

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



**Annual Report
Executive Summary
2021-2022**

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

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

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

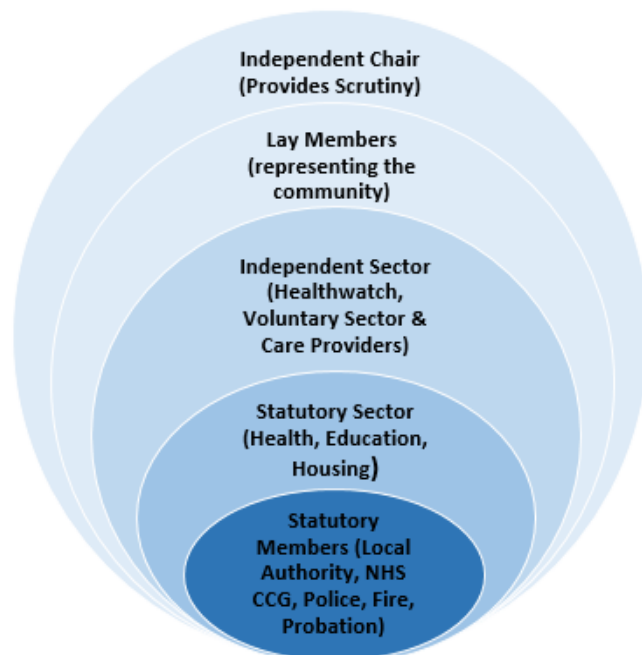


It was developed in affiliation with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and Responsible Authorities Group and meets the statutory requirements of these three Boards which it replaced.

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

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

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



Our Statutory Duties

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

Community Safety:

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

Safeguarding Children:

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

Safeguarding Adults:

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

Partnership Structure

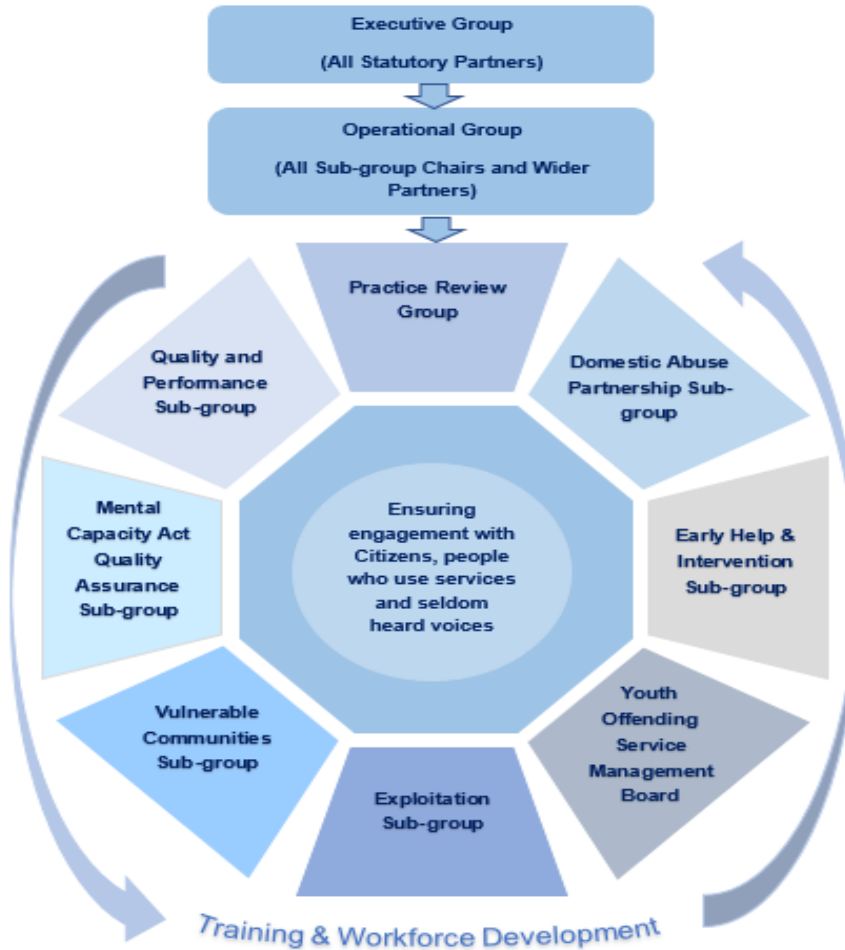
The Partnership is comprised of an Executive Group, Operational Group and nine thematic subgroups. Each subgroup develops its own workplan designed to progress the commitments within the BCSSP Strategic Plan. For 2021-2022, the BCSSP was working towards completing priorities identified in its 2021-2024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

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

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

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The BCSSP Safeguarding Adult Reviews are managed through the Practice Review Group. During the period covered by this report, four referrals for SARs were received, of which one met the SAR criteria, one is hold pending the outcome of a drug related death review and one is on hold pending the outcome of a Section 42 enquiry. One did not meet the criteria for a statutory review.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

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

Quality Assurance

Statutory audits.

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

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.

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. There were significant delays in responses received this year and a few establishments that did not return a completed audit. This will be addressed.

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

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 organisation took part in the exercise.

Training and Workforce Development

During 2021-2022, the training programme has remained flexible and the number of sessions and courses has increased, has as the number of places booked and attended based on previous years figures.

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 elearning courses were made available
- evaluations were completed demonstrating the impact of the training



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.

Evaluation & Quality Assurance

Training evaluation has evidenced:

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

Partnership Achievements

During 2021-2022, the work of the partnership was impacted by the Coronavirus Public Health Crisis, and whilst it continued to carry out its statutory duties, it was cognisant of the pressure on its members who essentially needed to focus on their services response to the crisis.

Within its previous Annual Report, the Partnership identified ten key priorities for 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.