

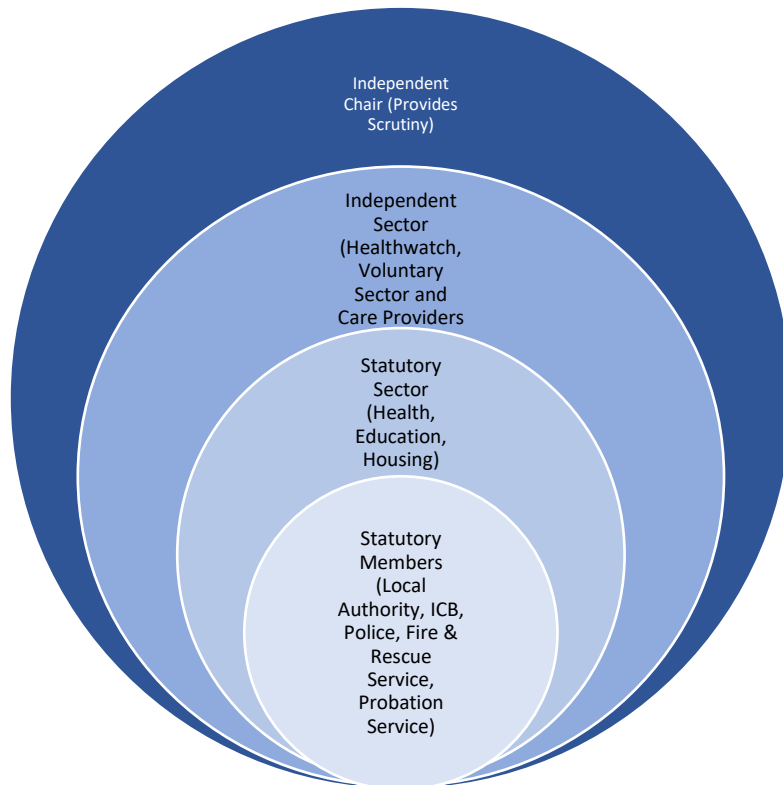
**Bath & North East Somerset Community  
Safety & Safeguarding Partnership**



**Annual Report  
Executive Summary  
2022-2023**

**Safeguarding is everyone’s business.**

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 Integrated Care Board, Avon Fire & Rescue Service, the 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.



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.**

## 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

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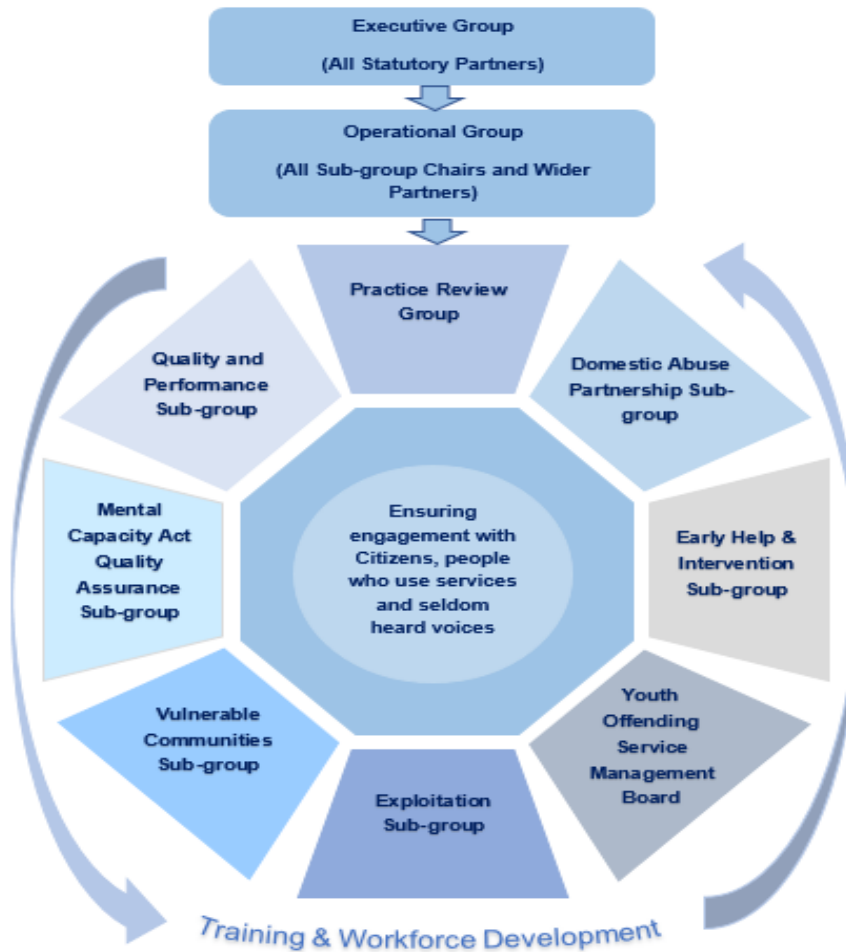
The Partnership is comprised of an Executive Group, Operational Group and nine thematic subgroups. Each subgroup develops its own workplan designed to progress the commitments within the BCSSP Strategic Plan. For 2022-2023, the BCSSP was working towards completing priorities identified in its 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. The full annual report reflects on the subgroup achievements and challenges.

Each subgroup has its own action plan linked to the strategic plan and reports quarterly to the Executive and Operational Groups on their progress towards the commitments set out in the strategic plan.

The 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 published three Safeguarding Adult Review 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 2023-2024.

### Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

The Practice Review Group has received four serious incident notifications and completed and submitted a rapid review to the National Panel for each. A Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review was recommended in three cases. For the fourth notification, 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, five referrals for SARs were received, of which two met the SAR criteria, two were still under consideration at the time of writing this report and one was responded to via a learning briefing.

## **Domestic Homicide Reviews**

In the period covered by this report, the BCSSP has not completed any DHRs.

## **Quality Assurance**

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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.

For 2022-2023, 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 will be shared across the children's Partnerships. By working across the Avon and Somerset region, it was possible to hold workshops for 15 organisations and ensure that no organisations were approached more than once.

### **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. With the newly formed Education Reference Group, the S175 Audit will be updated for next year and responses reviewed holistically through this group.

### **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.

Whilst this audit is beneficial to the BCSSP in gaining oversight of member organisations and assurance on their community safety and safeguarding work, it is not a statutory audit and therefore not all organisations took part in the exercise.

## **Training and Workforce Development**

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During 2022-2023, the absence of a BCSSP trainer led to a smaller number of courses being offered on the Partnership programme, due to the reliance on external training providers and the cost implications of commissioning this provision. Consequently, priority was given to ensuring 'core' safeguarding courses were provided at regular intervals, alongside promoting other quality assured training events to the workforce. The continued absence of a trainer also led to a number of developmental pieces being paused, so it is positive that these projects will be re-established shortly.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the following has been achieved:

- 64 BCSSP training sessions taking place comprising of 26 different courses
- 1,269 Inter-agency training places made available
- 984 Inter-agency training places booked
- 818 Inter-agency training places attended\*
- 798 Professionals trained\*



- Approximately 70 % completed evaluations received and these are demonstrating impact.
- 5 Single agency training courses provided, training over 655 individuals.
- An additional 6 BCSSP Courses were cancelled across the financial year, 5 due to low numbers and 1 due to personal circumstances of the trainer.

\*Attendance figures outstanding for one course so this figure may increase by up to 75

### Evaluation & Quality Assurance

Training evaluation has evidenced:

- An increase in practitioner’s confidence in applying knowledge and skills back into practice, following training.
- Additional learning gained through attending a multi-agency event.
- A greater understanding of legislation, policy, procedure and guidance and how to apply this into practice.
- The training and trainer to be of high quality and beneficial in increasing delegates knowledge in the subject matter.

### Partnership Achievements

2022-2023 saw a return to a ‘new normal’ following the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, but already busy services are stretched to capacity. Following consultation with BCSSP partners via the subgroups, it was agreed that meetings would remain virtual as it reduced the impact of travel time and parking.

Within its previous Annual Report, the Partnership identified ten key priorities for 2022-2023:

What we said we would do	What we did
Develop a ‘Think Family, Think Community’ approach	Transitional safeguarding remains a focus and Children’s Social Care and Adult Social Care are working more closely, recognising that needs do not stop when a young person reaches the age of 18
	Continued work on participation and encouraged partners to share case studies
	Worked closely with partners providing community assurance following knife crime incidents
Learning from experience to improve how we work	Continued to receive feedback from Adults supported by the safeguarding process
	Promoted awareness of domestic abuse and the new DA Act. Through the Domestic Abuse Partnership, developed an action plan to ensure we aligned with statutory requirements
	Reviewed available programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse and continue to look at commissioning
Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention	Worked with safeguarding boards across the Avon & Somerset footprint to deliver Stop Adult Abuse Week webinars, promoting awareness of adult safeguarding
	Developed a number of new learning briefings on areas of concern and made them accessible on the BCSSP website
Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership	Recruited a new Independent Chair for the BCSSP following completion of tenure by the previous Chair.
	Commissioned a peer review from the Local Government Association (LGA) to conduct a review of the BCSSP structure and functionality
	Re-initiated the BCSSP newsletter, including a ‘spotlight’ section on current and emerging themes

These priorities will remain and the new strategic plan will be implemented in April 2024.