



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

Annual Report 2021-2022



Overview

- This is the third annual report and second full year report since the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) was established in 2019
- The primary role of the partnership is to ensure that all public sector agencies work together to ensure that children, and adults with care and support needs are protected from abuse, harm, and neglect and in respect of community safety, that all citizens in B&NES are supported through the shared strategy across the network of partnerships which tackles crime and reduces reoffending.
- It continues to go from strength to strength and all partners are extremely supportive in ensuring its effectiveness.
- This year has seen the all-age agenda applied more widely and with greater understanding and impact.



Achievements –

- Multi-agency learning & practice development

- Within the BCSSP, the Practice Review Group is responsible for receiving and giving consideration, to any incident notifications.
- In this reporting period, the BCSSP has received 3 serious incident notifications related to children, only one of which met the criteria for a rapid review to be completed and submitted to the national panel.
- The learning related to child-on-child abuse and the wider impacts of exclusion from education.
- One Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) has been completed and published.
- 4 referrals for consideration of a SAR have been received, of which one was agreed, one is on hold pending the outcome of a drug related death review and one is on hold pending the outcome of a S42 enquiry. One did not meet the criteria



As a result of
these review
arrangements,
the BCSSP
has....

- Continued to promote the think family, think community agenda
- Developed how we capture and reflect the voice of the child/adult/parent/carer, including liaising with them, where they are willing, to discuss findings and listen to their experiences.
- Completed a multi-agency Mental Capacity Act Discharge to Assess audit
- Completed a Knife Crime Audit through the Exploitation subgroup
- Invested in a database to manage the B&NES DA Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Implemented an Education Reference Group to enhance links with education settings
- Developed and published a new Escalation Policy and Managing Allegations protocol
- Commenced a joint piece of work with Swindon and Wiltshire to review non-accidental injury in non mobile children
- Initiated a task & finish group to look at extra-familial harm pathways



Multi-agency Quality Assurance

- A scrutiny and Assurance Framework has been developed and agreed for 2022-2024
- Section 11 audit - the five children's Partnerships across the Avon and Somerset region worked together to audit organisations working with children and families. The audits took place in a series of workshops and the findings and learning were shared across the children's Partnerships.
- Section 175 Education Audit – the BCSSP circulated a self-audit tool to education establishments and there was a 95% return rate. Previous years have had a 100% return rate, and this will be reviewed and managed through the Education Reference Group
- 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 self-audit. There was a 66% return rate, but this is a none statutory audit.
- Recommendations from the audits were shared through the Quality & Performance subgroup



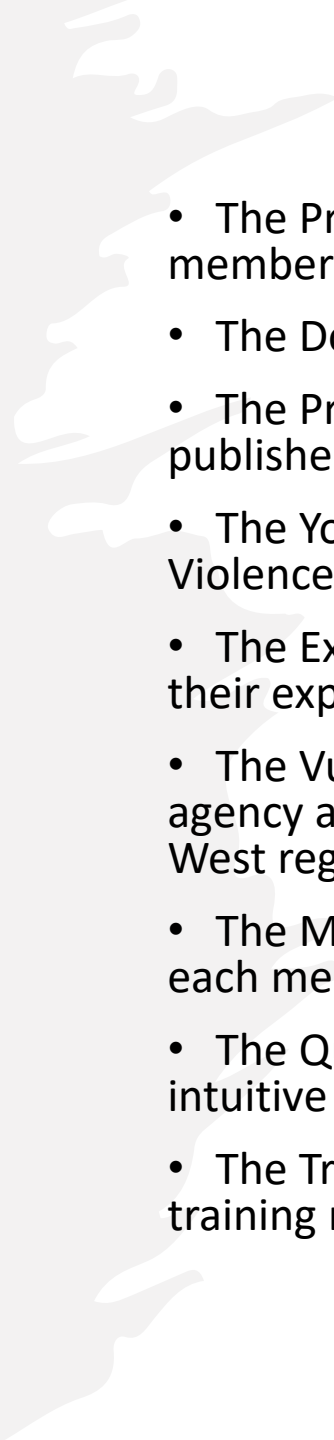
Multi-agency Training & Workforce Development

- The BCSSP training department employs an inter-agency trainer who is responsible for the development and delivery of courses
- This post has been vacant for half of the year which has impacted on the training provision, with greater reliance on external organisations delivering core requirements.
- As a result of this the training programme was adapted as it was not possible to commission the number of courses ordinarily provided
- Priority was given to ensuring 'core' safeguarding modules were delivered at regular intervals
- Despite these challenges, training has still been delivered and booking and attendee numbers have increased on the previous year



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Challenges

- Capacity both within the BCSSP business unit and within its constituent organisations
- B&NES is a small area and the BCSSP has a large number of subgroups, consequently it is often the same professionals attending a number of subgroups and supporting the work
- The absence of a BCSSP trainer has impacted on the frequency of course delivery and several learning events have been put on hold
- There has been a number of staff changes causing a lack of continuity in a number of subgroups
- Financial challenges and the disparity of funding between statutory safeguarding partners



Focus for 2022-2023

The BCSSP will continue to focus on the objectives set out in its strategic plan for 2021-2024:

- 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

