Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

Annual Report

2022-2023

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1. Welcome from Fiona Field, the Independent Chair of the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2022-2023 for BCSSP. I am the new Chair for BCSSP having taken up the role in January 2023. I am delighted to be writing the forward to this report looking back over the past 12 months.

Firstly, I would like to thank Sian Walker, the previous Chair, for all her hard work and championing the safeguarding and community safety issues locally. Sian is a well respected Chair in several areas of the country and I know she found the partnerships in BCSSP to be very strong, with the partners always wanting to improve local services to ensure people are kept as safe as possible. Sian also saw the formation of the unique integrated approach to both safeguarding children and adults and community safety through the BSCCP Board that she chaired.

In June 2022, an independent review of these integrated arrangements was held as agreed with all the partners. The results of this review were shared in September, positive outcomes were identified, as well as areas to improve or change in order to ensure that community safety issues were prioritised alongside safeguarding, in forthcoming years. This review formed the basis of the BCSSP Board coming together in 2023, with myself as the new Chair, to plan some changes to both the structure of the Board and the sub groups, and also to consider our priorities over the following 3 year strategic plan. This work is on going in 2023.

Looking back over the past 12 months, there have been 3 safeguarding adult reviews (SARs) published, no children's reviews and no domestic homicide reviews. Whilst there may not be agreement to a formal review being undertaken, there is always detailed discussion in the sub group of BCSSP in order to establish whether a review is necessary or not – the purpose always being to identify lessons and change practice or services in order to prevent a similar event from happening again. There is strong partnership working in evidence in the Practice Review sub group, with challenge across partners in order to ensure the correct decision is reached. I have questioned why we have not had any domestic homicide reviews for some time- this is being followed up at a local level in order to ensure we examine circumstances in families where domestic abuse was known to be an issue.

Training and workforce development is a key element of a partnership Board, the past 12 months has seen a reduction in the number of, and breadth of opportunities locally for staff to learn together. Primarily this was due to the loss of an identified lead trainer; however, I am pleased that this post has been replaced in April 2023 so new plans are in place to deliver a greater number of opportunities again. Despite the loss of the lead for most of the year, safeguarding was still given priority as a learning need across the partners.

Section 7 of this report highlights the work of the sub groups of BCSSP in 2022-2023 and I would like to thank all partners for their input into these groups. We are reviewing all the groups in 2023 in order to create some capacity, recognising the current pressure on staff. As a statutory partnership, we need to ensure that we meet our responsibilities and work is shared fairly and equitably across the local organisations. Again, this will form part of our own reorganisation of BCSSP in 2023.

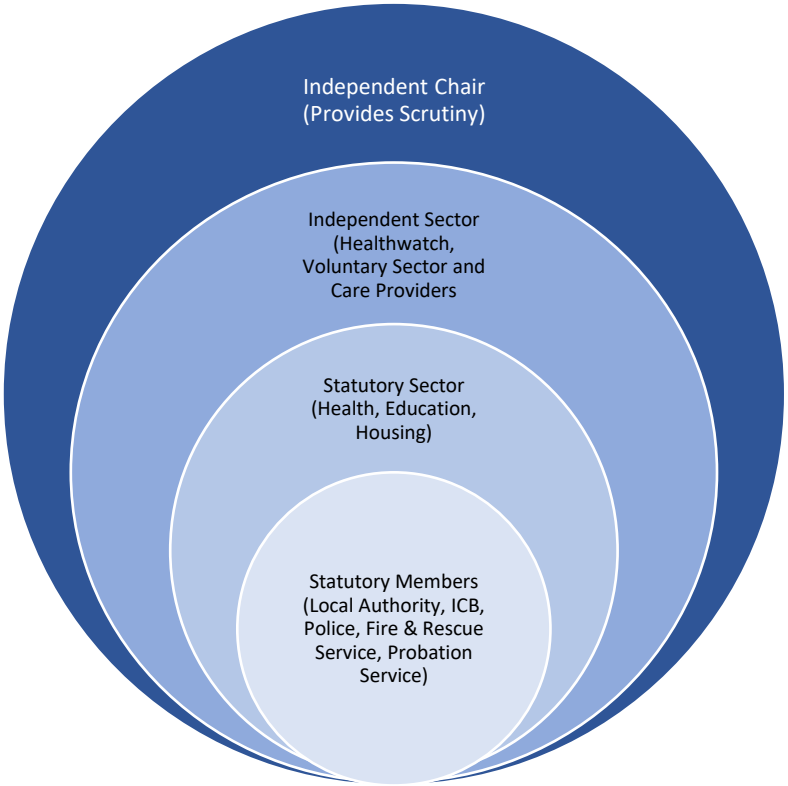
Appendix 10 demonstrates the data across our statutory partners for the activity in safeguarding children and adults as well as police data for missing and exploitation of young people. The numbers continue to rise for safeguarding both children and adults. Although this can be read as a "bad thing", I also see this as a positive message - in that more people are aware of the need to "do something" about a concern they have for a child or vulnerable adult, so they make a referral expressing their concern. This can then trigger an assessment of need and prevent further escalation of a difficult situation leading to possible harm.

I hope you find the report interesting and informative, especially as we have included some case studies of people living in our area who have been supported by local services. I recommend this report to you.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 three Safeguarding Adult Reviews and work has been taking place on commissioned reviews due for publication in 2023-2024.

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. Four serious incident notifications have been received for consideration by the BCSSP between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. A Rapid Review was deemed appropriate for each notification and a local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) recommended in three of the cases. At the time of writing this report, one case is awaiting a publication date, one is still being written and the third has been sent to national panel, with the recommendation for a CSPR. Partners have shown significant commitment to ensure the notifications were reviewed and required report completed to a high standard and within timescale.

Key learning identified from the reviews included:

- The need for a clear pathway and threshold for information sharing around safeguarding and extended services
- The need to ensure fathers are engaged and supported
- Health recording systems include an holistic assessment of a child's needs which includes contextual maternal and paternal family factors.

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, three SAR reports have been ratified (Cooper, Angus and Levi), five referrals for SARs were received, of which two met the SAR criteria and will be progressed in 2023-2024, two are still under consideration. One did not meet the criteria and it was agreed a learning briefing would be produced about Korsakoff Syndrome.

Adult 'Cooper'

Cooper was 71 years old at the time of his death. He had a learning disability and had lived in residential care homes for a number of years. Cooper was admitted to hospital a little over a week after the first Covid-19 lockdown began. He was not tested for Covid-19 at the time of discharge back to the care home, but this was consistent with practice at the time. An assessment of needs to inform the discharge destination was incomplete, but 'Discharge to Assess' arrangements had recently been introduced. Cooper was isolated for 14 days following discharge, which was necessary, but may have adversely

affected his already low mood and emotional wellbeing. His daily routine was also disrupted by restrictions introduced during lockdown.

Key learning from this review included:

- The impact of Covid-19 on service provision
- Mental Capacity Act Assessments and Best Interest Decisions are appropriately recorded
- consider consulting with adults with learning disabilities and organisations which support them over how effectively adults with learning disabilities feel that professionals communicate with them

Adult 'Angus'

Angus was a divorced man with two sons, with whom he had little contact. For a number of years, Angus was supported by his niece, but this support declined due to his niece's own commitments. He had a history of chronic alcohol abuse and presented with signs of self-neglect. He had a diagnosed cognitive impairment and had been resident in a care home under a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS) in 2019. Angus returned to living in the community with a support package but a pattern of self-neglect, alcohol abuse and regular falls in his home followed. Angus developed an infected leg and pressure sores. Angus died as a hospital inpatient, aged 72

Key learning from this review included:

- Reviewing Best Interest Decisions in light of emerging risks
- When making best interest decisions for those who lack capacity, others close to that person or an independent advocate should be consulted
- Adhering to the self-neglect policy

Adult 'Levi'

Levi died unexpectedly in November 2019 following a cardiac arrest. He was age 36 years old at the time of his death. He left family including his mother, who was involved in his support, and a sister. He also had children with whom contact was variable over the years. He was of Black Caribbean heritage.
Levi had been known to mental health services intermittently since 2007. He had care and support needs arising from his mental health challenges. The Coroner's Report states that the cause of death was accidental overdose, likely triggered by a previously unknown underlying health condition.

Learning from this review included:

- Identification of those service users who are "hardest to reach" and on supporting and enabling front-line staff to be effective in working with individuals who live chaotic lifestyles and/or are self-neglecting
- Race and culture in the world of mental health
- Concerns of Cuckooing and professionals response

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.*

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

Case Study:

Case study from the Adolescent and Child Exploitation (ACE) Team

The ACE team receive concerns about a number of younger people in the B&NES area. One example of this is when they were notified about a 13 year old male and his 13 year old girlfriend who were felt to be at risk from an older peer group who resided outside of the B&NES area.

The ACE team were allocated this case and conducted an assessment of the concerns, identifying the needs of the individuals involved. The concerns escalated quickly and were mainly focussed on Anti-social behaviour in the city centre and the increased risk of exploitation.

The police reported that the older group were accessing the homes of the younger children and this was also having an impact on the parents. The group were accessing the females house and focus on this established that the female was at risk both inside and outside of the home, and was placed on a Child Protection Plan.

The males mother reported that the group were also breaking into her home and staying in the garage. She was concerned for her sons safety and allowed further monitoring of this situation.

Multi-agency meetings were convened including relevant agencies from across 3 local authority areas, who all reviewed the young people involved from their respective areas and each child was put on an individual plan to reduce the risks. This included supporting them back into education, reviewing ASD needs and supporting parental involvement.

3 months on, and the risks had reduced greatly. The children are all still being supported, but the multi-agency early intervention has effectively reduced the risks in this situation.

4. Multi-agency Quality Assurance

Section 11 Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range or 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.

B&NES chose to hold workshops for Children's Social Care, DHI and AWP. Key professionals from each organisation were invited as well as senior safeguarding staff and managers.

The specific areas the audit focussed on were:

- Safeguarding Structure
- Learning and Development
- 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 84 education establishments and considered responses were received from 78 of them, a 93% return rate. This is a reduction on 2021-2022 (95%), and previous years when a 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.

Responses did show that there have been improvements on last years responses across all criteria. 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 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.

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 Multiagency 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.

Regrettably since October 2021 the BCSSP Inter-Agency Safeguarding & Community Safety Trainer post has been vacant. The post was initially paused for a period of seven months to enable several reviews to take place regarding training delivery options available to the BCSSP. These reviews explored different models, the cost implications and cost effectiveness of the proposals and the potential outcomes for the workforce on adopting the different options. At the beginning of this financial year it was agreed that the training programme would be funded for 12 months and the recruitment process was undertaken, unfortunately without success. Extended funding was secured and a trainer was appointed to join the partnership at the end of April 2023 on a fixed term contract.

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.

This year it was possible to reintroduce a number of training sessions back into the 'classroom', unfortunately this has not been at the initial pace envisaged due to practical issues relating to venue availability and also a number of external trainers being situated outside of the local area. However, following feedback received from delegates it was planned that many courses would remain

online to provide flexibility and meet the evolving needs of the workforce.

From 1st April 2022 – 31st 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

It is regrettable that five courses needed to be cancelled this year due to low numbers of bookings, and in response the session content or format has been adapted to meet the presenting needs of the workforce and ensure necessary information and guidance remained available.

Work undertaken with neighbouring authorities has highlighted that low attendance appears to be a theme in relation to a number of subjects and consequently exploration is taking place about how these topics can be offered multi regionally going forward.

Evaluation & Quality Assurance

To evaluate the effectiveness of BCSSP training a variety of methods were employed to achieve four goals:

- Ensure the learning outcomes for each course are met, and reflect evidence based 'best practice'.
- Ensure the continual evaluation to confirm courses are meeting the needs of staff, with transparent overview and accountability to the Training and Development sub group.
- 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 ongoing working with external training organisations has continued to allow additional layers of quality assurance to take place, with a wider pool of trainers being utilised to assess course content and the benefit of information and practical tools back into practice. Additionally, this year a number of peer reviews of courses have taken place across organisations and authorities to enable benchmarking exercises to take place regarding course depth and detail.

However, the reliance on external trainers or utilising national training events has caused some challenges. Occasionally feedback has raised that the trainers lack of knowledge about specific issues relating to B&NES or B&NES processes and procedures has weakened debates about current issues. Action has been taken to mitigate this issue as much as possible through pre meets with trainers, using local cases and learning and ensuring delegates are provided information signposting them to local supports and relevant agencies.

In line with last year, significant feedback was received about individual preference regarding the practicalities of training delivery. The information gained continued to be conflicting with regards to the use of digital platforms and the preferred length of courses when using this method. The requirement of independent study alongside some learning events has also continued to receive a conflicting response. Some delegates have shared that they appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the information gained in the session before

building on this knowledge with the activities set. Other delegates have advised that they find it challenging to find time in their diary to undertake the necessary work and would find it easier for all learning to be trainer led; with the length of the session being extended.

This year's programme has tried to offer as varied programme as possible with regard to implementing a blended approach to learning, with e-learning, webinars, conferences, videos, online training and classroom based sessions all being made available. Additionally, variation of course timings has been provided. It is hoped that going forward there will be more scope to record some sessions and thus make them available to members of the workforce who have limited opportunities to join daytime events.

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.
- 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.

Examples of delegate feedback:

"I am pleased to be able to report that the knowledge gained was used immediately the following day. …... I felt more confident because of my training which aided my communications with the person at the centre of the concerns raised."

Team Manager (Adult Exploitation)

"I have more confidence in my decision making and feeling that I can add value to discussions around safeguarding and child protection."

Key Worker (Introduction to Child Protection)

"Good to discuss issues and challenges relating to multi-agency work as well as the opportunity to reflect on my own current practises and how these can be refined to support children and young families."

Detective Constable (Advanced Update)

6. Key Performance Indicators

The BCSSP agreed the following performance indicators for partners for 2022-2023. 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%**	**75%**
Relevant staff have undertaken Prevent awareness training	**85%**	**74%**
Relevant staff have undertaken FGM awareness training	**80%**	**69%**
Relevant staff have undertaken Domestic Abuse awareness training	**80%**	**77%**
Safeguarding leads have awareness of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking	**100%**	**87%**
Relevant staff have undertaken complex (toxic) trio awareness training	**80%**	**64%**
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken self-neglect training	**80%**	**75%**
(ADULT) Relevant staff have undertaken MCA/DOLS training within 6 months of taking up post	**90%**	**72%**
(ADULT) New staff have undertaken safeguarding adult's awareness training within 3 months of starting in post	**95%**	**98%**
(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%**	**88%**
(ADULT) Relevant staff have completed SA Level 3 training	**90%**	**76%**
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection standard training	**90%**	**88%**
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken child protection advanced training	**90%**	**67%**
(CHILDREN) Relevant staff have undertaken CSE awareness training	**80%**	**71%**
Recruitment		
Relevant staff have an up-to-date DBS check at a level appropriate to their role	**100%**	**91%**
Two written references to be required before work commences	**100%**	**91%**

7. The Work of the Partnership Subgroups

The BCSSP Executive Group and Operational Group are chaired independently by Fiona Field. 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. In June 2022, a Peer Review was held by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the report recommended that BCSSP examine its findings and take forward suggested recommendations to improve the functioning and clarity of BCSSP. The report highlighted the high number of partnership subgroups, so this work has been taken forward into 2023-2024.

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
- Identified key themes to review and explored preventative training options
- Developed and agreed a process for rapid review decision making
- Re-written the CSPR protocol in line with the new notification process and guidance from National Panel

The group has identified a number of priorities for 2023-2024, including, ensuring appropriate membership of the group, that the criteria for all reviews is fully understood, ensuring that practice remains focussed on the most vulnerable and monitoring the statutory review action plans and there application in practice.

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.

In 2022-2023 it has:

- Continued the work against the DA Act action plan and developed a DA Act assurance plan
- Supported the completion of the B&NES DA Needs Assessment
- Completed a MARAC self-assessment
- Continued development of the MARAC online system

For 2023-2024, the subgroup has prioritised rolling out The QES MARAC system and updating the MARAC protocol, supporting the development of an AWP training package for suicide prevention, understanding more about the perpetrator programme landscape in B&NES following the closure of the RSVP scheme.

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 2022-2023, the subgroup has:

- Received presentations on raising awareness of poverty, Warm Spaces, Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment and Royal United Hospitals Hope Boxes
- Reviewed the implications of parental Alienation
- Preparedness for Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)
- Collated feedback on the Early Help App survey

For 2023-2024, the group has prioritised children's emotional health and wellbeing, awareness of CAMHS referral criteria and reviewing the Sudden Unexplained Death in Infants (SUDI) audit findings.

Youth Justice Service Partnership Board

The Youth Justice Service Partnership Board (formerly 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 and the impact of this is a continuing reduction in first time entrants to the system, the custody rate remains 0 and re-offending is reducing.

Achievements for 2022-2023 include:

- Ratification of the anti-racism plan
- The first instalment of Turnaround Programme funding has been drawn down, systems are being developed and the first child being assessed and a key worker appointed.
- There has been agreement to fund continued partnership with pan-Avon Enhanced Case Management, trauma recovery programme for another year

Looking forward, the group will conduct a self-audit and exploration of the new contextual safeguarding toolkit, continue to encourage Partnership Board members to observe work and/or meet with individual staff. Carry out peer case audits with 2 neighbouring authorities.

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 2022-2023 include:

- Progression from partners around the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF)
- Progression of the Extra Familial Harm pathway
- Developed a good structure for multi-agency auditing work
- Education sector have become more involved in relation to the identified links between exclusions and exploitation
- Improved join up linking the exploitation agenda into other subgroups

Going forward, the subgroup wants to continue focussing on transitional safeguarding, review available training, embed learning from CSPR's and focus on participation and hearing the lived experience.

Community Safety Partnership (formerly Vulnerable Communities)

The purpose of the Community Safety Partnership 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 2022-2023, the subgroup has:

- Improved statutory partner attendance
- Completed the Joint Community safety Plan with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Reviewed its scope against statutory requirements
- Secured a new Chair and Vice Chair
- Focussed on agency service provision at each meeting

In 2023-2024, the CSP will conduct an audit of the National Referral mechanism (NRM), review Community Triggers, and review anti-social behaviour data and produce a report of actions in response to the issues.

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 2022-2023, the subgroup has:

- Appointed a Co-chair

- Reviewed MCA polices from partner agencies
- Completed an MCA learning briefing
- Reviewed the relevant actions from SAR's against the groups objectives
- Contributed to the Liberty Protection Safeguards consultation

Going forward, this group will support and contribute to the self-neglect policy review in relation to MCA, agree a follow on audit of MCA application in the Discharge to Assess (D2A) process.

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 and implementing the Scrutiny and Assurance Framework.

In 2022–2023 the subgroup has:

- Continued to seek greater clarity on quality and performance across B&NES and refined the data set – although the data scorecard is still in development
- Completed a case audit of Multi-agency risk management meetings (MARMMs) as one aspect of the self-neglect audit
- Reviewed police data and sought assurance around children being detained
- Discussed JTAI readiness

Going forward, the group will complete the audit of self-neglect and complete any actions arising and create a task and finish group to ensure agency data flow for the scorecard.

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 2022-2023, this subgroup has:

- Supported the design and development of the Stop Adult Abuse Week campaign, with attendance figures doubling from previous year
- Reviewed and agreed the key performance indicators in relation to training and submitted a proposal to the Executive Group
- Engaged with other sub-groups to establish training needs
- Reviewed outcomes from learning reviews to ensure areas for development are captured in future training
- Had significant change in membership

Its priorities for 2023-2024 are to ensure membership is appropriate, develop webinars for Stop Adult Abuse Week 2023, support the appointment to the BCSSP trainer post and seek further assurance on training currently being delivered outside of the BCSSP.

8. Reflecting on 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. It is noted that this in itself causes pressures as often agency representatives are in back to back virtual meetings. The BCSSP is pleased to note that commitment to the partnership and the delivery of objectives has remained high and would like to thank partners for their continued support.

Within its previous Annual Report, the Partnership documented its 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

9. Our Commitments for 2023-2024

The BCSSP reviewed its performance for 2022-2023 and is firmly committed to working in partnership to achieve the objectives as set out in the 2021-2024 strategic plan. The Peer Review of June 2022 and subsequent BCSSP Away Day in April 2023 agreed that further development of BCSSP will require some significant change in order to achieve strategic objectives in the 2021-2024 strategic plan but also to develop a new strategic plan 2024-2027. In particular, community safety needs a greater focus given the breadth of areas of work it has to consider. For 2023-2024, the four priorities will continue but there will also be a focus on the theme of domestic abuse within these four priorities.

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.

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.

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.

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.

How we will achieve this

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

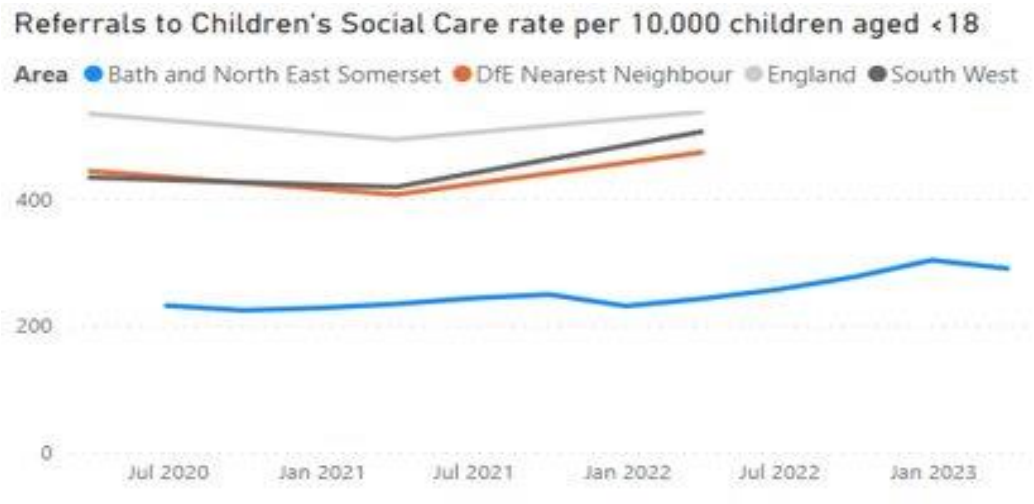
The action plans have been developed for a 12 month period and progress is monitored quarterly. The work of the subgroups and of individual organisations contributes to the plans and evidence of outcomes is sought to provide assurance to the Executive Group and Operational Group.

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

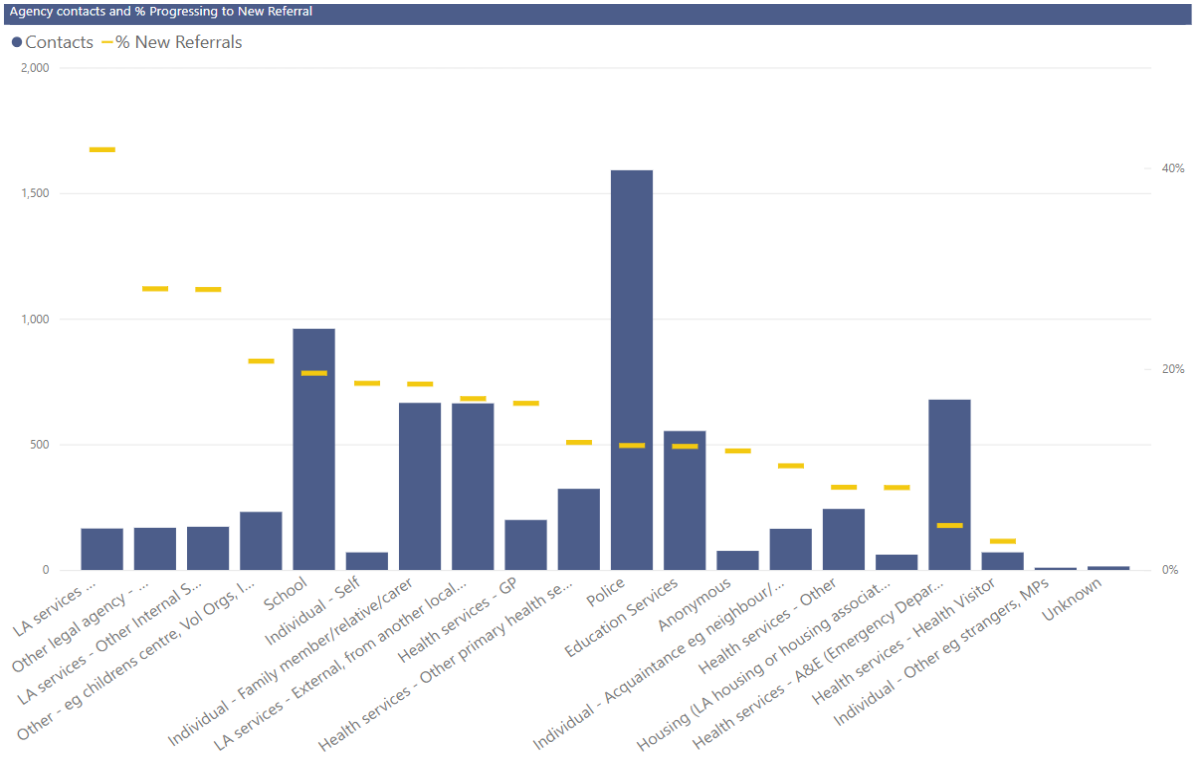
10.1 Children's Social Care

Referrals



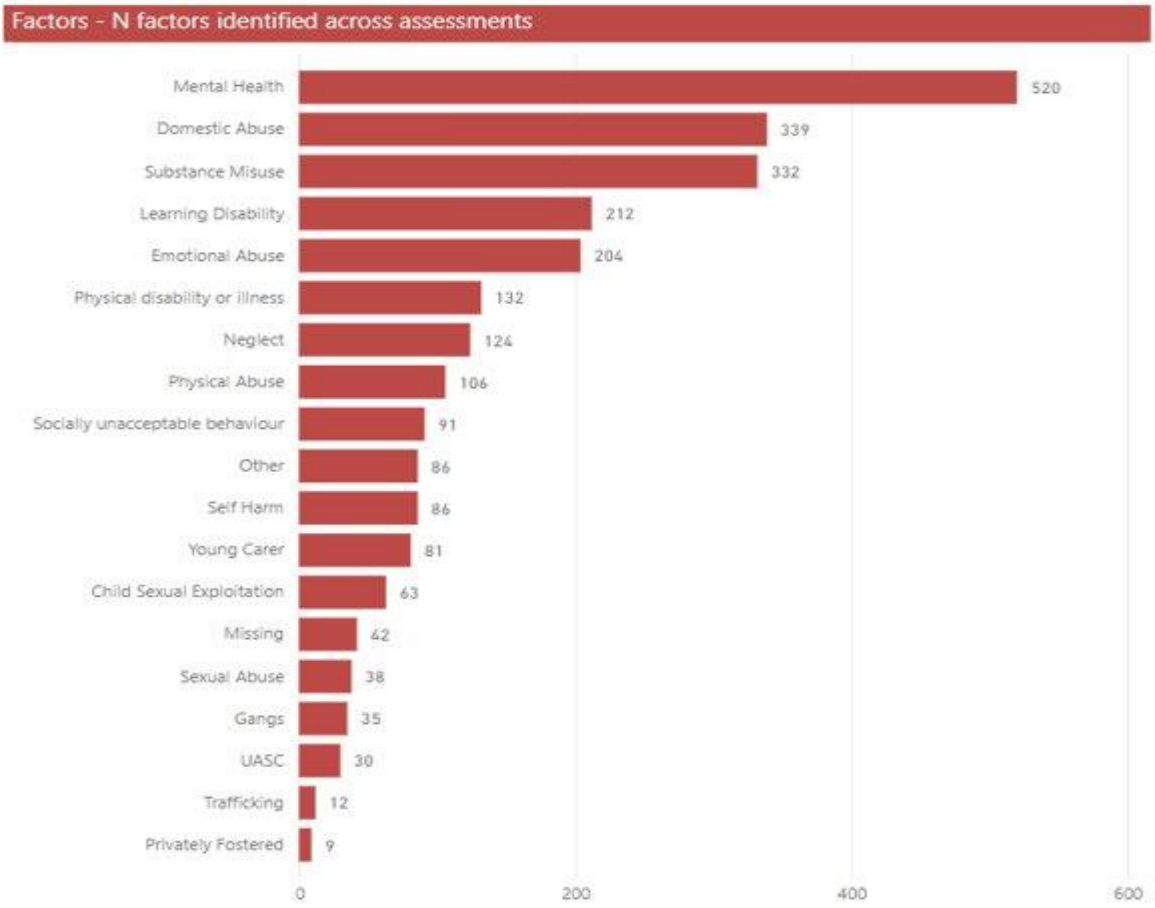
Referral rates have remained low compared to other local areas and national rates. This can in part be attributed to a sustained focus on ensuring cases are referred into Early Help services. Threshold audits continue to demonstrate that need is being effectively identified.

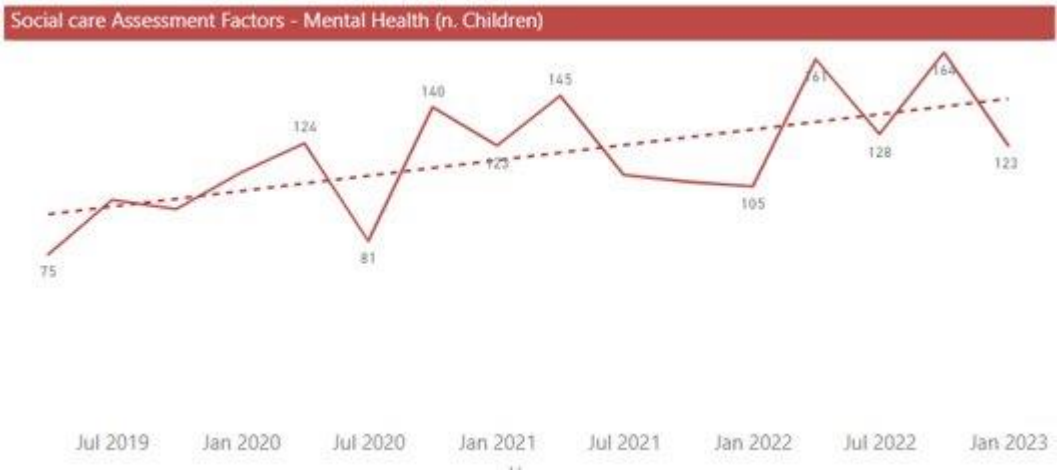
Contact Sources



Schools and police remain the most common source of contacts for 22/23. 50% of contacts resulted in no further action (Q4, 22/23).

Assessment Factors

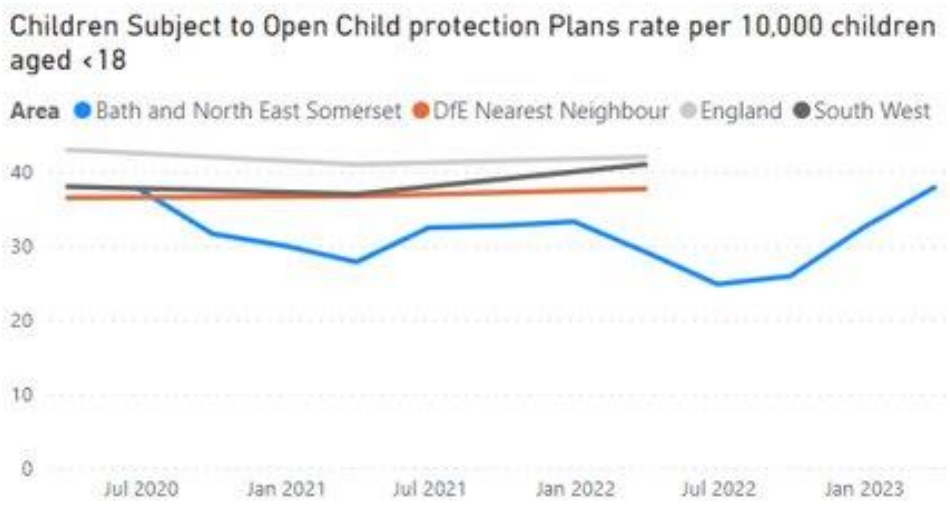




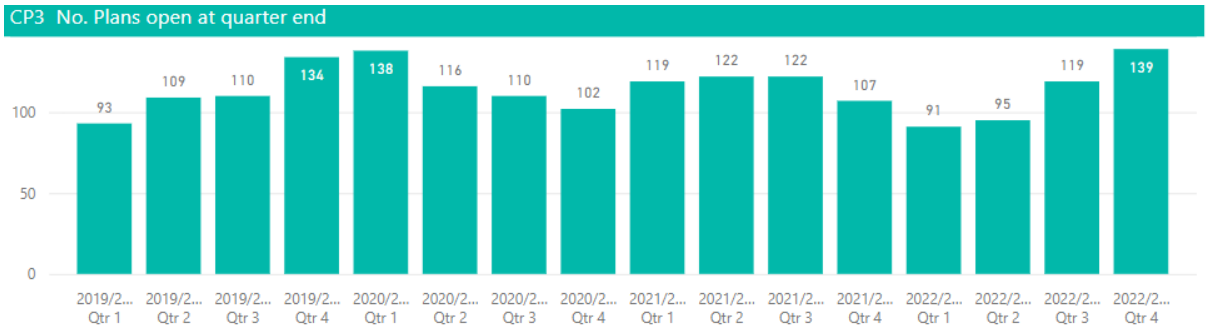
Assessment factors are captured at the point at which a child reaches the threshold for social care involvement. Multiple factors can be identified per case. Therefore, the chart presented relates to the number of children with each individual factor identified.

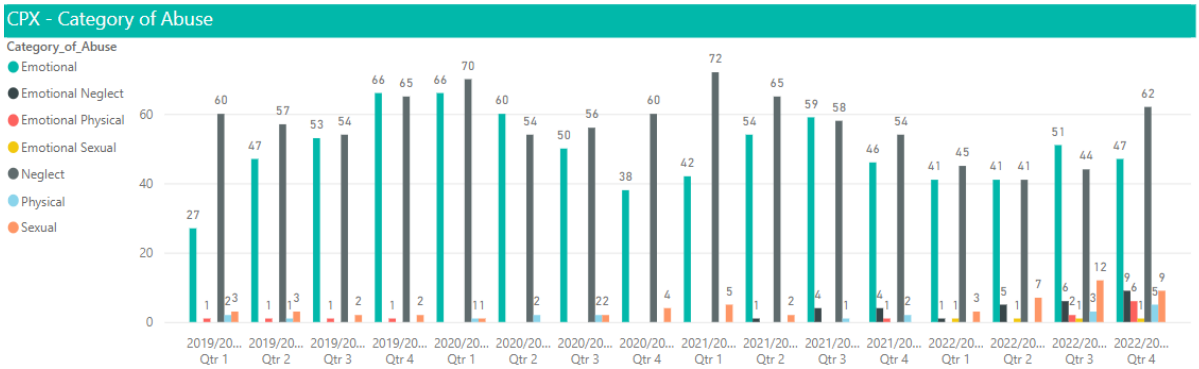
As has remained a consistent trend over time, **mental health**, **domestic abuse** and **substance misuse** for child or family are the most common factors recorded, with 50% of cases recording one or more of these factors. This remains consistent with the findings of the Munro review in 2011. Mental health related factors have increased consistently over time, affecting both children and parents/family.

Child Protection Plans



Child Protection Plan rates are subject to fluctuation in part due to the relatively small cohort size. However, recent trends have moved rates in line with statistical neighbours.

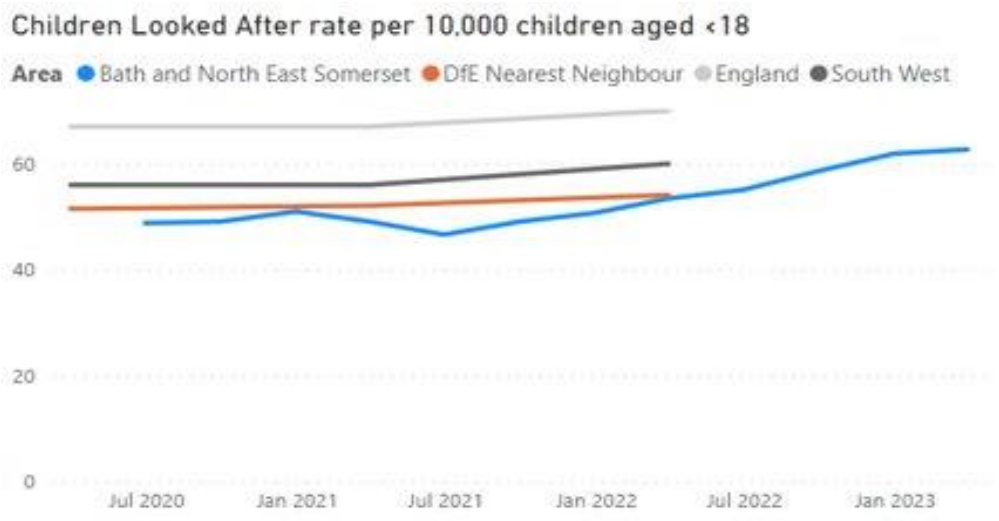


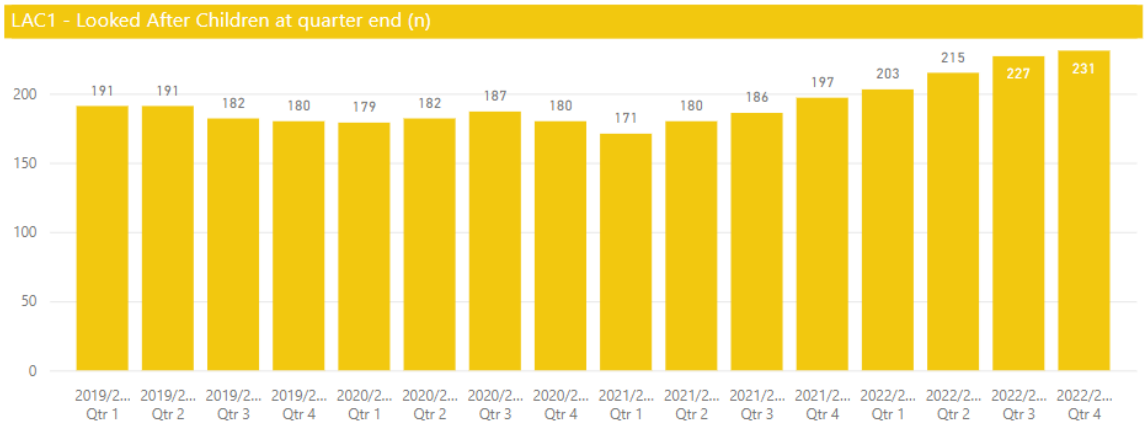


The rise in the child protection numbers reflects the increased complexity that families are presenting to Children's Social Care

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.

Children Looked After





Looked After Children rates had remained stable for several years. However, pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns have increased the volume complexity of cases. More recent increases in numbers are associated with this complexity and an increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, a pattern which is expected to be repeated nationally.

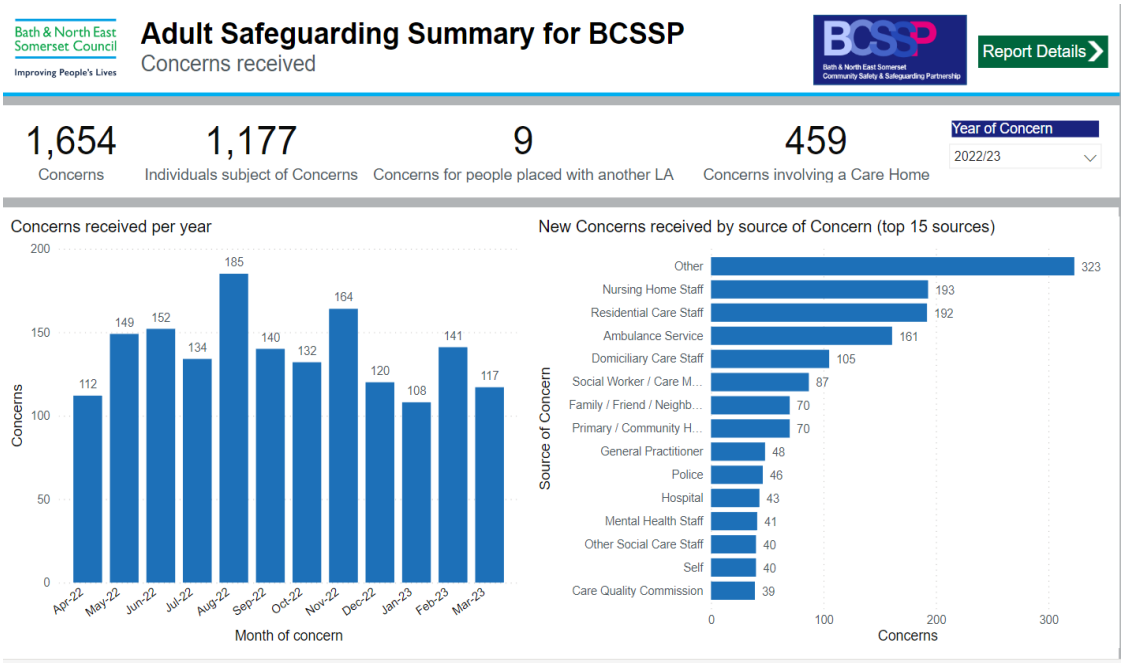
10.2 Adult Social Care Data

The analysis undertaken in this section has been produced for the purposes of providing information for the Partnership Board, for the period of Q1-Q4 of 2022-2023 (April 2022- March 2023).

For 2022/23 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 [Reasonable cause to suspect the risk of abuse or neglect].

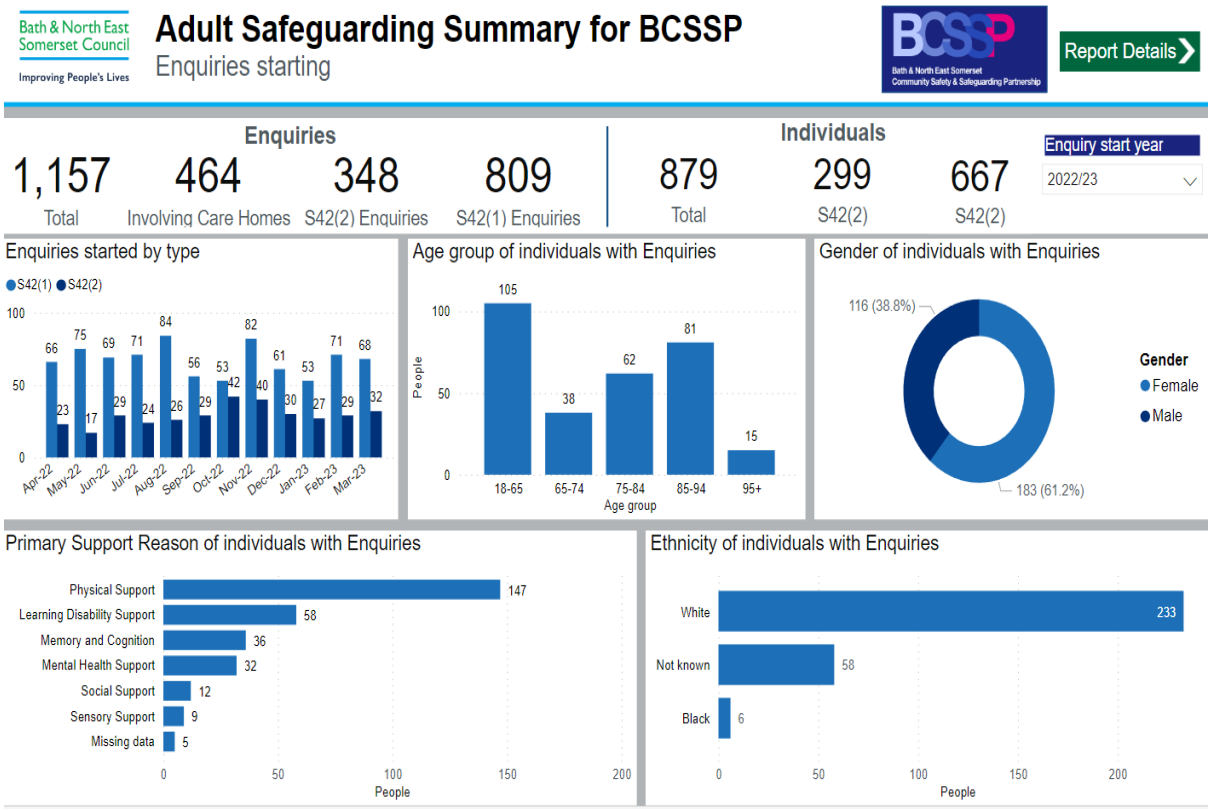
These are then described as S42 (1) and S42 (2) enquires. S42 refer to the Section of the Care Act that relates to safeguarding activity. S42 (1) concerns are concerns that fit the Care Act description, but alternative actions can be set, that will address the concern being raised, without a need for further enquiries. Actions are monitored by the Council Safeguarding and Quality Team and are not closed until assurance is received that all actions have been completed. A S42 (2) enquiry is an enquiry where; further enquires and actions are required. These enquiries ordinarily lead to a Safeguarding Planning Meeting, an enquiry report being recording and an action plan to reduce the risk to the person, developed.

Concerns Received



During the reporting period April 2022 – March 2023, 1654 concerns were raised relating to 1171 people. In addition to this, there were also 618 referrals which were “screened out” before a threshold decision, as the concern did not relate to a safeguarding issue [Reasonable cause to suspect the risk of abuse or neglect]. This is a 61% increase in safeguarding alerts (from 1021 in 2021-22 to 1654 in 2022-23). The type of organisations, marginally reporting the highest number of concerns, are nursing homes. This is in comparison to last year being residential care settings. Reporting under ‘other’ continues to be high. As reported last year, the Local authority are continuing to review the data set and Liquid Logic (the council case management system), whereby consideration is being given to altering this option for 2023-2024.

Enquiries Starting



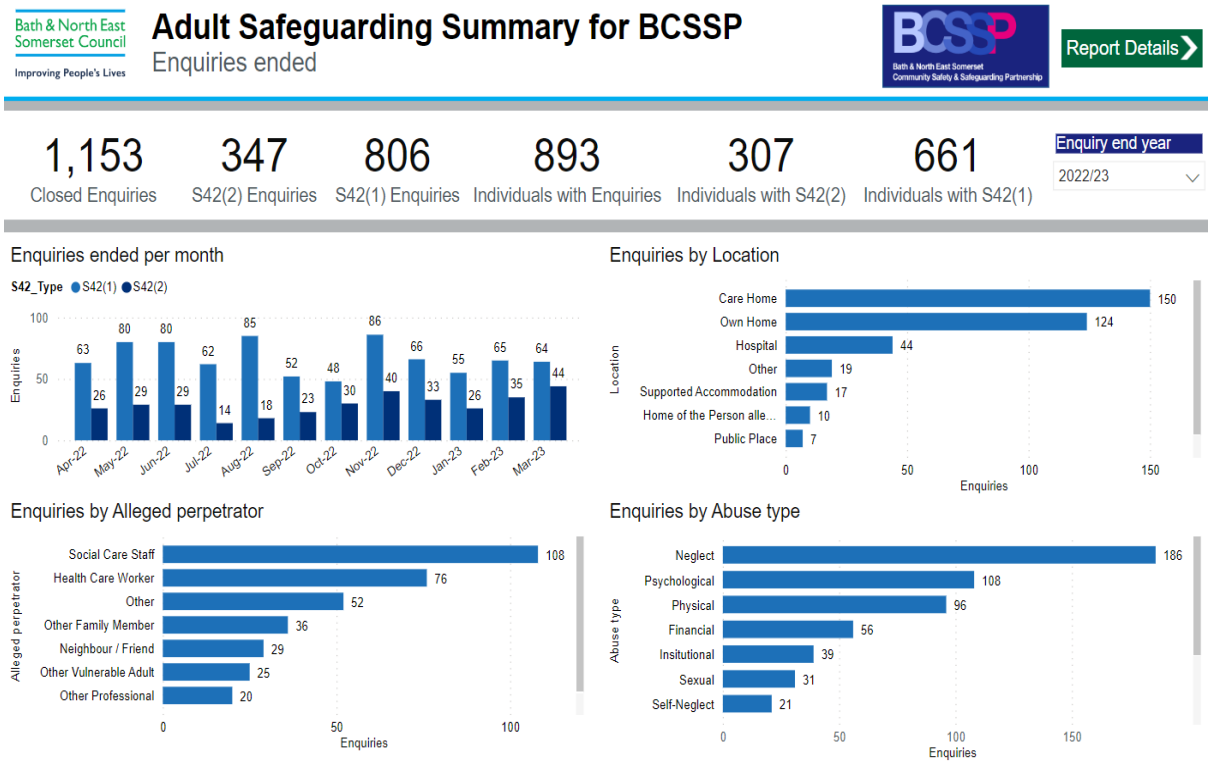
Of the 1654 concerns, 348 have progressed to S42(2) enquiries. This is a conversion rate of 21% which is marginally lower than the reported 28% within last years' reporting. The reporting this year also shows the S42 (1) concerns which relate to concerns that fit the Care Act description, but where it is assessed that alternative actions can be set, that will address the concern without a need for further S42(2) enquiries. To date 809 concerns have been supported in this way. The remaining concerns received have not met the Care Act criteria and therefore have not required safeguarding actions. There have been 497 of these contacts received. The Safeguarding Team continue to monitor these referrals to see if there are organisations or types of issues that are reported that do not meet the Care Act criteria.

Primary Support Reason. There continues been an increase in the reported number of people with a physical disability, mirroring what was reported in last annual report. As part of the review of the data set and Liquid Logic, consideration around data captured relating to ethnicity, continues to be made, around trying to reduce the "no known" data.

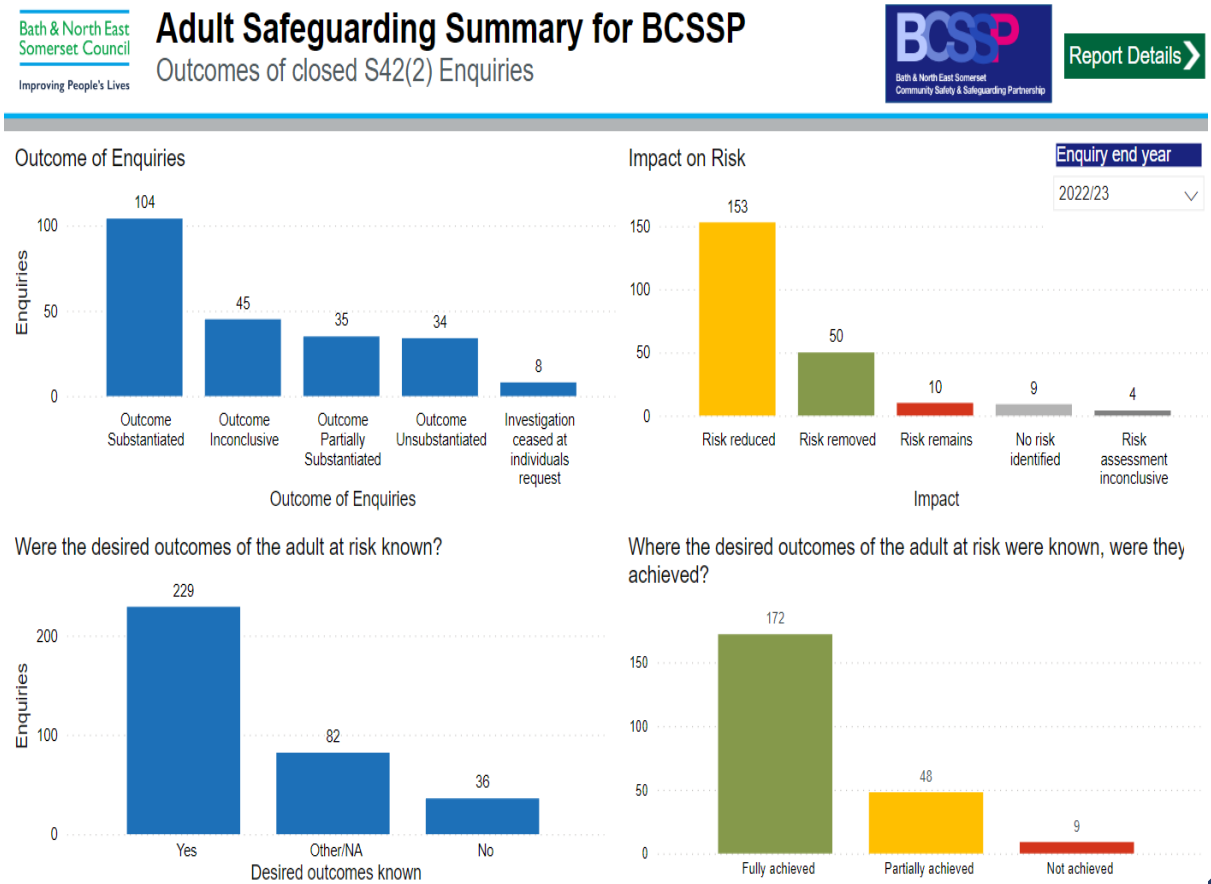
Adults aged 18-65 continue to be the prevalent group, where enquires are being made, with enquires where the adult has been recorded as female, continue to be higher. As part of the review of the data set and Liquid Logic, consideration around data captured relating to gender, continues to be made.

Enquiries Ended

Of the enquiries closed during the year to date, the alleged person responsible continues to be reported as a social care and health staff member. It is thought that this correlates to the continued prevalence of care home concerns that are received and progress into the enquiries. Neglect continues to be the type of abuse most frequently identified during the safeguarding process.

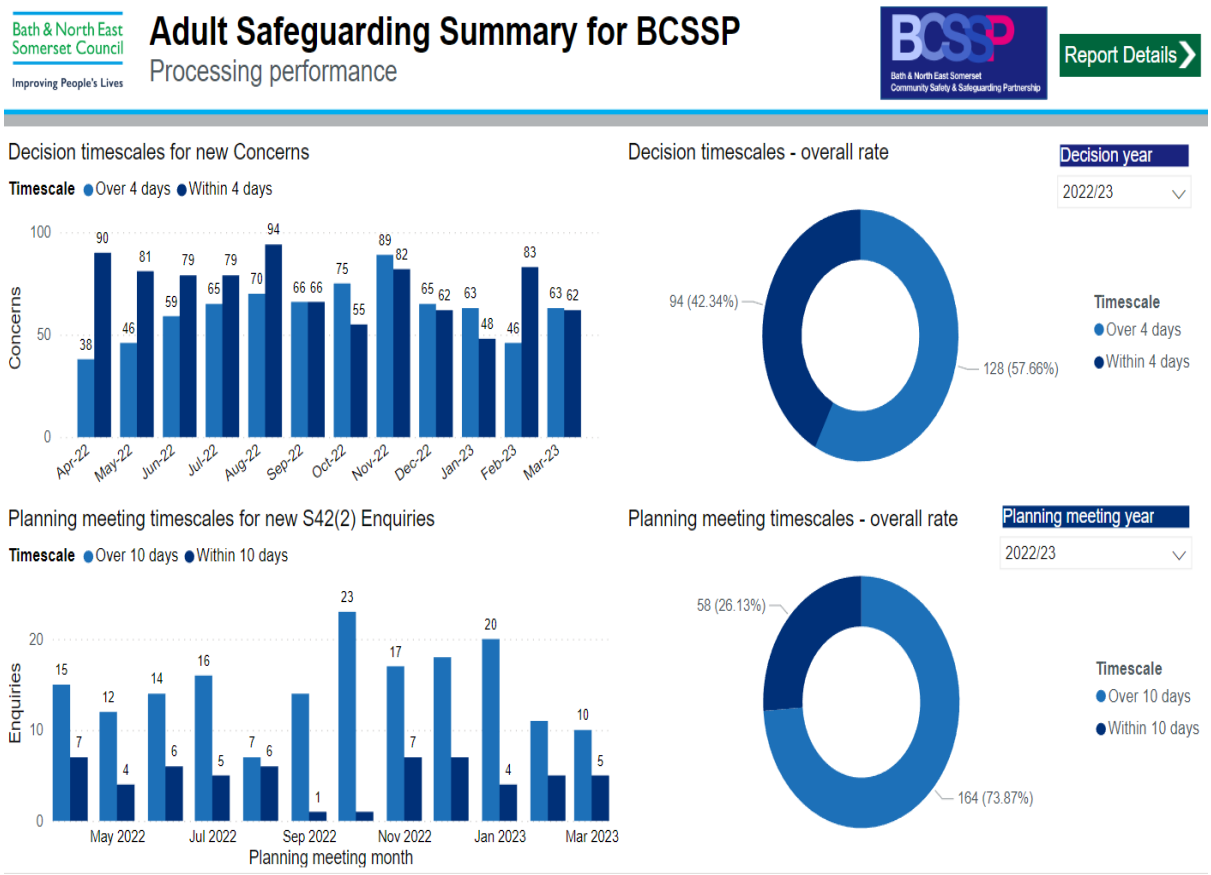


Outcomes of Closed Section 42(2) Enquiries



Although we have seen a decrease in adults being asked and outcomes being expressed [from 70% in 2021-22 to 57% in 2022-23]. We have seen an increase in outcomes being fully achieved [from 71% in 2021-22 to 77% in 2022-23] 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. We have seen an increase percentage in risk being reported to have been removed [17% in 2022-23 compared to 13% in 2021-22]. In 73% of enquiries the level of risk experienced by the person is reduced during the safeguarding process.

Processing Performance



Although we have seen a drop from100% of decisions being made within 4 days of the concern being raised to 42%, this is attributed to several factors. The increase in referrals, with no comparable increase in resources to manage this demand. And the fact that more “enquires” are being made earlier in the process, influencing the 7% reduced conversion rate figure, despite the increased number of referrals. The performance for planning meetings was previously reported at being 100%, but there were “a number of blanks” being reported. Whereby we anticipated it to be a “lower figure due to pressures in the social care teams”. We have worked hard in ensuring the data we provide is accurate. We continue to work towards these performance measures.

10.3 Avon & Somerset Constabulary Data

Missing Children	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Missing Children	95	61	+34	+55.7%
Number of Missing Children Reports	202	92	110	119.6%
Number of Repeat Missing Children	48	39	+9	+23.1%
Number of Children Missing from Care	3	10	-7	-70.0%
Number of Repeat Children Missing from Care	1	4	-3	-75.0%

95 children were reported missing in Bath and North East Somerset in the last 12 months, rising by 34 children or by 55.7% compared with the previous 12 months. 48 of these children were reported missing repeatedly, 9 more children than were reported missing repeatedly in the previous 12 months. The number of missing children reports rose to 202 in the last 12 months compared with 110 in the previous 12 months, an increase of 119.6%, significantly above the 23.5% rise recorded across the force area as a whole.

By contrast, there were falls in both the number of children missing from care, falling to just 3 children in the last 12 months from 10 children in the previous 12 months, and the number of children going missing from care repeatedly, falling to just 1 child from 4 children.

Safety and Anti-Bullying	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Suspects of Crimes	539	494	+45	+9.1%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents (Excluding Crimes)	1,048	1,116	-68	-6.1%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	1,685	1,838	-153	-8.3%
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes - Victim Age 16 - 17	35	30	+5	+16.7%
Number of Child Victims of Crimes	711	742	-31	-4.2%
Number of Child Victims of Race Hate Crimes	28	21	+7	+33.3%

The overall number of child victims of all crime types fell by 31 victims to 711 victims in the last 12 months, or by 4.2% compared with the previous 12 months. This fall contrasts with the 3.5% increase recorded across the force area as a whole. The number of child suspects of all crime types in B&NES in the last 12 months rose by 9.1% to 539 child suspects. This rise is well above the 2.7% increase recorded across the force area as a whole.

The number of Domestic Abuse Crimes with a victim aged 16 or 17 rose by 5 crimes in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months. The numbers recorded in B&NES are relatively small. However, the increase does contrast with the 7.7% fall recorded across the force area as whole.

The number of child victims of recorded Race Hate Crimes rose to 28 victims in the last 12 months from 21 victims in the previous 12 months. All forms of Hate Crime are subject to a high degree of under-reporting and it can reasonably be concluded that the actual levels are greater than the levels reported.

Child Sexual Exploitation	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes	128	203	-75	-36.9%

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a Home Office "offence type" and CSE offending is made up of a wide range of offences. A CSE flag is therefore attached to qualifying offences on police systems through an automated process. The number of Child Sexual Exploitation tagged offences in B&NES fell in the last 12 months, compared with the previous 12 months, by 36.9% or by 75 crimes to 128 crimes in total. This fall is 9.1 percentage points greater than the 27.8% fall recorded across the force area as a whole. Changes in this measure can be difficult to interpret, given that it measures both the effectiveness of activity to reveal this often "hidden" form of abuse and increase recognition and reporting, and the effectiveness of activity to prevent sexual exploitation, including repeat victimisation. This measure shows wide fluctuations in identified offences and the reductions reported here should not be interpreted as indicating a decline in the prevalence of CSE.

Child Protection	12 Month Rolling			
	Current	Previous	Chg	% Chg
Number of Child Protection Crime (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)	295	347	-52	-15.0%
Number of Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences	58	101	-43	-42.6%
Number of Non-Familial Sexual Crimes - Child Victim	100	143	-43	-30.1%
Number of Child Protection Crimes for Cruelty and Neglect of Children	60	75	-15	-20.0%

The "Child Protection Crimes (excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes)" are recorded crimes where there are child protection concerns (Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Safeguarding), with this particular measure excluding Domestic Abuse Crimes where there are child protection concerns. The measure also includes peer-on-peer crimes where both the victim and suspect are children. The measure includes non-recent child abuse allegations, regardless of whether the victim was a child or adult at the time of reporting.

The data shows that the volume of recorded "Child Protection" crimes in Bath and North East Somerset fell by 15.0%, or by 52 crimes, in the last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months, falling to 295 crimes. This fall should be viewed in the context of sustained increases across the last decade and is greater than the 7.3% fall recorded across the force area as a whole. These falls are not the result of changes in recording practices and represent an actual decline in identified offences.

The fall in recorded offences in 2022/23, compared with 2021/22, is most likely to be attributable to the marked increase in volumes recorded in 2021/22 as children had increased contact with professionals following the removal of measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 within the population. Care should be taken not to conclude that the prevalence of child abuse has fallen in the last 12 months. Demand on the system from Child Abuse offences remains high and the long-term trend remains one of significant growth. The volume of reported Child Abuse offences is expected to continue to increase at a moderate to high rate.

Within the broad measure of "Child Protection" crimes, there were falls in recorded offences in all 3 of the offence groups. Recorded Child Protection Serious Sexual Offences showed the largest rate of reduction, falling by 42.6% (by 43 crimes), a larger rate of reduction than the 18.1% fall recorded across the force area as a whole. Non-familial sexual offences against children in B&NES fell by 43 crimes; this 30.1% fall is more marked than the 8.0% decrease recorded across the force area as a whole. Recorded child neglect offences fell by 15 crimes, representing a 20.0% fall, contrasting with the 7.6% increase across the force area as a whole.

Initial Child Protection Conferences

The Police were invited to 23 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) in the fourth quarter of 2022/23 and attended all 23. The police attendance rate at ICPCs in 2022/23 was 100% with all 87 ICPCs having been attended.

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 318 occasions in the last 12 months, compared with 320 occasions in the previous 12 months. Whilst the volume remains high compared with historical levels, the data shows that the volume has stabilised when viewed at the level of the Force area as a whole.

The reporting of the use of police protection powers at local authority area level is subject to data quality issues whereby 17 records in the last 12 months were not linked to a beat code. By contrast with the force-wide picture, the number of occasions when the Constabulary used police protection powers linked to beat codes in Bath and North East Somerset rose to 44 in the last 12 months, compared with 11 occasions in the previous 12 months; an increase of 33 occasions or 300.0%. The Avon & Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership established a Task and Finish Group to examine the possible causes of the increases in circumstances giving rise to the need to use these emergency powers and possible solutions. A baseline report from police data has been produced as part of this work and has been shared with the Directors of Children's Services.

Children in Custody

In the last 12 months, 48 children and young people aged under 18, whose latest recorded address was in Bath and North East Somerset, were arrested and brought into custody, none of whom were charged and detained. Of these 48 children and young people, 11 were arrested and brought into custody in the fourth quarter of 2022/23.

11. Glossary

Term	Meaning
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences – traumatic events occurring before age 18. Includes all type of abuse and neglect, as well as parental mental illness, substance misuse, domestic violence.
ADASS	Association of Directors and Adult Social Services – a charity representing Directors and a leading body on social care issues.
AMHP	Approved Mental Health Professional – approved to carry out certain duties under the Mental Health Act
ASSSP	Avon and Somerset Strategic Safeguarding Partnership – Avon area multi-agency group focussed on children's safeguarding
AWP	Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
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 suspects 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.
DHI	Developing Health & Independence
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
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate – specialist professional who works with victims of domestic abuse

Term	Meaning
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
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

Term	Meaning
SHEU	School Health Education Unit
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