



B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

Strategic Plan

2021-2024



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Under the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) were abolished. The new legislation identified three agencies as key safeguarding partners, Local Authorities (LAs), Chief Officers of Police and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). These organisations must make arrangements to work together with relevant agencies to safeguard and protect the welfare of children in the area.

LA's, CCG's and Chief Officers of Police have equal and joint accountability for children safeguarding responsibilities. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) sets out the statutory guidance to which all safeguarding children arrangements must adhere.

The new guidance also identified two agencies, Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups, as the child death review partners who must set up child death review arrangements. In Bath and North East Somerset, these arrangements continue to be delivered through the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Serious Case Review arrangements were replaced by Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, which may be conducted at a local or national level. The National Safeguarding Review Panel was established in June 2018 and sets out the responsibility of partners when a serious incident occurs.

Safeguarding Adults

Adult responsibilities remain unchanged in line with the Care Act 2014, which requires each local authority area to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) which should assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements across its area are effective and work collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect.

They must also commission a Safeguarding Adult Review for any case which meets the criteria in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

Community Safety

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, amended by section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places statutory obligations on Local Authorities, the Police, Fire Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Probation Services to work in co-operation with other relevant agencies. The legislation requires the partnership to produce an annual strategic assessment and a three-year plan detailing how it intends to tackle crime and disorder. This allows for the development of strategies to focus on short, medium and long-term priorities.

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) is a multi-agency partnership developed in 2019 when the LSCBs 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 will 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 production of a Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement and it provides an overview of local community safety and safeguarding arrangements overseen by the BCSSP and sets out its strategic priorities for 2021-2024. It establishes our shared vision and actions that will help keep our communities, children, young people and adults at risk, safe and protected from abuse, neglect and crime.

Who we are

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 National 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.

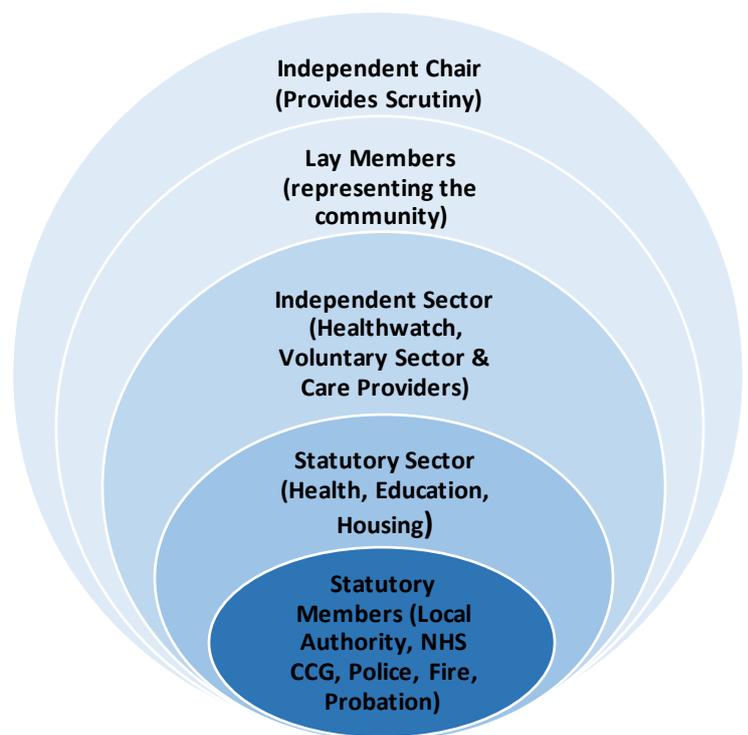
How we work

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.



The ultimate aim of the BCSSP is to work together to improve the quality of life, safety and wellbeing for the people of B&NES. We want to protect and support those that need it and provide guidance and services to the right people at the right time. Our vision is:

‘Keeping People Safe – Safer for families, Safer in your Community’

We have 4 commitments to help us achieve this:

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.*

These 4 commitments form the basis of the sub-group actions. It is the responsibility of the sub-groups to monitor and evaluate progress and performance and report this to the Operational Group.

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.



To ensure compliance with its statutory duties, the BCSSP has identified the following core functions.

Inter-agency Policies and Procedures

Developing interagency policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. Implementing actions and interventions concerning crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Planning and Reporting

Develop and publish a strategic plan setting out how we will meet our objectives and how partner agencies will contribute. Publish an annual report detailing how effective our work as a partnership has been.

Monitoring Safeguarding Activity and Performance

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of preventative strategies and the actions of partners and agreeing standards for continuous learning and improvement.

Scrutiny and Quality Assurance

Evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of actions taken to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, adults and communities, evidencing the outcomes and developing best practice.

Communication and Engagement

Promoting awareness of safeguarding and community safety and communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, adults and communities so that professionals, organisations and the public as a whole can play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to concerns.

Reviews of Practice

Undertaking and commissioning Domestic Homicide Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews. We also have the ability to consider and undertake discretionary reviews where it is felt there is learning to be gained.

Training and Staff Development

Develop, deliver and evaluate high quality, multi-agency training programmes that meet the training requirements of the local workforce to ensure confidence and competence in carrying out their roles.

Six Principles

Underpinning its core functions are these 6 principles:



Governance Structure

