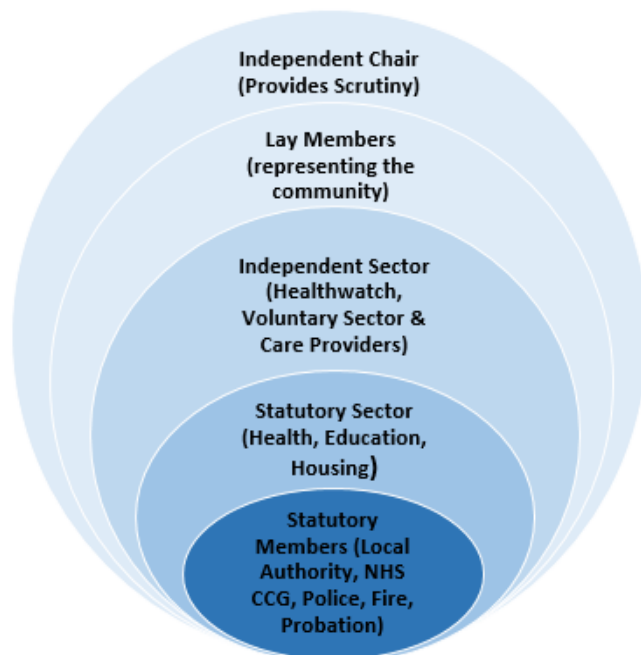


It was developed in affiliation with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and Responsible Authorities Group and meets the statutory requirements of these three Boards which it replaced.

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, the B&NES Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Avon Fire & Rescue Service, the National Probation Service and other statutory organisations (e.g. Health and Care providers) as well as 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.



How we work

We work in **partnership** to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk; ensuring that effective systems are in place to promote their wellbeing.

We **support communities** to live free from the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, enhancing the overall safety of communities.

We **listen** to people who use our services, professionals and our communities to keep learning.

We **learn** from case reviews to improve services.



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.

What we do

Through our collective arrangements, we:

- Seek to ensure that the partnership delivers enhanced safeguarding arrangements across B&NES
- Strengthen the voice of children, families, adults at risk and communities
- 'Think Family, Think Community'
- Improve strategic decision making and leadership by having one cohesive conversation
- Focus on shared strategic objectives to achieve the greatest impact and improve outcomes for children, adults, families and the community
- Reduce duplication, therefore enabling us to use resources more effectively.



Their function is to:

- Act as a legal body for CSP work, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and addressing community safety issues
- Ensure systems and processes are in place amongst partners to deliver their duties and address arising issues
- Set priorities, determine policy and strategic direction.

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 arrangements must include:

- Arrangements for the safeguarding partners to work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in the area
- Arrangements for commissioning and publishing local child safeguarding practice reviews
- Arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the arrangement.

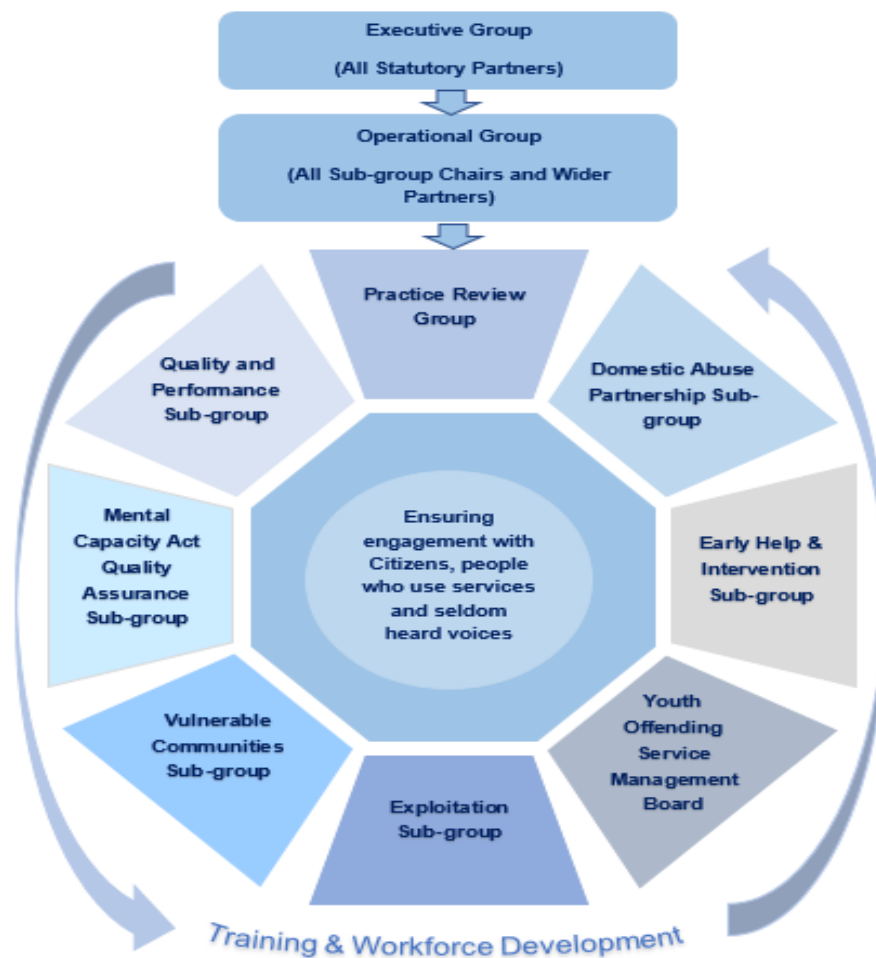
Safeguarding Adults:

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 of is to help and safeguard adults with care and support needs. The BCSSP should:

- Assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance
- Assure itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused, working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Ensure agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- Assure itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

Partnership Structure



3. Multi-agency Learning and Practice Development

In this reporting period, the BCSSP has not published any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews or Domestic Homicide Reviews, but work has been taking place on commissioned reviews due for publication in 2021-2022.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews

The purpose of reviewing serious child safeguarding cases is to identify improvements that can be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Serious incidents are those in which abuse, or neglect of a child is known or suspected, and the child has died or been seriously harmed. Once the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) receives a serious incident notification, it has fifteen days to complete a Rapid Review and submit it to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

This process is managed through the Practice Review Group and 5 Rapid Reviews have been submitted to the National Panel for consideration between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021. 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. The BCSSP have not had any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews this period.

Key learning identified from the Rapid Reviews included:

- The complexities when working with individuals who are both victim and perpetrator
- The wider impacts of exclusion from education
- The need to give due consideration to independence and personal choice
- The challenges for all organisations when there is poor engagement or a reluctance to engage with professionals

- The importance of fathers being involved and actively engaging in maternity care provision
- The challenge of recording systems that are only accessible by single agencies can mean that information sharing becomes weakened
- The challenges associated with elective home education for those already disengaging from education and with a history of exclusions

These recommendations are actioned and monitored through the Practice Review Group.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The BCSSP must arrange for a SAR to review a case involving an adult in its area (with needs for care and support). It can do this if there is reasonable cause for concern about how agencies or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult and either the adult has died and the BCSSP knows, or suspects the death resulted from abuse or neglect, or the adult is alive and the BCSSP knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

The BCSSP can arrange for there to be a discretionary review of any other case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support.

The purpose of a review is to identify the lessons to be learned from the case and apply those lessons to future cases.

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. One did not meet the criteria, but a learning review was agreed (Adult A).

Adult A

'A' is a 35-year-old woman with a learning disability. She has been known to health and social care professionals in Bath since 2015. 'A' also exhibited other behavioural challenges including significant self-neglect, self-harm and frequent and inappropriate calls to emergency services. 'A' was a frequent non-attender at

pre-arranged appointments and her chaotic lifestyle made her engagement with services erratic. 'A' has diabetes, her management of which was a constant concern for professionals. She was involved in a very co-dependent, and at times, damaging relationship with a male, with whom she lived, although during the period under review 'A' also spent time in a hostel for the homeless when he asked her to leave his accommodation.

In 2020, 'A' was admitted to hospital due to a spreading infection from her foot. Once in hospital, 'A' was assessed as requiring amputation of two toes. Unfortunately, 'A's healing response was poor, and she underwent a below the knee leg amputation due to sepsis, secondary to diabetic foot complications. Additionally, 'A's eyesight had been significantly affected and she is now blind in her left eye and only able to make out shadows and shapes in her right eye.

Key learning from this learning review included:

- Understanding that mental capacity assessments are time and decision specific and single capacity assessments that may be out of date should not be relied upon.
- Capacity assessments should be adequately recorded in all settings, even more so when a vulnerable adult is making a decision that places them at risk.
- Assessment of an individual's executive functioning should be key in cases of self-neglect.
- Regular risk assessments and crisis intervention plans should be completed, recorded and shared.
- When several agencies are working together, there needs to be clear channels of communication and information sharing to allow relevant assessments and concerns to be available to all.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they had been in an intimate relationship, or a member of the same

household as themselves, held with a view to identifying the lessons learned from the death.

Domestic violence and abuse are defined as: *Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*

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 about the death of a father, given that six safeguarding alerts had been previously raised for him, the Board recommended that the DHR process should be combined with a SAR.

A number of agencies were involved, and this case was exceptionally complex; consideration was given to whether gender impacted on willingness to request and accept services offered; vulnerabilities related to mental health and substance misuse; appropriate carer responsibility; location and ease of access to services and the impact of capacity assessments and how that outcome may be a barrier to interventions.

What has happened as a result of these three review arrangements?

- Promotion of the 'Think Family, Think Community' agenda and planning of an event
- Improving how we capture and reflect the voice of the child/adult/parent/carers
- A regional multi-agency County Lines audit
- A multi-agency Mental Capacity Act audit
- A review of our Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and proposed investment in a new database
- More regular engagement with the Schools Standards Board
- Hosted more regular Child Protection Forums to engage with schools on topics of concern
- Further availability of training in relation to self-neglect

- A review of the BCSSP Escalation Policy is underway
- A new group has been convened to look at recommendations/actions from all of the

case reviews to ensure that appropriate assurance is evidenced by multi-agency partners and that learning is implemented.

4. Multi-agency Quality Assurance

Section 11 Audit

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.

The four specific areas the audit focussed on were:

- Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements
- Thresholds/Continuum of Need
- Engaging with Children and Young People
- Workforce Development

Organisations were required to make a judgement against the four areas as to how well each is being achieved based on the rating of Inadequate, Requires Improvement, Good or Outstanding.

Overall, seven organisations rated themselves as outstanding, seven as good and one as requiring improvement. The one rated as requiring improvement is already undertaking work to address these areas.

The recommendations to the BCSSP were:

- To consider equity of audit returns across the partnership as there was variance in the quality of response and level of evidence provided.
- To consider how to increase knowledge, understanding and use of the children's threshold document in B&NES.
- There was some positive engagement in this audit and consideration should be given as to how this engagement and

responses can be used effectively to shape the work of the partnership.

- Explore with organisations how their practice had changed post pandemic and the elements of new and effective practice that is retained so that this can be shared as a good practice model.

The recommendations from the Section 11 audits have been incorporated into the 2021-2022 business plan.

The Covid 19 pandemic did impact how this audit was carried out, as initially it was hoped to produce one combined audit for the five 'Avon' area Partnerships. It is hoped the audit can be carried out in this manner next year.

Section 175 Education Audit

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

Keeping Children Safe in Education is the statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 175/Section 157 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015, and the Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021.

Schools and colleges in England must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Regular monitoring is essential to ensure that the educational establishment has strong policies, procedures and mechanisms in place to safeguard children and young people; it also helps establishments to prepare for safeguarding aspects of inspections by Ofsted or other relevant inspectorates.

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 ninety-eight education establishments and considered responses were received from all of them, a 100% return rate.

The majority of ratings were green, but where any 'amber' ratings were given, for example, where a policy is written and in the process of going to parents for consultation, schools establish and implement individual action plans to address these areas for development.

The action plans will be monitored against the following years returns.

Safeguarding Adults Audit

The BCSSP has worked regionally with the four other Safeguarding Partnerships in 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 to cover the following themes:

- Leadership
- Evidence of Policy in Practice
- Safer Recruitment, including People in Positions of Trust
- Learning and Development, including learning from SARs
- Making Safeguarding Personal
- Exploitation
- Transition

Longer term, the aim is to develop a 3-year audit cycle in line with the Section 11, in which year one has a full audit and years two and three are reviewed via agency 'walkabouts' or short, focussed audits.

5. Multi-agency Training and Workforce Development

The BCSSP employs a Training Coordinator who is responsible for the development, and in many cases the delivery of courses. Where there is need for specialist input the Training Coordinator and the Business Partner will work with colleagues from partnership organisations or external independent trainers, to ensure the most appropriate knowledge and expertise is gained for course creation and delivery. The Business Partner also makes provision for the effective administration, evaluation and quality assurance of all BCSSP learning opportunities.

During 2020-2021, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the training programme has had to remain flexible and be creative. The initial response to Covid 19 and the requirement for social distancing was to cancel or defer classroom training. However, it was recognised that it was not possible to place all learning and development on hold and delivery methods needed to be created which ensured the safety of the workforce whilst meeting their development needs.

It was accepted that it would not be possible to adapt all training provided and that it was important to be strategic about the allocation of time and resources to create 'must have'

training. To create the comprehensive picture of learning needed, and the adaptations required significant work was undertaken with members from stakeholder groups. It was agreed that focus needed to be directed on ensuring 'core' safeguarding training continued to be available to the workforce and therefore a number of courses were adapted to take place online. Independent learning materials were also made available, including packages to meet the training requirements of volunteers who were offering services across B&NES.

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 courses were cancelled or postponed. Having to adapt courses for a digital platform caused planned development work to be delayed and overall demands on the workforce reduced their capacity to attend some training.

Evaluation & Quality Assurance

The effectiveness of BCSSP training was evaluated using a variety of methods to achieve the following four goals:

- Ensure the learning outcomes for each course are met, and reflect evidence based 'best practice'.
- Ensure continual evaluation to confirm courses are meeting the needs of staff, with transparent overview and accountability to the Training and Development subgroup.
- Ensure that evaluations inform the planning and development of future training
- Ensure that messages from training are being embedded in practice.

The evaluation forms remind attendees of the expected learning outcomes and delegates are asked to scale pre and post course their confidence in these areas to assess the effectiveness of the training in addressing the identified aims and objectives on the day, with space for additional comments. If a common theme emerges around objectives not being met this will trigger a review of the course content/ delivery style so that adjustments can be made.

Research into the effectiveness of inter-agency training suggests that for participants to gain the most from training they need to be able to make direct links to their own practice and consider how the knowledge gained in training can improve their practice. All delegates are therefore invited at the end of training to consider an action plan for changing their behaviour in the workplace and thinking through the impact that this change will have on those with whom they work.

The methods of evaluation used have 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.

Examples of delegate feedback:

"I feel far more confident now in taking on the role of DSL and who to talk to for support and advice and play an active role in a child protection strategy meeting / conference if required". **Deputy Head (Advanced Child Protection)**

"I now feel much more confident to deal with situations I encounter and take appropriate action" **Hospice Worker (Standard Child Protection)**

"It was very helpful and really made me feel much more confident about delivering knowledge to my staff team and making it work for our setting". **Manager (Train the Trainer)**

"Really enjoyed the interactive group tasks and the opportunity to talk to other professionals about their perspectives" **Social Work Assistant (Neglect: Safeguarding and Child Protection)**

"The contributions of skilled colleagues who are also on the training was incredibly valued." **Counsellor (Adults Safeguarding Level 3)**

"[Trainer] fielded our questions with knowledge and without judgement]" **Education Officer (Online Safety: Safeguarding in the Digital World)**

"[Trainer] kind, supportive and a wealth of knowledge" **CME0 (Child Sexual Abuse)**

6. Key Performance Indicators

The BCSSP agreed the following performance indicators for partners for 2020-2021. It was agreed that it is each agencies responsibility to determine which of their staff members fall into the category of 'relevant'. Relevant means to their role and responsibilities and awareness training can be face to face, e-learning or equivalent.

Indicator 1: Training	Target %	Outcome % Average
Relevant staff have undertaken Prevent training (WRAP or equivalent)	85%	77%
Relevant staff have undertaken Prevent awareness training	85%	83%
Relevant staff have undertaken FGM awareness training	80%	71%
Relevant staff have undertaken Domestic Abuse awareness training	80%	86%
Safeguarding leads have awareness of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking	100%	82%
Relevant staff have undertaken complex (toxic) trio awareness training	80%	60%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken self-neglect training	80%	85%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken MCA/DOLS training within 6 months of taking up post	90%	57%
(ADULT) New staff have undertaken safeguarding adult's awareness training within 3 months of starting in post	95%	87%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have completed SA level 2 training within 6 months of taking up post and completed refresher training every 3 years thereafter	90%	86%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have completed SA Level 3 training	90%	76%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection standard training	90%	80%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection advanced training	90%	81%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken CSE awareness training	80%	80%
Recruitment		
Relevant staff have an up-to-date DBS check at a level appropriate to their role	100%	100%
Two written references to be required before work commences	100%	99%

The Covid 19 Pandemic has significantly impacted upon the training and development programme throughout the year.

- During the first quarter all pre-planned classroom training courses were cancelled / postponed.
- The requirement to adapt courses to take place on digital platforms / respond to particular learning needs triggered by the pandemic caused planned development work to be paused.
- Limited technical support available in the adaption of training into online formats.
- Some Individuals' who ordinarily help facilitate training events were unable to provide this support as their time was refocused to support service delivery in other areas.
- Overall demands on the workforce increased (increased service demand, redeployment of roles, members of the workforce shielding / isolating) minimised the capacity of the workforce to attend some training.

Going forward, we need to continue to learn and adapt to the needs of the workforce as the impact of Covid 19 continues to be understood in terms of economic, social and health inequality on individuals, families and the wider community. We need to continue to adapt courses and learning to ensure a 'blended' physical and virtual training programme is established and review why the key performance indicators aren't being met, particularly MCA/DoLS, which we have recognised as a wider area of learning from our Safeguarding Adult Reviews. We need to further develop our arrangements to incorporate the lived experience of individuals and families in receipt of services. Plans to address this have been included into the business plan for 2021-2022.

7. The Work of the Partnership Subgroups

The BCSSP Executive Group and Operational Group are chaired independently by Siân Walker-McAllister. The Executive leads the production of the strategic plan, supported by the Operational Group and the subgroups. The Operational Group provides support and challenge to the subgroups to improve performance outcomes and gain assurance of good community safety and safeguarding practices. The subgroups have each developed a delivery plan to assist in delivering against the BCSSP strategic plan. The groups provide reports to the Executive which will consider whether guidance, and assistance or direct action is needed to remove barriers to achieving outcomes.

Practice Review Group

The purpose of the Practice Review subgroup is to enable the Partnership to carry out reviews of cases that meet statutory and non-statutory requirements. This enables lessons to be learned and practice improvements to be made, to ensure better outcomes for children, adults and families.

This is an 'all-age' subgroup which focusses on the following key areas:

- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs), including Rapid Review reports to the National Panel
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
- Learning/Discretionary Reviews

This subgroup has had strong commitment from all statutory partners and has:

- Ensured statutory compliance
- Implemented a new system to monitor progress against single and multi-agency action plans
- Developed a procedure for appointing SAR and CSPR authors
- Ensured notifiable incidents/child practice review protocol is implemented in relation to initial decisions
- Worked with the Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (ASSSP) to develop a shared view on whether the impact of a wound from a knife crime is considered significant harm and

defined what is reportable to the National Panel.

The group has identified a number of priorities for 2021-2022, including, ensuring that learning is shared across the workforce, monitoring the national SAR analysis action plan, ensuring the criteria for statutory and discretionary reviews is understood by all members, maximising the use of the Child Protection Forums to engage with school safeguarding leads.

Domestic Abuse Partnership

The purpose of the Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) is to promote partnership coordination of universal and targeted education about healthy relationships, protection of victims, provision for survivors and disruption of perpetrators related to adult and children. Drawing on the refreshed 'Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy' and domestic violence and abuse, NICE guidance and quality standards, the DAP has developed its strategy and implementation plan.

In 2020-2021 it has:

- Lead on the needs' assessment required as part of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Act
- Facilitated a coaching session for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Chairs
- Established MARAC Chairing resilience
- Secured an appropriate information technology platform for MARAC
- Agreed data sets to review and quality assure the work
- Secured Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding and support to achieve Independent Domestic Violence Advocates for young and older people in existing DA services

For 2021-2022, the subgroup has prioritised implementing the requirements of the DA Act, quality assuring refuge provision and cross-county service for victims, identifying perpetrator provisions, provision of support for young people, both victim and perpetrator.

Prevention & Early Intervention

The purpose of the Prevention & Early Intervention subgroup is to ensure the provision of a holistic approach across the whole life course to ensure the quality and effectiveness of prevention and early intervention services for children and adults across the B&NES Service area. The subgroup aims to reduce the demands and needs for social care and specialist services and it does this by understanding what services are available and raising awareness of them.

In 2020-2021, the subgroup has:

- Received presentations from Stepping-Stones, Lighthouse, Pebbles, St Johns Foundation, Best Start in Life, Early Help Assessment, Violence Reduction Strategy, Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)
- Updated information on bereavement services
- Shared knowledge on a wide range of topics for members to disseminate to colleagues
- Completed the Childrens chapter of their strategy document
- Familiarisation with LiveWell B&NES website and addition of resources

For 2021-2022, the group has prioritised completion of the Adult chapter of the strategy, adding additional bereavement resources to the LiveWell site, identifying parameters to measure effectiveness of the subgroup, and a thematic focus on sleep, impact of covid and early intervention in psychosis.

Youth Offending Service Management Board

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) Management Board is formally constituted and accountable to the BCSSP and the Health & Wellbeing Board. Its purpose is to manage the performance of the prevention and youth crimes agenda and ensure the delivery of the statutory principal aim of preventing youth offending at a local level. It provides governance for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and ensures it can fully contribute to achieving positive outcomes for young people in

accordance with the local Children and Young Peoples plan.

Throughout Covid the service has continued to function and young people at highest risk have continued to be seen face-to-face. Staff have remained committed and shown great perseverance and creativity in offering support to children and their families. This has gone beyond YOS function to include practical support, food deliveries and access to IT. There has been considerable focus on practical and emotional support in accessing education.

Achievements for 2020-2021 include:

- Completing and submitting the National Standards self-assessment to the Youth Justice Board
- The Youth Justice Plan was agreed by the YOS Management Board
- A Covid 19 Recovery Plan was developed and approved by the Youth Justice Board
- Participation in the Local Criminal Justice Board Lammy Review
- A Serious Violence Steering Group was introduced, reporting to the BCSSP Exploitation subgroup, Domestic Abuse Partnership and YOS Management Board

Looking forward, the group will act on learning from working through the pandemic, continue to prioritise a flexible and bespoke approach to meet the needs of children known to the service, strengthen the support available to parents/carers, work to address serious violence, including introduction of proportionate diversion, improve understanding of disproportionality in the youth justice system and refresh the Quality Assurance Framework.

Exploitation

The purpose of the Exploitation subgroup is to develop, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategic and operational multi-agency response to exploitation. Its focus is all age and on the key areas of Missing Children and Adults, County Lines, Modern Slavery/Trafficking, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence, Mate and Hate Crime.

Key achievements for 2020-2021 include:

- Completing a multi-agency 'Cuckooing' audit following reports of increasing incidence of Cuckooing
- Scoping a Contextualised Safeguarding audit
- Receiving assurance that there is a system in place for GPs to access details of children and young people who go missing
- Assisted Children's Social Care to develop an Exploitation data set
- Monitored the work of the Serious Youth Violence and Operational Exploitation Group
- Received updates from Willow service, which provides targeted support for young people at risk of exploitation.

Going forward, the subgroup wants to ensure there is a robust response to transitional safeguarding, establish an annual audit schedule, focus on early intervention and support, include and engage people with lived experience to contribute and influence the work of the subgroup.

Vulnerable Communities

The purpose of the Vulnerable Communities subgroup is to ensure the provision of a holistic approach to those communities identified as 'vulnerable' across the B&NES service area. Whilst Community Safety is embedded in all of the subgroups, this subgroup predominantly focusses on the areas that would have been covered by the previous 'Responsible Authorities Group', which was brought into the BCSSP.

The subgroup focusses on identifying trends, risk factors and mitigations for the following areas:

- Night-time Economy
- Drug and Alcohol Use
- Regulation (licensing, MAPPA, Trading Standards
- Community triggers
- 'Prevent'* – Violent Extremism
- Serious and Organised Crime – 'Disrupt'
- Serious Violent Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violence Reduction

In 2020-2021, the subgroup has:

- received regular briefings and updates on approaches to rehousing individuals with a history of anti-social behaviour, to prevent further incidences and promote community cohesion
- Sought assurance of multi-agency awareness of Prevent and counter terrorism issues in the South West
- Submitted night-time economy bids for funding to create 'Safer Streets', with a focus on women's safety.
- Shared 'Community Triggers' knowledge to raise awareness of the process
- Participated in the annual update of the 'Counter Terrorism Local Profile'
- Updates on rough sleepers with particular focus on severe weather and All-in Covid response and identified key actions for rough sleepers in response to the National Homelessness report

In 2021-2022, the subgroup intends to focus on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, identifying a guest speaker to talk about the 'Dark Web', update on neighbour dispute management and work more closely with the Exploitation subgroup Chair to avoid duplication of work around serious violence.

Mental Capacity Act Quality Assurance

The Mental Capacity Act Quality Assurance subgroup was established as a subgroup in September 2020. Its purpose is to provide assurance to the BCSSP, that health and social care providers across B&NES apply the Mental Capacity Act 2005, including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The subgroup has

- Completed a multi-agency Mental Capacity Act audit
- Agreed how the voice of those with lived experience will be heard in the subgroup
- Established a task and finish group to develop an audit tool for the application of the Mental Capacity Act and Best Interest decision making in 'Discharge 2 Assess' (D2A)
- Sought assurance around the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards backlog

- Focussed on preparation for the introduction of Liberty Protection Safeguards
- Developed and monitored an action plan and started reviewing outstanding actions from SARS

Going forward, this group will prioritise preparedness for the implementation of the new Liberty Protection Safeguards in 2022, hosting a learning event in response to the MCA audit findings, completing the D2A audit, seek assurance that MCA is a standing agenda item for team meetings, continue to raise awareness and understanding of MCA and its application, including Executive Functioning and Best Interest decision making.

Quality & Performance

The purpose of this subgroup is to quality assure, on behalf of the BCSSP, aspects of safeguarding and community safety work that is delivered to the population of B&NES. This includes themed quality assurance of key issues which present a risk to children, adults, families, and communities.

The subgroup focusses on safeguarding standards for children and adults, audit reporting, single and multi-agency data, implementing the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

Due to individuals changing roles within their own organisation, this subgroup has had a challenging year as there has not been a consistent Chair. However, once a Chair was in place it has undertaken some key work, reviewed its terms of reference, including establishing that each subgroup is responsible for agreeing its own data requirements and commissioning audits based on known areas of concern.

The group has regularly received data from Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Avon & Somerset Constabulary and is working on a Health dataset. The group reviewed and agreed the Section 11 and, Section 175 audit returns, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) report, and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report and ratified them for submission to Operational Group. An audit proforma has also been established. Subgroup priorities for 2021-2022, are to establish an improved data scorecard and convene a

regular meeting of the data analysts from statutory partners to review the data and review the frequency of the meetings with more frequent meetings assisting in achieving better outcomes, undertake quality assurance work in respect of Multi-agency Risk Management Meetings (MARMMs) in response to SAR recommendations.

This group will review whether additional safeguarding audits are required to demonstrate good outcomes for the people of B&NES.

Training & Workforce Development

The purpose of this subgroup is to deliver a programme which enables the Partnership to discharge its responsibility to either directly provide or commission training and development opportunities for the workforce in B&NES. The programme ensures local and national standards are delivered and that emerging needs are identified, and appropriate training provided to meet these.

In 2020-2021, this subgroup has:

- Reviewed the Training Charging Policy and remodelled it after consultation
- Completed a Training and Workforce Development Strategy
- Agreed training KPI's across health and social care
- Investigated whether the breadth of available training resources could be expanded by partners having shared access
- Developed Children's Standards for training
- Worked with the ASSSP to provide consistency across the five Local Authorities and additional training opportunities

Its priorities for 2021-2022 are to host the Think Family, Think Community Event virtually, develop webinars for Stop Adult Abuse Week, engage with the Practice Review Group to ensure learning from case reviews is captured and embedded in training, develop work on capturing the voice of those with lived experience within training, develop monitoring and measuring effectiveness of training on practice, develop thematic webinars for the website.

8. Reflecting on Partnership Achievements

During 2020-2021, the work of the partnership was impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic, and whilst the BCSSP 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. The BCSSP reacted quickly and appropriately to this crisis, providing regular online updates for its members, providing support where required and also hosting regular multi-agency catch up meetings to ensure open communication continued and service provision, although adapted, was assured.

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 subgroup 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 Children 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, as did single agency audits.
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 subgroups	Subgroup members worked exceptionally hard and remained committed to embedding an all-age focus into the work of the subgroups. 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

9. Our Commitments for 2021-2022

The BCSSP reviewed its performance for 2020-2021 and is firmly committed to working in partnership to achieve its objectives. Based on feedback, learning and analysis of strengths and areas for development, the following commitments were agreed for the year ahead.

1. Develop a 'Think Family, Think Community' approach

Services working with adults and children have a shared understanding and holistic view of the needs and capabilities of the whole family and take these into account during assessment and planning. There will be greater co-ordination between children's and adult's services.

To do this:

- We will consider transitional safeguarding and all transitional pathways and improve our co-ordination between services
- We will be proactive in the way we commission and deliver our domestic abuse services and ensure they are recovery focussed
- We will review our Pre-birth protocol and national learning from practice reviews relating to pre-birth and up to aged 1
- We will raise awareness of neglect, how to recognise and report it amongst partners and communities. We will develop our neglect toolkit where appropriate.

2. Learning from experience to improve how we work

Everyone learns through continuous development and assurance. We will work with our partner agencies and support them to be reflective, improve, and implement change to deliver best practice. We will capture the experience for children, young people and adults at risk where possible to better measure outcomes and benefits as perceived by the individuals concerned.

To do this:

- We will continue to raise awareness of self-neglect and Mental Capacity Act application and support our partners in this area of work. We will share learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and seek to be flexible in our approach to how we do this
- We will influence the commissioning of those activities that focus on reducing re-offending and anti-social behaviour
- We will involve our citizens in developing community safety and safeguarding in B&NES and be proactive in capturing the seldom heard voices of people who use services

3. Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention

We will make effective use of data and intelligence available from all of our partners to inform prevention and early intervention work and ensure that prevention and early intervention is timely and effective and referral pathways are clear and accessible.

To do this:

- We will raise awareness and identification of contextual safeguarding risks and ensure it is more widely understood. We will engage with agencies which work within/have responsibilities for these 'contexts'
- We will meet our 'Prevent' duties and help others to do so by raising awareness of reporting methods for online extremist material, working with community groups to raise awareness of radicalisation, in particular the role of social media
- We will support organisations and communities to better identify all forms of exploitation and to take prompt and effective action to stop harm from occurring.

4. Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership

Professional accountability underpins all of our work and we will seek assurance that safeguarding, and community safety services are delivered effectively and professionally.

We will support our partners to demonstrate that appropriate systems and processes are in place to discharge their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding children, adults and community safety.

To do this:

- We will work effectively as a partnership to develop and establish cross-working and cross-cutting solutions.
- We will ensure equality of service delivery to adults, children, communities and victims.
- We will review our risk tolerance across all of our areas of work and seek assurance that there is a clear understanding of service pathways.



How we will achieve this

Each of the subgroups has developed an action plan to support the BCSSP Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

The action plans have been developed for a 12 month period and progress is monitored quarterly. The work of the subgroups and of individual organisations contributes to the plans and evidence of outcomes is sought to provide assurance to the Executive Group and Operational Group.

Alongside this, data submitted by our partners is monitored and analysed by the Quality & Performance subgroup, allowing the BCSSP to remain agile to the community safety and safeguarding needs of B&NES.

10. Appendices

10.1 Children's Social Care Data

The Council has been tracking weekly and monthly demand since the initiation and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The reduction in demand during the first period of national lockdown was not replicated during the second full national lockdown. This was accompanied by an increase in starts on children in need plans.

Demand for Services Fig 1- Fig 6: Monthly comparative demand figures (Jan2019 – Mar 2021)

Fig. 1

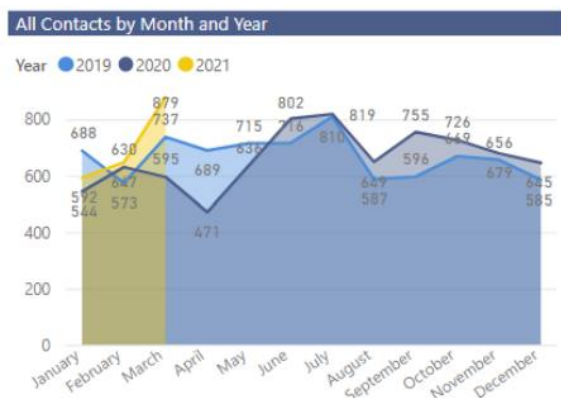


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

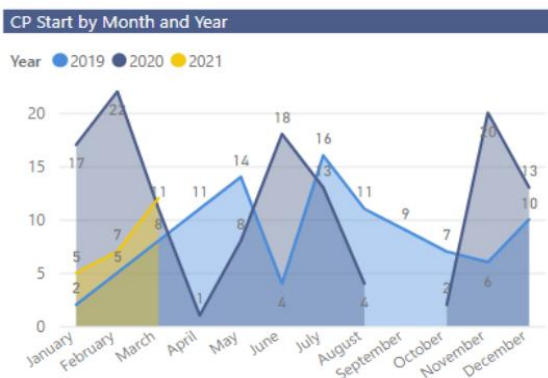
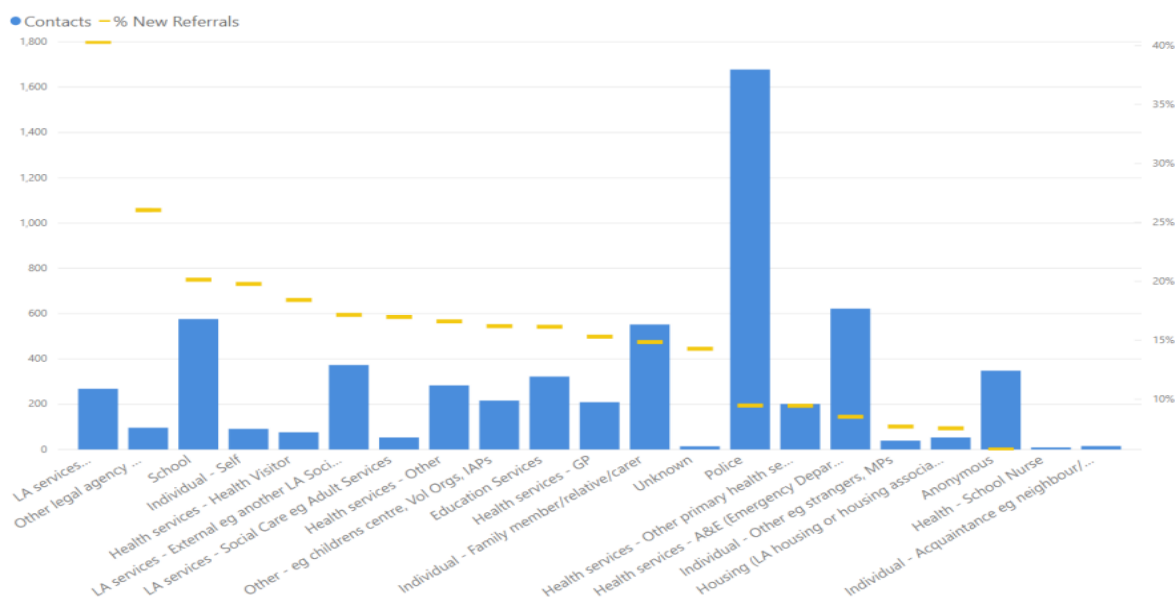


Fig. 6



Referral Sources

Fig. 7: Contact sources and % contacts progressing to referrals (2020-2021)



Over the last 12 months, Council social services received just under 6,100 requests for service. The principal referrers were the Police, A&E, Schools and Individuals. Internal local authority services, legal agencies (such as CAFCASS) and schools were the agencies whose requests for service were most likely to transfer into new referrals.

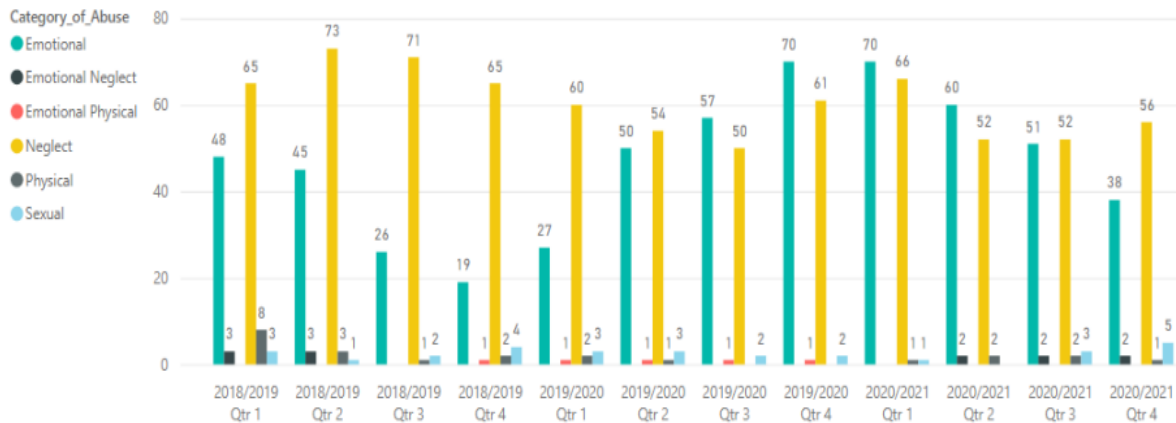
Child Protection

Fig.8 Plans open at quarter end (Jun 2018 – Mar 2021)



Levels of CP have reduced slightly over the last three quarters, although rates remain comparatively low compared to similar areas. These rates are subject to significant variation due to the small population size in the CP cohort, so these levels may be broadly expected within the population of B&NES.

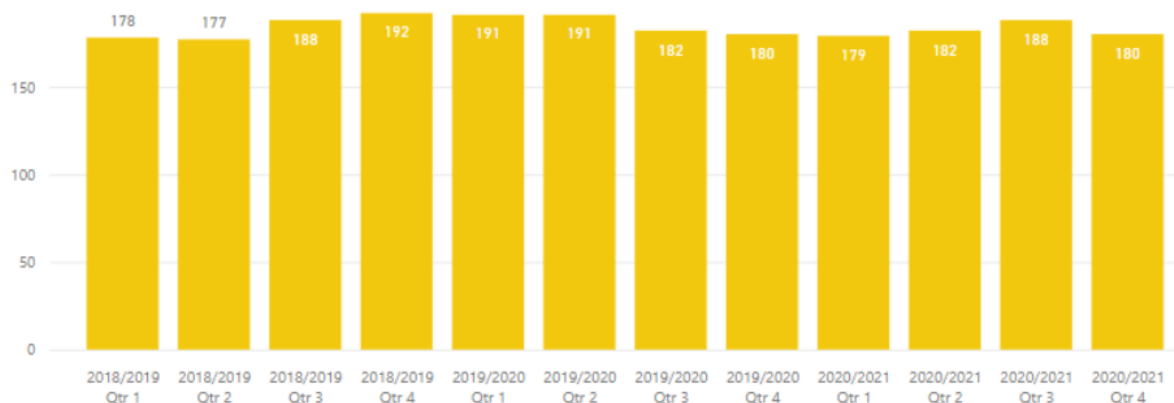
Fig. 9 Categories of Need for open plans (Jun 2018- Mar 2021)



Emotional abuse and neglect have remained consistently the most notable category of need for children on child protection plans. These trends are in line with those noted nationally and from comparable local authorities.

Looked After Children

Fig.10 Looked After Children at quarter end (June 2018 – Mar 2021)



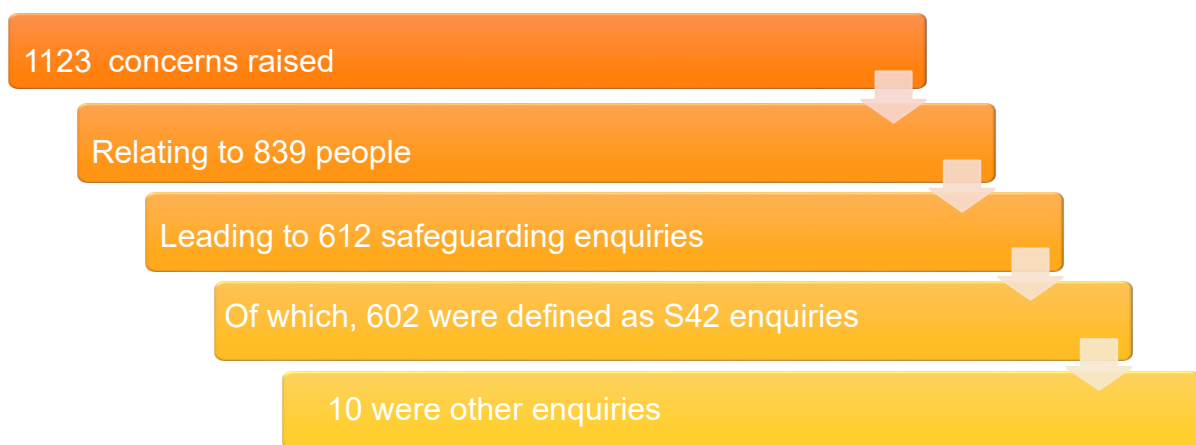
CLA numbers are consistent and have remained so over considerable time. the measure put in place to scrutinise requests for new episodes of care continue to be robust. Additional work was undertaken during lockdown in Q4 20/21 to avoid increased episodes in care. Placement stability remains consistently high.

10.2 Adult Social Care Data

The analysis undertaken in this section has used the information provided by B&NES Council for the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) for 2020/21 together with local reporting done for the Partnership Board by B&NES Council. The Report also refers to the National Safeguarding Adults Collection data published by NHS Digital. The SAC data is collected directly from all local authorities. In November 2020, NHS Digital published Safeguarding Adults Collection for the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020. The data is available as experimental statistics, as due to local and national variation in how safeguarding activity is defined and reported, there are limitations in the interpretation and usage of the data.

In July 2019 the Association of Directors of Adult Social services published 'A Framework For Making Decisions' on the Duty to Carry out Safeguarding Adults Enquiries. This report outlined how local authorities should be defining S42 enquiries and provided the framework for a reporting change in the SAC return for 2020/21.

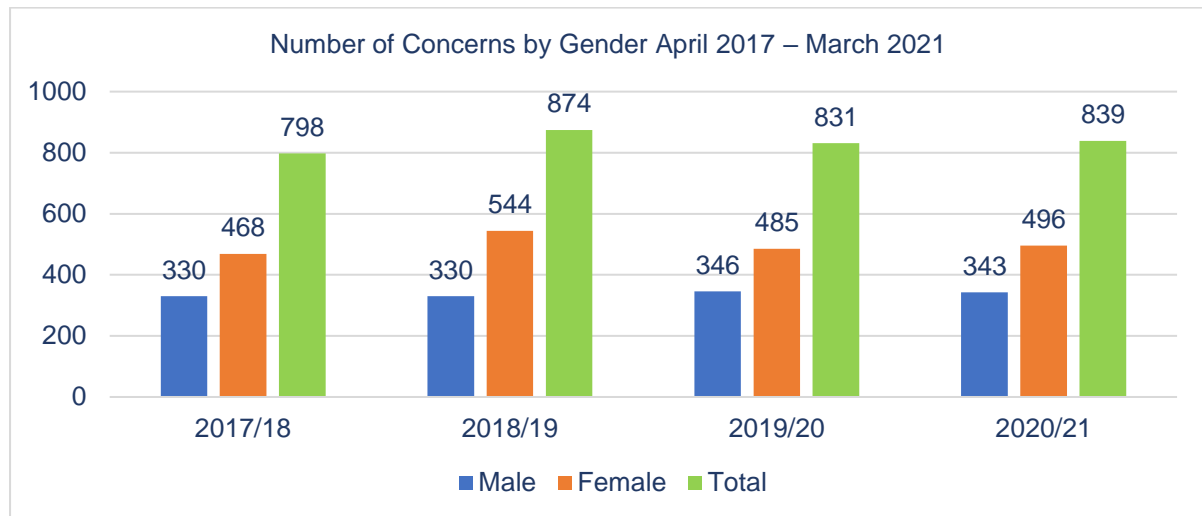
The definition used to identify a Safeguarding Enquiry in 2020/21 therefore differs from that used in previous years. For 2020/21 the reporting is based on the number of safeguarding concerns raised with B&NES Council that met the Care Act description of a safeguarding concern. These are then described as S42 (1) concerns and S42 (2) concerns. S42 refer to the Section of the Care Act that defines a safeguarding enquiry. S42 (1) concerns are concerns that fit the Care Act description, but alternative actions can be set that will address the concern being raised without a need for further enquiries. The actions are monitored by the Council Safeguarding Team and are not closed until confirmation is received that they have all been completed. A S42 (2) enquiry is an enquiry where further information and action is required. These enquiries normally lead to a Safeguarding Planning Meeting. A recording enquiry report and an action plan to reduce the risk to the person.



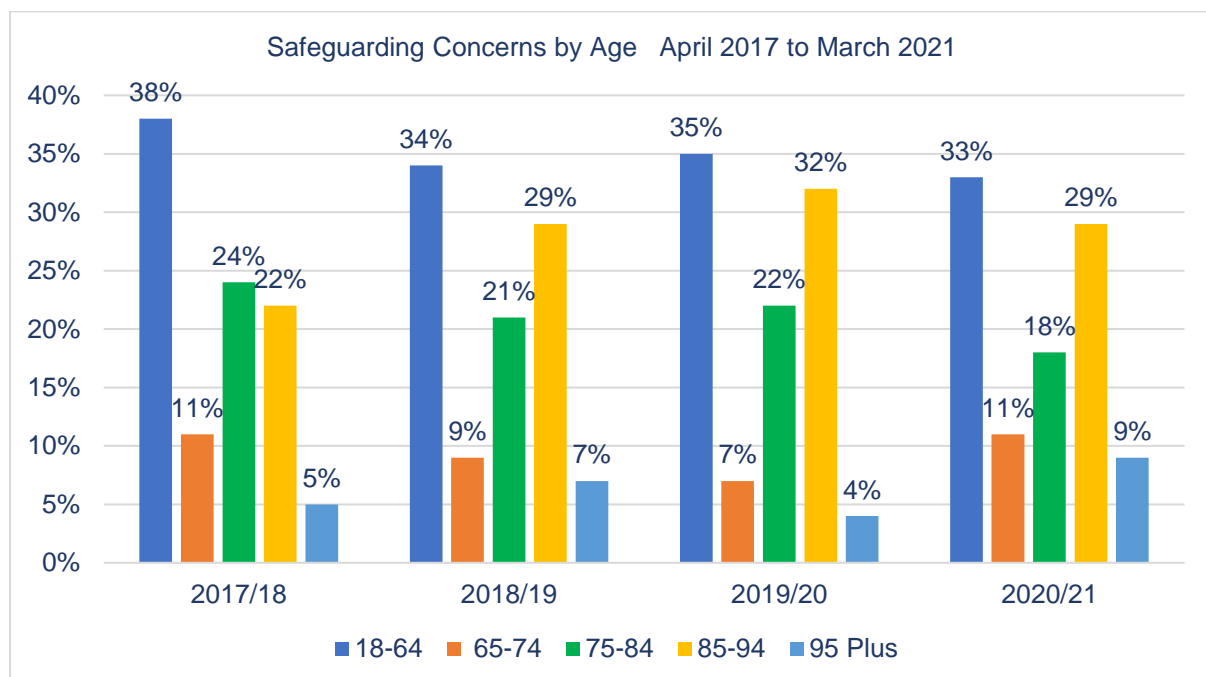
During the reporting period 2020/21 B&NES Council received 1123 safeguarding concerns relating to 839 people. This is a decrease of 1% on the referral levels for last year, but there is a level of consistency of reporting levels since 2017.

There were concerns raised nationally in April 2020 that Covid 19 would lead to a decrease in safeguarding concerns. This was because people were not seeing each other and visits to care settings were limited. Locally we did an initial decrease in referral levels in April and June 2020 but rates turned to their normal level in June.

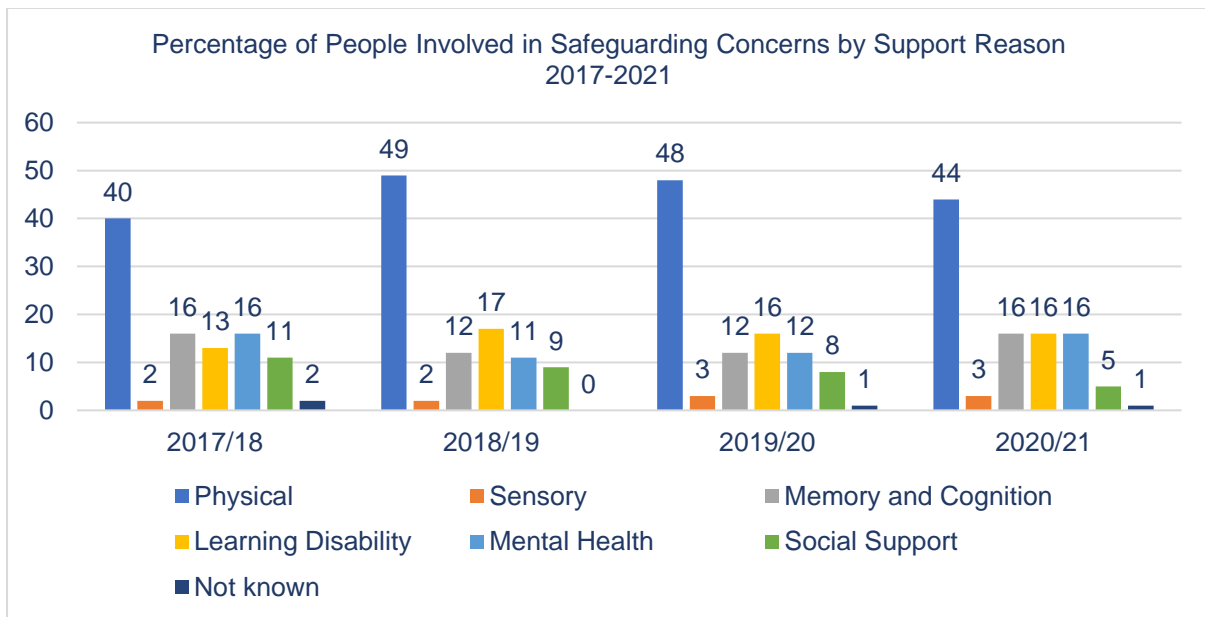
In comparison with last year's data, we have seen a small decrease in the number of concerns raised involving men. However overall, the data indicates that the referral levels for men have remained at around 40% of all concerns for the last four years.



This year we have seen an increase in concerns being raised in relation to people aged 95 plus. There has also been a decrease in the number of concerns relating to people aged 75-84. This may be linked to the number of concerns raised by Care Home's and the corresponding age of people living in those settings.

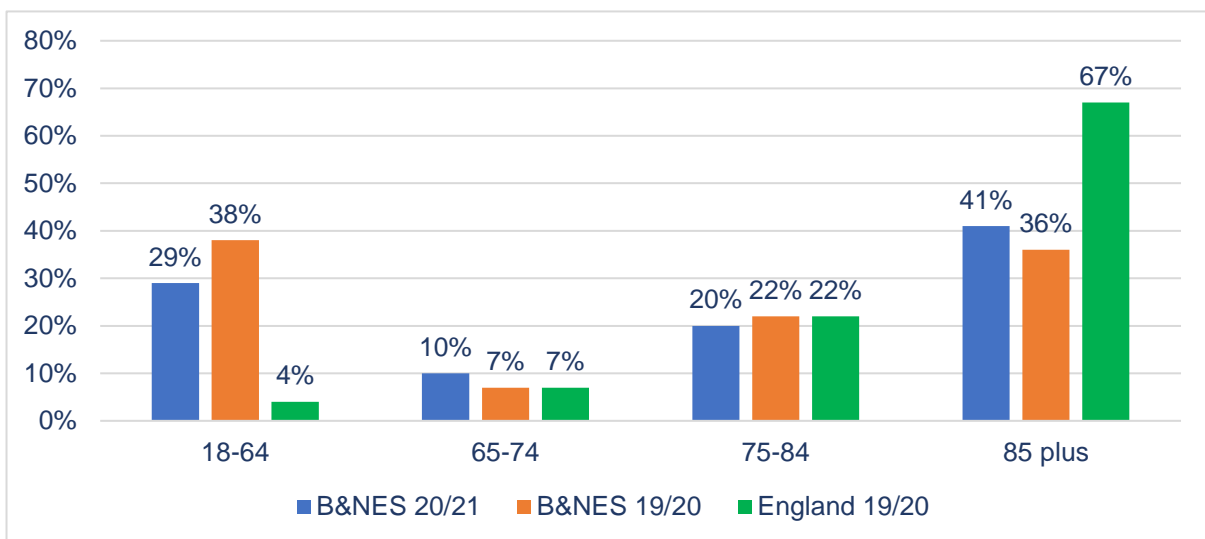


There has been an increase in the number of concerns raised in relation to people who have Mental Health or Memory and Cognition as their primary support reason. This increase may be a reflection of the Covid 19 lockdown impact on people with these support needs. The figures do also reflect the national data regarding the impact of the lockdown period on people's Mental Health and wellbeing.

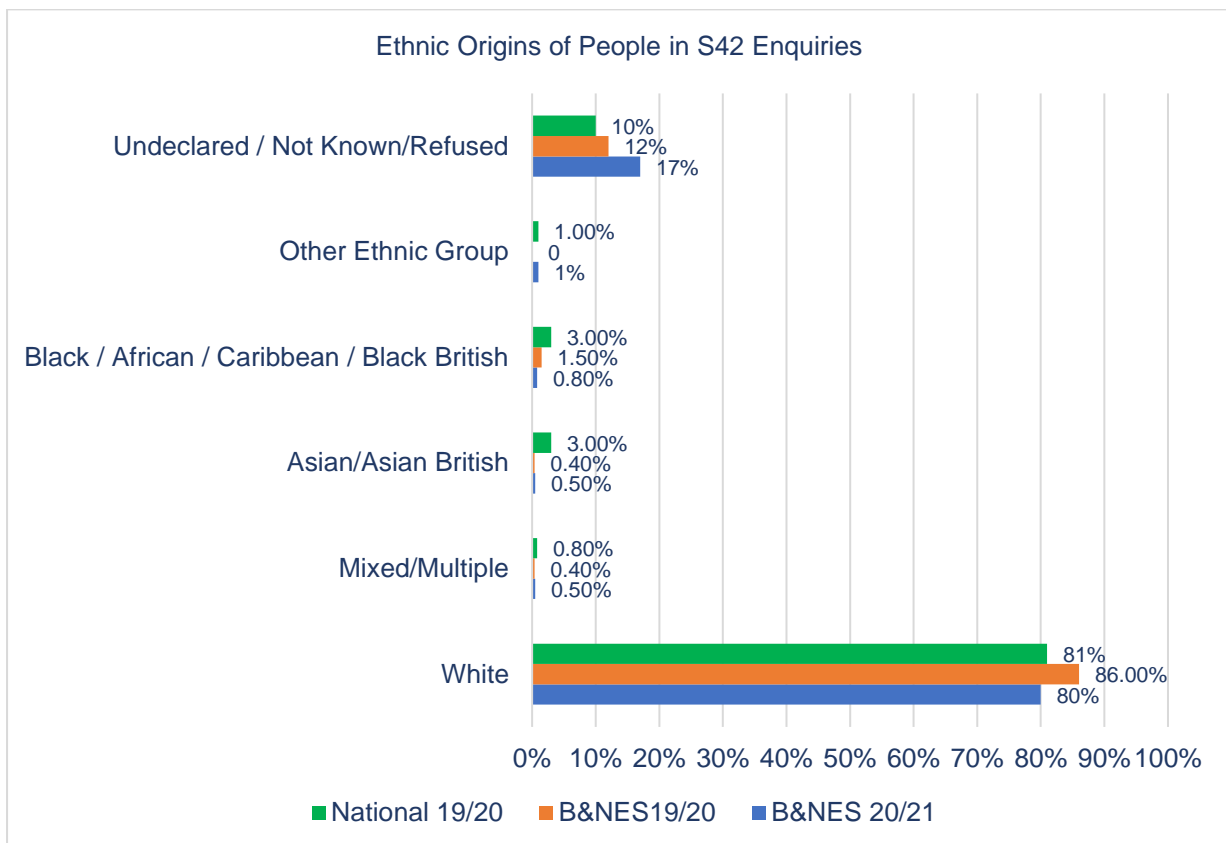
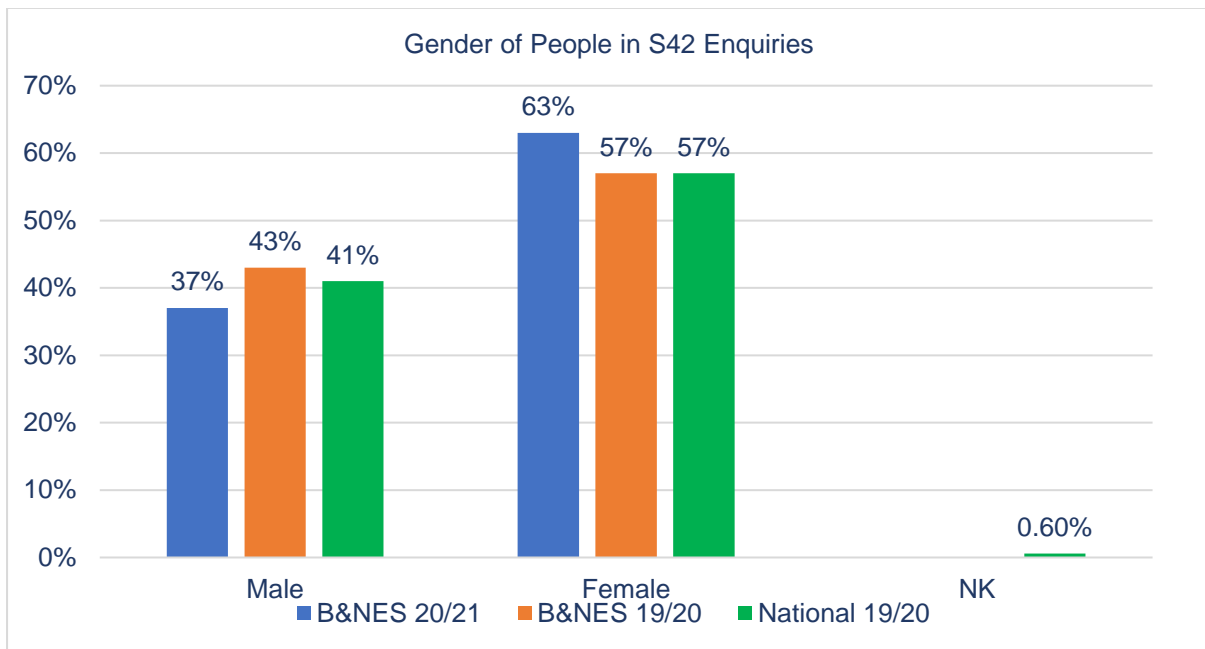


The following data relates to the 612 Safeguarding Enquiries undertaken in 2020/21. These enquiries supported 512 people. Some people are referred more than once during the year with different concerns being raised about their safety.

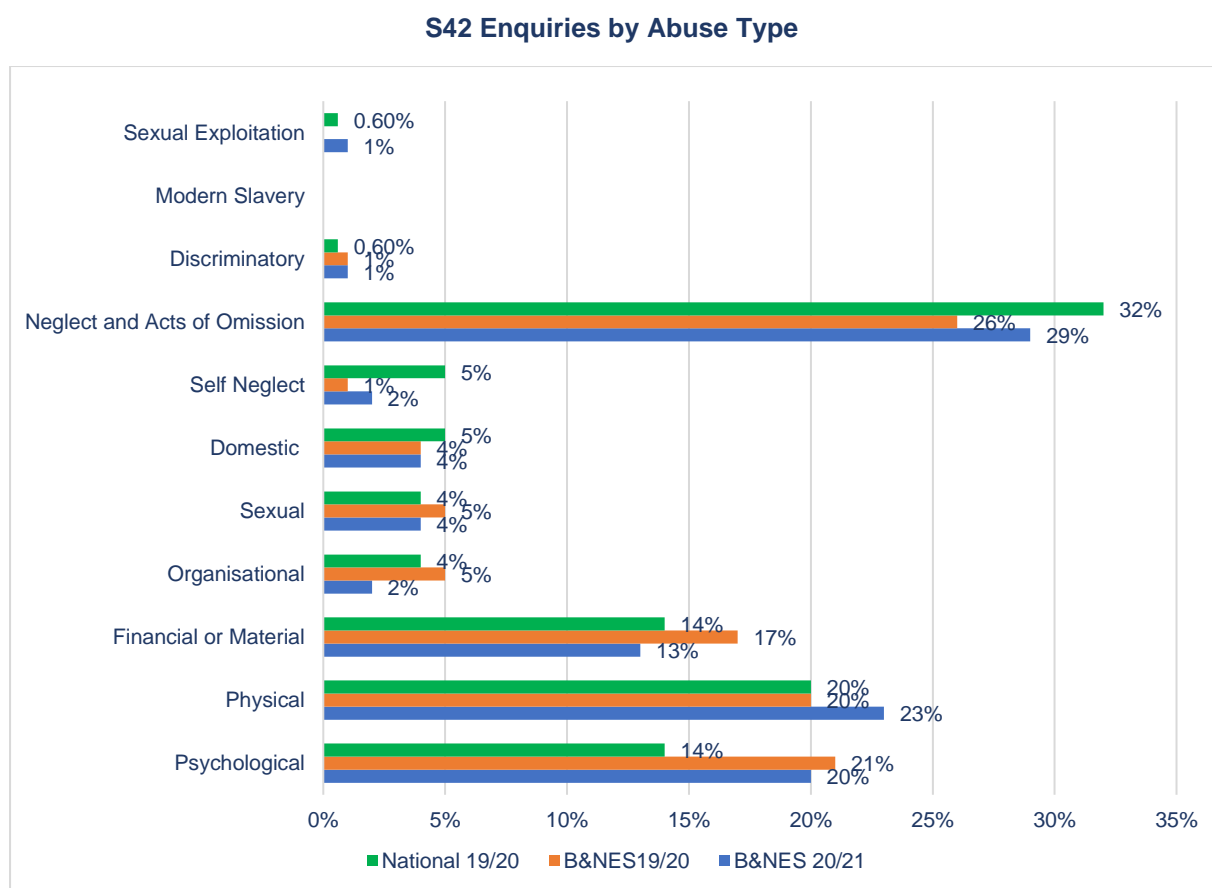
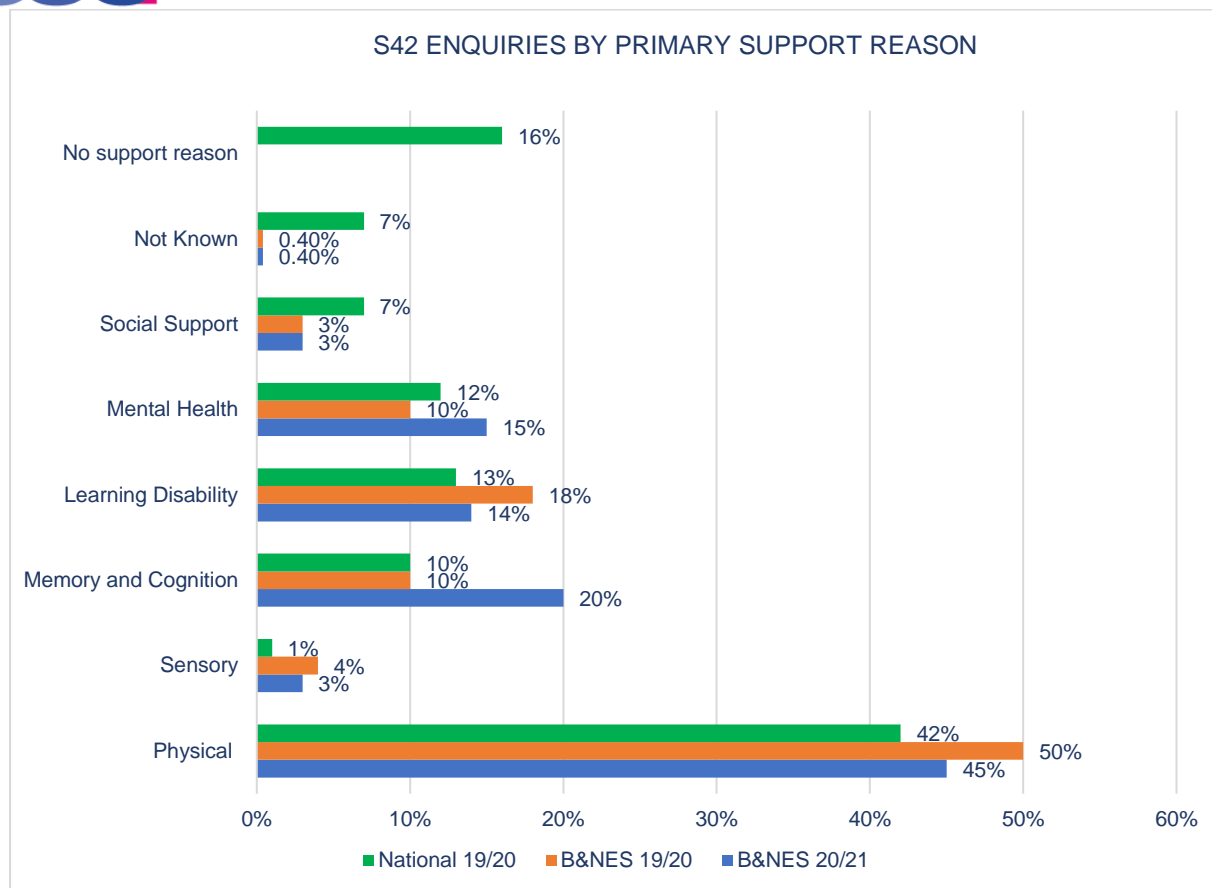
Age of Individuals Involved in S42 Enquiries



B&NES continues to see a higher number of referrals in relation to people aged 18-64 when compared with the 2019/20 England average. For those over 85 the England average is much higher than that seen in B&NES during both 2020/21 and 2019/20.



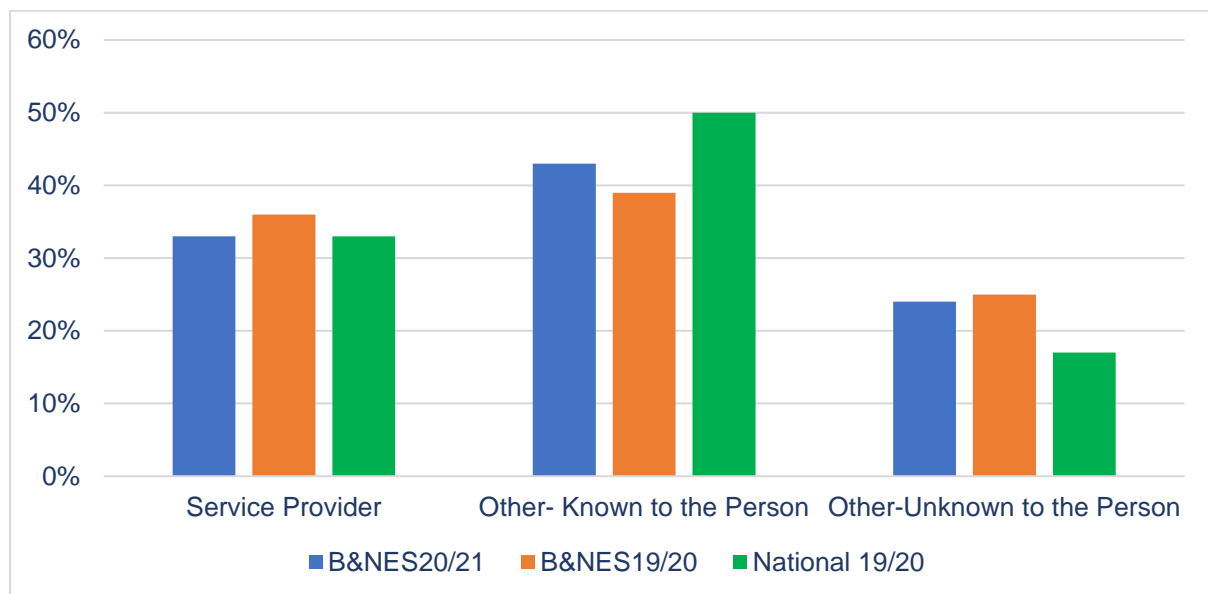
The Ethnicity of those supported through the safeguarding enquiry process continues to highlight the need for the BCSSP to make sure that the safeguarding message is reaching all the communities in B&NES. Work is also required to understand why there has been an increase in the level of enquiries where the ethnicity of the person involved is unknown, undeclared or the person has refused to provide this information.



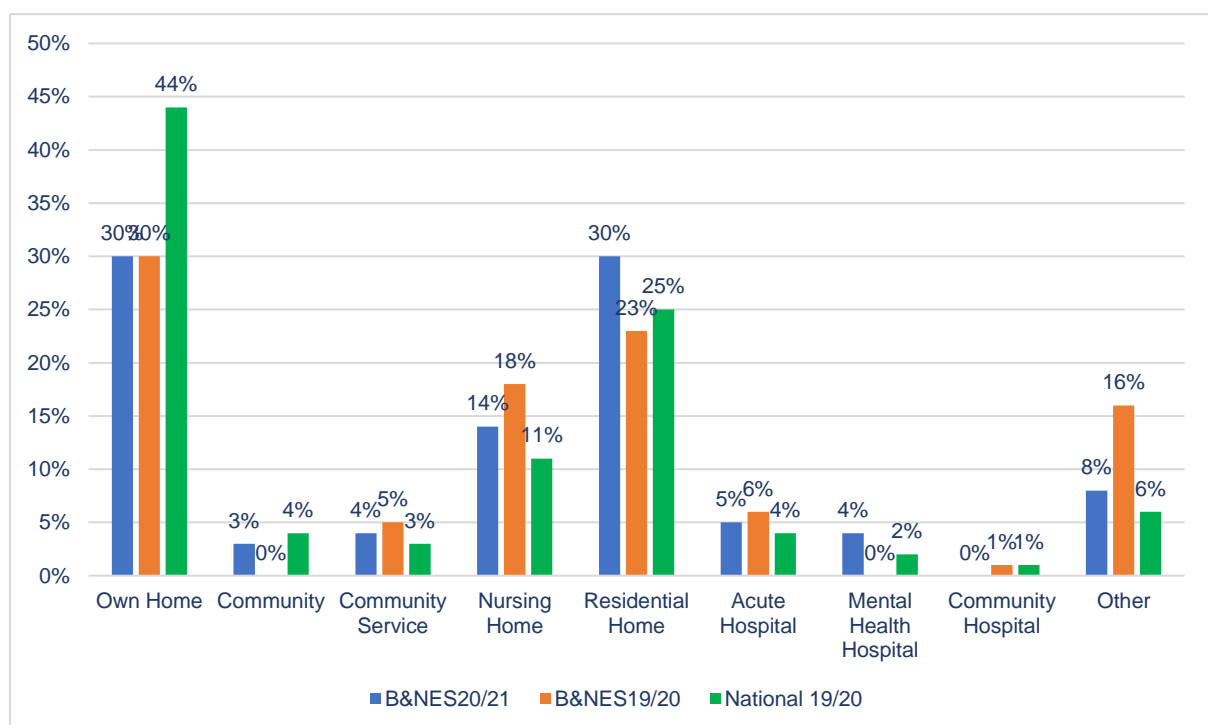
A rise in enquiries related to Physical Abuse and Neglect or Acts of Omission is shown in this year's data. There has also been an increase in the number of people who are self-neglecting who have been referred to the safeguarding process rather than being supported through the Multi Agency Self Neglect Policy.

The National Data comparison show that there is a higher reported level of Psychological abuse in B&NES and a lower level of concerns relating to Domestic Abuse. This reflects the National Insight Reporting that has been undertaken during 2020/21 to measure the impact of the Covid 19 lockdowns on safeguarding reporting level – where domestic abuse was highlighted as having an increased level of reporting at a national level which was not reflected in our local data.

S42 Enquiries by Source of Risk



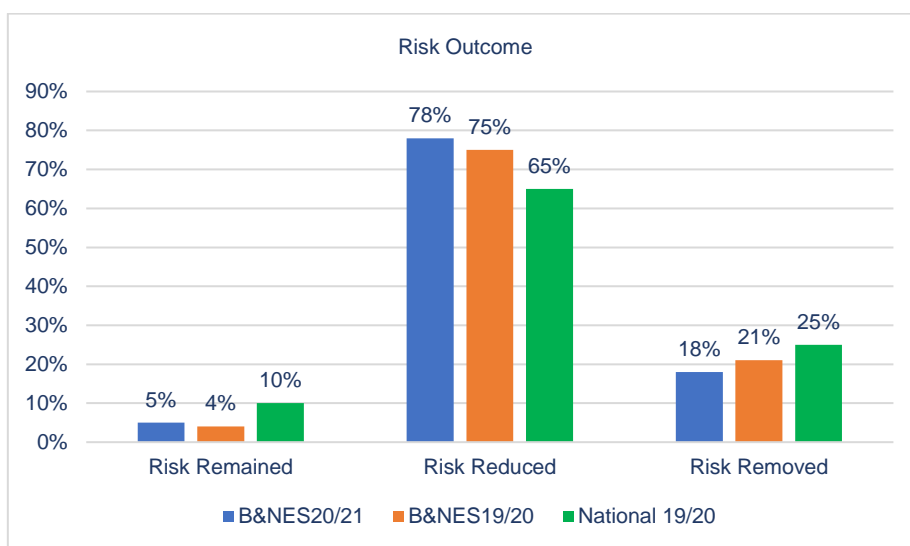
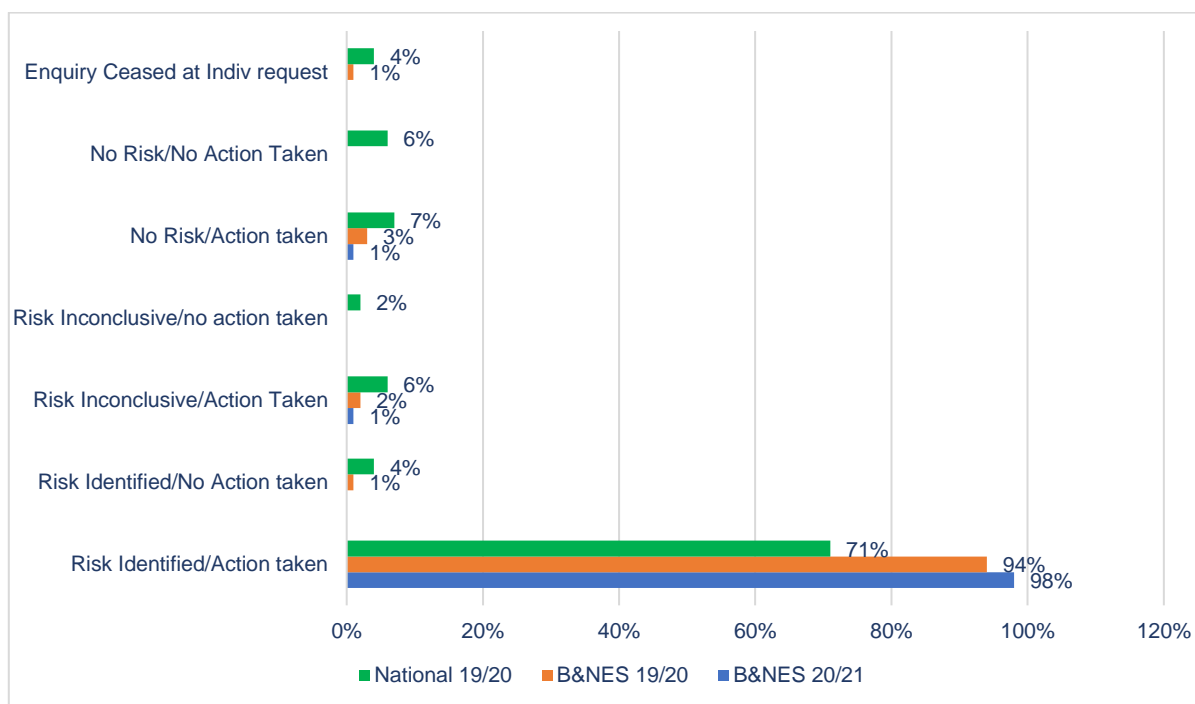
S42 Enquiries by Location of Risk



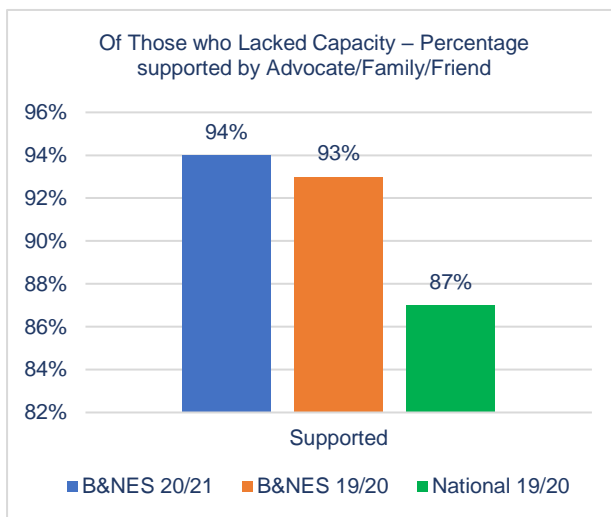
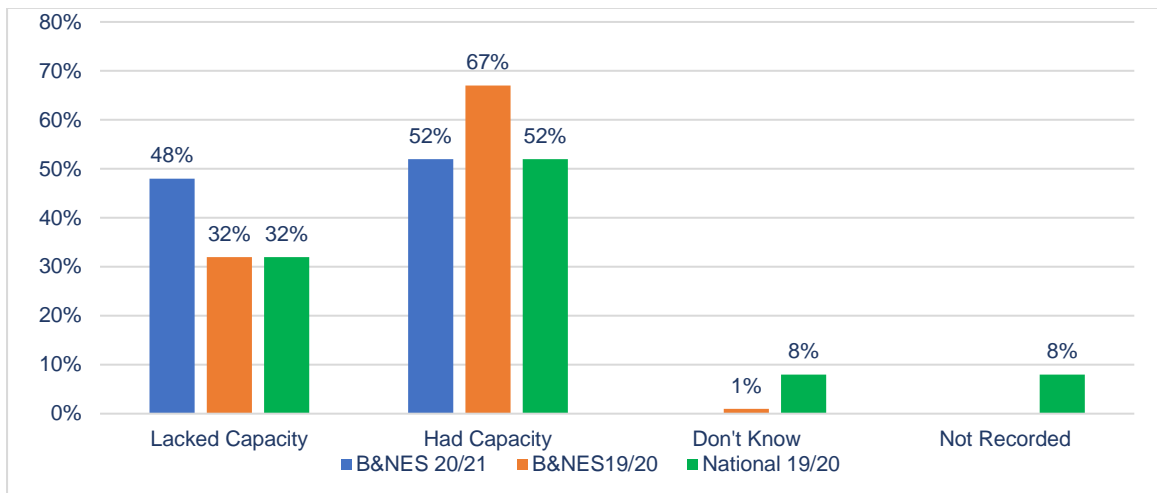
Risk from others – known to the person remains the highest source of risk in B&NES and in the national reporting. Concerns relating to people living in Residential and Nursing Homes has increased this year. Again, this may be a reflection of the impact of Covid 19 on safeguarding reporting, with concerns being raised by providers throughout the pandemic.

There were no enquiries undertaken where the location of risk was a Community Hospital. This is a notable variation from previous years and the national reporting data.

Outcome of Safeguarding Enquiry



Safeguarding Enquiries – Mental Capacity

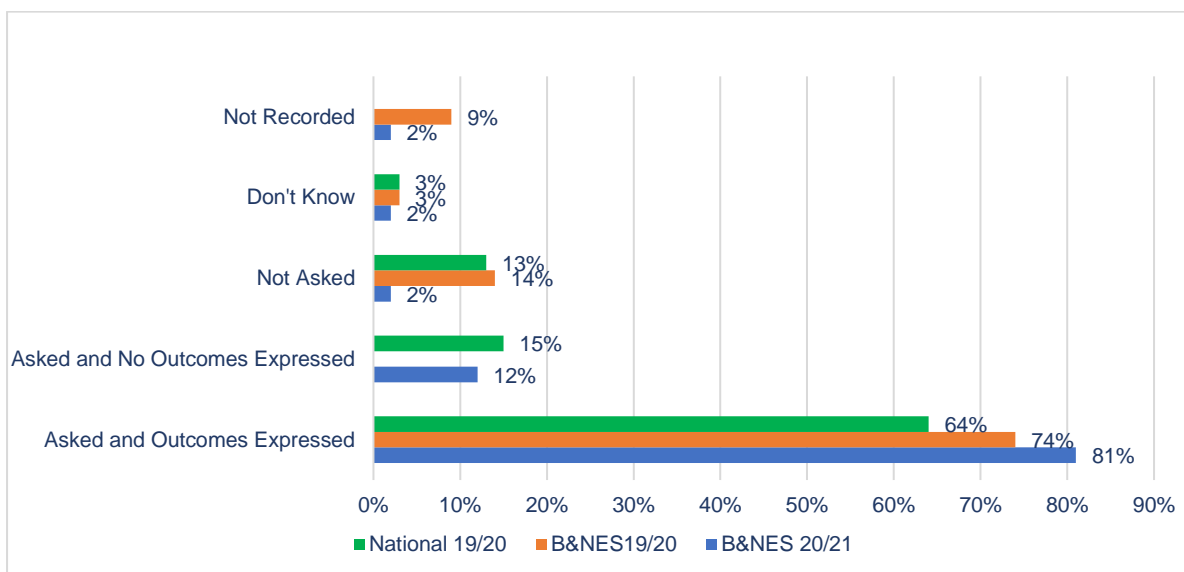


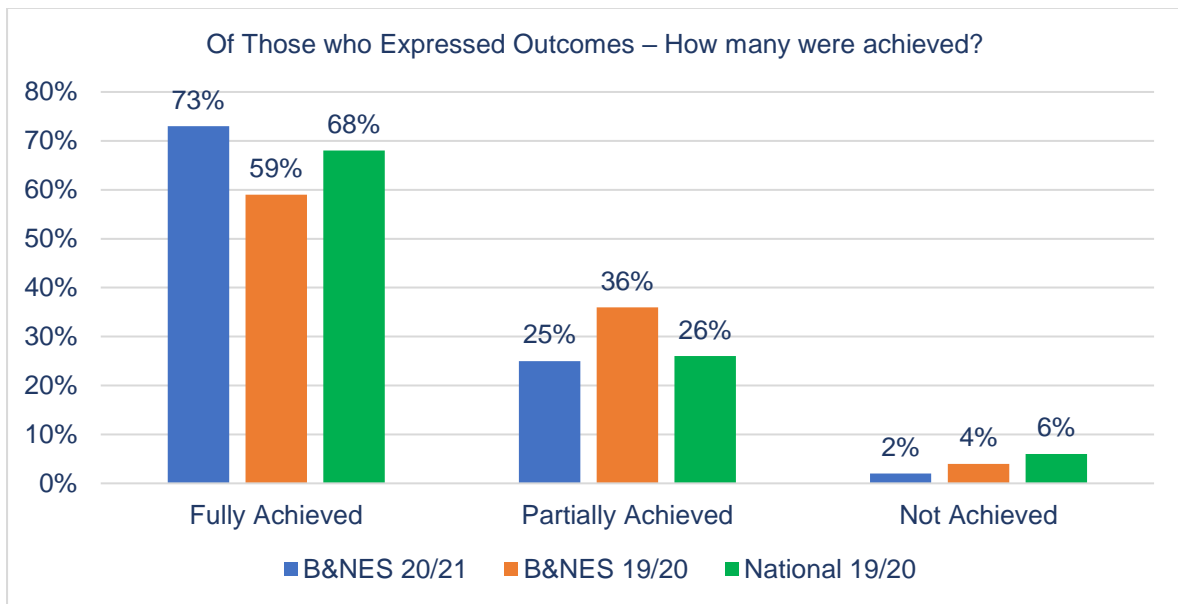
Mental Capacity – This year we have seen an increase in referrals relating to people that do not have capacity. This is linked with the reported increase in the number of enquiries relating to people whose primary support reason is Memory and Cognition.

Figures relating to the number of people without capacity who were supported through the safeguarding process remains high and is notably higher than the England average.

Risk – the majority of enquiries had a level of risk identified and action taken to reduce the risk.

Safeguarding Enquiries – Making Safeguarding Personal – Person's Stated Outcomes





These are probably the most important figures in this activity section. It relates to the outcomes that people stated they wanted to achieve from the safeguarding process. In B&NES we have a very high number of people who express their outcomes and have them fully or partially met.

This indicates that the B&NES Safeguarding Enquiry process is achieving the central tenant of Safeguarding Adults – that the views of the person are at the heart of all safeguarding work and the focus is on achieving the person's outcomes not the outcomes wanted by professionals or others.

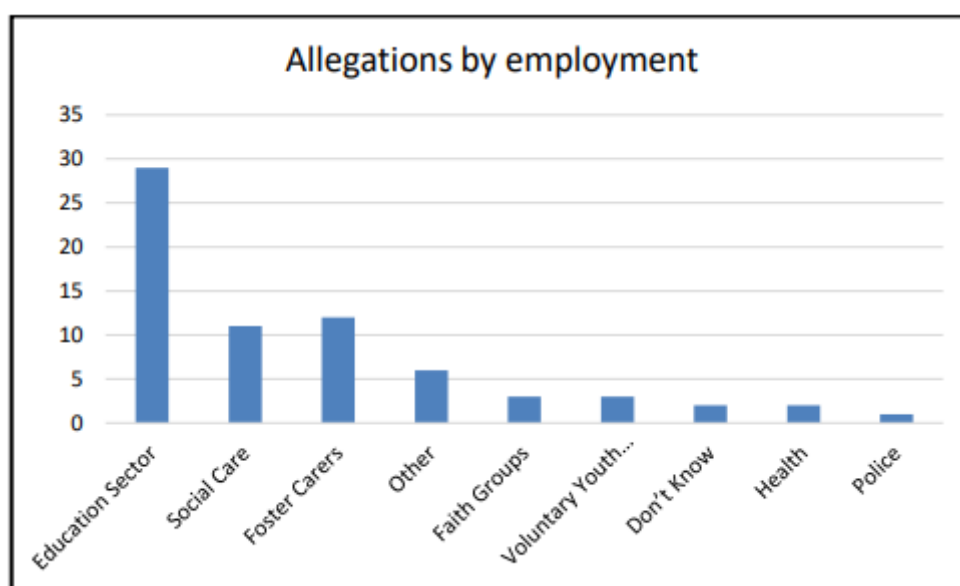
10.3 Work of the LADO

This year has seen a 25% decrease in the overall number of contacts made with the LADO compared to last year. This was highly anticipated given the impact of Covid-19 and the closure of many settings where children attend i.e. childminders, nurseries, schools, youth clubs, churches.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
TOTAL	198	152	141	264	200

Of the 200 contacts made with the LADO's in Bath and North East Somerset this year:

- 88 did not meet threshold but resulted in advice and guidance being given to the Referrer / organisation.
- 66 met threshold for LADO involvement and required further investigation
- 25 would have fallen under the managing allegations protocol and required input from the LADO but the person worked outside of Bath and North East Somerset, in which case the referrer was signposted to the LADO for that area
- 12 did not fall under the managing allegations protocol, these included matters relating to a person's mental health, concerns relating to individuals who did not work directly with children, allegations around an individual's use of drugs but no supporting evidence, professional boundaries not being maintained and complaints about a school environment.
- 9 were matters surrounding issues of safeguarding within an organisation, these do not fall under the managing allegations protocol but are taken forward by the Deputy Lead for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.



In this reporting period of the 66 referrals received by the LADO, 42% of these related to a person working within an educational setting which includes nursery settings, primary schools, secondary schools, and colleges. In the previous reporting period education and nursery settings accounted for 52% of the referrals to LADO and it is positive to see these organisations have continued to identify and respond to allegations despite the disruption and pressures these settings have faced as a result of Covid-19.

Foster carers featured as the second highest group of individuals working with children who were referred to the LADO due to allegations of harm, referrals can be in respect of supported lodging providers, foster carers for Bath and North East Somerset as well as those who live in the area but

foster for another Local Authority or Independent Fostering Agency. In this reporting period of the 11 referrals related to foster carers, nine were foster carers for the Local Authority, which is on par with last year.

Referrals received relating to social care staff include individuals who work within a residential setting, provide support to families within their home, are a social worker or therapist working with children. In this reporting period 16% of referrals that reached threshold were in relation to individuals working within the social care sector, with seven of the 11 referrals (63%) relating to a person working within a residential setting.

This year saw a significant decline in referrals relating to individuals that transport children, this is likely to correlate to school closures and therefore the reduction in children attending school.

There was one referral received in relation to a Police Officer in this reporting period, this is the first referral regarding someone working within Avon and Somerset Constabulary for the past five years. In general, across the south west region, there are a low number of referrals regarding Police Officers. The LADO is surprised that this is not an organisation that features more given the nature of Police work. The LADO's identify Avon and Somerset Constabulary as being an organisation where further awareness of the LADO role and managing allegations protocol is required so that referrals to LADO are considered but also criminal investigations involving a person in a position of trust (working with children) are brought to the attention of the LADO.



Of the 23 referrals to LADO regarding allegations against individuals where their behaviour raised concerns about their suitability to work with children, eight were in relation to an individual working within a school setting, nine were related to those working within the social care sector, one was a foster carer and five fell into the category of other. The development of data reporting within PBI has highlighted that the category of Other is being used inconsistently across the LADO service and further scrutiny of the data reveals that there were three individuals whose employment was classed as Other when in fact they should have been reported as working in the social care sector. The remaining two individuals classed as 'Other' were in roles related to transport and childcare.

Eight referrals (35%) received by the LADO after further discussion and exploration were not deemed to meet LADO threshold. In all but two of the referrals received, the issues that arose were about incidents that had taken place outside of the individual's role but raised concerns about their conduct and performance. It was agreed by the LADO that the employer would address these issues internally in line with their HR policy and procedures.

Eight individuals (35%) displayed behaviour which resulted in there being a need for a managing allegation strategy meeting to be convened. Strategy meetings in these instances were deemed necessary due to the seriousness of the allegations which included concerns about grooming, being arrested for possession of drugs, actions of the individual possibly contributing towards significant harm of a child and sexual offences against an adult.

Four referrals did not require a strategy meeting as the issues did not meet a threshold for Police involvement and the presenting concerns were appropriate for the employer to investigate in line with their disciplinary procedures. In these instances, there was no direct allegation, but the individuals conduct was of concern and required exploration to determine what if any further action was required by the employer.

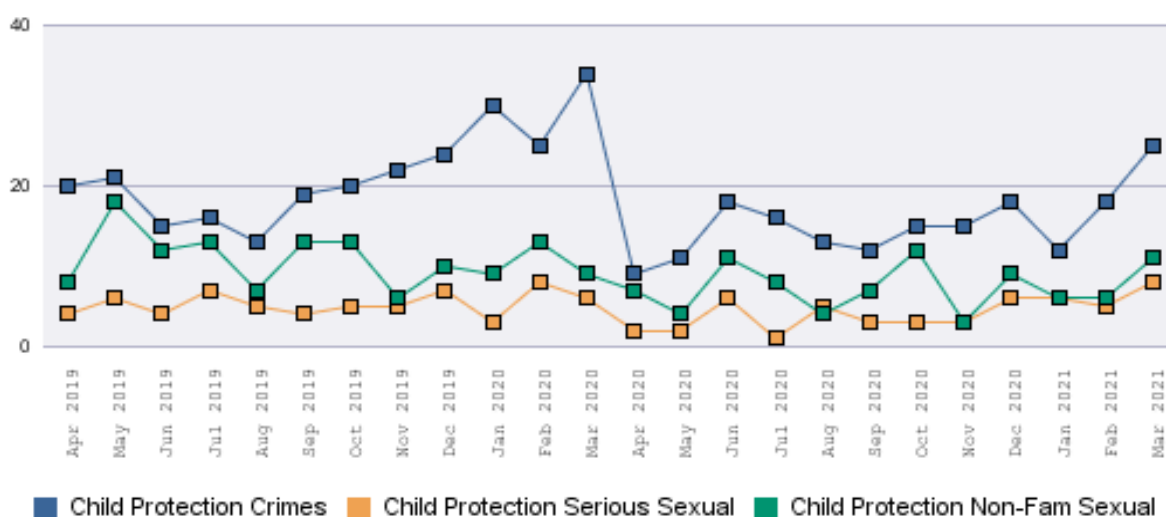
10.4 Avon & Somerset Constabulary Data

Child Protection

“Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)” in Fig.1 are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this particular measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. This is a useful headline measure and includes crimes where the victim is a child, crimes where the suspect is a child and crimes where the child is an involved party. The measure also includes peer-on-peer crimes where both the victim and suspect are children. The measure includes non-recent child abuse allegations, regardless of whether the victim was a child or adult at the time of reporting.

The volume of recorded Child Protection crimes in Bath and North East Somerset fell by 29.7%, or 77 crimes, in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20, to 182 crimes. The 29.7% fall in Bath and North East Somerset is significantly greater the 10.4% fall experienced across the force area as a whole. By March 2021, the volume of recorded Child Protection crimes in Bath and North East Somerset had reached its highest level since the introduction of measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the population in mid-March 2020, and was at a level similar to that recorded in several of the months leading up to the introduction of those measures.

Fig.1 Child Protection Crimes (Excluding Domestic Abuse) in B&NES April 2019 – March 2021



There were also significant percentage falls in recorded offences in Bath and North East Somerset in 2020/21, compared with 2019/20, for the following offence groups: non-familial sexual offences against children (by 32.8% or 43 crimes), child neglect offences (by 23.1% or 15 crimes) and Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences (by 21.9% or 14 crimes). It should be noted that in the latter two cases the numbers involved are relatively small. In each case, these percentage falls were greater than those recorded across the force area as a whole.

The number of Child Sexual Exploitation tagged offences in Bath and North East Somerset also fell in 2020/21, compared with 2019/20, by 71.4% or by 20 crimes to just 8 crimes in total. This compares with a 13.0% fall in Child Sexual Exploitation tagged offences across the force area as a whole.

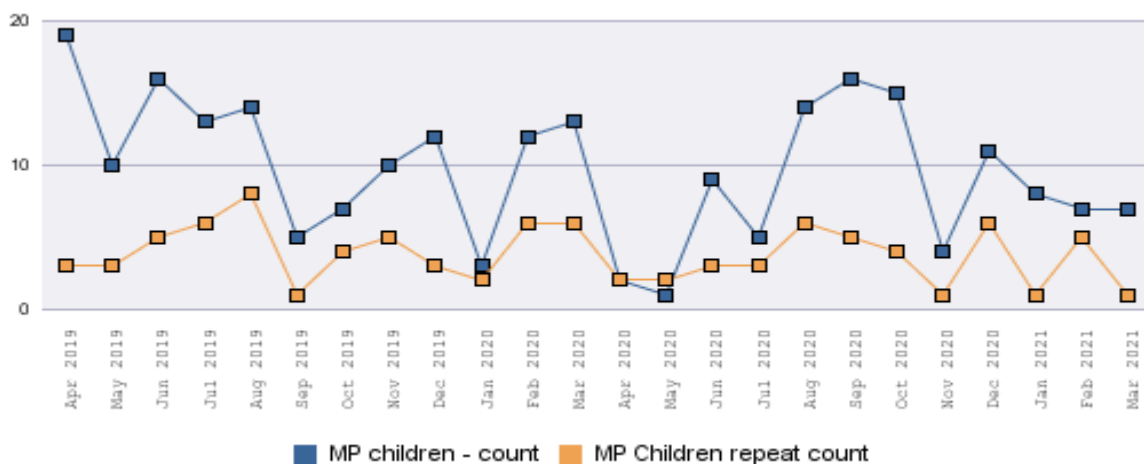
The number of recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes with a victim aged 16 or 17 in Bath and North East Somerset fell by 8 crimes to 37 crimes in 2020/21. This represents a greater percentage fall (17.8%) than that recorded across the force area as a whole (10.4%). The overall number of child victims of crimes in Bath and North East Somerset fell by 113 victims to 515 victims in 2020/21, or by 18.0% compared with 2019/20. This is in line with the 20.5% fall across the force area as a whole. The number of child suspects of crimes in Bath and North East Somerset in 2020/21, compared with

2019/20, fell by 140 to 336 child suspects, or by 29.4%. This fall is greater than the 18.5% fall experienced across the force area as a whole.

Missing Children

In Bath and North East Somerset there have been reductions in the number of reported missing children in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20 (falling by 19.1%), number of reported missing children' episodes (falling by 17.2%) and the number of children reported missing repeatedly (falling by 44.6%). Missing children and repeat missing children' monthly volumes in Bath and North East Somerset (Fig. 2) show far greater volatility than across the force area as a whole. Whilst the dramatic fall in the number of missing children in April 2020 might be attributable, or attributable in part, to the introduction of measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the population, the peaks and troughs through 2020/21 do not entirely coincide with the easing and reintroduction of such measures.

Fig.2 Missing Children and Repeat Missing Children in B&NES April 2019- March 2021



The number of children going missing from care in 2020/21, and number of children repeatedly going missing from care in that year, both remain low at 5 children and 1 child respectively.

Initial Child Protection Conferences

The Police were invited to 12 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) in Bath and North East Somerset in the fourth quarter of 2020/21 and attended all 12. The Police attendance rate at ICPCs across 2020/21 was 98.4%, with just one ICPC not attended in May 2020.

Use of Police Protection Powers

Across the force area as a whole, the Constabulary used police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 on 111 occasions in 2020/21, compared with 133 occasions in 2019/20. The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues, whereby 1 record in 2020/21, and 13 records in 2019/20, were not linked to a beat code. There is 1 record of the use of these powers linked to beat codes in Bath and North East Somerset in 2020/21, compared with 4 records in 2019/20.

Children in Custody

In 2020/21 33 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address is in Bath and North East Somerset, were arrested and brought into custody, 2 of whom were charged and detained. Of these 33 children and young people, 1 was arrested and brought into custody in the last quarter ending March 2021 and was charged and detained.

11. Glossary

Term	Meaning
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences – traumatic events occurring before age 18. Includes all type of abuse and neglect, as well as parental mental illness, substance misuse, domestic violence.
ADASS	Association of Directors and Adult Social Services – a charity representing Directors and a leading body on social care issues.
AMHP	Approved Mental Health Professional – approved to carry out certain duties under the Mental Health Act
ASSSP	Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership – Avon area multi-agency group focussed on children's safeguarding
B&NES	Bath & North East Somerset
BCSSP	B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership
BIA	Best Interest Assessor – ensure that decisions about patients/service users which affect their liberty are taken with reference to their human rights
BSW	B&NES, Swindon Wiltshire area
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Care Act 2014	Sets out the duties of the local authority in relation to services that prevent people developing needs for care and support or delay people deteriorating such that they would need ongoing care and support.
Community Triggers	This is related to anti-social behaviour. Where anti-social behaviour has been reported and it is felt not enough action has been taken, a community trigger can be used, which means the case will be reviewed by those agencies involved.
Contextualised Safeguarding	An approach to understanding and responding to, young peoples experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse.
CP	Child Protection
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation – a type of sexual abuse. When a child is exploited, they are given things like gifts, money, drugs, status in exchange for performing sexual activities

Term	Meaning
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review – should be considered for serious child safeguarding cases where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously injured.
CQC	Care Quality Commission – regulates all health and social care services in England
Cuckooing	The practice of taking over the home of a vulnerable person in order to establish a base for illegal drug dealing, typically as part of a County Lines operation.
Dark Web	Is part of the Internet that isn't visible to search engines. It is used for keeping internet activity anonymous
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review – is conducted when someone aged 16 or over dies as a result of violence, abuse or neglect by a relative, household member or someone they have been in an intimate relationship with.
Discharge to Assess (D2A)	Where people do not require an acute hospital bed but may still require care services are provided with short term, funded support to be discharged to their own home or another community setting. Assessment for longer term care and support needs is then undertaken in the most appropriate setting and at the right time for the person.
Disrupt	Work to disrupt serious organised crime
DoLS	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – ensures people who cannot consent to their care arrangements in a care home or a hospital are protected if those arrangements deprive them of their liberty
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate – specialist professional who works with victims of domestic abuse
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection – of services for vulnerable children and young people
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer – responsible for managing child protection allegations made against staff and volunteers who work with children and young people
LPS	Liberty Protection Safeguards – set to replace Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

Term	Meaning
Local Safeguarding Adult Board	Assures itself that safeguarding practice is person centred and outcome focussed, working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect. Now part of the BCSSP
Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Assure itself that local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is effective and ensures the effectiveness of what member organisations do individually and together. Now part of the BCSSP
MARMM	Multi-agency Risk Management Meeting – convened regarding self-neglect and hoarding concerns
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – a victim focussed information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub – Information sharing where decision can be made more rapidly about whether a safeguarding intervention is required
MCA	Mental Capacity Act – designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.
Prevent	Prevent is about safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
RAG	Responsible Authorities Group – the local strategic partnership delivery arm for community safety in B&NES, now part of the BCSSP
SAC Data	Safeguarding Adults Collection Data – NHS digital collate data nationally
SAR	Safeguarding Adult Review – may be carried out when an adult' dies or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse and/or neglect and there is concern that agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult
SARI	Charitable organisation – Stand Against Racial Inequality – which provides training and advocacy services
SCR	Serious Case Review now replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Review
SHEU	School Health Education Unit

Term	Meaning
SICC	Senior In Care Council – empowered to undertake projects to make the changes they want to see to improve the experiences of young people in care
Section 11 Audit (statutory)	A self-assessment audit designed to seek assurance that key people and agencies make arrangements to ensure their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
Section 175 Audit (statutory)	A self-assessment audit that seeks assurance that education establishments make arrangements to ensure their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Children (funded) project
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit – provides a local response to serious violence
WRAP	Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent