

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



**Annual Report
2021-2022**

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

I am pleased to introduce my third annual report and the second full year report since the BCSSP was established. It has been my privilege to chair the partnership and to scope within this year, alongside partners, the parameters of an overarching review of the effectiveness of the BCSSP. The Review will be reported in next year's Annual Report but at the time of production of this 2021/22 Annual Report, I am pleased to advise that it concluded and reflected on excellent partnership working within B&NES across all agencies which contribute to it.

I am extremely grateful for the hard work of all partners in ensuring that we delivered appropriate assurance on safeguarding and community safety. It was refreshing that in this last year we were able to reflect on and indeed focus on ensuring that there is wider understanding of the statutory requirements of the Community Safety Partnership. We deliver this through the Vulnerable Communities Sub Group and this influenced the ongoing plan to ensure that effective governance of community safety continues.

Our achievements are set out within this report, in the work of the BCSSP subgroups and in the outcomes of the various statutory pieces of audit work undertaken.

The primary role of a partnership which delivers safeguarding and community safety 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. Specifically 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.

A key element of our work is to commission statutory reviews which should ensure that partners demonstrate how they work together so that lessons learned impact the future delivery of services. There was only one statutory review – a Safeguarding Adult Review completed within this year, and this is referred to in Section 3 of this report. Full details are available on the BCSSP website.

We have all had to continue to adjust our lives owing to the ongoing issues following the Covid-19 pandemic with patterns of daily life still significantly affected and we have continued to meet virtually to safely deliver and discuss our priorities. The Partnership has continued to seek assurance that safeguarding, and community safety have remained “everyone's business” and that statutory, voluntary and community services have worked together effectively to prevent and/or protect individuals from abuse, neglect and crime. The Board is concerned to ensure that cooperation and collaboration; working together across agency and organisation boundaries, is maintained.

There continue to be 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. In this year the subgroups have taken huge steps to promote the all-age agenda and importantly in respect of our preventative role, we have agreed a new early intervention and prevention strategy.



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.

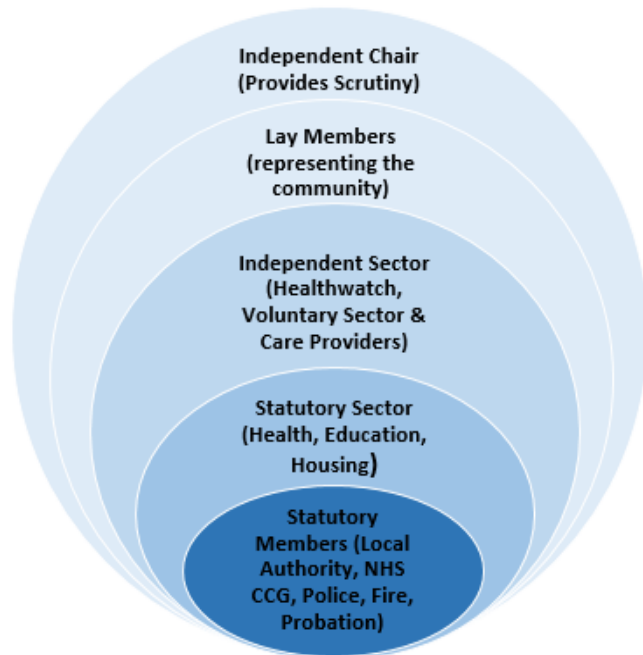


It was developed in affiliation with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and Responsible Authorities Group and meets the statutory requirements of these three Boards which it replaced.

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.

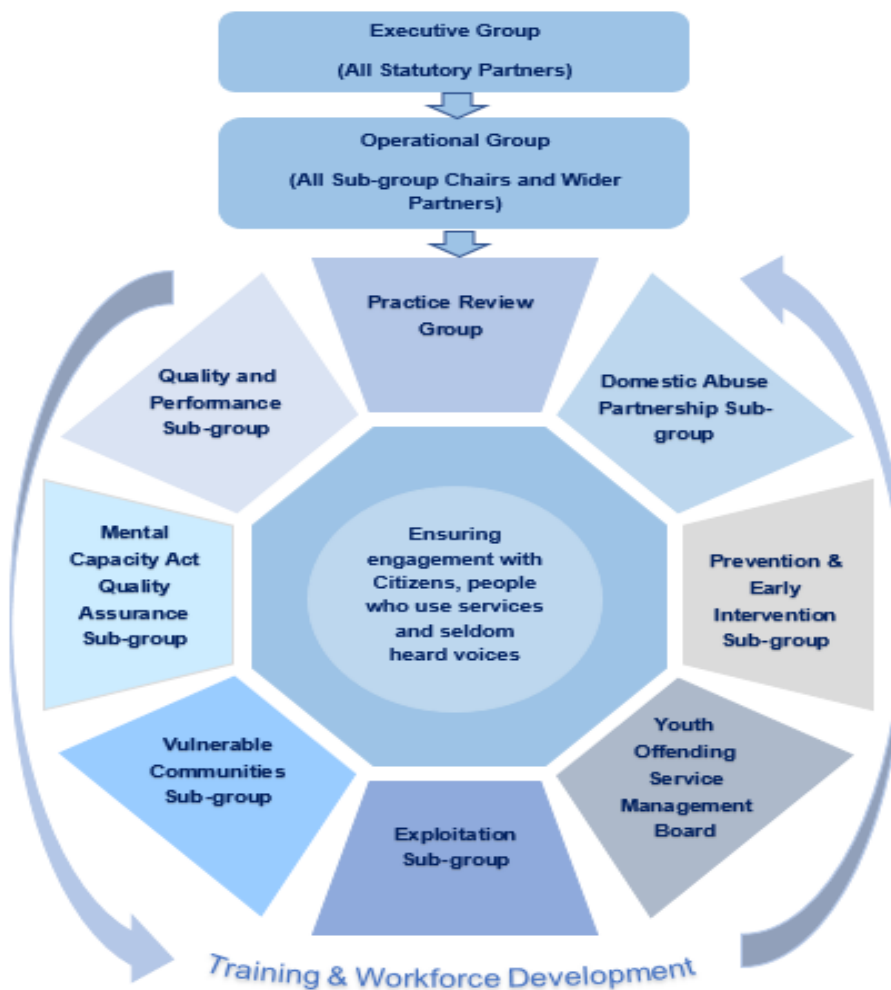
Safeguarding Adults:

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 or Domestic Homicide Reviews but has published one Safeguarding Adult Review and work has been taking place on commissioned reviews due for publication in 2022-2023.

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. Three serious incident notifications have been received for consideration by the BCSSP between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, but only 1 required a Rapid Review. Partners have shown significant commitment to ensure the notifications were reviewed and required report completed to a high standard and within timescale. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel agreed with our Practice Review Groups decisions. The BCSSP have not had any Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews this period.

Key learning identified from the Rapid Review included:

- The importance of recognising child on child abuse
- The wider impacts of exclusion from education
- The BCSSP reviewing its training offer for child-on-child abuse
- The need to develop further links with the education sector

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 matter 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, one SAR report has been ratified (ME), four referrals for SARs were received, of which one met the SAR criteria and will be progressed in 2022-2023. One did not meet the criteria, one is on hold pending the outcome of the drug related death review findings and one is on hold pending the outcome of the S42(2) enquiry.

Adult 'ME'

ME died when he was 36 years old. He had a long history of mental health concerns and alcohol use. He was found unresponsive at his home address and could not be resuscitated. ME was known to a number of agencies and was regarded as a 'high risk' drinker. He lived alone and concerns had been raised regarding self-neglect. ME wished to move to a supported environment in which he could become alcohol free. His father supported him with his finances and was closely involved in number of aspects of his care. ME was described to the review as a 'gentle giant', with the exception of times of anger and frustration, he was polite and always asked for help

Key learning from this learning review included:

- Timeliness of assessment and management of risk
- Use of Mental Capacity Assessments and consideration of Executive Functioning
- Interagency coordination and communication
- Impact of organisational features
- Applying a 'Think Family' approach

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.*

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.

For 2021-2022, 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.

B&NES chose to hold workshops for Avon Fire & Rescue Service, Curo Housing and Southside. Key professionals from each

The BCSSP has had no DHR referrals in this reporting period.

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

- Promotion of the 'Think Family, Think Community' agenda
- Improving how we capture and reflect the voice of the child/adult/parent/carer
- A multi-agency Mental Capacity Act Discharge to Assess audit
- A knife crime audit
- Investment in a database to manage B&NES Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Development of an Education Reference Group to enhance links with education settings
- A new Escalation Policy has been developed
- A new Managing Allegations protocol has been developed
- A joint piece of work into non-accidental injury in non-mobile children has begun across B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire
- Initiating a task and finish group to look at extra-familial harm pathways

organisation were invited as well as senior safeguarding staff and managers.

The specific areas the audit focussed on were:

- Safeguarding Structure
- Learning and Development
- Impact of Covid-19
- Listening to Children
- Information Sharing
- Child Exploitation
- Children's Partnerships

All organisations approached participated excellently and were very open and transparent in the conversations.

A full report will be produced and shared across the five children's Partnerships.

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 83 education establishments and considered responses were received from 77 of them, a 95% return rate. This is a reduction on previous years, when 100% return rate has been achieved. All those who didn't respond were contacted on more than one occasion, and it seems that capacity, staff sickness and Covid caused issues in completion.

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 an audit tool was then developed 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.

The self-assessment audit was sent to 24 organisations and 16 completed and returned it, although two were returned after the report had been written, so were not included in the overall analysis.

Recommendations for the BCSSP from the audit included:

- seeking further assurance on organisational understanding of their responsibilities in relation to the Mental Capacity Act
- consider what further support the partnership can provide to assist organisations in embedding MCA principles and Best Interest Decision Making
- promote the Escalation Policy to partners and seek assurance that it has been shared
- promote the Persons in Positions of Trust (PiPoT) policy to partners and seek assurance that it has been shared
- develop and publish Professional Curiosity guidance

5. Multi-agency Training and Workforce Development

The BCSSP employs an Inter-Agency Safeguarding & Community Safety Trainer who is responsible for the development, and in many cases the delivery of courses. The BCSSP Trainer is managed by B&NES Organisational Development Business Partner who specialises in Safeguarding and Multi-agency training.

Where there is a need for specialist input the BCSSP Trainer 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.

Unfortunately, since October 2021 the BCSSP Trainer post has been vacant. Advertising the post was paused whilst a number of reviews were undertaken regarding potential BCSSP training delivery options and the cost implications and cost effectiveness of the proposed possibilities.

A decision was reached at the end of the financial year that the BCSSP programme will be funded for 2022- 2023 and consequently it is hoped that this post will be filled shortly on a fixed term contract.

Due to the trainer post being vacant for half of the year, there has been a greater reliance on working with external organisations to meet the core requirements of the programme. This increased use of external trainers created many opportunities but also lead to a number of challenges occurring throughout the period.

The absence of a BCSSP trainer required the training programme to be adapted as it was not possible to commission the number of courses that would ordinarily be provided. Consequently, priority was given to ensuring 'core' safeguarding courses were provided at regular intervals, alongside promoting other quality assured training events to the workforce. As well as needing to reduce the frequency of established courses there were several new learning events that had been developed that it has not yet been possible to launch.

The programme provided by the BCSSP resulted in the provision of 78 training sessions taking place which comprised of 25 different training topics. A further 7 courses were cancelled, 4 due to low numbers booked and 3 due to illness / personal circumstances of trainer.

Throughout the year there were 3 separate attempts to make some courses available in the physical world rather than online, however, these were stopped in response to changes in Covid restrictions. Further attempts have not yet been explored as being online has provided more scope and flexibility accessing external trainers.

From 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, the following has been achieved:

- 79 sessions comprising 27 different courses
- 1,381 Inter-agency training places made available
- 1,144 Inter-agency training places booked
- 1,008 Inter-agency training places attended
- 14 e-learning courses were made available
- evaluations were completed demonstrating the impact of the training

The BCSSP training and development programme is designed to help ensure the continuing development of all staff in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk and to keep our communities safe.

Bookings for course attendance were variable over the year with a number of courses oversubscribed and others receiving limited bookings despite these being regarded as essential courses. For example, two Mental Capacity Act courses had to be cancelled because the low numbers of bookings did not make the sessions viable; and Effective multi agency working in adult safeguarding needed to be made available to other local Authorities to increase numbers for the second course to be feasible.

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.

The increased level of working with external training organisations has led to many opportunities both practically and through an increased level of development and scrutiny. For example, the increase in commissioning of services enabled a greater level of negotiation to take place and additional technical support being provided. The addition of a pool of trainers allowed a variety of experience and expertise to be utilised with these trainers also providing objective scrutiny of course materials that were in use, with adaptations taking place as required. The use of external materials for some courses also enabled benchmarking exercises to take place regarding course depth and detail and use of techniques to engage different learning styles.

However, the reliance on external trainers has also presented some challenges with regards to meeting BCSSP training standards and quality assurance levels. On occasion feedback was received from some delegates who were dissatisfied with the level of knowledge held by the trainer about the subject area and course content, sharing that it fell below the standards usually provided on BCSSP courses. Equally some dissatisfaction has been received about the particular training styles of some external trainers, and sadly on one occasion the provider delivered the

incorrect course, delivering the initial course on the topic rather than the update.

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 will feel more confident about the support I offer parents and carers."

Youth Justice Officer (Exploitation working with Parents and Carers)

"I feel fully equipped to confidently make LADO referrals and understand the multi-agency response that may be required. I have finished the session with a much more rounded and complete understanding of the LADO role."

Safeguarding Officer (Police) (Managing Allegations)

"It was great to have the opportunity to discuss all areas of CP and Safeguarding in a non-judgemental, supportive and well-led group, with other professionals from a range of agencies."

Senior Outreach Worker (Advanced Update)

6. Key Performance Indicators

The BCSSP agreed the following performance indicators for partners for 2021-2022. 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%	81%
Relevant staff have undertaken Prevent awareness training	85%	88%
Relevant staff have undertaken FGM awareness training	80%	91%
Relevant staff have undertaken Domestic Abuse awareness training	80%	89%
Safeguarding leads have awareness of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking	100%	93%
Relevant staff have undertaken complex (toxic) trio awareness training	80%	90%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken self-neglect training	80%	98%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken MCA/DOLS training within 6 months of taking up post	90%	91%
(ADULT) New staff have undertaken safeguarding adult's awareness training within 3 months of starting in post	95%	92%
(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%	93%
(ADULT) Relevant staff have completed SA Level 3 training	90%	84%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection standard training	90%	94%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection advanced training	90%	84%
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken CSE awareness training	80%	86%
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%	96%

In line with last year, significant feedback continues to be received about individual preference regarding the practicalities of training delivery. The information gained continues to be conflicting with regards to the use of digital platforms and the preferred length of courses when using this method.

Some delegates have continued to share that they prefer learning online as it has stopped travel time, parking difficulties and allowed training to take place in their chosen environment, others shared that they remain anxious about IT, miss the physical connections provided in classroom training, and can be distracted by events taking place in their own environments.

Again, conflicting feedback has been received regarding the length of sessions. Shorter sessions seemed to work well for a number of learning events, and this still seems to be the case. However, the majority of 'core courses' have been lengthened in response to requests for more time to reflect on information and discuss issues with other delegates

In evaluating the training that has taken place over the last year and in consideration of the priorities determined by the BCSSP strategy the following will be the main Training and Development areas of focus:

- Recruit to the post of Inter-Agency Safeguarding & Community Safety Trainer
- Review the feedback loop from other BCSSP subgroups through to the Training and Development subgroup to ensure identified learning and development requirements are actioned.
- Refocus on development projects which have been paused this year.

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 task and finish group to monitor progress against review recommendations
- Invited the Training Manager to the group so that implementation of learning can be discussed
- Contributed to thematic work across B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire

The group has identified a number of priorities for 2022-2023, including, ensuring that learning is shared across the workforce and embedded to improve practice, focussing on

learning from drug related deaths, and ensuring the criteria for statutory and discretionary reviews is understood by all members.

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 2021-2022 it has:

- Developed a Domestic Abuse (DA) Act action plan
- Developed a proforma for providers to feedback to the subgroup each meeting
- Progressed a review of MARAC
- Implemented a task and finish group to review the RSVP perpetrator programme, including services provided and referral rates.

For 2022-2023, the subgroup has prioritised implementing the requirements of the DA Act and capturing the voice of lived experience. Initially, a case study will be heard at each meeting.

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 2021-2022, the subgroup has:

- Received presentations from Avon Fire & Rescue Service, Best Start in Life, Violence Reduction Unit, Bright Start Children's Centres, Narcolepsy
- Updated information on food poverty, early help assessments and bereavement services
- Shared knowledge on a wide range of topics for members to disseminate to colleagues
- Published the full all-age early intervention and prevention strategy document

For 2022-2023, the group has prioritised completion of a mapping exercise to look at emerging risks and identify gaps, a focus on sleep and its impact to raise awareness and consideration to the group of services available and continuing to embed an all age approach to the group and services available.

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.

Staff have remained committed and shown great perseverance and creativity in offering support to children and their families. There has been considerable focus on practical and emotional support in accessing education.

Achievements for 2021-2022 include:

- First cohort of staff have completed the Trauma Informed Practice Award
- A new Speech and Language Therapist has been inducted
- 2 YOS staff have been involved in the harmful Sexual Behaviour Training for CAMHS and Social Care staff
- Participated in the Violence Reduction Units Education Inclusion Support Project

Looking forward, the group will re-run the recruitment campaign for Youth Justice Worker and continue to work for a more diverse group of applicants, continue staff training in the Trauma Informed Practice Award and prepare a response to the Avon and Somerset Lammy report

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 2021-2022 include:

- Completed a Contextualised Safeguarding audit
- Incorporating the lived experience and invited a parent to speak at the group
- Agreed the development of an Extra Familial Harm pathways document
- Merging the Serious Youth Violence and Operational Exploitation Group to become the Partnership to Reduce Exploitation and Violence (PREV) group
- Created stronger links with the Vulnerable Communities Sub-group

Going forward, the subgroup wants to continue focussing on transitional safeguarding, review relevant policies and procedures, produce an exploitation dataset and complete actions arising from completed audits.

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 2021-2022, the subgroup has:

- received regular briefings and updates on rough sleeping, community triggers, hate crime and anti-social behaviour
- Sought assurance of multi-agency awareness of Prevent and counter terrorism issues in the South-West
- Reviewed and reassessed the Joint Community Safety plan
- Received updates on the resettlement of vulnerable refugees in B&NES
- Developed a piece of work relating to hoarding and fire safety

In 2022-2023, the subgroup intends to focus on securing greater representation across the 5 responsible bodies for community safety, ensuring there is wider understanding of this group being the Community Safety Partnership and holding the associated statutory responsibilities and ensuring its work streamlines with that of the Exploitation subgroup.

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.

In 2021-2022, the subgroup has:

- Completed a large-scale audit of the application of MCA within the Discharge to Assess process
- Monitored progression of the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards and will continue to do so
- Introduced a provider case study at each meeting to assist in capturing the lived experience

- Reviewed options for undertaking quality assurance of MCA assessments
- Hosted an MCA learning event
- Introduced a provider update proforma

Going forward, this group will prioritise understanding the MCA work required for young people transitioning into adult services and scoping the advocacy requirements as part of the Discharge to Assess process. The Safeguarding Adult Review notifications continue to feature concerns around MCA and Best interest Decision Making, the group will continue to develop this work and increase understanding across the workforce by working with Training and Development.

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.

In 2021–2022 the subgroup has:

- Remained focussed on developing a data scorecard reflective of B&NES requirements. To establish an improved data scorecard, a meeting of the data analysts from statutory partners was convened to review the data and review the frequency of the meetings with the aim that more frequent meetings would assist in achieving better outcomes.
- Reviewed the national report – The Myth of Invisible Men and associated actions for B&NES
- Ratified the revised children’s social care Threshold document
- Ratified the non-mobile child protocol

Going forward, the group will continue development of the data scorecard and analyse information received. It will also focus on the reviewing audits in line with the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

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 2021-2022, this subgroup has:

- Submitted a training model proposal to the Executive Group
- Reviewed training accessibility in relation to multi-agency CPD levels

- Supported the design and development of the Stop Adult Abuse Week campaign
- Reviewed methods of measuring effectiveness of training and its application in practice
- Reviewed learning from case reviews and how this can feed into future training courses

Its priorities for 2022-2023 are to develop webinars for Stop Adult Abuse Week and to support the BCSSP in recruiting a training coordinator. This will allow a refocus on development projects that have been paused pending recruitment

8. Reflecting on Partnership Achievements

During 2021-2022, the work of the partnership continued to be 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 pandemic.

Within its previous Annual Report, the Partnership its key priorities for 2021-2022:

What we said we would do	What we did
Develop a 'Think Family, Think Community' approach	Ensured every sub-group has an all-age agenda
	Sought assurance from domestic abuse service providers that they are recovery focussed
	Supported the delivery of a domestic abuse perpetrator 'changing behaviours' programme (RSVP)
	In response to national learning and local learning from practice reviews relating to pre-birth to 1 year old, we have established a B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire project group
Learning from experience to improve how we work	Developed a standard learning briefing to be shared and published alongside each SAR and CSPR
	Developed a standard format for presenting and sharing audit findings
	Sought assurance from organisations of how learning is shared with and applied by their workforce
	Incorporated the voice of lived experience into subgroups in the form of case studies and guest speakers
Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention	Held an MCA learning event
	We have developed an all age prevention and early intervention strategy
	We have undertaken an Exploitation audit and are actioning the recommendations
	Our 'Prevent' duties are a standing agenda item within the Vulnerable Communities subgroup
Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership	We have made 'contextualised safeguarding' a priority focus and initiated a Partnership to Reduce Exploitation and Violence (PREV)
	Our Independent Chair chairs both the Executive Group and Operational Group providing consistency of leadership and scrutiny
	The BCSSP Risk Register has been reviewed and updating to maintain currency
	The Executive agenda has increasingly been developed by its members, giving broader oversight of multi-agency concerns, learning and good practice.

9. Our Commitments for 2022-2023

The BCSSP reviewed its performance for 2021-2022 and is firmly committed to working in partnership to achieve the objectives as set out in the 2021-2024 strategic plan. Based on feedback, learning and analysis of strengths and areas for development, the following commitments were agreed for the 3-year period.

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 -Trends

Fig 1. Referrals to Children's Social Care

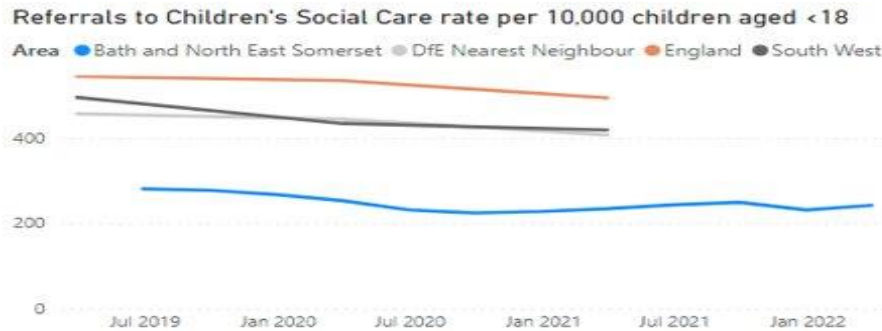


Fig 2. Children Subject to Open Child Protection Plans

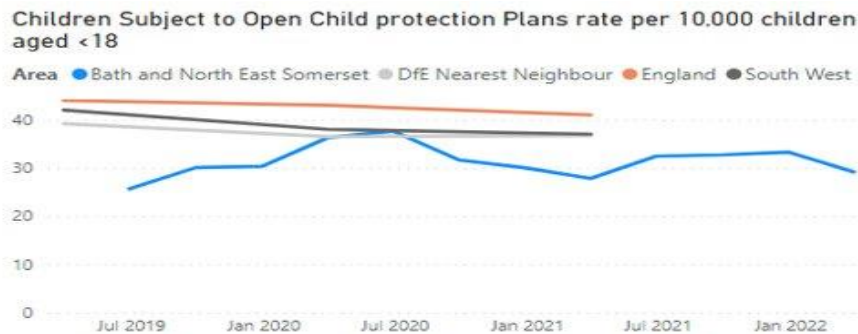
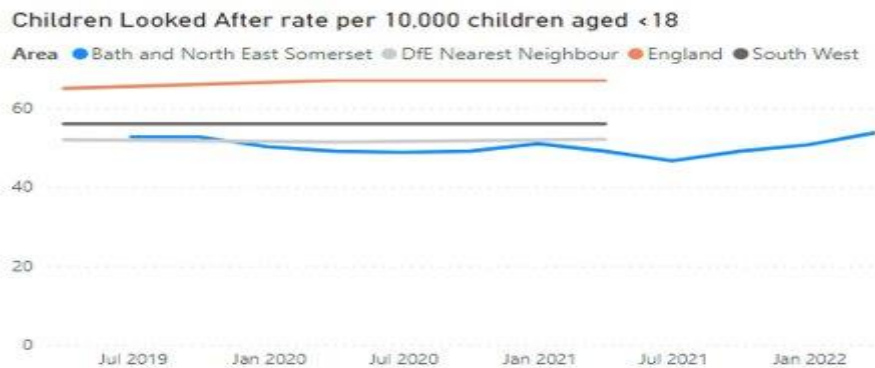
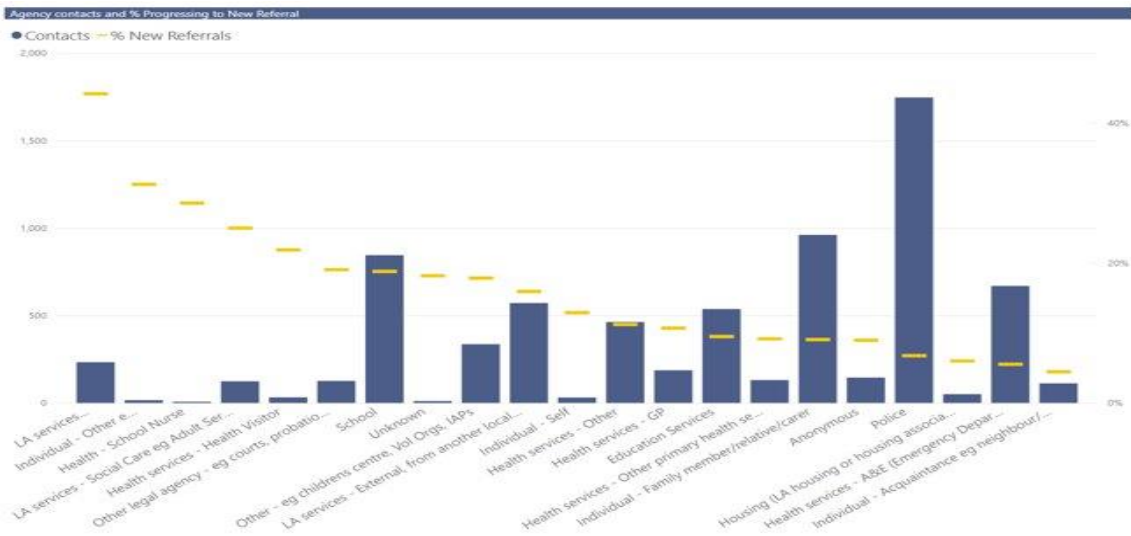


Fig 3. Children Looked After



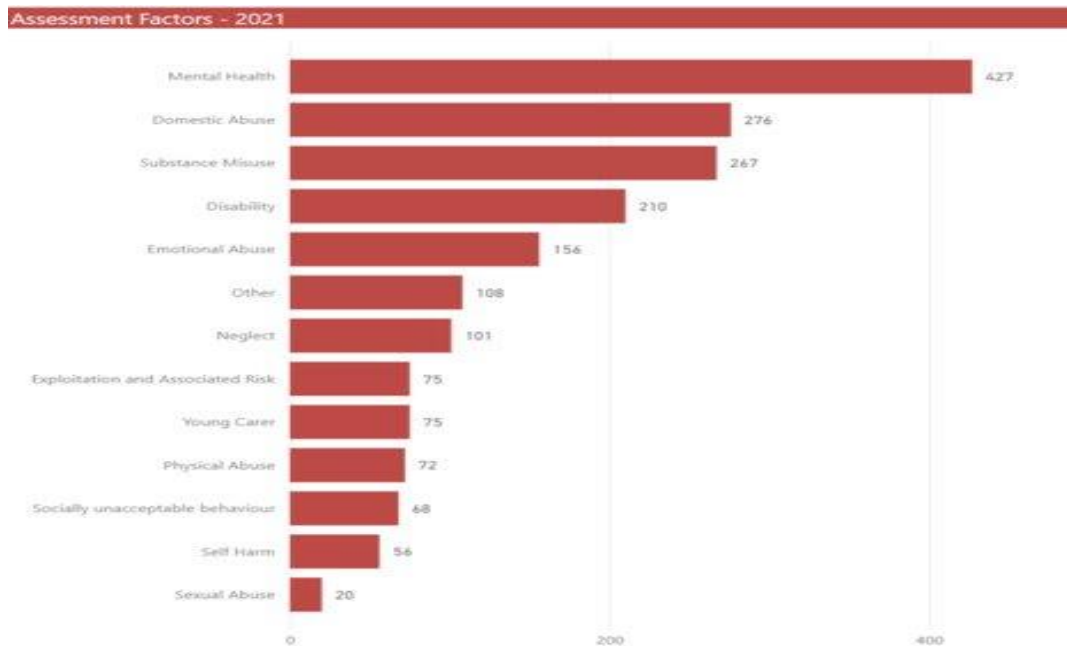
- Referral rates have remained low compared to other local areas and national rates. This can in part be attributed to a sustained focus on ensuring cases are referred into Early Help Services. Threshold audits continue to demonstrate that need is being effectively identified.
- Child Protection Plan rates are subject to fluctuation in part due to the relatively small cohort size, between 93 (Q1 19/20) and 138 (Q1 20/21) however, rates track slightly below those for national and comparator areas.
- Looked After Children rates have remained stable for several years, however pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns have increased the complexity of cases. More recent increases in numbers are associated with an increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, a pattern which is expected to be repeated nationally.

Fig 4. Agency Contacts and % Progressing to New Referrals



- The principal referrers to social care in 2021/2 were the Police, individuals, schools and internal local authority services
- A significant number of referrals continue to result in No Further Action (55% in Q4).

Fig 5. Children Social Care- Need and Risk Factors



- Assessment factors are captured at the point at which a child reaches the threshold for social care involvement.
- Multiple factors can be identified per case. Therefore, the chart presented relates to the number of children with each individual factor identified.
- As has remained a consistent trend over time, mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse are the most common factors recorded, with 50% of cases recording one or more of these factors. This remains consistent with the findings of the Munro review in 2011.

Child Protection

Fig 6. Number of plans open at quarter end

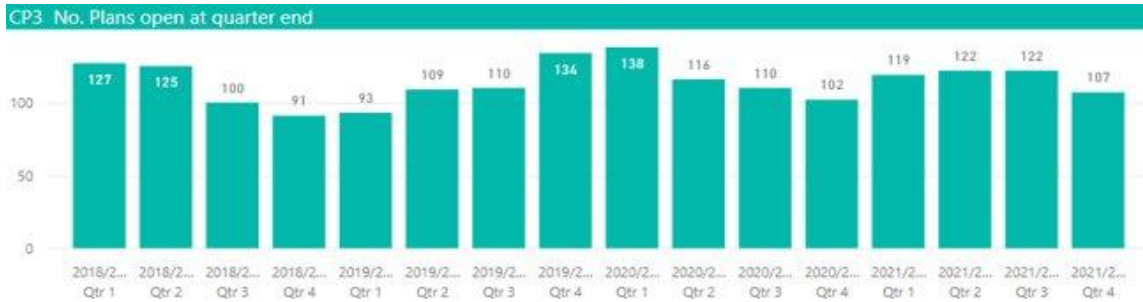
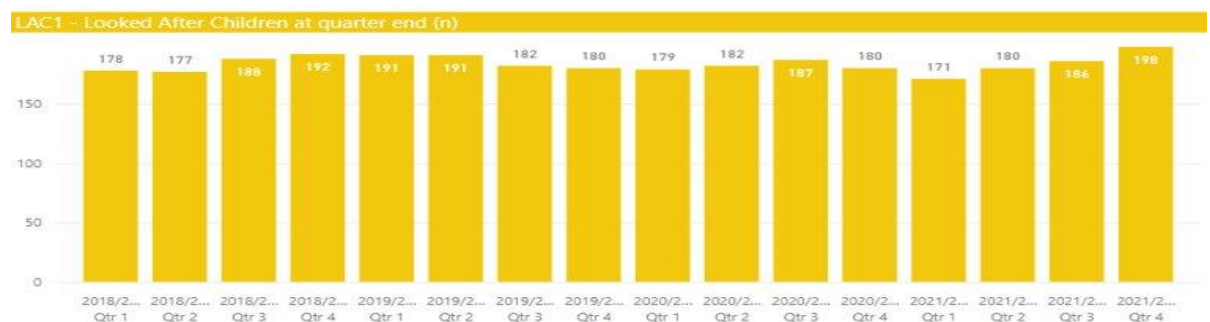


Fig 7. Category of Abuse



- The numbers of children subject to a child protection plan has decreased and Children’s Social Care take a view that this is linked to the new practice framework and the relationships they are forming with families. A more detailed piece of work is being undertaken in relation to this to offer further reassurance in this area.
- 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.

Fig 8. Children in Care



Children Looked After Numbers are consistent and remained so over considerable time. The measures put in place to scrutinise requests for new episodes of care continue to be robust. Placement stability remains consistently high. The increase of 7 children in Q3 relates to a sibling group of 7.

Fig 9. Social Care Contact Reasons for Direct Exploitation

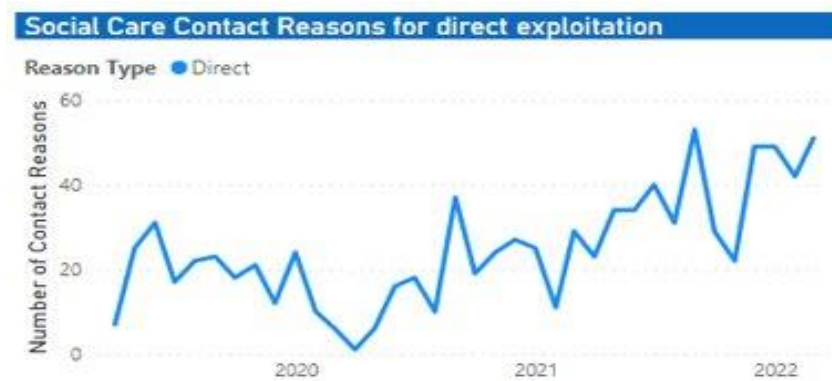


Fig 10. Children known to Social Care with an Exploitation Risk

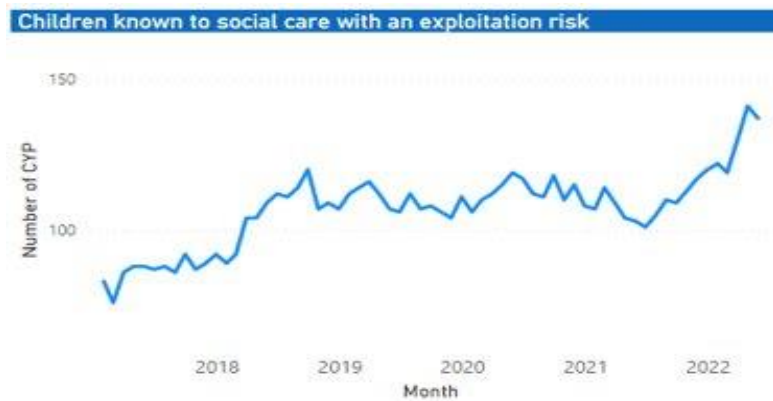


Fig 11. Demographics of Children known to Social Care for Exploitation

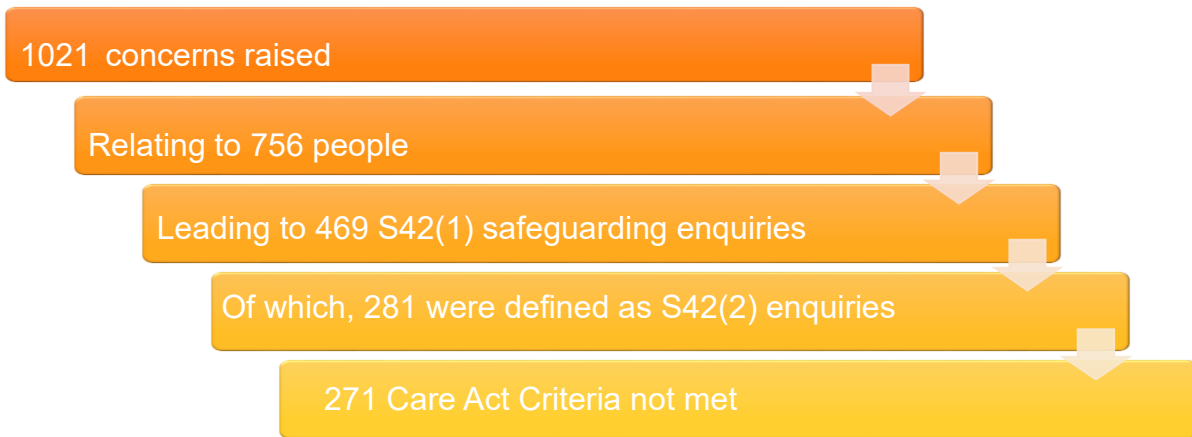


- The Children’s Social Care service records exploitation risk (both criminal and sexual) as part of both contact reasons and in case management
- There has been a general increase in both contacts to children’s social care relating to and children known to social care with an exploitation risk
- Young women and girls are slightly more likely to be experiencing exploitation risk
- Exploitation risk is more common amongst late teens

10.2 Adult Social Care Data

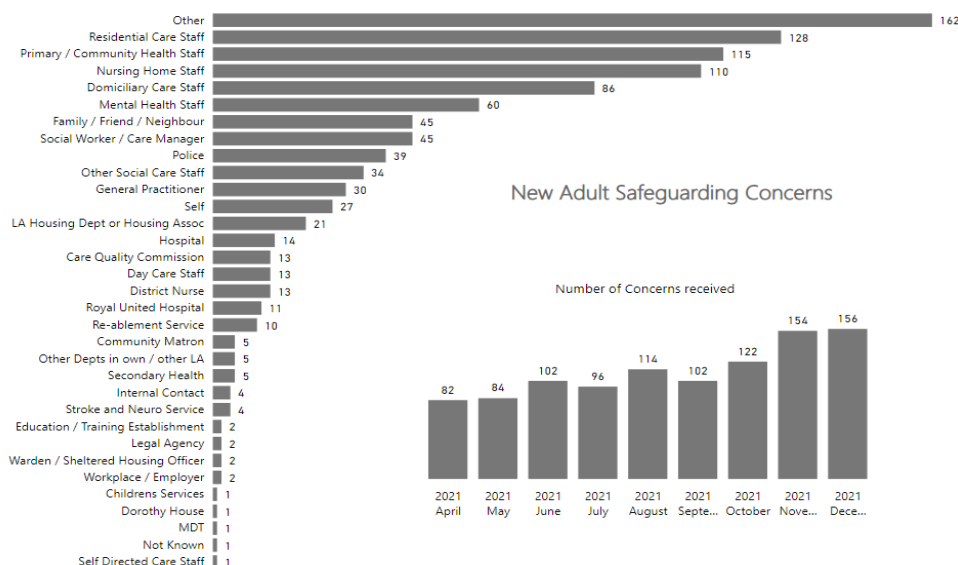
The analysis undertaken in this section has used the information provided by B&NES Council for reporting done for the Partnership Board for the period Q1-Q3 of 2021-2022. Due to changes in process and managers, Q4 data is not currently available, but once it has been submitted to the National Safeguarding Adults Collection data published by NHS Digital, it will be shared with the BCSSP Quality & Performance subgroup.

For 2021/22 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 April – December 2021, 1021 concerns were raised relating to 756 people. The organisations reporting the highest number of concerns are residential care settings. Reporting under ‘other’ continues to be high and consideration is being given to altering this option for 2022-2023.

Agency Reporting Concern



New Adult Safeguarding Concerns



Date of Concern

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

Number of Concerns (ytd)

1012

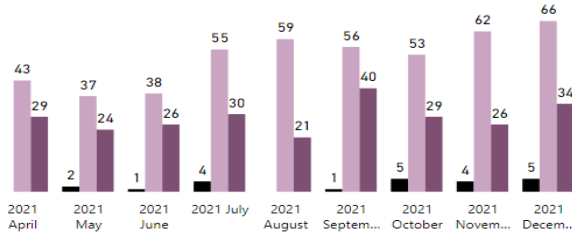
Individuals with a Concern (ytd)

756

New Adult Safeguarding Enquiries

Type of enquiries started

● Blank ● S42(1) ● S42(2)



Enquiry Start Date

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

Number of S42 (2) inc. Other (ytd)

281

Number of S42 (1) (ytd)

469

Individuals with a S42 (2) (ytd)

247

Individuals with a S42 (1) (ytd)

386

Number of S42 (2) only (ytd)

253

Number of S42 (2) Other only (ytd)

28

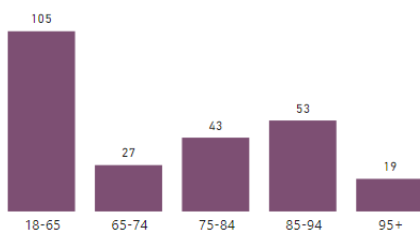
Of the 1021 concerns, 281 have progressed into the S42 (2) enquiry process. This is a conversion rate of 28% which is consistent with last year's reporting.

The reporting this year also shows the S42 (1) concerns which relate to concerns that fit the Care Act description, but where it is felt that alternative actions can be set that will address the concern without a need for a S42 (2) enquiry. Actions are monitored by the Council Safeguarding Team and are not closed until confirmation is received that all actions are completed. To date 469 concerns have been supported in this way.

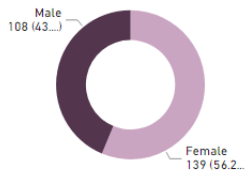
The remaining concerns received have not met the Care Act criteria and therefore have not requires safeguarding actions. There have been 271 of these contacts received. The Council Team are monitoring these referrals to see if there are organisations or types of issues that are reported but do not meet the Care Act criteria.

S42 (2) Details

Individuals with an enquiry, by age group



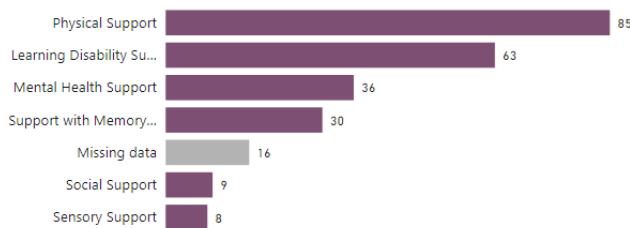
Individuals with an enquiry, by gender



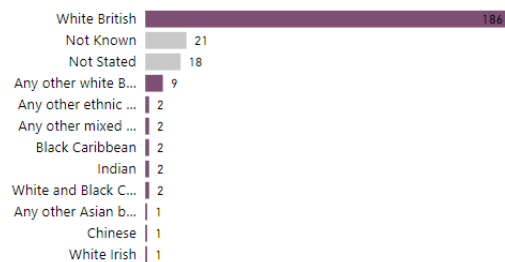
Enquiry Start Date

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

Individuals with an enquiry, by PSR



Individuals with an enquiry, by ethnicity



Safeguarding – Primary Support Reason

There has been an increase in the reported number of people with a physical disability in the last quarter.

Recording ethnicity remains an ongoing concern which is being reviewed across the BCSSP.

Safeguarding in Care Settings

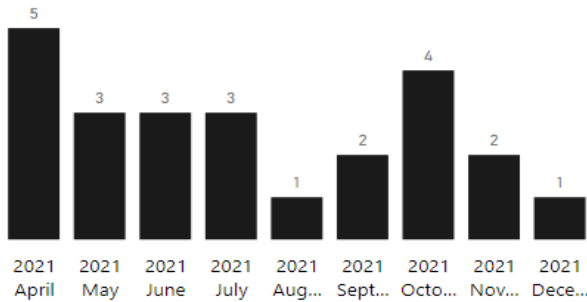
24 concerns have been raised regarding people funded by B&NES in setting outside of the Local Authority Area

491 concerns have been raised regarding a care home (residential or Nursing).

The number of people who are funded by other Local Authorities but have safeguarding concerns raised in B&NES as the safeguarding matter occurred in our area is not captured in the reporting but the Safeguarding Team have noted an increase in referrals in relation to people in LD settings and being discharged from hospital.

New cases with care homes and other LAs

Concerns involving adults placed with another LA



New concerns involving adults placed with another LA

24

New concerns involving a Care Home

491

New enquiries involving a Car...

400

Date of concern (Care Homes)

Date of concern (Other LA)

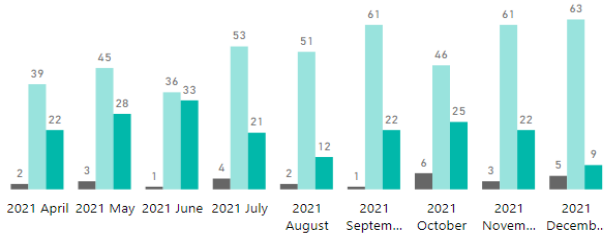
Closed Enquiries

Of the enquiries closed during the year to date, the alleged person responsible is primarily a social care and health staff member. This links to the level of care home concerns that are received and progress into the enquiry process.

Neglect continues to be the type of abuse most frequently identified during the safeguarding process.

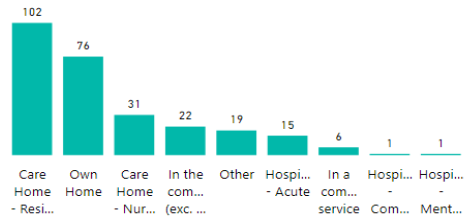
Closed Enquiries

S42_Type ● Blank ● S42(1) ● S42(2)

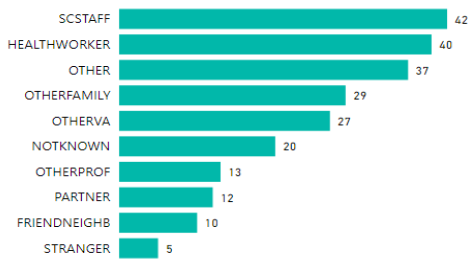


Closed Safeguarding Enquiries

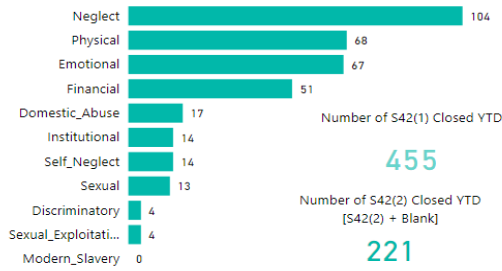
S42(2) - Location of Alleged Abuse



S42(2) - Alleged Perpetrators



S42(2) - Alleged Abuse Types



End Date of Enquiries

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

End Date for Location

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

End Date for Abuse Type

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

Safeguarding Outcomes

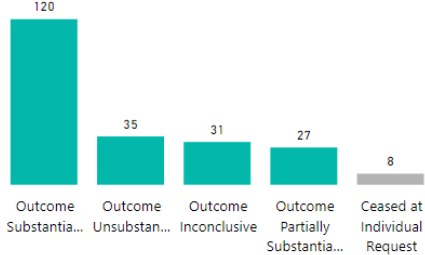
Where the desired outcomes of the person are known, they said in 54% of enquiries that the outcomes had been fully achieved, 44% were partly achieved and 2% felt that their outcomes had not been achieved.

In 71% of enquiries the level of risk experienced by the person is reduced during the safeguarding process.

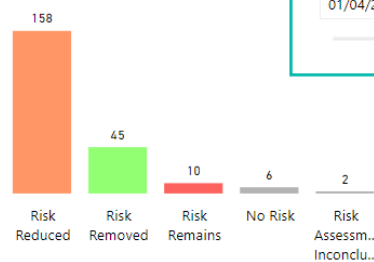
B&NES will no longer be reporting on outcomes as substantiated and not substantiated after this financial year. These terms are no longer used in the national reporting, where the focus is now on risk outcomes and the person's outcomes.

Outcomes of Closed S42(2) Enquiries

Outcome



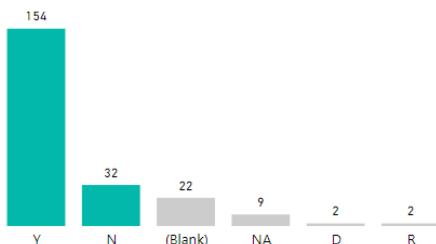
Impact on Risk



End Date of Enquiry

01/04/2021 31/12/2021

Were the desired outcomes of the adult at risk known



When the desired outcomes of the adult at risk were known, were they achieved



Safeguarding Performance

Performance against the Board’s indicators remains high. 100% of decisions are made within 4 days of the concern being raised with social care.

The performance for planning meetings is currently at 100% but there are a number of blanks – where the reporting on this indicator is awaited so this performance is likely to reduce slightly when this data is included.

The performance in the next quarterly report is anticipated to be lower due to pressures in the social care teams due to sick leave and staff vacancies.



10.3 Avon & Somerset Constabulary Data

The data covers the period 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022 and provides data for the period 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021 for comparison.

Child Protection

The “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), 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.

Fig 1. shows that the volume of recorded “Child Protection” crimes rose by 45.3%, or by 105 crimes, in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months, rising to 327 crimes. The 45.3% rise in B&NES is above the 29.8% increase experienced across the force area as a whole. The recorded increases in these offences can reasonably be attributed, at least in part, to the increased contact th

professionals have had with children as measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the population were eased and removed, which enabled increased recognition of child abuse concerns and increased reporting to Children’s Social Care and the police. National reports suggest that lockdown measures increased the risk of abuse to some children, and reduced the risk to others, by changing the degree of access perpetrators had to children and the presence of protective factors which reduce the risk of abuse. Over the decade prior to COVID-19, the long-term trend was one of increasing recorded Child Abuse offences and it is difficult to determine the extent to which the increase in the volume of recorded “Child Protection” crimes reported here also reflects wider influences, and indeed whether there might be an increase in prevalence.

Within that broad measure, there were increases in recorded offences: recorded Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences rose by 48.5% (or by 32 crimes); non-familial sexual offences against children rose by 51.6% (or by 47 crimes); and child neglect offences rose by 45.1% (or by 23 crimes). The rate of increase recorded in B&NES for the first 2 groups of offences were below those recorded for the force area as a whole. The rate of increase for child neglect offences was well above the force-wide average increase of 30.2%.

Fig 1. Child Protection

Child Protection	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	337	232	+105	+45.3%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	98	66	+32	+48.5%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	138	91	+47	+51.6%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children	74	51	+23	+45.1%

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a Home Office “offence type” and CSE offending is made up of a wide range of offences. As reported last quarter, the data in the attached report concerning the change in the number of CSE crimes should currently be disregarded. This is due to changes made to the way in which the CSE flag is attached to qualifying offences on police systems, in order to improve accuracy. The Constabulary introduced an automated process for newly recorded offences in October 2021, and also applied this retrospectively to offences dating back to 1 October 2020. It will be October 2022 before 12 month rolling data can be more accurately compared with data for the previous 12 months.

Fig 2. Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	200	90	+110	+122.2%

The overall number of child victims of crimes rose by 225 victims to 738 victims in the last 12 months, or by 43.9% compared with the previous 12 months. This is above the 37.1% rise recorded across the force area as a whole. The number of child suspects of crimes in the last 12 months rose by 44.6% to 493 child suspects. This is above the 31.6% rise experienced across the force area as a whole.

The number of recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes with a victim aged 16 or 17 fell by 7 crimes to 31 crimes in the last 12 months. Whilst recognising that the number fell by just 7 crimes, this represents an 18.4% fall, and contrasts with the 14.9% increase recorded across the force area as a whole.

The percentage increase in the number of child victims of recorded Race Hate Crimes should be disregarded as the numbers are so small. The under reporting of all forms of Hate Crime is a significant issue and the prevalence will be far greater than is indicated by the number of child victims of recorded offences.

Fig 3. Safety & Anti-Bullying

Safety and Anti-Bullying	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	493	341	+152	+44.6%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	1121	1185	-64	-5.4%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	1836	1708	+128	+7.5%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17	31	38	-7	-18.4%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	738	513	+225	+43.9%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	19	15	+4	+26.7%

Missing Children

59 children were reported missing in B&NES in the reporting period, 14 fewer than in the previous 12 months. 30 of these children were reported missing repeatedly, 7 fewer children than were reported missing repeatedly in the previous 12 months. Together, the fall in the number of missing children and in the number who went missing repeatedly resulted in 13 fewer missing children reports in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months, a fall of 10.1%.

The number of children missing from care increased by 2 children to 9 children in the last 12 months. The number of children repeatedly going missing from care was also very low, with just 3 children having done so in the last 12 months. The numbers of children going missing, from care especially, are small and no meaningful comparison can therefore be made with percentage changes across with the force area as a whole.

Fig 4. Missing Children

Missing Children	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	59	73	-14	-19.2%
Number of Missing Children Reports	116	129	-13	-10.1%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	30	37	-7	-18.9%
Number of Children Missing from Care	9	7	+2	+28.6%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	3	2	1	+50.0%

Initial Child Protection Conferences

The Police were invited to 15 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) in B&NES in the fourth quarter of 2021/22 and attended all 15. The Police attendance rate at ICPCs through 2021/22 was 100%, with the police attending all 70 ICPCs.

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 320 occasions in the last 12 months, compared with 139 occasions in the previous 12 months. It is possible that a contributory factor to this increase is additional awareness of the powers by frontline officers as a result of officer briefings and the creation of new recording templates within the Constabulary crime and incident recording system, Niche. However, the Constabulary is aware that the use of police protection powers is increasing as children and young people are continuing to struggle with existing care or family placements. The Constabulary has raised this issue at the Avon & Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership where agreement was reached to set up a Task and Finish Group. Case audits have found that in cases where police



protection powers were used, their use was necessary, and that in each audited case they were used appropriately.

The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues, whereby 20 records in the last 12 months were not linked to a beat code. There are 11 records of the use of these powers linked to beat codes in B&NES in the last 12 months, compared with 3 records in the previous 12 months.

Children in Custody

In the last 12 months, 38 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address was in B&NES, were arrested and brought into custody, none of whom were charged and detained. Of these 38 children and young people, 11 were arrested and brought into custody in the fourth quarter of 2021/22.

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