Bristol Keeping Adults Safe Board
Annual Report 2025/26



KEEPING BRISTOL SAFE PARTNERSHIP

Foreword from the Independent Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the Bristol Keeping Adult Safe Board (KASB) Annual Report for 2025/26.

I am very pleased to have been appointed to the role of Independent Chair of KASB in April 2026. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Sally Rowe and Mette Le Jakobsen who presided over the role during the reporting period and thank them for their stewardship and dedicated leadership.

As you will see from the detail in the report, KASB partners have been working to deliver the final year of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) Strategic Plan 2023/26. During 2025/26 there have been governance changes and KBSP remains in place providing the opportunity for the Keeping Children's Safe Board, Keeping Communities Safe Board) and KSAB to discuss areas of shared interest. Formal decision making however on adult safeguarding matters affecting multi-agency working has moved to KASB itself.

The Annual Report 2025/26 sets out the work carried out by KASB.

We started 2026/27 with a focus on ensuring the recommendations from our Safeguarding Adult Reviews are being implemented as swiftly as they can be and have reviewed our actions to date. We are particularly moving forward in our plans to supporting people who are at risk of self-neglect. We have also started to develop our new Strategic Plan and whilst this is underway we will deliver the priorities identified in this report.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our partners, operational staff, and community members who work tirelessly to make Bristol a safer, more compassionate place to live.



Lesley Hutchinson
KASB Independent Chair

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Introduction and Role of the Board

Keeping Adults Safe Board (KASB) Annual Report 2025/26 offers a comprehensive overview of our activities, achievements, and challenges, reflecting our ongoing commitment to ensuring that adults with care and support needs can live their lives free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

This was primarily brought about by statutory change in arrangements for Children's meaning the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Executive (a collaboration of Keeping Adults Safe Board; Keeping Children Safe Board and Keeping Communities Safe Board) as a decision making group to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Steering Group instead. We have maintained the joint arrangement via the Steering Group and share a Business Unit however since February 2025, each of the three Boards hold decision making responsibility. The joint Steering Group provides a critical and valuable role of ensuring a unified and collaborative approach to safeguarding across Bristol. It enables us to remove barriers and enable joint creative working tackling shared issues rather than working in silos. Note whilst not a decision-making group as a Partnership you will often see the KBSP logo on documentation which represents how unified we are.

KASB is a multi-agency partnership Board established under the Care Act 2014. The primary purpose is to oversee and coordinate safeguarding adults work across Bristol, ensuring that all member organisations work together effectively to protect adults at risk.

The Board brings together key local partners which can be found in Appendix 1.

The Board has been chaired by both Mette Le Jakobsen, Director of Adult Social Care, and Sally Rowe, Independent Chair of the former Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership during 2025/26. KBSP recruited a new Independent Chair for Keeping Adults Safe Board and they commenced in post in April 2026.

KASB's Annual Report details what the Board and its members have achieved during the year with a focus on how it has taken forward the strategic priorities agreed for Bristol. The Board is also responsible for conducting Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) by commissioning independent authors to review the events and systems in place when an adult with care and support needs dies or suffers harm as a result of abuse or neglect. These reviews are focussed on identifying learning and creating meaningful systemic change to improve outcomes for adults in Bristol. More information around our SAR work is detailed later in the report.

Throughout the year there have been three subgroups which report into Keeping Adults Safe Board: Self Neglect, Transitional Safeguarding and SAR/DHR subgroup. The subgroups complete work associated with the priority areas and update on their progress throughout the year. There is more information around their key achievements within the report. There has also been work taking place in relation to the: quality of our work via multi-agency audits and assurance: training and development and raising awareness - all of which are also noted in the Report.

KASB's strategic priorities 2023-26 include:

- Creation of an adults' Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Improved pathways for adults experiencing self-neglect
- Improved offer of support for those with multiple complex needs such as homelessness, substance use or mental health issues

Across the three Boards there has been a joint focus on training and development, quality assurance and audit and finally data. Again, more detail follows below.



The Work Carried out by KASB and the Subgroups During 2025/26

KASB has met six times during 2025/26 and agency attendance can be found in Appendix 1. A significant amount of work has taken place both at the Board itself and by the subgroups and the KBSP Steering Group.

KASB completed a comprehensive review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to evaluate its early operational work and highlight the positive impact it has already had. This work was reviewed at six months and again at a year to monitor progression, raise any concerns but also share good practice and celebrate the multi-agency effort in its construction and continued development. The review highlighted stronger, earlier interventions and improved systemic linkages with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), noting that domestic abuse services could effectively engage clients outside of the formal MARAC structure. Later in this report an example of the support provided to an individual showcases this further.

This year, the Partnership has focused on data infrastructure and closing the loop on continuous learning. Having the ability to make data informed decisions is imperative when progressing the Keeping Adult Safe Board's activity; the business unit were successful in recruiting a dedicated analyst to develop the Keeping Adults Safe Board data dashboard in 2026/27. This will continue to be a priority and ensure we have an accurate picture of areas of progress and concern within Bristol. We will further develop our understanding of our local picture with use of the Safeguarding Adults Collection to update the Keeping Adult Safe Board and inform decisions moving forward. To support this activity and being responsive to the recommendations from statutory reviews, a new Adult Social Care Safeguarding Learning and Development Lead has been recruited; this role will create meaningful impact within Adult Social Care provision.

The Multiple-Disadvantage Transformation Board shared a recent activity report which reinforced a mutual commitment to joined-up operations between itself and the Keeping Adult Safe Board moving forward. There were key areas of overlap through the nature of discussed safeguarding concerns, patterns of elevated risk and emerging concerns which made the connection between the two boards a priority for 2026/27.

The Board is also now supported by a new substance use service – Bristol Horizons – this was commissioned in April 2025 and marked a significant positive change for people who are using substances, many of which have care and support needs or additional safeguarding concerns. Horizons presented at the Board ensuring that partners know how to refer in for support and could confidently explain to people in their services what the support options are. The Partnership and Keeping Adult Safe Board are hopeful that this will reduce the risk of abuse adults face and we will receive routine updates on its progress.

In 2024 all Safeguarding Adult Boards received a Ministerial Letter with four recommendations around supporting individuals who are rough sleeping; the letter required the Boards to have greater oversight following national learning from SARs. There has been an expansion within the Bristol's housing workforce of more Targeted Prevention Group (TPG) workers (officers who will support those people who are homeless and rough sleeping), a social worker and Case Review Group Coordinator. These officers will work together and are specialists in supporting people who are experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping, are complex and in high-risk situations. Additionally, the team have successfully managed to bring 28 new Housing First properties to adopt a My Team Around Me approach which will have a positive impact for individuals by coordinating their professional network. Keeping Adult Safe Board will be monitoring the progress of this increased focus and intervention during 2026/27.

Bristol City Council received the outcome of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection with the rating of 'Good' validating the high standard of local care and governance. Theme 3 How Bristol City Council ensures safety within the system covers two areas: Safe pathways, systems and transitions as well as Safeguarding.

Safe pathways, systems and transitions scored 3 – Evidence shows a good standard. The report highlighted good practice with continuity of care, including when people move between different services.

Safeguarding scored 2 – Evidence shows some shortfalls. The report highlighted the newly implemented Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was a positive for risk management and information sharing across the professional network. Although the numbers of people waiting for an assessment is falling, wait times were noted within the report. There will be a continued close scrutiny of risk within this area through the Waiting Well strategy and internal auditing processes to assess risk and address safety for individuals within the system.

The full report can be found here: Bristol City Council: local authority assessment - Care Quality Commission.

Following the direction stated in the Annual report 2025/26, the table below gives an update on progress against those areas.

We said we would	What we did
Strengthen and review the MASH	There have been regular reports brought to Keeping Adult Safe Board around the MASH (6 months review, 1 year review) to track progress and impact made. MASH cases have been audited internally, partnership wide and also through lived expertise. There is more detail on this work later in the report.
Reduce waiting times within Adult Social Care for Safeguarding	There has been a reduction in the average wait time for enquiry decisions from 6 days to 5 days but there is still work continuing within this area for future improvements.
Enhance protection against Financial Abuse	There is now a Financial Protection Officer embedded within Safeguarding who functions as a point of contact for Adult Social Care to provide guidance, support and direction to any team member with concerns around financial abuse.
Embed learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews	A new Safeguarding Learning and Development lead has been recruited who will use learning identified within SARs to ensure meaningful impact is made within Adult Social Care through training creation, awareness campaigns or bitesize learning opportunities
Strengthen Corporate Risk Management	The action plan created following the CQC inspection is working as a road map for Adult Social Care from a corporate perspective. Both upcoming publications and completed SARs, including subsequent learning, will now feature in senior level meetings to improve oversight and areas of risk within the system
Develop a Transitional Safeguarding pathway	The pathway is still in development but there has already been a launch of Harm Outside the Home Meetings which focus on risk management and support for 16-25 cohort. The completion of a pathway remains a focus for Keeping Adult Safe Board in 2026/27.



Specific Work of the Subgroups

Transitional Safeguarding Subgroup

The Transitional Safeguarding subgroup has met three times during the year – it had a change of chairing arrangements which has brought new discussion to the direction of the group and activity completed by its members. Following the Partnership Conference in January 2025 which had a focus and keynote speech around Transitional Safeguarding, recruitment to the subgroup increased with high engagement and interest is addressing this topic for young people in Bristol.

The subgroup created Transitional Safeguarding Principles focussing on the needs of children moving into adulthood (up to 25 years), not solely whether they are eligible for the services available. The aim is for partners to increase their knowledge of support options available to ensure young people are introduced to the right services at the right time and minimise young people being turned away from services.

The group has also started looking at a gap analysis across the system and agree on collective work to ensure better co-ordination across the partnership, including working alongside Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and MASH to identify where the area of development lie.

In 2026/27 the group will look to establish a programme of work ensuring the actions create impactful and meaningful change across the system.

Self-Neglect Subgroup

The Self-Neglect subgroup has met three times during the year – it has realigned its direction and focus of activity which has included a change of chairing arrangements and updated Terms of Reference to give the group direction and accountability. The group sought direction from Keeping Adult Safe Board regarding partners' priorities and expectations. The subgroup then constructed a forward plan through multi agency workshop activities which has created agreed direction and shared purpose of the work to be completed in 2026/27.

Quality Assurance and Audit Subgroup

The group have undertaken two adult multi-agency audits during the year. The use of the Mental Capacity Act was an area of focus because of repeated SAR learning identified. The audit focussed on five people open to Adult Social Care who have had concerns raised around their capacity. The audit showed good understanding of the Act and completing mental capacity assessments, but learning was identified in sharing that information across the individual's professional network. The recommendations from the audit finding are being monitored by Keeping Adult Safe Board.

The recommendations include:

- Agencies to ensure they understand fire risks within the home and ensure they know when and how to make relevant referrals to Avon Fire and Rescue Services.
- Horizons to contact the relevant teams in agencies to arrange present to their teams on the specialist alcohol and substance misuse they provide and how to make referrals.
- Police, Health and Local Authority to provide formal assurance to the KBSP Business Unit that information is recorded and shared in a timely manner with those involved in the best interest's meetings. This quality assurance activity will be summarised and shared with all agencies involved in this audit.
- Agencies to consider embedding in practitioners training and providing line management support to practitioners on having difficult conversations and recognising potential barriers where there is a lack of consent.

A further targeted audit was conducted around Hoarding and agencies' responses to this. This came from agencies reporting this as a growing concern for people they support and feeling that there is not a forum to discuss concerns amongst a professional network. The actions points following this audit supported the development of a MARM framework and suggested a refresh of the local hoarding protocol. The Board held initial strategic discussions regarding MARM frameworks, and it was decided the Self-Neglect subgroup is an effective vehicle to progress this work. The discussions emphasised the absolute necessity of multi-agency collaboration for this process to be successful. The development, resourcing and implementation of this is a priority for the Keeping Adults Safe Board for 2026/27.

The recommendations include:

- Creation of a multi-agency risk management framework for Bristol, developed collaboratively to support individuals who hoard, with a particular focus on those requiring ongoing support and presenting varying levels of risk over time.
- KBSP to review membership of audit subgroup to ensure appropriate representation, including members of the care sector, ambulance service, and where relevant agencies are identified.
- Ensure KBSP maintains up-to-date multi-agency hoarding guidance for Bristol. Key areas identified include clear referral pathways, defined roles and responsibilities across agencies, consistent recording and reporting practices, and alignment with KBSP information-sharing protocols. Guidance should consider implementation and opportunities for training to support effective practice.

SAR/DHR Subgroup

The SAR and Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) subgroup meets to ensure a consistent, proportionate and learning focused approach to statutory reviews is evident across the partnership. During this year the group has received and considered ten referrals (details outlined in section 3); quality assured reports and directed learning events. As noted above, five SARs have been approved and one joint DHR / SAR. Details of SAR referrals considered, and ongoing monitoring are included in the Safeguarding Adult Reviews section below.

The group organised a SAR learning event which saw multiple agencies present workshops around their subject of expertise including evidence-led prosecutions, Mental Capacity Act, executive functioning, Self-Neglect, home fire safety visits, inherent jurisdiction and court of protection, and anti-social behaviour powers. The event was attended by over 20 professionals from a wide range of partnership organisations and received positive feedback from those who attended. A learning brief was circulated following the event which has been disseminated throughout partner agencies with reports of the information collected already supporting case work.



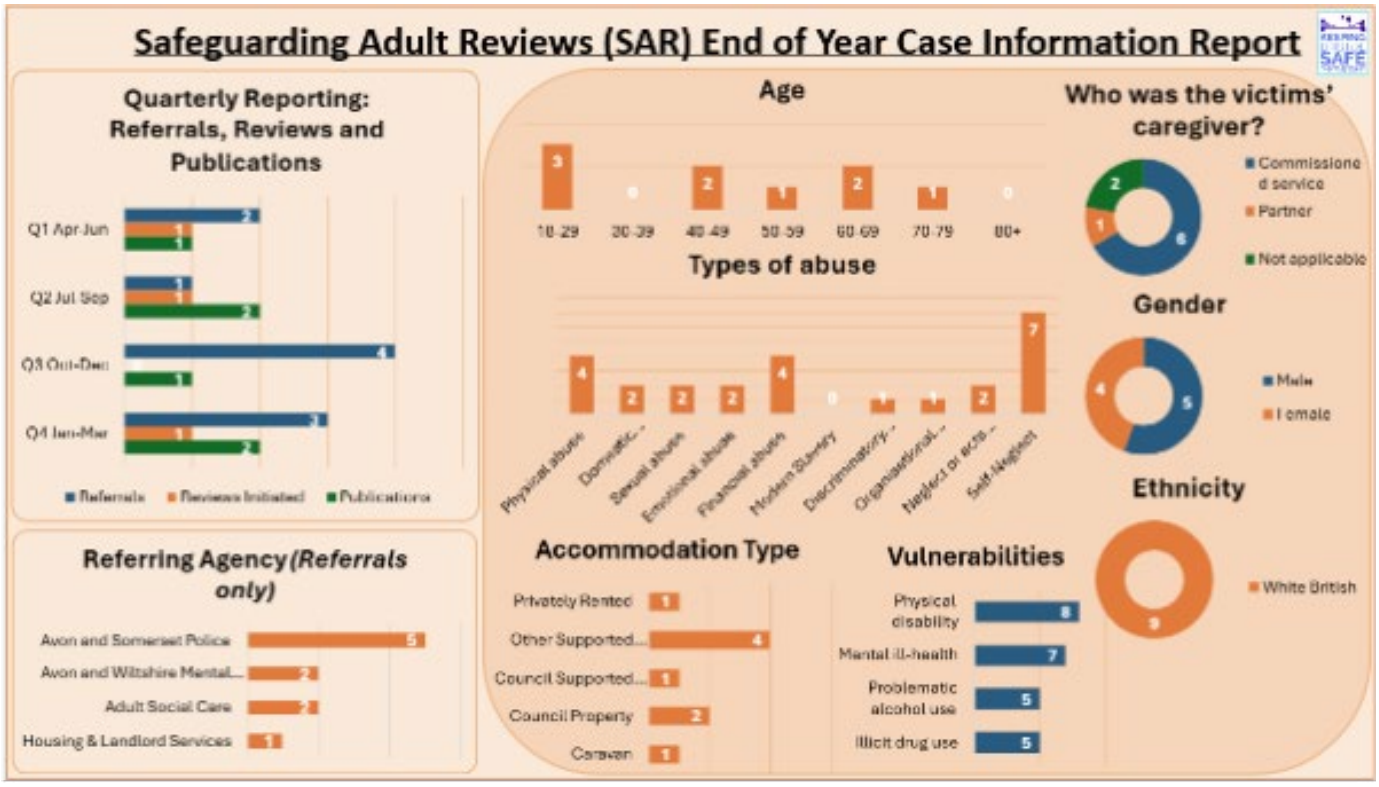
Safeguarding Adult Reviews

During 2025/26, KASB undertook a number of statutory reviews. These reviews are required by law where harm or loss of life has occurred involving individuals living in Bristol. Their purpose is to establish a clear understanding of the circumstances and, critically, to identify opportunities for learning and improvement across the partnership. The graphic below sets out the number of referrals we have received by agency and demographic profiling.

In 2025/26, three new SARs were commissioned. One review considered recurring safeguarding themes identified in previous years, including risk and mental capacity, cuckooing and exploitation, self-neglect, and the effectiveness of information sharing, partnership working and multi-agency collaboration.

The remaining two SARs were commissioned following the deaths of two care-experienced young women. Both individuals had experienced significant adverse childhood experiences and presented with long-standing vulnerabilities and complex needs.

Alongside the individual SARs, the partnership recognised the value of undertaking a joint, multi-agency reflective process to draw out thematic learning. This will focus in particular on how services work collectively with care-experienced young people and how an understanding of intersectionality can strengthen practice. A thematic learning event is scheduled for Quarter 1 of 2026/27.



There were seven referrals made which did not progress to a SAR for a variety of reasons. These include lack of evidence of abuse or neglect, lack of evidence that multi-agency failings contributed to death, or lack of evidence of care and support needs. The SAR/DHR subgroup will be trailing an updated referral form as a means of quality assuring the referrals received. The SAR/DHR subgroup is also creating flow charts to assist in SAR decisions to ensure understanding and consistency in decision making.

Over the year, KASB approved and published five SARs and one joint SAR and Domestic Homicide Review. The key themes involved multi agency collaboration, the use of mental capacity assessments, and self-neglect. In response to these themes, the partnership drew on the insights and recommendations provided to address these areas in a variety of ways such as auditing active cases with the Quality Assurance subgroup and using the cases to inform the work of the self-neglect subgroup.

Analysis of SAR findings indicates that self-neglect remains a consistent and prominent theme, reflecting both regional trends reported by Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) and national patterns within Adult Social Care. Additionally, several reviews highlighted ongoing concerns relating to alcohol and substance dependency, often alongside cognitive impairment and fluctuating mental capacity. As set out above the Board have undertaken an audit on application of the MCA and the recommendations are being monitored.

The subsequent action plans from SARs are continually monitored at Keeping Adult Safe Board and below is a comparison of the completion rates between March 2025 and March 2026. It shows the completion of six review action plans and progress made across two review which remain open.

March 2025

Case Code	Review	% of Recommendations Completed	Number of actions outstanding
SAR4	Janette(Caroline) (2018)	83%	2
SAR5	Richard (2018)	82%	3
SAR7	Joanna (2020)	94%	1
SAR9&11	Self Neglect Thematic (2021)	80%	4
SAR10	Lily (2021)	22%	7
SAR12	Daniel (2021)	76%	4
SAR13	Brian (2022)	78%	4
SAR14	Bakar (2023)	68%	12
DHR28 (SAR 15)	Florence (2023)	79%	8

March 2026

Case Code	Review	% of Recommendations Completed	Number of actions outstanding
SAR5	Richard (Adult R) (2018)	82%	3
SAR9&11	Self Neglect Thematic (2021)	85%	3
SAR10	Lily (2021)	56%	4
SAR16	Natalie (2023)	59%	24
SAR17	Adam (2024)	65%	15
SAR18	George & Peter (2024)	59%	16
SAR19	Richard (2024)	84%	3
SAR20	Michael (2025)	55%	9

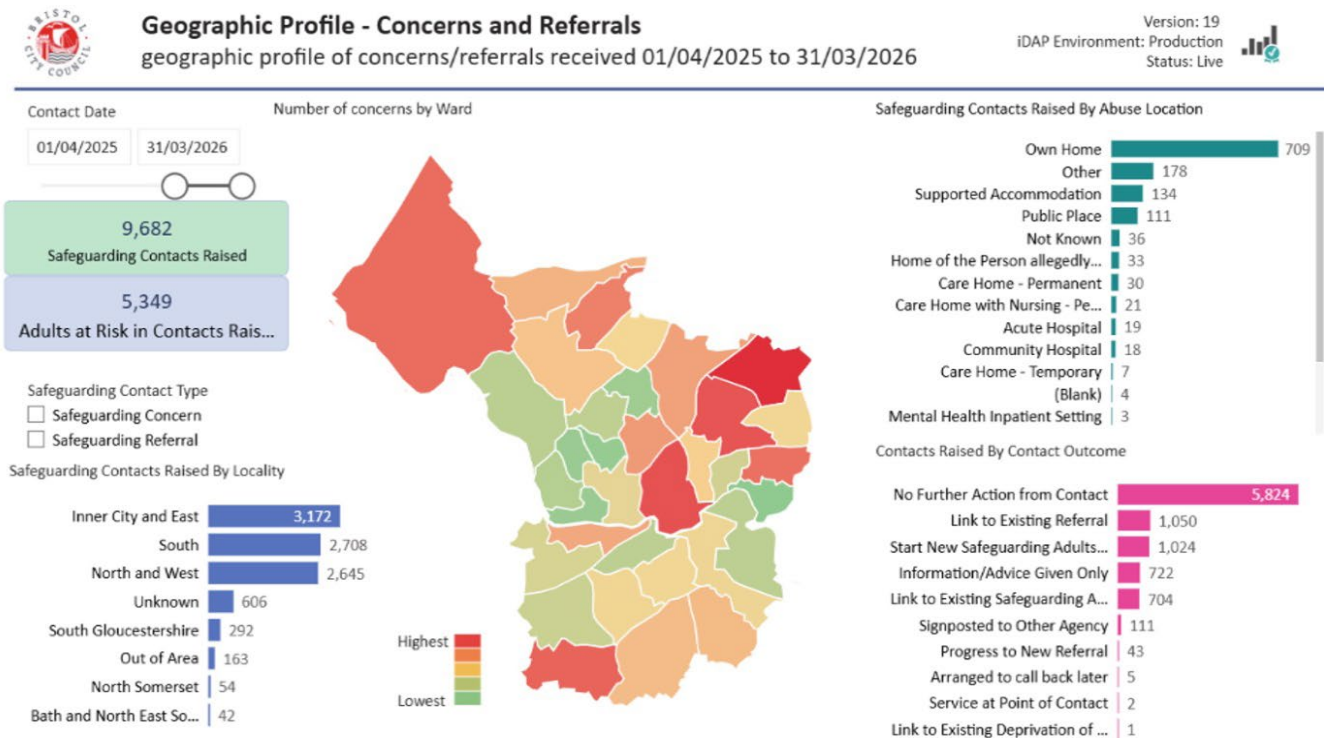
Our Population

Bristol's story is rich and complex, shaped and moulded by a significant period during which it was a major port in the transatlantic slave trade. We acknowledge this history and its lasting impact on our communities, some of which still include hidden 'unheard voices'. Safeguarding trends and themes remind us that these citizens are frequently overrepresented where risk is highest, and liberty is threatened. Our city is a city of contrasts.

It contains pockets of extreme deprivation, areas of affluence and much cultural plurality. Bristol is the largest city in the southwest of England, covering an area of 110 square kilometres. It is the ninth largest city in the United Kingdom and one of the twelve Core Cities. In 2024, Bristol was estimated to have a population of around 494,000. Bristol's population grew by an estimated 50,600 people over the decade 2014- 24: a 11.4% increase (England and Wales grew by 7.6%) and is currently projected to grow by more than 10% to more than 550,000 by the 2040s.

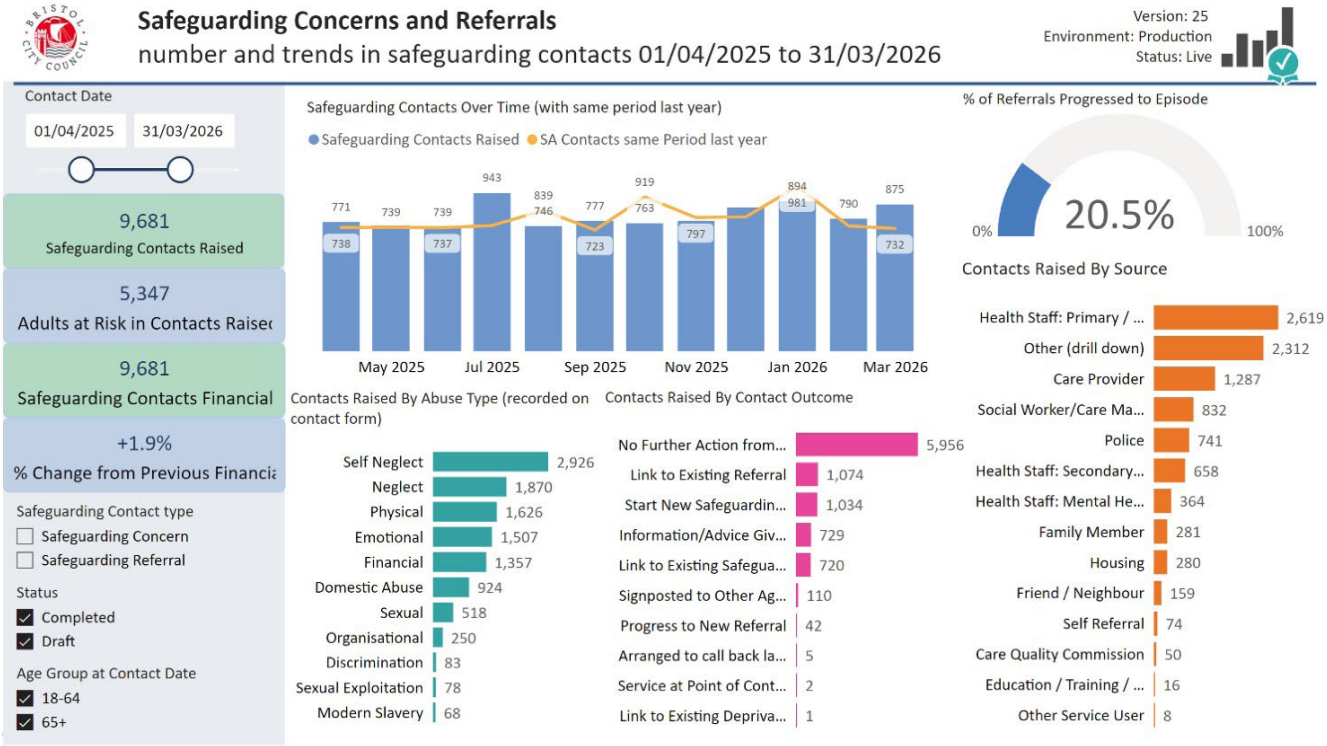
The population of Bristol has become increasingly diverse, and some local communities have changed significantly. There are now more than 287 different ethnic groups in the city, more than 185 countries of birth represented, at least 45 religions and more than 90 languages spoken by people living in Bristol.

Even with this intricacy, Bristol has an identity, a consciousness, with a new generation emerging demanding change. We understand that we have a responsibility to work closely with communities to improve outcomes and build community cohesion and trust. In the 2021 Census, more than 81,000 people in Bristol (17.2% of the population) were estimated to have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses resulting in their day-to-day activities being limited (England and Wales 17.5%). The prevalence of disability (as defined in this way in the Equality Act 2010) increases with age; children, 6.1% disabled, working age (16 to 64 years of age), 16.0% disabled, older people (65 years of age or older), 38.5% disabled. In 2024, Bristol had 62,290 people aged 65 and over: 13% of the total population (England and Wales 19%). Of these, 30,000 people were 75 and over (6% total population; England and Wales 9%). There were 6,660 older people in 2021 estimated to be providing unpaid care, more than one in ten people aged 65 and over.



The graph shows the heat map of safeguarding concerns by location throughout Bristol which is consistent with data from previous years.

Safeguarding Activity

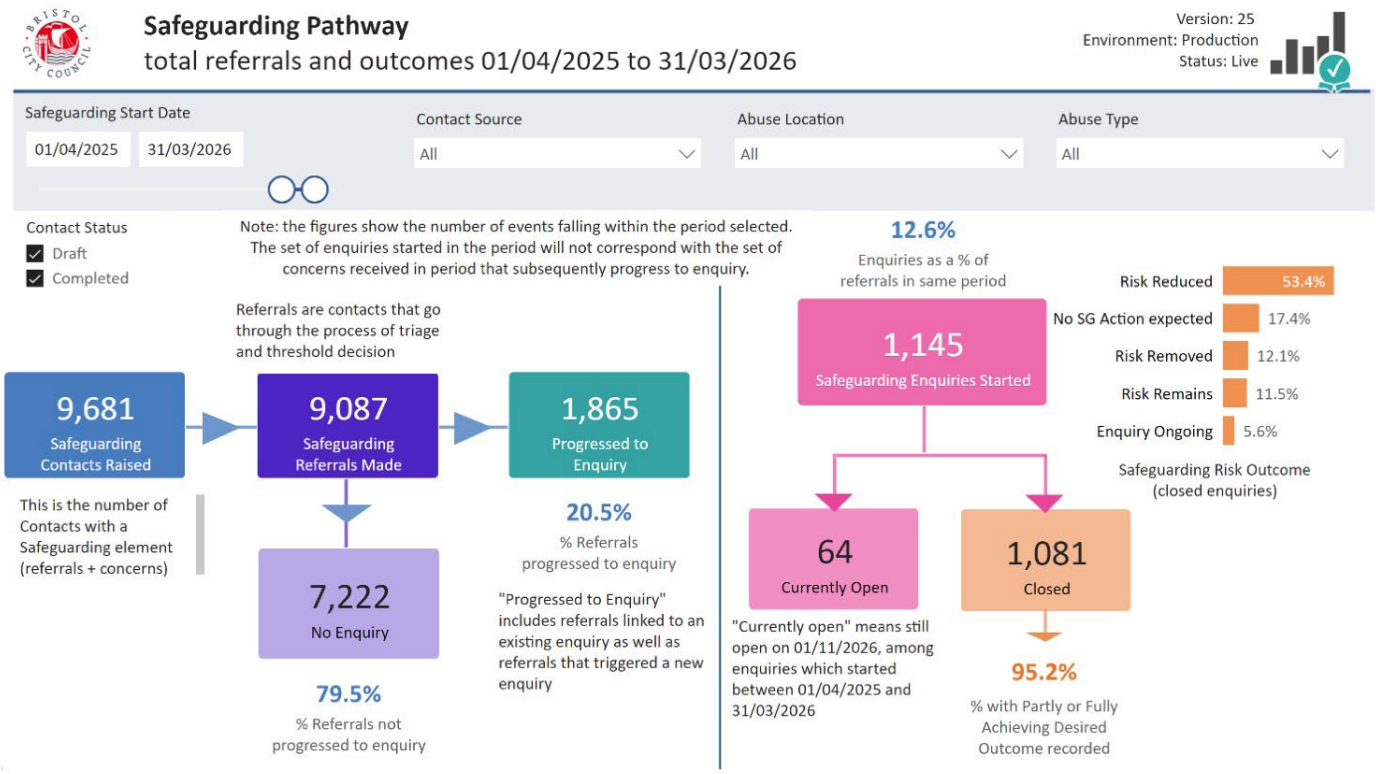


The graph above shows contacts to Adult Social Care with a comparison to the previous year.

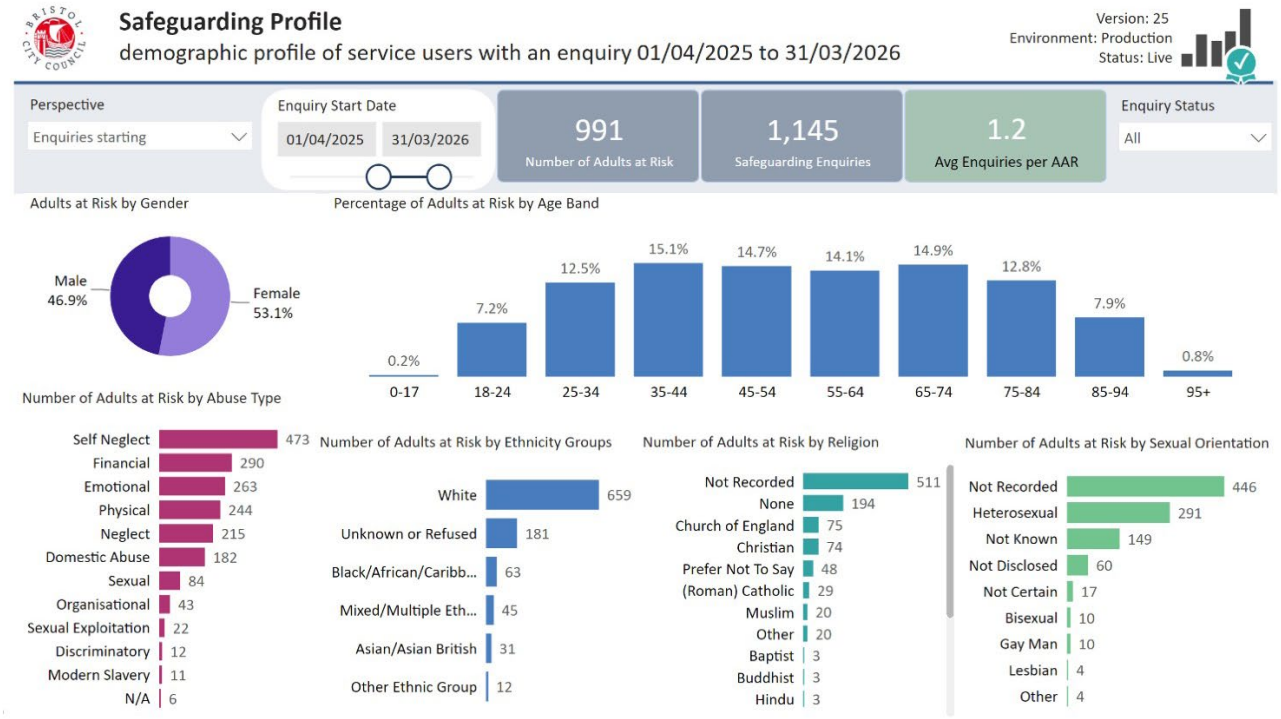
	2024/25	2025/26	% change
Total Contacts	**9915**	**9682**	**- 2.9**
Self-Neglect	**2775**	**2896**	**+ 4.4**
Neglect	**1805**	**1837**	**+ 1.8**
Physical	**1748**	**1609**	**- 8.0**
Emotional	**1595**	**1490**	**- 6.6**
Financial	**1435**	**1339**	**- 6.7**

Although there has been a slight decrease in contacts made, self-neglect concerns continue to rise. The work of the self-neglect subgroup within 2026/27 will aim to make resources and guidance for practitioners to support individuals self-neglecting.

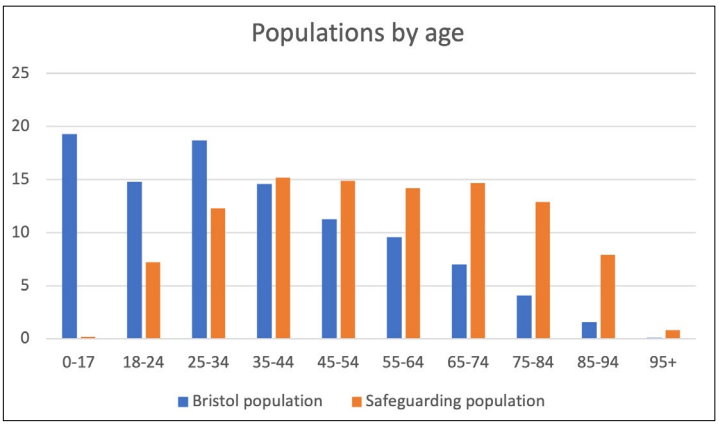
Health continues to be the highest referring agency with 27.1% of contacts received from health staff. In 2024/25, 21.2% of concerns raised were from health partners. This increase coincides with the recruitment of a nurse embedded within the MASH who works as a conduit from health partners into Adult Social Care.



This graph shows the journey of referrals within Adult Social Care. This year the conversion rate of contacts to progressing to enquiry was 20.4% as compared to 17.5% last year. This increase coincides with the implementation of MASH which gives direction and can support progression of individuals cases to ensure people are getting the right level of support when they need it.



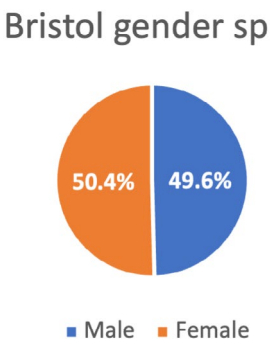
The graph shows demographics of individuals with a safeguarding enquiry. These figures are best compared to the statistical makeup of the Bristol population.



The graph shows that safeguarding demand peaks from 35 – 74 as these age groups are substantially higher than their proportion in the Bristol population.

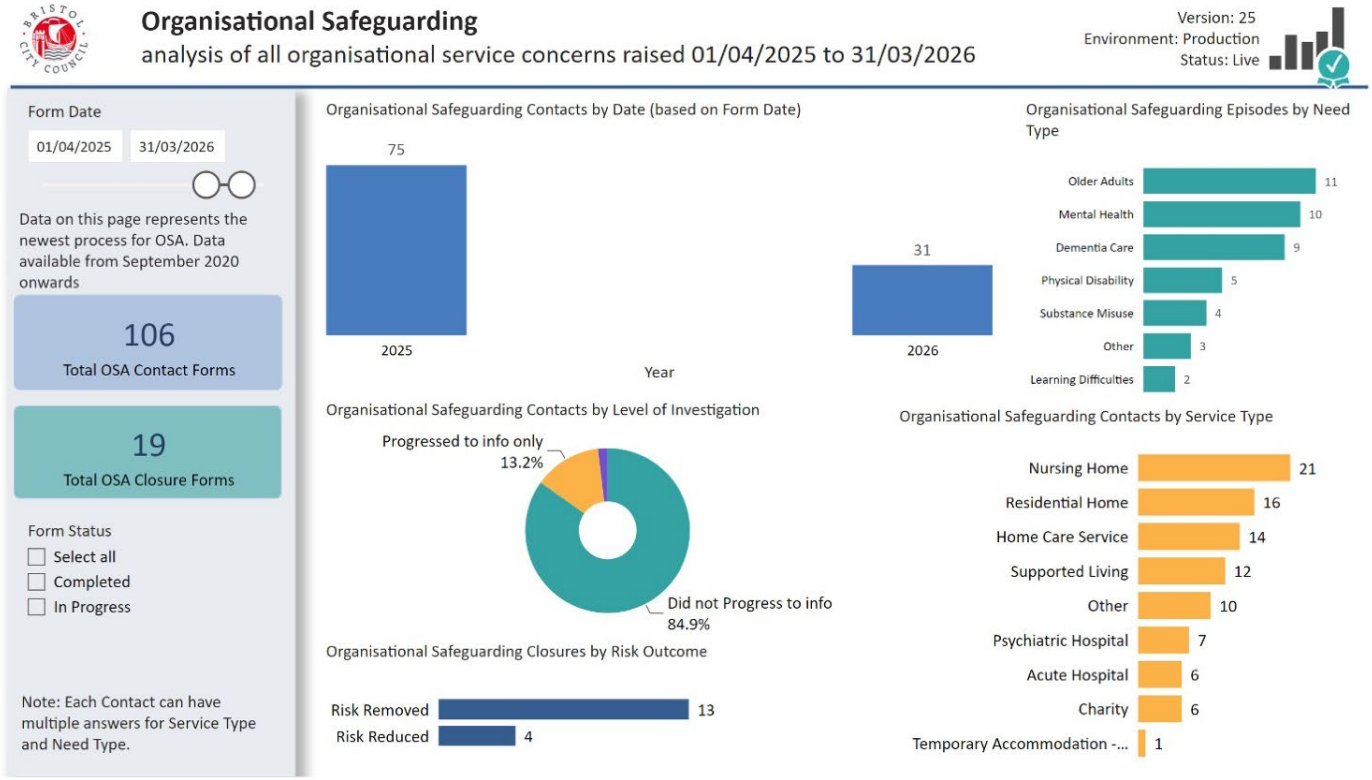
People aged 65+ account for around 36% of the safeguarding population, compared with only 13% of the Bristol population. However, the largest disparity is amongst those aged 75-84 who has cover approximately 13% of the safeguarding population yet only approximately 4% of Bristol's population, over three times more representation. This is not out of line with national data as safeguarding concerns around frailty, dementia/cognitive impairment, carers and long-term health conditions can increase with age.

There is, however, a widening age profile of safeguarding need. This can be through better identification leading to earlier intervention, greater recognition of exploitation, and increasing complexity of need as subsequent vulnerabilities such as mental health, housing instability, social isolation, multiple disadvantages and substance use leading to an increased need of services. This is not unique to Bristol however Keeping Adult Safe Board will work to identify priorities within an updated strategic plan in 2026/27 to reflect the complexities that individuals are facing and professionals are supporting with.



The gender split within Bristol is almost 50:50 however within Adult Social Care there are more females within the service. This is to be expected due to the average life expectancy for women (83.0 years) being higher than men (79.1 years) and the safeguarding concerns increasing with age as discussed in the previous diagram.

Organisational Safeguarding



During 2025/26, a total of 106 organisational safeguarding concerns were raised across Bristol. This represents a small proportion of overall safeguarding activity and is consistent with previous years, indicating a stable level of organisational safeguarding demand within the system.

The majority of organisational safeguarding concerns (84%) did not progress to a formal safeguarding enquiry. This reflects robust, proportionate and well evidenced decision-making, supported by appropriate information gathering and multi-agency discussion to determine whether the threshold for safeguarding intervention is met. Decision-making is further strengthened through close working relationships with the CQC and Bristol City Council's Quality Assurance team, ensuring that concerns relating to providers are considered alongside wider regulatory and quality intelligence. This approach provides assurance that concerns are consistently assessed and appropriately triangulated, with safeguarding enquiries undertaken where there is evidence of ongoing risk, and alternative, proportionate responses applied where this threshold is not met.

In the context of Bristol's large and complex provider landscape, organisational safeguarding concerns arise across a wide range of settings. The city has approximately 190 regulated adult social care services, alongside two large acute hospital trusts and a major mental health trust operating across multiple sites, all of which fall within scope. When considered against this scale, the overall number of organisational safeguarding concerns remains low and proportionate, providing assurance that risk is not disproportionately concentrated within specific services or sectors.

Where concerns do progress to enquiry, safeguarding responses are targeted and outcome-focused, with action taken to reduce and, where possible, remove risk. Recorded outcomes show that, in the majority of concluded cases, risk was either removed or reduced, demonstrating effective and timely safeguarding intervention. This provides clear assurance that, where the threshold for safeguarding intervention is met, the system responds effectively and proportionately.

While organisational abuse remains a smaller category within safeguarding activity, the data continues to highlight recurring themes, including quality of care, workforce capacity and consistency of practice. These reflect system-wide pressures and the complexity of service delivery, rather than isolated provider issues, and are used to inform ongoing quality assurance, targeted provider engagement and continuous improvement activity across the partnership.

Showcasing the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

As part of the ongoing quality assurance of the MASH, a mock MASH discussion was recorded and shared with the Lived Experience Focus Group. The group considered the process from the perspective of people whose circumstances may be discussed at a multi-agency forum and provided feedback on how the discussion could be experienced.

The group fed back that discussion was person-centred, with the individual's name used throughout and attention given to how their voice would be represented. One participant said, "If I had to be heard at a safeguarding meeting, this is the kind of meeting I would want it to be."

Suggested improvements focused on the protection plan which might have been clearer and shared with all agencies involved. In response, the MASH has shifted its emphasis from discussion to developing and sharing the individual's plan to all agencies supporting them.

Following the response to the session, steps have been taken to include lived experience in ongoing audit activity, helping to hold the team accountable for addressing the issues identified through this exercise.

Training and Awareness Raising

The Business unit provides training, both online and in person across the partnership. Below is a sample of the training provided with a focus on Adults Safeguarding or courses which cover both adults and children.

Courses run/delegates trained in 2025/26

- KBSP Safeguarding Adults Training = 79 delegates
- KBSP Reducing Parental Conflict = 52 delegates
- KBSP Safer Recruitment Training = 33 delegates
- KBSP Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Training = 26 delegates

Evidence of the impact of Training

We implemented a new metric this financial year to determine learning gain for delegates attending the training.

A new, rated scale from 1-10 was introduced in the pre- and post-course evaluations earning for delegates to rate their understanding and confidence against the key objectives of the courses before and after the training.

This has shown that delegates on all courses have demonstrated learning gain.

The **average learning gain** was **2.15 points** on the 10-point scale. As some of these courses are repeated every two years and delivered to agencies with previous safeguarding knowledge this gain was significant, and the Business Unit will continue to use participant feedback to improve the training offer.

Course	Learning Gain
KBSP Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Training	2.78
KBSP Reducing Parental Conflict Training	2.71
KBSP Safeguarding Adults Training	1.90

Training and Learning Developments

New courses in 2025/26

- KBSP Reducing Parental Conflict

The Reducing Parental Conflict training has seen strong engagement, with good attendance reflecting clear interest and demand. Funding has been successfully secured to continue offering this training free of charge for colleagues working with children and adults throughout the 2026/27 financial year, supporting wider accessibility. Evaluation data highlights significant learning gains between pre- and post-course evaluations, demonstrating the programme's impact and confirming it as a valuable and well-established component of this year's training offer.

- KBSP Harmful Practices Safeguarding TrainingThe Harmful Practices Safeguarding is being developed during 2025/26. The course brings together shorter courses focusing on Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and so-called honour-based abuse to look at a wider scope of harmful practices which effect adults and children in Bristol. This course looks at types of practices but also the legislation available for protection, barriers to engage for survivors, support options available as well as understanding of intersectionality and cultural competency with professional's practice. The Business Unit will run its first session in early 2026/27.

Proposed development for 2026/27

- KBSP Transitional Safeguarding Training
- Cultural humility safeguarding training strategic model.

Safeguarding Adult Awareness Week

The theme for November 2025 Safeguarding Adult Awareness Week was 'Prevention' and the Partnership, alongside the former Avon and Somerset local authorities hosted a week of lunchtime webinars on the topics:

- Change the Conversation: Hearing the adult's voice
- Prevention in practice: Learning from Safeguarding Adults reviews
- Creating Empowering Environments
- Trust your Instincts
- Prevention in Emergency Services: Herbert Protocol and Avon Fire and Rescue

These webinars were attended by over 200 people across the week, and the recordings are available on the KBSP YouTube channel.

Budget and Funding

Funding arrangements for the KASB were incorporated within the funding to the wider KBSP.

During 2025/26 Bristol City Council, Avon and Somerset Police; Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, Probation Service, Avon Fire and Rescue Service all contributed to the Business Unit in line with previous arrangements and the budget was balanced.

The Business Unit have overseen the budget and reported to KBSP and the KASB; the income has been used to fund the following - a range of activities such as maintenance of the website, provision of partnership training, secretariat support, partnership co-ordination, management, policy and project work, statutory review co-ordination, statutory review commissioning, and strategic communication, cohesion and delivery. This is the income and expenditure for 25/26:

Income	Amount
Police	£97,461
ICB	£92,783
Local Authority	£283,642
Probation	£5,284
Avon Fire and Rescue (Statutory Review Contribution)	£5,000
Training Revenue	£75,046
Total	**£559,216**

Expenditure	Amount
Salaries	£394,688
Running Costs	£32,383
Statutory Reviews	£56,901
Scrutiny/Consultancy	£75,244
Total	**£559,216**

Priority Actions for 2026/27

KASB has identified the following areas of work for 2026/27:

1. The development, resourcing and implementation of Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) arrangements for Bristol to review complex cases alongside the individual and their professional network.
2. The continued strengthening of the quality and consistency of decision-making and ensure that learning from SARs is effectively identified, progressed and used to inform improvements in practice. This will support greater clarity, accountability and assurance across the system, enabling the partnership to demonstrate the impact of review activity on outcomes for individuals. Review the outcome of the thematic learning event.
3. Monitoring progress of the recommendations identified from the MCA and Hoarding multi-agency audits.
4. Development of a new Strategic Plan and associated governance and subgroup structure arrangements.
5. Strengthen the quality assurance and performance management through the Keeping Adult Safe Board (including better use of data and insights).
6. Strengthen the current configuration and work of the Transitional Safeguarding sub-group and set clear action plan.
7. Improve joined operations between KASB and the Multiple-Disadvantage Transformation Board.
8. Ensure the recommendations within the Ministerial Letter relating to rough sleeping are robustly overseen.
9. Strengthen the voice of people with lived experience in the work of the Board.

How can I report a safeguarding concern

You can find a variety of safeguarding information such as professional resources, training opportunities and Safeguarding Adults Review reports and learning on our website: Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website.

If you have been abused or neglected, or know someone who has, please report this to Bristol City Council. You can do this via the online form here: Contact Form Adult Care Services - bristol.gov.uk

You can also call Care Direct on **0117 922 2700** - 8:30 am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:30pm Friday. There's an answerphone service outside these hours.

If you believe that you or the person you are concerned about is in immediate danger, call emergency services on **999** or, to report a crime call **101**.

If your concern does not require emergency service intervention but cannot wait until the next working day, then contact the Emergency Duty Team on **01454 615 165**.

Appendix 1

Partners Agencies (including Directorate for BCC) and Attendance at Keeping Adult Safe Board

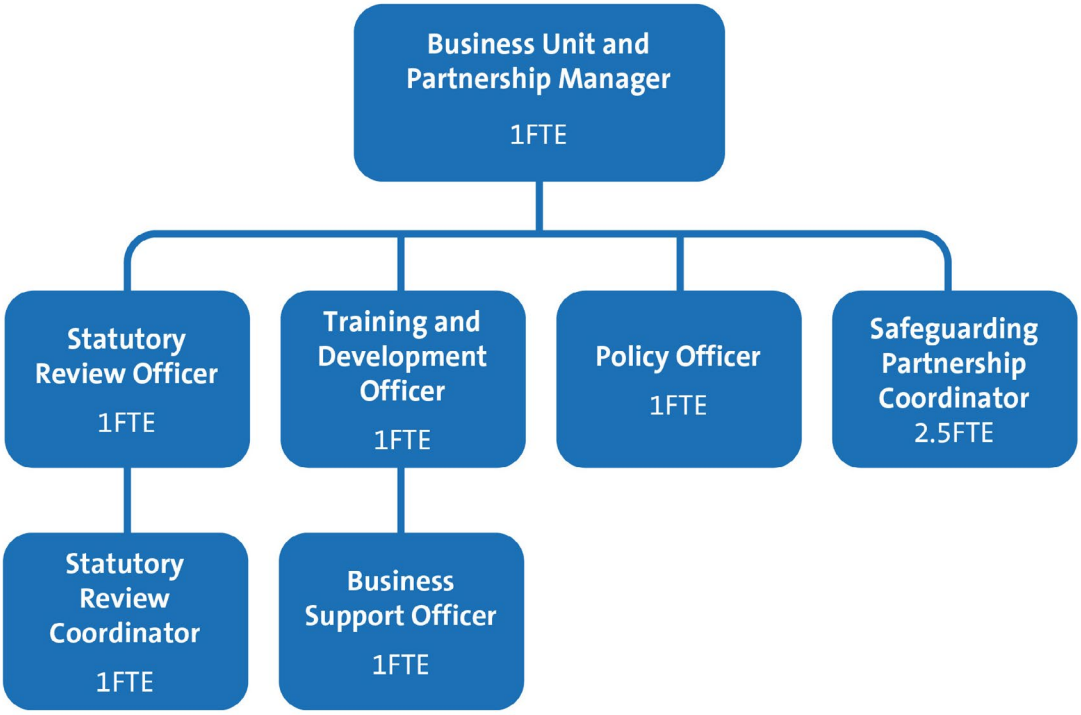
Agency	Board meeting attendance
1625 Independent People	2/6
Avon and Somerset Police	5/6
Avon and Somerset Probation Service	1/6
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	4/6
Avon Fire and Rescue	5/6
Bristol City Council – Adult Social Care	6/6
Bristol City Council – Housing	**0/6**
Bristol City Council Public Health	**6/6**
Bristol Disability Equality Forum	**2/6**
BNSSG Integrated Care Board	**6/6**
Department for Work and Pensions	**3/6**
Freeways	**3/6**
Horizons	**1/6**
Sirona Care and Health	**5/6**
South West Ambulance Service Trust	**5/6**
SWAN Advocacy	**0/6**
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston / North Bristol Trust	**6/6**

Appendix 2

Structure chart of Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership 2025/2026



Structure chart of the Business Unit 2025/26



Appendix 3

Agency Contribution to Board

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP)

- AWP have taken on the role of providing information into the Bristol Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on behalf of the ICB. This has been positively evaluated.
- The AWP Domestic Abuse lead has allowed an enhanced focus on Domestic Abuse. DASH training has been rolled out and was evaluated as having significantly improved the confidence of attendees. Training in the link between domestic abuse and suicide was jointly rolled out by the Domestic abuse lead and the AWP Suicide Prevention Lead.
- Work is taking place to ensure that there is robust attendance of MARAC for the Bristol Locality.
- AWP have streamlined their process for learning from statutory safeguarding reviews, aligning with patient safety processes to better disseminate learning and track improvements.

Southwest Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST)

- SWAST have increased it capacity within the safeguarding team enabling increased partnership working with an allocated Safeguarding Specialist in each locality and improved attendance at board meetings.
- SWAST have reviewed its safeguarding training, we have a safeguarding educational specialist who develops and supports the delivery of training, ensure alignment to the intercollegiate documents.
- SWAST have reviewed referral forms to ensure that the person's views and wishes are included, SWAST are making efforts to improve the accessibility of information.
- SWAST have fully reviewed our safeguarding referral processes to better align to the Care Act and to improve quality and efficiency.
- SWAST have completed our safeguarding service improvement plan and have improved governance and assurance processes in place to monitor quality and performance.

Horizons

- Promoted the voice of vulnerable adults by ensuring that their views, wishes and lived experiences inform assessment, planning and service development, supporting the KBSP commitment to participation, co-production and engagement.
- Multi-agency working and information sharing, participating in safeguarding processes, contributing to risk assessments, attending multi-agency meetings and working closely with statutory, health, criminal justice and voluntary sector partners to coordinate effective safeguarding responses. We ensure our knowledge, expertise and understanding of the communities we support are represented within key safeguarding forums, including MASH and MARAC, Bristol Sexual Violence Forum and KBSP/BCC subgroups helping to inform decision-making and strengthen safeguarding outcomes.
- Delivered person-centred safeguarding responses, working collaboratively across agencies to ensure that the people we support receive services and interventions tailored to their individual needs, strengths, circumstances and lived experiences. Our approach recognises the whole person and seeks to achieve sustainable, positive outcomes.
- Supported community safety, helping adults to engage in positive activities, build protective networks and reduce vulnerability to antisocial behaviour, exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence within their communities.
- Continued to engage with safeguarding partners, including Adult Safeguarding colleagues who supported us through a mock CQC inspection. This provided valuable challenge and learning, strengthened our preparedness and reinforced our commitment to delivering safe, effective and high-quality services.
- Shaped the future of safeguarding in Bristol, using our experience, expertise and community insight to influence safeguarding practice, strengthen partnership working and contribute to the development of innovative, person-centred approaches that keep Bristol residents safe.

Public Health

- Public Health are an active member of the SAR/DHR subgroup bringing expertise around substance use services in particular.
- As the commissioner of substance use services, work has been completed to improve links between services particularly for those experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Freeways

- **Reviewed Policy and Procedures**
  The key changes included increasing signposting to escalation processes and ensuring that Safeguarding was part of day 1 induction training and in person training as an addition to the Care Certificate ensuring that the expectation of the charity was clear to all new recruits.
- **Re-focused the Safeguarding Focus Group**
  With the improvements brought through digital care records we have been able to identify trends within the charity and look at focused improvements which impact the whole charity. This also supported the internal sharing of Safeguarding Adult Reviews and identifying learning that could be shared. The learning briefings supported the reviews of a number of policies and procedures including:
  - Mental Capacity
  - Fire Safety Policy
  - Medication Administration Policy
  - Staff and Agency Induction (in process)
- **Strengthening "People in Positions of Trust" (PiPoT) Processes**
  With the rising pressures on care staff both within and outside the workplace, it was identified that managing allegations against staff required greater robustness.

Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (formerly University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust and North Bristol NHS Trust)

Throughout the year, safeguarding services across both organisations worked closely with partner agencies and have now transitioned into the newly formed Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, providing an opportunity to strengthen and standardise safeguarding practice across the city and wider footprint.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

- Continued active participation in the Bristol Adult MASH, contributing safeguarding information, risk assessment and professional expertise to support multi-agency decision making.
- Supported the development of the MASH model, including the initial MASH Nurse pilot, which became embedded during the year.

Self-Neglect and Complex Needs

- Identified and responded to increasing numbers of adults experiencing self-neglect, which remained one of the most prevalent safeguarding concerns across both organisations.
- Worked collaboratively with safeguarding partners on complex cases involving self-neglect, domestic abuse, homelessness, mental health challenges and substance misuse.

Transitional Safeguarding

- Maintained active involvement in Transitional Safeguarding developments across Bristol.
- Supported multi-agency work focused on improving outcomes for young people aged 16-25, including participation in partnership groups and embedding transitional safeguarding learning within professional training.

Learning, Assurance and Safeguarding Reviews

- Actively participated in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), contributing chronologies, professional expertise and action plans where required.
- Embedded learning from reviews into safeguarding training, supervision, policy development and professional practice, particularly in relation to self-neglect, Mental Capacity Act practice, domestic abuse and multi-agency working.
- Shared learning through safeguarding committees, named professional networks and workforce development programmes.

Partnership Working and Workforce Development

- Maintained representation and attendance at KASB, safeguarding subgroups, MARAC, statutory review processes and wider partnership forums across Bristol.
- Delivered safeguarding training and supervision programmes to strengthen practitioner confidence and statutory compliance.
- Continued work to align safeguarding governance, policies and procedures across both former organisations in preparation for the creation of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, supporting a more consistent safeguarding approach across the city.

Overall, Bristol NHS Foundation Trust remains committed to safeguarding adults at risk through strong partnership working, learning from reviews, supporting the development of the Adult MASH, improving responses to self-neglect and complex needs, and contributing to the strategic safeguarding priorities for Bristol.

Avon Fire and Rescue Service (AF&RS)

AF&RS has continued to be a committed member of the KBSP and has actively supported the work involved in delivering the partnership strategy during the year. We have attended and participated in key groups across the partnership, including Keeping Adults Safe, the Self-Neglect Group, the SAR/DHR Sub-Group, and have become a core member of the MASH. Through this work, AF&RS has promoted its services and strengthened understanding of how we can work collaboratively with partners to help keep people in Bristol safe.

This contribution supports the priorities set out in the strategy, particularly around safeguarding adults, community safety, self-neglect, multi-agency risk management, and improved information sharing. AF&RS has used partnership meetings and multi-agency forums to share relevant information, identify opportunities for earlier intervention, and ensure that fire and rescue prevention services are considered as part of wider safeguarding and community safety responses.

By working with partners, AF&RS has helped to strengthen pathways for people experiencing complex needs, self-neglect, domestic abuse, homelessness, substance misuse, mental health difficulties, and other risk factors that may increase vulnerability. This has included raising awareness of AF&RS prevention activity, encouraging appropriate referrals, and supporting a coordinated partnership approach to reducing risk and improving safety for adults, families, and communities across Bristol.

Bristol City Council (BCC) Adult Social Care (ASC)

As the lead agency and core KBSB statutory partner, BCC ASC has continued to play a crucial role in strategic development and operational delivery of safeguarding in Bristol. This has included but is not limited to:

- The development, review and ongoing coordination of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which is now operating successfully and sustainably.
- Chairing the Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) subgroup of the KASB, ensuring appropriate screening of referrals, commissioning and quality assurance oversight of SARs, along with appropriate reporting and escalation.
- Chairing the Self-Neglect subgroup of the KASB, providing strategic oversight of self-neglect activity of the KBSB, development of pathways for multiagency responses to self-neglect and monitoring and reporting on emerging risks and trends in relation to self-neglect. The group will be focusing in 2026-27 on the development of Multi-agency Risk Management (MARM) framework for Bristol and reviewing hoarding protocols.
- Contributing to other subgroups, including the transitional safeguarding subgroup.
- Chairing the KAS Board during a gap in external chairing whilst also preparing the recruitment process leading to the successful recruitment of the external chair. BCC ASC is currently bears the full cost of this arrangement.
- Continuous improvement of ASC safeguarding operations in response to CQC assurance and in preparation for upcoming assurance based on the new CQC Assurance Framework including strengthening PiPoT and organisational safeguarding arrangements.
- Ongoing review and strengthening of ASC safeguarding training, including investment in Mental Capacity Act (MCA) training.
- Piloting the Financial Protection Lead Officer leading to this role being formally embedded in the ASC safeguarding offer.

The Vision for Adult Social Care in Bristol continues to inform and guide ASC in it's continuous improvement journey and in its contribution to and leadership of the KASB.

NHS Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB)

The ICB remains committed to discharging its statutory safeguarding duties for Adult Safeguarding which includes strengthening the health system's response to learning and development arising from statutory reviews, increasing accountability and ensuring that learning is implemented and embedded into practice effectively.

The BNSSG ICB's safeguarding activity during 2025–2026 has demonstrated strong alignment with the adult safeguarding priorities within the KBSP strategic plan, particularly in relation to adults with complex needs, self-neglect, mental capacity, homelessness, domestic abuse, mental health, substance use, exploitation and improved multi-agency safeguarding responses. An example of this has been the commitment through development and continued support of the health contribution to Bristol Adult MASH.

The ICB hosted the Adult MASH Nurse function for one year to fulfil the health contribution in the newly formed Bristol Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)- piloted from October 2024. The seconded member of staff to undertake this function started in February 2025. To support the evaluation of this pilot a Researcher in Residence was commissioned to focus on how the role had supported safeguarding decision-making in practice which was intended to support the ICB decision-making on continued funding of the role.

The researcher found in practice that meeting discussions frequently demonstrated the quality and completeness of multi-agency information, and there was also evidence that consideration had been made on whether the adult could take protective steps (with support) in the immediate period. Strengthening the evidence base for decision making to include health information proved useful to clarify risk and to assess whether a Section 42 enquiry was proportionate. In addition, it was found that where health input is timely and clear, it reduces uncertainty and supports more confident, proportionate decision making.

The report and evidence have supported the continuation of the function and the ICB successfully secured funding and transferred the Adult MASH Nurse function in the new financial year 2026/2027 to AWP. The development and continuation of the Adult MASH Nurse role has directly supported the strategic priority to strengthen Adult MASH arrangements and improve the quality, timeliness and coordination of safeguarding decision-making for adults at risk.

Furthermore, the ICB Safeguarding team has contributed to the strategic priority which aimed to improve responses to self-neglect and adults with multiple disadvantage by providing training to Primary Care (GP Practice staff) on mental capacity, professional curiosity, self-neglect, complex capacity assessments and learning from statutory reviews. These themes reflect recurring learning from Safeguarding

Adult Reviews and support practitioners to identify risk earlier, understand patterns of non-engagement, apply the Mental Capacity Act effectively and work more confidently with adults whose needs do not fit neatly within single-agency pathways.

In Quarter 3, the ICB Safeguarding Team delivered a seminar to senior system leaders and ICB Board members focused on cultural humility and learning arising from recent statutory safeguarding reviews. The seminar aimed to strengthen awareness of recommendations relating to cultural humility and to reinforce the importance of understanding and responding to the diverse needs of the local population. The session encouraged partners to reflect on how the system can work collaboratively to embed cultural humility in practice, including ensuring that the workforce is equipped with the skills, confidence and understanding needed to recognise cultural difference and intersectionality in safeguarding activity.

Professor Claudia Bernard, Professor of Social Work and Co-Head of the Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London, contributed an academic perspective on cultural humility. As a subject matter expert and author of one of the statutory safeguarding reviews, she supported Board members to reflect on their own perspectives and experience in relation to systemic racism. The session was well received by Board members and has strengthened links between the safeguarding team and the ICB Board's Equity Lead, providing a platform for further collaboration.

Since March 2025, during this annual reporting year, the ICB following Government announcement has been working towards reducing their running costs by 50% with a clear mandate to focus on strategic commissioning, encouraging cluster arrangements to be made. BNSSG ICB will cluster with Gloucestershire ICB but will remain separate legal entities ahead of a formal merger in 2027. During this period of organisational change, the ICB Safeguarding team have continued to support statutory safeguarding functions as per the intercollegiate document and the NHS Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework.

KEEPING BRISTOL SAFE PARTNERSHIP

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