2021/22

Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership

2021/22

The Bradford Partnership – Working Together to Safeguard Children – Annual Report



# Foreword from the statutory safeguarding partners

This year's report spanned the endpoint of the Covid pandemic to its current status as another permanent pressure point in society that can affect anyone at any time.

Connected to this timeline, the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership absorbed a much higher demand for its services throughout the year.

There were more requests for case reviews: more requests to support agencies with improving their safeguarding performance: more enquiries about the availability of learning materials, and a steep increase in requests for advice about individual situations.

There were increased concerns about "Hidden Harm" for vulnerable children and young people with reduced school attendance and contact with professionals, as well as frequent disruption to children's education with the concern about how this might impact their outcomes.

The Partnership has continued to work closely with the Education safeguarding team and schools to offer support and advice during this period.

The Partnership continued with its regular activity, with staff working from home and adapting to virtual Partnership and subgroup meetings. Quality assurance activity continued, and all subgroups met at least quarterly.

2021-22 has been a busy period for the Partnership, including the publication of the National Review into the deaths of Arthur Labinjo Hughes and Star Hobson. The murders of these children received high-profile media coverage nationally and locally. The review outlined very clear missed opportunities to protect these children. The report also acknowledges, as every social worker, health professional, police officer, and frontline practitioner knows, how complex and challenging working in child protection can be.

The Partnership is entirely committed to improving the safety of children across the district.

As we entered the new financial year for the Partnership, we welcomed Janice Hawkes, our newly appointed Independent Chair and Scrutineer. Janice brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with her. We look forward to drawing on this to focus on what we should do more of and what we could do differently to achieve our vision for children, young people and families across the Bradford District.

We would also like to thank Jane Booth, the outgoing chair of the Partnership, for her dedication, challenge and support.

2022-23 will bring many challenges – some foreseeable and predictable and others which cannot be predicted. It is likely we will have more rapid reviews and local safeguarding child practices reviews to publish and learn from

During the coming year, the Bradford District Children's Safeguarding partnership we will endeavour to develop and strengthen our Partnership work, continue to engage children and young people and their families, frontline staff and deliver high-quality training.

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Director of Quality & Nursing – Clinical Commissioning Group

Chief Executive Bradford District Care Trust

District Commander West Yorkshire Police

Chief Executive Bradford Council

# Foreword from the Independent Chair & Scrutineer – Janice Hawkes

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Description automatically generated with low confidencen April 2022, I was privileged to take up the position of Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the Bradford Partnership. This report covers the period immediately prior to my appointment, and I am indebted to my predecessor Jane Booth for her tenacity and commitment in leading the Partnership through a challenging period; one which encompassed the transition from delivery of services within

Covid-19 restrictions to striving to do “business as usual” whilst responding to the continued impact of the pandemic on vulnerable children and families – all of this against the backdrop of staff shortages and sickness across all partner agencies.

A legacy of this period was the development of a delivery group for the Partnership, with representation from key partners, which had met frequently throughout the period of Covid restrictions to provide a forum to maintain oversight and challenge for agencies to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people remained “in sight” of agencies and their needs were responded to. As the pandemic moved to its current status where restrictions have eased, the Partnership has continued to meet more frequently, with this group becoming the Oversight and Delivery sub-group of the Partnership, providing a vehicle to maintain focus on key priorities for action and to respond in a timely way to emerging themes and challenges.

The contributions from key partners set out in this report demonstrate the scale of the challenges facing the District throughout the period covered by the report and ongoing into the current year. Whilst contacts to the Integrated Front Door remained relatively stable, the complexity of the challenges facing families and the agencies working with them was seen to increase. There was a continued concern that many contacts progressing to assessment by Children’s Social Care resulted in no further statutory involvement leading partners to question whether those initial responses were appropriate. Clearly, a new approach was required to ensure the right level of support is provided to families at the right time. Whilst initial discussions regarding the implementation of a new model focusing on “conversations” between referring agencies and Children’s Social Care were slow to progress during the year, it is a positive reflection of the commitment of partner agencies that these initial discussions have moved forward significantly during 2022 and led to the implementation of the David Thorpe Model in November 2022. This period also saw positive developments in Partnership working, notably the colocation of the Emergency Duty team with police colleagues and the development of the integrated Exploitation Hub, which was formally launched in June 2022.

However, the challenges facing partners remain significant, demand for services and the complexity of needs continue to increase, and agencies struggle to maintain a stable workforce at the front line. The Partnership and its support functions have been stretched, notably responding to a significant increase in serious incidents subject to “rapid review” and more in-depth child safeguarding practice reviews. The most high-profile and shocking of these was the tragic death of Star Hobson at the hands of her mother and her partner. The subsequent national review, which was published shortly after the period covered by this report, found significant shortcomings in the response of partner agencies to protect Star.

Throughout 2022, partners have worked together to develop and deliver an action plan in response to the review’s recommendations, the details of which will be outlined in the next Annual Report.

Whilst work continued throughout 2021 to bring about improvements in response to Ofsted’s judgment in 2018 that Bradford’s Children’s Services were inadequate, the pace of progress has been slow. In September 2021, a Commissioner was appointed to assess the authority’s capacity to improve. In January, following the publication of the Commissioner’s report, a decision was made that control of children’s services should be removed from the Council. As a result, services will transition to an independent Children’s Trust in April 2023.

I am pleased to see that the report includes contributions from some children and young people regarding their experiences of living and growing up in Bradford. Whilst this is based on a relatively small sample and therefore cannot necessarily be seen to represent the wider views of children across the district it does give a flavour of some children’s experience. Some children surveyed expressed pride in being “Bradfordian” but a clear theme coming through is the sense that children and young people want us as a partnership to work harder to make their District and the places they inhabit safer and more accessible. I am grateful to the Youth Service and Barnardo’s for their support in gaining these perspectives. Clearly there is more to be done across the Partnership to engage children and young people, but this represents a positive start

The challenges facing the Partnership in the forthcoming year cannot be underestimated. Still, I am encouraged by the positive signs of integrated working and problem-solving and the Partners’ commitment to acknowledge, confront and tackle the recurring themes that have challenged safeguarding professionals across the country for many years. I thank the Partners and those front-line staff working in such challenging circumstances for their continued commitment to safeguarding our most vulnerable children and young people.



Janice Hawkes

Independent Chair and Scrutineer

# Role of the Independent Chair & Scrutineer

* To chair programmed meetings of TBP & extraordinary meetings as required
* To attend the Strategic Leadership Group meetings and act as a constructive critical friend
* Meet with the Director of Children Services or representatives as required.
* Ensure the partnership monitors and develops a safeguarding partnership business plan which maintains a clear multi agency focus on outcomes for vulnerable children .
* Be a key driver to promoting reflection and continuous improvement across the partnership.
* To liaise with the Lead Member for Children & Families Services, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny committee as required
* Ensure that the partnership works effectively, with good collaboration between its members, encouraging and supporting the development of partnership working between partner agencies, including its Sub Groups.
* Provide assurance that TBP operates independently of its member agencies and that any conflicts of interest are appropriately managed.
* Reviewing audits and performance data
* Promote an awareness of Safeguarding Children throughout Bradford District

# About the local safeguarding children partnership

* The Bradford Partnership has an Independent Chair & Scrutineer and consists of three key partner agencies who have a shared statutory responsibility for safeguarding children (Local Authority, Police and Integrated Care Board (Formerly Clinical Commissioning Group)
* TBP is a key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant agencies will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.
* [**Working Together to Safeguard Children: July 2018**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) **–** Requires Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements for the work of each Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.
* Commission Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPRs) for any cases which meet the criteria for these.
* Publish a strategic plan and annual report.

TBP meets every quarter. The Independent Chair and Scrutineer Janice Hawkes chair these meetings. Under the new partnership arrangements, a new Oversight and Delivery Group has been established, which assists in the planning agenda for TBP meetings and ensures collaboration between sub groups and decisions are acted upon. These meetings are chaired by a senior executive from the Integrated Care System (formerly known as Clinical Commissioning Group)

There six sub groups that meet of a quarterly / bi monthly basis and are chaired by members of TBP.

* Case Review
* Learning and Improvement
* Performance Management, Audit and Evaluation
* All Age Exploitation
* Safeguarding Policy & Procedures
* Communication & Engagement\*

In addition, TBP has links to independent groups which support safeguarding activity in specific sectors

* The Voluntary & Community Safeguarding Steering Group
* Health Safeguarding Children Group

The Structure of the partnership is shown on the next page

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# Our Shared Vision & Principles

## Our Vision

“The Bradford Partnership will work to ensure that children are safe and receive a quality service”.

## Our principles

* The child is always at the centre.
* There will be clear governance and accountability, clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
* There will be transparent, open and honest communication between all.
* We will foster continual improvement which includes learning from others.
* We will enable early support at the right time to build independence and self-reliance.

# Safeguarding Children Context in Bradford District

Bradford District is the fifth largest local authority in England in terms of population after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester.

Bradford District has a diverse geography, although most of the population lives in densely populated urban areas. The most recent Census of 2021 estimates that there are currently around 546,000, of whom 21.4% are aged under 15, making Bradford the youngest English city outside of some areas in London.

The population consists of 49% male and 51% female.

Approximately under a third of the population of the district’s citizens are from Black and Minority Groups.

56.7% of the population identified as white British, and 25.5% identified as Pakistani - the second largest percentage nationally.

In the 2021 census, a new category of Roma was included for the first time and 0.3% of the population have identified as Roma.

The local economy is worth £11.6 billion and is the tenth largest city economy in England and the third largest in largest in the Yorkshire and Humber region. However, despite this, Bradford has high rates of unemployment and poverty. The most recent figures published by the Office for National Statistics in December 2021, showed that 7.9% of the working age population were unemployed. This is higher than the rate for Leeds City Region (5%), Yorkshire and the Humber (4.9%) and the United Kingdom (4.6%)

Bradford District is amongst the most deprived Districts in the country, ranked 13th in England (where rank 1 is the most deprived local authority and rank 317 is the least deprived)

Bradford District is ranked the 5th most income-deprived and 6th most employment-deprived local authority.

22% of children are living below the poverty line.

In 2019/20, an estimated 38% if children were living in low-income households, the highest proportion in the Yorkshire and Humber.

Research has highlighted Bradford as an area where child poverty rates are rising faster than the national trend. Poverty and deprivation have a negative impact on outcomes for children and this is evident in Bradford where the health and wellbeing of children is generally worse compared with the England average.

The authority has higher levels of childhood obesity, teenage pregnancy and accidental injury. Infant mortality rates in Bradford are also significantly higher the comparative value for England

# Partner Reports – How are partners responding to the challenges in the Bradford District

In this section , partners were asked to consider the following questions as part of their response .

1. What is the current demand on services in Bradford?

2. What do we anticipate demand will look like in five years’ time?

3. What challenges do agencies face in meeting the demands?

4. What work is being done to address these challenges?

# Children Social Care

## What is the current demand for services in Bradford?

Demand for Children’s Social care services has continued to grow this year.

The number of Looked after Children continue to rise to reflect the demand across the service as a whole. At the beginning of January 2023, Bradford had 1576 children in care.

We have seen an increase in demand for good quality looked-after children placements locally and nationally and a shortage of suitable placements specifically for some high-needs children.

There continues to be instability in the Social Care workforce partly due to the shortage of qualified social workers nationally but significantly impacted by other local issues. These include the impact of a child death, which drew national attention, as well as the difficulties experienced by the Authority in attracting staff as a continued impact of the 2018 failed Ofsted inspection.

A new Improvement plan developed in the Autumn of 2021 has given greater focus to staff and partner agencies to prioritise actions to improve outcomes for children.

Budget pressures remain significant and have been impacted by the significant reliance on Agency staff to meet demand which the Authority has supported, and the increased numbers of Looked After Children who are placed outside the local authority provision.

We have continued to develop the Integrated Front Door and plan the implementation of the David Thorpe Model over the coming year to provide better and more focused responses to the needs of children and families.

There has been a 56% increase in demand for education, health and care plans over the past four years. The demand is expected to continue to increase in line with national demand.

There has also been an increased demand for specialist schools and placements in the same period. This is also likely to continue.

The demand for out-of-district places has remained steady but has increased as the number of children eligible for those places has increased.

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## What do we anticipate demand will look like in five years?

It is expected that the total demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCP), special school places and out-of-district places will be higher than it is today. This will be despite the expected fall in pupil population. This is because although we expect the growth to start to level off, the endpoint will be significantly higher than the current level of demand.

## What challenges do agencies face in meeting the demands?

The increased demand will stretch capacity and resources. Every 170 new EHC plans add £1m pressure on the high needs block (HNB) budget, and

every new 50 places in a special school or specialist provision also add about £1m to the HNB budget.

There will also be the need to upskill the children's workforces (school, Colleges and LA support staff) to meet the needs of children with complex special educational needs to try to mitigate demand. This will require greater partnership working.

## What work is being done to address these challenges?

We are ensuring the quality of decision-making on agreeing to and issuing EHCPs.

Developing lower-cost resource provision with schools (compared to a special school or out-of-district placement)

We have implemented an EHCP funding matrix that brings consistency and clarity to funding decisions.

Ensuring that there is due diligence when agreeing on district education placements.

Redesigning the LA specialist teacher's services to ensure inclusion.

Using data better to monitor the performance and provide challenge and support to children with SEND.

Using Data to monitor exclusion and providing challenge and support to schools.

Increasing early help to schools

Working with the school to promote inclusion through the development of a Bradford Inclusion Charter Mark

Extending existing specialist provision, which is a lower cost than a new building.

There has been an increase in the number of young people receiving interventions with the Youth Justice System (YJS), so we are around back to pre-Covid levels in terms of young people overall (see graph below).

There are specific interventions like custodial sentences, which, whilst increasing recently, are still nowhere near pre-Covid levels. Out of Court Disposal interventions (for less serious offences) have been growing significantly compared to Court Order interventions which have been relatively stable.

## Education Safeguarding Schools (Section 175 Audit)

All schools in the district are asked to self-assess their safeguarding policies, procedures and training via an online assessment tool circulated by the Education Safeguarding Team of the Local Authority. Completion rates increased from 53% in 2018/19 to 83% of schools completing the audit in the 2021/2022 academic year. 72% of the district’s academy/fee/independent schools have completed the audit, including 19 academies who submitted an audit in their format, so these 19 results cannot be incorporated within the themes outlined below. 90% of LA-maintained schools completed the audit.

The leadership of safeguarding was ranked highly, with an average of 91% of schools rating themselves green for most areas in this section. Around 20% of schools reported working towards embedding a positive attitude to good attendance will be a priority, and many noted ambitious attendance targets. This ties in with national and local foci on post-pandemic school attendance, which is of particular concern. Schools also articulate that they have robust procedures for recruiting staff, which is a continued strength from the previous year’s audit results, with a small number wanting to ensure regular monitoring of their Single Central Record.

Further development is required in some areas of staff training and development. 10% of schools are still developing a ‘Use of Reasonable Force’ policy. 13 schools (6%) identified gaps in training for **some** staff in Prevent, FGM, Exploitation and other specific areas of child protection and safeguarding. The Education Safeguarding Team will discuss training requirements with these schools and provide signposting where necessary.

 A gap in knowledge for all staff concerning Early Help had been noted previously; this appears to have been rectified with most schools knowing and engaging with their LA Early Help Coordinator.

Risk assessment within schools is a reported strength. A small proportion of schools have rated themselves as amber for some measures around site safety, mainly around vehicles and traffic on the school grounds. This will be shared with the council’s health and safety team to consider further training and support offered to schools.

Good practice was identified around visitors, parking issues and evacuation and lockdown procedures.

13% of schools reported some gaps in the safeguarding curriculum, down from 35% previously, which had been particularly around the requirements for Relationships, Health and Sex Education.

 The Education Safeguarding Team continue to offer access to training for implementing the RSE curriculum in line with the new statutory requirement. The majority of schools reported positively about supporting pupils to be safe online, and 6% report still developing an age-appropriate curriculum (or making it available on the website).

Pupils are reported to have a voice in decision-making around extra-curricular activities and know how to ask for help if needed. There is some development for a small proportion of schools around how they collect pupils’ views on bullying and safety in school, but again fewer schools than last year.

## Ofsted Improvement & Commissioner`s Report

It has been documented in previous annual reports that in October 2018, Ofsted found that the local authority services for children were inadequate. The Department of Education issued the authority with an improvement notice. An Improvement Board was established, and a substantial improvement plan was implemented. However, although progress was noted, Oftsed expressed concerns about the pace of improvement.

In September 2021, The Secretary of State for Education appointed an independent Children Services Commission to bring together evidence to assess the local authority's capacity and capability to improve itself. The Commissioner was also asked to advise on alternative delivery and governance arrangements for children's social care functions.

The Commissioner identified that senior leaders recognise the need for improved partnership working and that partners are committed to working together to enhance relationships, services and outcomes for children and families in Bradford.

Two key factors had impacted on improvement.

* Workforce stability
* Relationships between children's services and the corporate centre.

As with every other area where services are deemed inadequate, the recruitment and retention of social workers proved to be very challenging and continues to do so. During the period of this annual report, the Director of Children's Services resigned (October 2021), and the Deputy Director for Children's Social Care left in November 2021. Two experienced interim senior leaders have been appointed to these posts. They have taken action to simplify the improvement plan and have reviewed structures and processes.

In January 2022, the Commissioner published his main report. The Commissioner concluded that it was three years since the last inspection, and progress had been too slow. Children's services continue to face significant challenges in securing a permanent leadership team, stabilising the workforce, improving practice and strengthening partnership working. For this reason, the recommendation that the control of children's services would be removed from the Council and an alternative delivery model developed.

In 2023 the creation of an independent trust will be established and responsible for children's services in Bradford.

The full report can be found by clicking on the link [Bradford\_Commissioners\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1053781/Bradford_Commissioners_Report.pdf)

# West Yorkshire Police

## Protecting Vulnerable People

Protecting Vulnerable People is one of the three purposes of the Policing Strategy and is central to the Police and Crime Plan Priority ‘Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience’.

Safety of Women and Girls was one of 10 Mayoral Pledges and is a cross cutting issue in the Police and Crime Plan.

The Force has a Strategy to tackle Violence against Women and Girls and has identified areas which need more focus, embedding these into existing Strategic and Tactical Plans.

## Demand

The increasing complexity of crime and demand across most safeguarding areas remains high , in particular domestic abuse , child abuse and mental health. The Police have seen the challenges of hidden and under reported crime particularly those linked to violence against women and girls.

The changing nature of crime committed by perpetrators through the use of social media and technology are also posing challenges for digital investigative capabilities.

Safeguarding demand is predicted to continue to increase to the levels above pre-covid, this is likely to be further compounded by the cost of living crisis, and given the levels of poverty in Bradford this is likely to disproportionately impact residents due existing inequality life outcomes.

## Domestic Abuse / Violence Against Women

Domestic abuse remains one of the most significant demand pressures/risks for the Force. Incidents per 1,000 population are significantly higher in Bradford compared to the national average and Her Majesties Inspector of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) big data shows that compared to peer forces, attendance rates are particularly high (95%). Analysis of costs of policing shows that officers/staff spend 15% of their time with domestic abuse.

Workload is continuing to increase with 79% of all domestic incidents resulting in a subsequent crime being recorded (compared to 63% in 2017), reflecting a continuation of the Forces ethical and victim focused approach to crime recording.

The introduction of the Domestic Violence Bill 2020 recognises that domestic abuse can impact on a child who sees or hears or experiences the effects of the abuse and it treats such children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right where they are related to either the abuser or the abused children who see, hear or experience domestic abuse as victims in their own right. It also places a duty on Local Authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

The Domestic Abuse Act is likely to lead to more demand, by widening the definition of domestic abuse and introducing new powers. This includes children within an environment in which domestic abuse has occurred being categorized as victims in their own right.

## Child Neglect

Child Neglect cases have seen a significant increase over the last 12 months with a particularly steep increase correlating with schools re-opening as the COVID Tier 4 restrictions started to ease. Children were more at risk of neglect during the lockdown periods and the opening of schools resumed face to face contact with trusted adults. This along with the introduction of Public Protection Notices (PPN) and increased professional curiosity are key reasons for the increase and predicted increase over the next four years. There is also scrutiny on this area of demand with rolling programmes of inspection around vulnerability and child protection. West Yorkshire has high rates of both looked after children and children on Child Protection Plans.

## Child Sexual Exploitation & Abuse

Child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) has been increasing year on year and a stable trend is predicted. Non-recent CSE accounts for more than half of CSE and remains a significant demand pressure/risk. Bradford now has 13 non-recent complex investigations which are costly and resource intensive.

## Honour Based Abuse

So-called honour-based abuse forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) are areas of hidden demand, and it is accepted that police data does not reflect the likely scale of the problem. With increased focus on these nationally and locally through the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, it is expected that these may rise with increased confidence to report. Planned legislative changes such as increasing the age of marriage to 18 and outlawing ‘virginity testing’ may lead to increased demand for the Force.

## Missing People

The trend for missing persons is predicted to stabilise following significant reductions over the last few years. However, this still presents a large volume for the Force. HMICFRS Big Data shows that the Force has higher attendance rates for missing persons, and analysis of Unit Cost of Policing shows that around 5,000 hours per week are spent dealing with incidents. Risk levels continue to increase, with 87.4% graded as high risk compared to 72.% in 2017, and these are more time-consuming and costly.

41.8% of children who go missing are looked after children and 17.4% are at risk of Chile Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (25.8% for those who are looked after children).

## W**hat is being done?**

Protecting Vulnerable People is one of the three purposes of the Policing Strategy and is central to the Police and Crime Plan Priority of ‘Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience’. The safety of Women and Girls was one of 10 Mayoral Pledges and is a cross-cutting issue in the Police and Crime Plan.

Bradford has a Strategy to tackle Violence against Women and Girls, aligned with the overall force strategy and has identified areas which need more focus, embedding these into existing Strategic and Tactical Plans.

## **Police working with Education.**

WYP have signed the NPCC pledge:

“All Chief Officers across England and Wales will ensure that their schools and youth engagement officers are aware of the vulnerabilities of children missing from school and understand how to progress safeguarding mechanisms.”

We have seen an increase in joint work recently around truancy and children missing from Education within Bradford and continue via Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Stronger Team to support the work of Educational Safeguarding. WYP is represented in an advisory group that looks at attendance and shapes what’s needed across Bradford with a multi-agency focus. There is a bespoke compressive action plan to address the issue District-wide. We continue to support education and learning establishments through our Schools Liaison Officers and the Pol Ed scheme, with Bradford having some of the highest engagement levels across the Force.

## **Police working with Youth Justice**

WYP has fully embraced and supported the Youth Justice improvement plan within Bradford District. This has included training all Sgts and Supervisors on YJS, the referral pathway and out-of-court disposals.

We have embraced the ‘Chance to Change’ scheme. ‘Chance to Change’ is a randomised controlled deferred prosecution scheme whereby young people voluntarily enter the programme and are required to meet a 3-month contract, tailor-made to tackle the root cause of their behaviour and, if possible, make amends for what they have done. Successful completion results in no formal prosecution or criminal conviction.

The aim is to prevent unnecessary criminalisation, which significantly harms young people’s prospects, whilst simultaneously ensuring their accountability and justice for the victims and putting practical measures in place to prevent reoffending.

WYP have also evolved a protocol for WYP, Children Social Care and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that looked after children are not drawn into the criminal justice process unnecessarily and disproportionately. The protocol seeks to provide only when entirely necessary will a child come into contact with criminal justice agencies, and there are rigorous checks and balances in place to ensure, throughout the entire journey, ongoing involvement of criminal justice partners is necessary and proportionate.

## **Police working with Early Help**

We are building upon the success of both Districts Health and Well Being and Children’s Services constituency-based models and in line Neighbourhood Services Locality review. In September 2022, we will start the implementation of our new model for Early Action, which aspires to deliver a hub in each locality. Each Hub will be based within the localities, whether in a Police Station or a partnership building.

In addition, there will be a central District Hub co-ordinating activity and referrals. This will work closely with Liaison and Diversion (L&D) and will be co-located with L&D. Police resourcing for the hubs will consist of L&D Officers and Police Researchers. The focus of the work is to adopt an all-age whole family lead practitioner approach and integrates the PCSOs into the Team around the Family approach. This approach enables our Early Action offer to move from a reactive approach requiring referrals from colleagues to a much more proactive inquisitive approach which seeks to identify cases at an early stage.

## **Police work with Children’s Social Care**

During 2021/21, work was completed that in August 2022 saw CSC’s Emergency Duty Team function co-locate with WYP.

The aspiration and shared objective are that this leads to increased information sharing, enhanced joint decision making and more proportionate use of emergency powers and protocols.

EDT staff will be located within the District Operational Command Hub and the Safeguarding Investigations team. This is the first iteration of working towards the implementation of the National Safeguarding Review recommendations regarding improved information sharing and joint Child Protection investigations. It will also demonstrate how WYP, our only area for improvement from the Safeguarding strand of our most recent HMICFRS Inspection, “to improve and implement consistent information sharing arrangement between WYP and CSC.”

Further to work with EDT, Police resources from the Children Vulnerable to Exploitation Team are collocating with CSC and other partners within the Exploitation Hub. Similar to the work with EDT, it is envisaged that richer information will be considered to inform better joint decisions leading to collaborative interventions in addressing the threat of criminal exploitation.

WYP have supported the Exploitation Profile for Bradford District, which will form the basis of the Exploitation Strategy.

## **Wellbeing & Training**

WYP is a partner within the joint TBP Learning & Improvement Subgroup alongside the Children Service’s Improvement Board.

Over the last 12 months, WYP has been both the provider and participant in various training and development sessions. This includes - Active Bystander Training, so-called Honour Based Violence, the Mental Capacity Act, and the Use of Police Protective Powers. WYP continues to engage with 7 Minutes Briefings and Practitioner Learning events following LCSPRs and SARs and supporting the development of a Partnership online Learning and CPD platform.

Staffing within Safeguarding Investigations is currently 98% but will be 100% by September.

This has been achieved through the Force Safeguarding Uplift. It has been challenging to deliver due to the number of vacancies WYP carries within the Detective cohort. This is reflected nationally, with Policing across England and Wales being 7,000 Detectives below the operational requirement.

# Bradford District & Craven Clinical Commissioning Group and the Health Community (Integrated Care Board from July 2022)

Safeguarding children is a priority for all health agencies in the district. The central partnership work is led by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board from July 1st, 2022) as one of the statutory partners in the district safeguarding children’s arrangements; the leading organisations being Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust (Acute Trusts) and Bradford District Care Foundation Trust (BDCFT).

## Integrated Care Board

The Health and Care Act 2022 completed the parliamentary process and received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022. This was an essential step on the journey towards establishing Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), moving them onto a statutory footing with the establishment of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). This took place on 1 July 2022

Each ICS has an Integrated Care Board (ICB), a statutory organisation bringing the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities within the NHS. When ICBs were legally established, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) were abolished.

## Partnership Working

During 2021/22, all Health agencies fully supported the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership workstreams and priorities through engagement from executive leads and safeguarding professionals at all relevant meetings, sub-groups and learning and development events. This work also included developing guidance, for example, leading multiagency professional practice sessions and revising the fabricated and induced illness and dental neglect guidance.

The Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse led the Health Safeguarding Children Group, which provided a forum for information sharing and coordinating health responses to system issues. This group enabled the inclusion of all other health-related agencies, including Dental services, Local Care Direct, Locala, Change Grow Live (which provides drug and alcohol services), Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and private providers such as the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre and enables a coordinated response to issues raised by the Partnership.

## Demand

The response to Covid-19 required by health providers placed additional pressure on staff in general and specifically on safeguarding professionals who were already experiencing an increase in demand for their expertise and guidance.

All health agencies reported a considerable increase in safeguarding activity through the number of contacts and referrals made to the safeguarding teams by front-line staff. Both Acute Trusts reported a significant rise in Child Protection Medical Examinations and investigations for abuse, particularly those completed in the latter part of the reporting period.

An increasing number of referrals were made to the Integrated Front Door (IFD). This led to a higher demand for information sharing to safeguard children and attend statutory meetings to support decision-making. A CCG Specialist Health Practitioner (SHP) has been hosted within the IFD for many years to enable sharing of health information and to contribute to multi-agency decision-making for children. In 2021 the post was increased to 1 whole time equivalent (WTE) and in 2022 increased again to 2 WTE; this has been through the support of Public Health and BDCFT, who also provided interim secondment arrangements when a post became vacant. With administrative approval, an additional SHP (0.8 WTE) was recruited into the Exploitation Hub.

Due to the volume of strategy discussions and health information requests that came into the service from children’s social care that impacted the ability of Health Visiting and School Nursing staff to carry out their commissioned work, in April 2021, BDCFT established the Vulnerable Children’s Information Team.

The VCI team was initially funded for 12 months only. However, it is now supported on a recurrent basis, and resource has been increased.

In April 2021, the numbers of children in care were 1337, rising to 1446 in March 2022. This continual increase in the number of children coming into care (CIC) has made it challenging to meet statutory health requirements. During the reporting period (2021/2), a new system model using GPs hosted by BDCFT has allowed progress to be made against reducing the number of Children on the waiting lists for Initial Health Assessments (IHA). This new system model has significantly impacted the number of days a child is waiting for their IHA, falling from 103 days in August 2021 to 43 days in July 2022. However, there is a need to continually review processes to ensure capacity and demand remain sustainable within the new model, including continued work on gaining consent for IHA’s with system colleagues.

A new Designated Doctor for CIC was appointed during the reporting period.

# Voluntary Care Sector

Bradford has a broad and diverse range of voluntary and community sector services and activities supporting children and young people. Therefore, it is essential to recognise that individual services and organisations will have their demands and challenges and that summarising broad trends will not reflect the full complexity.

## Demand

* Many organisations report significant and sustained demand for their services
* Organisations also report increased complexity of safeguarding issues and concerns being raised.
* Organisations also support children and young people while waiting for other services. This can mean providing a service for longer whilst they await the specialist service and spending significant time helping someone gain access to assessments or services.
* Children and young people, and families are experiencing significant long-term impacts of the Covid pandemic and measures, including impact on mental health and financial challenges relating to the cost of living crisis. The impact is uneven but is particularly exacerbating pre-existing inequalities.
* Demand and complexity could remain high, and if unaddressed, inequalities gaps could widen further in the coming years. The cost-of-living pressures is set to put extra demands on organisations through increased demand from children, young people and families and rising costs for organisations.

## Challenges

The main issues are;

* Funding uncertainty continues to be a challenge for many services. Short-term or unpredictable funding makes long-term service planning and development very difficult.
* Increasing costs for organisations will make it challenging to respond to increased demand
* VCSE organisations with close working relationships with statutory partners are directly impacted by challenges and changes that affect those partners.
* There are increasing challenges around staffing, recruitment, and retention at all organisational levels, making service delivery challenges. This mainly stems from the cost-of-living challenges.

## What is being done?

Agencies are;

* + Where partners are undergoing change and challenges, organisations have sought to respond positively and to ensure that the most vulnerable young people are supported.
  + Organisations collectively and individually continue to seek funding arrangements and work with partners to secure longer-term arrangements.
  + There is a new contract to deliver infrastructure support to VCSE organisations, which will work with partners to address some of these challenges
  + Work is underway to agree a new Compact which should improve working arrangements between the sector and partners.
  + Work will be undertaken at sector and partnership levels to understand and respond to workforce challenges and to cost of living pressures.
* VCS organisations adapted flexibly and rapidly at the onset of Covid to ensure services continued and support was maintained for the most vulnerable. Organisations continue to apply the same flexibility and openness to new working methods as circumstances change again.
* Organisations service offers to respond to the needs and wishes of families and young people. Face-to-face has always been at the heart of many organisations’ offers and continues to be so. This now includes a virtual element that enhances the face-to-face offer.

# Partnership Sub Groups – How we learn from what we do ?

# **Performance Monitoring and Audit Sub Group**

## Priorities set for the year:

• Continuing work to develop the Performance Data set and include additional information from health agencies and other partners.

• Scrutiny of multi-agency practice via case audits focussing on either issue arising from case reviews or the performance data.

• Continuing oversight of the Youth Justice Service's ongoing action plan, specifically those sections relating to safeguarding.

• Monitoring actions following the audit of Child Protection processes.

• Greater analysis of missing from-home data, including police "safe and well" visits.

• Collaboration on developing and West Yorkshire Section 11 tool, which would also incorporate an adult review module.

• A "deep dive" into the data on children missing education.

Performance data:

## Data Collection

The performance dataset was scrutinised each quarter, and additions were made regarding children missing education, youth justice and children who go missing from care. The sub-group made considerable efforts to improve data regarding examinations of children and young people who may have been subject to sexual assault from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and local hospital trusts.

Thanks to the Designated Doctor who produced valuable data regarding examinations carried out locally. Still, there was less success in getting good and regular information from SARC – this deficit was drawn to the attention of the service and its commissioners and is resolved. We also obtained data about refugee and asylum-seeking children and families placed in hotels in Bradford district by the Home Office. The group was able to get assurance about safeguarding measures in these settings.

Greater analysis of missing from-home data, including police "safe and well" visits: quarterly data reports presented to the sub-group were improved during the year. However, some of the data held by the police proved challenging to extract from datasets held centrally. Data regarding children missing from children's homes, both regulated and unregulated, and hostels was an area of particular improvement and enabled the Partnership to engage in better-informed discussions with provider’s about good practice.

A "deep dive" into the data on children missing education improved our understanding of the data re children missing education and ensured the LA took steps to reduce the numbers. This information became complex to interpret during the pandemic as the requirement to attend school was no longer in place. It was, however, reassuring to note that the LA did identify children who met the government's definition of vulnerable and thereby could be given access to a school place and the steps they took to ensure vulnerable children were in school if this was appropriate.

The school safeguarding audit regarding their Section 175 duties was also reviewed and improved.

## Audit

Case audits: A task and finish group was set up to review and audit methodologies to scrutinise better multi-agency cases. The first audit using the new method took place in the Autumn. The audit looked in detail at children in care who went missing.

Monitoring actions following the audit of Child Protection processes. The group examined agency representation, quality of action plans and involvement of children in the Child Protection Process.

Youth Justice Service action plan review

Section 7 of an Ofsted inspection completed in 2020 raised several safeguarding issues, and an appropriate action plan was developed. This was monitored quarterly, and all actions were signed off as complete before the year's end.

## Section 11

 Work to develop a West-Yorkshire-wide Section 11 ( a review of the agency's responses to safeguarding) audit tool continued throughout the year. It was concluding at the year's end.

This will reduce the demand on agencies who deliver services across West Yorkshire and who, to date, have been asked to complete multiple audit forms by the 5 West Yorkshire Local Authorities.

It will also be a single tool for adults and children and allow for a more sophisticated data analysis.

# Learning and Improvement Group Sub Group

Throughout the year, we have been very busy trying to regain the ground we lost in training due to Covid and the lack of trainers.

We have considered our priorities for training. We have tried to restart core training and are just seeing a face-to-face restart. Current activity includes Child Exploitation (CE) modules, Harmful Sexual Behaviour. We have considered how to incorporate new messages from reviews and discussed looking back to basics/ neglect. We have worked to pool some single-agency training for the multi-agency audience and reviewed the virtual college offer.

Despite many efforts, we were slow to start virtual training but managed some successful actual multi-agency professional practice sessions (PPS). These have had excellent feedback. We have a group working on future PPS.

In the absence of a trainer, the chair and group members have done extra work reviewing and considering training, attending other subgroups etc. We are therefore delighted to have appointed a new trainer. Whilst still half of the previous post, she has enabled the restart and development of some of our previous courses. We have dates booked for core training, including Safeguarding Children Assessment Analysis Framework, Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and disability.

We have established strong links with the Safeguarding and Professional Practice and Case Review groups. We also link with the adult training group to consider overlap / joint training where applicable. Still, after much discussion, we are clear on the need for separate Children's courses and trainers in other areas.

We have been working towards and have recently obtained a new Learning Management System, essential for booking and monitoring our training. We continue to be challenged with the important part of our Terms of Reference of recording dissemination of training. We have a document and continue to look at ways of doing this.

Having done much work around CSE /CE, our forward plan includes discussing going back to basics, training on neglect and reviewing barriers to safeguarding.

We are strengthening our links with the university's health and social care departments and will be helping with a conference with the university in the Autumn 22

Unfortunately, we had little input in the Safeguarding week this year; however, members contributed and participated to individual training opportunities throughout the safeguarding week .

# Safeguarding and Professional Practice Sub Group

TBP is part of the West Yorkshire Consortium for multi-agency safeguarding children’s procedures.

In partnership with Wakefield, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnerships, all multi-agency safeguarding children’s procedures have been developed as a framework for services in Bradford working with children and families to follow. They reflect relevant legislation, guidance and local context in West Yorkshire and Wakefield.

SAPP sub group is responsible for reviewing and refreshing multi-agency policies and procedures across the Bradford District and providing local input to the West Yorkshire Procedures.

During this period, the group reviewed a range of processes and procedures through the task and finish groups.

One of the new procedures developed during this period was how agencies respond to children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours. This involved seeking best practices from other areas and working closely with the NSPCC to complete this. In support of this, a series of training courses were run by NSPCC, including training trainers to increase the knowledge of those working with children in such circumstances.

The group refreshed many other documents, chiefly the Neglect Practitioner toolkit assisting in identifying neglect. A refreshment of the supporting district strategy for neglect accompanied this. In addition, the group refreshed the protocol for requesting medical examinations for children suspected of abuse in response to the Star Hobson review.

Further work is continuing on the Multi-agency Continuum of Needs and Risk, as well as work to refresh the Child Exploitation Protocols.

# **All Age Exploitation Subgroup**

The All Age Exploitation Group is a subgroup of both Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards and the City’s Community Safety Partnership.

The Group focuses on the exploitation of children and adults, including those transitioning to adulthood and other types of exploitation.

The Group has a good representation of committed professionals from various sectors, including health, social care, policing, education and third-sector organisations such as Barnardo's and the Bridge Project.

Over the past year, a key piece of work has been the creation of a Bradford Partnership Exploitation Profile. In September 2021, over 100 partners from a wide array of partner agencies and organisations and some people with lived experience were brought together at Valley Parade for an all-day facilitated workshop. This allowed the harvesting of information, experience and expertise regarding the current harms and threats in Bradford and emerging issues of concern. There was also an exploration of what the partnership is doing well and where we can improve.

Over the following months, with the support of analysts from West Yorkshire Police, a small task and finish Group analysed the data from the event and a range of other data from various sources to create an exploitation profile for Bradford.

The expanded task and finish group, which has representatives from various sectors, is now developing a City-wide Exploitation Strategy and Delivery Plan, which will be completed over the coming months. This not only takes account of the recently produced exploitation profile but also the product created as a result of a mapping exercise of provision for those subject to exploitation in Bradford. The mapping exercise, initiated by the All Age Exploitation Group, was completed with a PhD student at Huddersfield University and identifies where there are gaps in provision.

The regular meetings of the All Age Group and the group members' energy have helped create genuine momentum amongst partners in focussing on exploitation.

There has been a willingness to share and receive learning from local practitioners and the involvement of external contributors from across the Country. By way of example, this has included an understanding of the work of the Lotus Project in the use of the Navigator Programme to support adults subject to exploitation, an exploration of financial abuse led by the West Yorkshire Joint Services Team, a focus on online exploitation including ways to better support victims and the families of perpetrators amongst numerous other aspects of exploitation. There has also been regular support and oversight of the development of the recently formed Bradford Exploitation Hub. The Chair of the All Age Group was honoured to speak to about 200 front-line workers at the recent Exploitation Hub launch event.

The Group has been keen to reflect on how it can continually improve its effectiveness. This has included a session dedicated to such a review, where feedback was received from Group members and considered. An indication of the momentum that has been seen is the number of organisations and individuals seeking to join the Group.

# **Case Review Sub Group**

The Case Review sub-group is chaired by the Designated Nurse Safeguarding and Children Looked After; the group is well attended to and supported by partner agencies.

The group enables the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership to meet the duty set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) to make arrangements for identifying and overseeing the review of serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues of importance about the local area and to liaise with the national panel. The group also considers cases which may not meet the definition above but which are referred to as being useful for learning and practice development. These may include ‘near miss’ situations or examples of good practice; this is possible because of positive relationships between the chair, the business unit, system safeguarding leads and the Child Death Review team.

The group responded to challenges and identified learning throughout the reporting period, reporting to the Safeguarding partnership.

## **Rapid Reviews**

Rapid reviews are a statutory requirement undertaken by senior safeguarding professionals working within and on behalf of the statutory partners.

## Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review**s (LSCPRS)**

The district has several Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in progress, one that had to be restarted after the previous author withdrew, two single reviews that have commenced and a thematic review looking at three similar cases involving young babies receiving serious injuries. A chair and a separate author have been identified, and the review started.

## **LCSPR’s**

* The group oversaw the “Emily” practice review and supported the development a multi-agency action plan. A report was completed and uploaded to the NSPCC learning repository.
* The group reviewed the results from a Case Review in Camden that involved some Bradford agencies; no specific areas for learning within Bradford were identified.
* The Thematic Review of CSE was published on 27th July 2021, and an action plan is being completed to address the issues raised in the report. This report has been presented to the Senior Leadership Group. The group sought assurance that the separate group set up to monitor progress against this would report [CSE Thematic Case Review](https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/media/fphljk3i/scr-cse-thematic-v7.pdf) to them.
* A further LSCPR for a child with complex needs has been commissioned, and the first-panel meeting took place on 15th September 2021. The work on this review is continuing.
* Completed LSCPR for “Grace” (now known as Star Hobson). Planned publication in January was deferred as the National Panel intended to use the CSPR to produce a national CSPR with that of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes. Work continued to meet the preliminary recommendations in the initial report. [National Panel Review into Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes](https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/media/1xzgfh1b/national-panel-review-sh-and-al-h.pdf)
* The group was keen to highlight the demands placed on all agencies from many reviews, both Rapid Reviews and subsequent LCSPRs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Rapid Reviews | CSPR |
| 2019 | 5 | 2 |
| 2020 | 6 | 2 |
| 2021 | 10 | 3 |
| 2022 Jan-March | 4 | 2 |

## **Achievements of the subgroup**

* Creation of a 7-minute briefing based on the “Emily” Learning Lessons Review, looking at injuries in non-mobile children, for the staff briefing to inform them of the signs and actions required in neglect cases which have been completed and uploaded onto the Safer Bradford website.
* The group looked at the decision-making processes for Rapid Reviews and made some minor amendments to ensure improved information sharing, including widening the range of professionals attending Rapid Reviews and offering specialist expertise; decision-making remained with statutory partners Regular reviews of reporting templates have been undertaken and changes made as required to improve reporting processes.
* Establishing a task and finish group from partner agencies from the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety partnership to explore Practice Review methodologies, governance and develop action plans to enable consistency in the quality and process of all review work.

# Responding to the death of Star Hobson

## The death of Star Hobson

On the 22nd of September 2020 Star Hobson was seriously injured at a flat in Wesley Place, Keighley whilst in the care of her mother Frankie Smith and her partner Savannah Brockhill. Star later dies from her injuries in hospital.

## The local child safeguarding practice review

As required by Working Together, a local child safeguarding practice review was commission by the partnership. An Independent review had been appointed and commenced the review was well underway , but not yet completed when Brockhill and Smith at Bradford Crown Court for their criminal trial on 22nd October 2021

## The outcome of the criminal trial

On the 14th of December 2021 – Following a criminal trial at Bradford Crown Court Brockhill is convicted of Star`s murder. Smith is convicted of causing or allowing the Star`s death.

A National Review had already been announced by the Education Secretary into the death of Arthur Labjino-Hughes in Solihull. The two cases have similarities, and a decision was made to include the review of Star`s case into the national review and will be overseen by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

At that time the LSCPR has been paused due to limitations on contacting relatives who were witnesses for the criminal trial

## The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is part of the relatively new safeguarding architecture introduced under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Panel’s primary role is to oversee the national system of learning from serious incidents where children have died or been seriously harmed in the context of abuse and neglect, and to recommend ways in which policy or practice should change in response.

The Panel has a unique perspective on the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice in England; its’ evidence base of over 1,500 reviews of serious incidents since its inception in 2018, alongside a range of thematic reviews, that it has commissioned, positions it well to discern and analyse patterns in practice involving both intra and extra-familial harm to children.

The work undertaken (information gathered, case notes, records, witness statements, review report drafts) on the now-ceased local child safeguarding practice review was submitted to the National Panel and was incorporated into its’ own National Review process.

The National Panel’s review report was subsequently published in May of 2022, and the findings (and the partnership’s response) will be detailed in next year’s annual report.

# **What do our districts children and young people tell us about their lives and challenges?**

The Partnership has sought to capture children's and young people's voices, looking at their views about growing up in Bradford and how this felt.

The Partnership is grateful for the assistance and support of Barnardo's, who surveyed a group of their young people and for the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Local Authority. While these views are not necessarily reflective of all children in the district, they nonetheless provide a snapshot of a group of young people growing up in Bradford and accessing services here.

Barnardo's survey asked several questions via a survey monkey app. A selection of the responses is below.

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The survey also asked questions about the best and worse things about being a young person in Bradford, elicited several responses, including;

*I have lived in Bradford all my life and so it feels safe and normal to me. It's where I know. It's where I'm from. It's where my friends are. I live out in Bingley, and I like that there's loads of places to play (woods, parks, cycling - canal / quarry on Baildon Moor). I like that it's more rural and that you can easily get a train into Bradford to go to the cinema or go to Leeds easily enough. Skate Park and river in Myrtle park... Bingley Music Live.”*

*I feel like there’s nobody in Bradford who is like me, I suffer with my emotional problems and I’m too soft, and average ‘Bradfordian’ isn’t soft and they are hard to be true with”*

*“Your voice isn’t heard”.*

*approaching new things and experiencing life changes. life in Bradford brings out diversity and differences”.*

*“Because you live in Bradford, people think of you as a hard man so people don’t really bug you if they recognise your accent or know where you’re from they’ll leave you alone”*

In response to a question about “What activities/things would you like to see in Bradford?” responses included;

*“Police locking up dangerous men more and police listening to us. Also I'd like to see my social worker talk to me outside and not in the house and listen when I say I want to go in care like Barnardos listen to me. I want to be able to stay with Barnardos and more groups like this should be in Barnardos. I also would like to do some dancing lessons but you have to pay in Bradford”*

*We need more funding in school, I’m fed up of the bad kids getting all of the attention from the teachers, I need help in lesson, not someone screaming at the teacher. We need more funding for more teachers to come in and help the students who are struggling”*

*“More creative things to do”.*

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Finally, the young people were asked to say what they would do if they were given a million pounds to make changes for young people in Bradford. A selection of responses was;

*“I’d give loads of free food out and I’d also do a free pads stand for people who need it and I’d pay for ice skating for young people in care and with no money”*

*“I would use it to sweep up the streets of Bradford of dangerous men and I would also put loads of girl only gyms in”.*

*Probably to make more youth clubs for people alike”*

*mental health support since young adults experience hard times which could involve education and home life”.*

*“Community centres to provide for activities for young people”.*

## Youth Service Survey

A further survey by the Youth Service looked at overall feelings about living in Bradford. Some of the findings, along with their suggestions to address the issues, were;

Young people in the district feel unsafe at night and say that in most areas, there is anti-social behaviour that makes them scared or worried about moving around their area on their own at night. Young people also report a lack of appropriate lighting in parks and green spaces, so they are forced to meet friends on the streets, leading to them being branded as ‘nuisances’ and trouble.

* Short-term proposal: an increase in appearance from local PCSO and community karmas to help young people feel safer when travelling alone at night as there is a presence and feeling of ‘safety.
* Long-term proposal: assess the lighting in parks and look at installing solar-panelled lights to help give young people appropriate places to meet with adequate lighting.

Many areas reporting their local neighbourhoods are untidy, with high levels of fly-tipping, used needles, and litter. Young people have said that they feel that because of the state of their local areas, no one takes pride in it, so the cycle of litter/fly tipping continues.

* Short-term proposal: Community action clean-ups across areas where there are high volumes of litter and debris to inspire young people and the community to take pride in their local area.
* Long-term proposal: Looking at setting up community recycle points and regeneration projects within specific areas to help the communities living within the areas feel motivated and inspired to keep their neighbourhoods tidy and take pride in them.

Young people across the district feel they are not consulted with decisions being made within their local areas; Young people think that due to their age, they are not important enough to be consulted and feel their voices don’t have as much importance to people who make decisions.

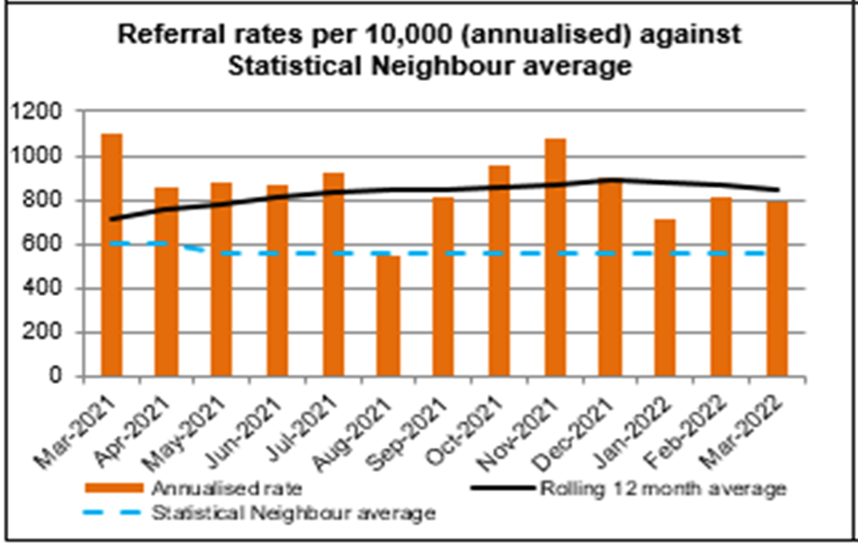
* Short-term proposal: Look at services working face-to-face with young people and educating and empowering them by teaching them about their rights.
* Long-term proposal: Create more ways to look at how we capture and involve young people within decision-making, look at implementing youth voice younger and encouraging young people to be involved and fully understand how their voice can influence higher decision-making.

# What does our data tell us?

Contacts to the Integrated Front Door in the district has remained consistent during the year, as below.

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When looking at how many Bradford children who are subject to Child Protection Plans in the district the figures show a gradual reduction over the period April 2021-March 2022.

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Children subject of Child in Need arrangements has fluctuated over the year rising from April 2021 reaching a high point in August 2021 then gradually reducing. Of not is that the figure for March 2022 is higher than it was in the equivalent month in 2021.

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The rate of children in care per 10,00 of populate remained relatively stable across the year albeit Bradford remains higher than the national and regional average.

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# How we are funded

# Outturn 2021/22

Budget £397,531

Final Costs £331,762

Underspend £65.769

# Finding Help

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, help is available:

* Childline can be called on 0800 1111.
* Help for Adult Victims of Child Abuse (HAVOCA) offers online support.
* Mind can be called on 0300 123 3393 or emailed at [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)
* National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) can be called on 0808 801 0331
* National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) can be called on 0808 800 5000 or email at [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)
* Rape Crisis can be called on 0808 802 9999.
* Samaritans can be called on 116 123 or emailed at [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)
* The Survivors Trust can be called on 08088 010 818.
* Victim Support can be called on 0808 16 89 111.
* The National Male Survivor Helpline can be called on 0808 800 5005 or emailed at [support@safeline.org.uk](mailto:support@safeline.org.uk)

# Contact Details

The Safer Bradford website offers information and advice . Please click on the link to access [Safer Bradford](https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/)

What should I do if I think I am being abused or I have concerns regarding someone else ?

* Ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the person at risk.
* Call 999 – If urgent attention is needed.
* Call 01274 437600 – Multi agency Integrated Front Door
* Call 01274 431010 – Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)
* Call 101 – If a crime needs to be reported but is not urgent, or
* Call 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers
* Additional click [Report a Concern](https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/report-a-concern)

Preserve any evidence If you can , accurately record the incident, any actions or decisions. Make sure you sign it and add the date and time.