



BRADFORD DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



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2 FOREWARD BY THE SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

As we reflect on 2022/2023, the Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership has faced real challenges and celebrated significant achievements. We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledgement to our frontline staff for their unwavering commitment to keeping children and families safe in the Bradford District. Additionally, our appreciation goes out to those colleagues who have diligently supported the functions of the BDSCP and its subgroups during this period. This report is essential reading for all those in the partnership who work with children and young people. The report provides a detailed account of the work undertaken by BDSCP - highlighting both achievements and challenges.

Overview of key achievements:

The formation of the Neglect Subgroup, in response to a key priority, has been instrumental in refreshing the Neglect Strategy, ensuring a coordinated approach to addressing neglect in Bradford. The Learning and Improvement Subgroup has made commendable strides in enhancing our training offer, with a focus on multi-agency (level 3) training. The Safeguarding and Professional Practice Subgroup has diligently reviewed and amended multi-agency policies, ensuring they align with the evolving needs of our professionals. The Case Review Subgroup's oversight of Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews has been pivotal in capturing learning and driving improvements in our safeguarding.

Challenges and Responses:

The National Panel's review of the tragic deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes presented a sobering reflection on the complexities of child protection. In Bradford, the Oversight and Delivery Group took ownership and led the multi-agency response, developing and delivering on the action plan to address the issues raised by this review. Their instrumental role ensures that we remain steadfast in our commitment to improving our practice and safeguarding children.

Looking Ahead:

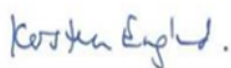
The upcoming challenges cannot be underestimated. The transition to the Bradford Children and Families Trust and the continuous improvement of children's services in the district are paramount. Our renewed priorities will guide our efforts, including addressing child neglect, preventing injuries in young babies, and developing our leadership structure for safeguarding. The establishment of the Neglect Subgroup and the relaunch of the ICON guidance are examples of the initiatives we have in place to address these priorities.

Furthermore, the escalating cost of living crisis presents an additional challenge as the number of children and families living in poverty rises. We anticipate potential increases in safeguarding-related matters and recognise the strain this may place on our resources. This underscores the importance of our collective commitment to safeguarding and the need for adaptability in our approach.

The Strategic Leadership Group would like to thank Michelle Turner, (retired) Director of Quality & Nursing – Clinical Commissioning Group, for her commitment to the strategic leadership group and invaluable support to the partnership.

As we move forward as a partnership, we remain resolute in our mission to improve the safety of children across the Bradford District. The challenges are significant, but our commitment is clear. Together, we will continue to make a difference in our children's lives.

Kersten England



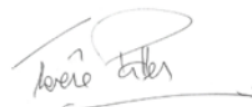
Chief Executive
Bradford Council

Rob McCoubrey



District Commander
West Yorkshire Police

Therese Patten



Chief Executive
Bradford District
Care Trust



3 INDEPENDENT CHAIR FOREWARD




This report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. It provides a summary of work undertaken by the Partnership and its subgroups throughout that period and charts progress on our priorities for action for this and the coming year. It has been a challenging time, but one in which partner agencies across the District have demonstrated energy, focus and commitment to addressing some of the barriers to effective work within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.


In May 2022 the review into the circumstances surrounding the tragic deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes was published. The report made wide-ranging recommendations regarding how child protection services should be delivered nationally, but also made recommendations specific to agencies within Bradford District. The shock and distress experienced by all working and living in Bradford at Star's murder cannot be underestimated and a determination to deliver real and sustainable change to the provision of child protection in the District has focused the minds of all members of the Safeguarding Partnership.

This has also been a period of significant change brought about by the decision to transfer responsibility for the delivery of children's social care services to an independent company established by the local authority and preparations for implementing that change. The Bradford Children and Families Trust became operational at the end of the period covered by this report. Throughout this transition period work has been ongoing to support the local authority and the incoming Trust deliver against the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

Such challenges require a concerted effort by all working with children and families to work collectively to bring about the necessary improvements highlighted, requiring honest and robust debate, appropriate challenge but above all a culture focused on creating solutions to complex and at times entrenched barriers to good practice. The BDSCP held two development days in June 2022 during which the Partnership committed to these values and refreshed its structure to enable a clear focus on work to achieve impact within its priority areas. As Independent Chair and Scrutineer, I have witnessed robust and appropriate challenge between agencies at all levels of the Partnership structure, but within a culture where partners have been able to work collectively in a focused way to address barriers. One notable example has been the joint work with the Children's Improvement Board to implement a new "conversations based" model for referral into the Integrated Front Door – a subject of discussion and debate within the District for a number of years. Whilst there is still work to be done to embed the approach across all agencies in the District, the model has been implemented, welcomed by agencies and is bringing about some improvements in terms of capacity and deployment of resources. I welcome the inclusion within the Bradford model of processes to enable speedy resolution of operational difficulties between agencies and for ongoing evaluation of impact.



The Partnership has been concerned to identify clear priorities for action around the issue of neglect, injuries in young babies and clear and effective governance arrangements, and to ensure its structure supports focused work on a multi-agency basis to drive forward change. To that end, I welcome the continuation of the Operational Delivery Group, and the establishment of a new subgroup focused on embedding best practice in the recognition of neglect and provision of support to struggling families. The challenge for us as a Partnership in the coming year will be to demonstrate how our activities have had a real impact on improving outcomes for children and young people. There is still work to be done to strengthen our performance management, audit and evaluation function. Unfortunately for much of the period covered by this report, the Performance Audit Monitoring and Evaluation subgroup was without a chair. This has now been rectified plus the planned recruitment of a Performance and Information Manager will assist in providing a more appropriate and focused data set to support this work.



In my foreword to the last annual report, I commented on the increased demand and complexity of the work undertaken by agencies and this year has been no different. Demand continues to increase, and challenges remain across the children's services workforce in terms of capacity and stability. However, I have observed a very real commitment by partners to tackle challenges collectively.

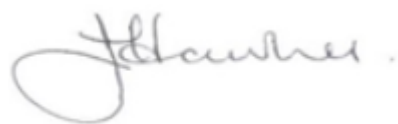
We continue to see a very high number of serious incidents being reported that are subsequently subject to "rapid review" and in some cases independent child safeguarding practice reviews. The robust analysis provided by the Case Review subgroup has ensured that risks and themes are identified and link to activity elsewhere in the Partnership and have informed the Partnership's priorities for action. I welcome the plans to streamline processes for identifying themes across reviews with emphasis on embedding learning.

Once again I welcome the inclusion of children's views in this report. However, this is an area where work is needed to capture views from across a wider range of service areas and in particular the views of our most vulnerable children regarding their experience of our safeguarding processes. I am encouraged that the Partnership is increasing capacity for engagement with children and young people by the addition of a Marketing and Communications Officer which will support wider engagement.

I'd like to say thank you to colleagues within the Safeguarding Business Unit for their continued support and tenacity; to partners from across the District for their honesty and willingness to work collectively to improve the way in which we work together to safeguard our children and young people and above all to those staff and volunteers working at the front line with the most vulnerable children and families.

I do not underestimate the challenges facing our Partnership in the coming year, but I am confident that there is the will and the commitment amongst partners to drive forward the changes and improvements needed.

Janice Hawkes



Independent Chair and Scrutineer
Bradford District Safeguarding Children Partnership



4 ABOUT BRADFORD

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

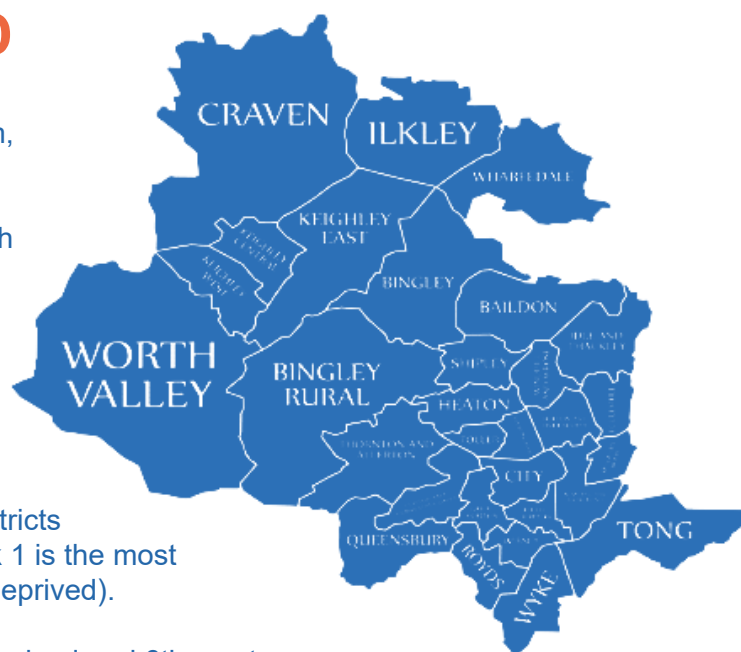
Bradford District has a diverse geography, although most of the population lives in densely populated urban areas. The most recent Census of 2021 estimates that there are currently around 546,000, of whom 21.4% are aged under 15, making Bradford the youngest English city outside of some areas in London.

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.

Data: In the 12 months to 31st March 2023 there were 35,443 contacts to the IFD, averaging at 2953 per month, which led to a total of 9212 referrals into Children's Social Care.

At the end of March 2023 there were 6190 children open to Social Care; 1,383 who were subject to Child in Need plans, 965 subject to Child Protection Plans and 1,586 Children in Care.



5 PRIORITIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The BDSCP has recently reviewed and refreshed its priorities for the Partnership for the next two years. These are;

Priority One: Child Neglect - Developing strategies and tools to enable effective multi-agency responses to concerns of neglect across the Bradford District.

Priority Two: Injuries in Young Babies - Developing multi-agency practice and process to support families at the earliest possible juncture to reduce the instances of non-accidental injuries in babies.

Priority Three: Developing the Leadership Structure for Safeguarding – Recognising the need to continually refresh and develop the Partnership management structures to reflect changes in senior leadership. Ensuring that the vision of the Partnership is upheld.

While work continues in other areas of Safeguarding, the Partners have recognised that **Priority One** is a key area of concern for the Partners and is recognised as underpinning many of the other concerns being identified for children and young people across the Bradford District. This has been reinforced by recommendations and learning from the review processes undertaken locally by BDSCP.

What we are doing or planning.

In support of this priority a new Neglect Subgroup has been set up to drive responses to Neglect in the district. The initial work of this group is outlined below. A refreshed Neglect Strategy for the District has been agreed and signed off by the Strategic Leaders of the Partnership (see below). Neglect is also a key theme for the work of all the other subgroups. Neglect identification and response figures in training offers coordinated by the Learning and Improvement group and the Safeguarding and Professional Practice Group has looked at current and new policies and procedures to ensure that neglect concerns are reflected in relevant documents.

Priority Two recognises that work to prevent the most serious injuries to the youngest children in our District should be a key theme of Partnership work. Bradford has an increased prevalence of either; abusive head injuries or shaking injuries and unexplained / abusive skull fractures in very young children compared to other areas of similar size and demographics. Agencies have identified that more work is needed to understand the reasons for this and responses to this are identified as a key priority for them over the coming years.

What we are doing or planning.

We are ensuring that related policies and procedures are reinforced across the District. A relaunch of the ICON guidance ([ICON website link](#)) is planned for 2023. This was initially rolled out across Bradford during Covid but it is felt that this needs refreshing and a relaunch. The West Yorkshire wide protocol in relation to **Injuries in Non-mobile Babies** was reviewed and revised and in addition, a review of the pre-birth assessment guidance is ongoing. In early 2024 a conference will take place in conjunction with Bradford University looking at a number of themes including injuries in very young babies.

5 PRIORITIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP (continued)

Priority Three recognises that the make-up of management structures in the district has changed since the original formation of the Partnership in 2019. The Clinical Commissioning Group in health has been superseded by the Bradford District and Craven Health Care Partnership. In addition to the Children's Services within the Local Authority the new Bradford Children and Families Trust needs to be incorporated into the senior Partnership Strategic Leadership structures. Plans are underway for a development meeting to formalise the changes.

What we are doing or planning.

BDSCP is currently arranging a development day to reinforce the workings of the strategic partners, reaffirming the links between them and enhancing their collaborative work to safeguard children across the District.

6 WORK OF THE BDSCP SUBGROUPS

► **Neglect Subgroup**

This is a newly formed group in response to the key priority of the partnership group and only met once during this period.

The group discussed and wrote a refreshed Neglect Strategy for the Partnership which has now been agreed and signed off by the three statutory partners. This outlines how we are going to work together to address neglect in Bradford, what actions we will take and how we will know if we have been successful.

Neglect Strategy

The Neglect Subgroup have responsibility for working through those actions in the months ahead.

The subgroup also looked at starting work to refresh the Neglect Toolkit that assists professionals in assessing instances of neglect that they encounter in their work. While the current toolkit is a useful document the group wants to explore why its use amongst professionals is not at the level intended.

Child Protection medicals for Neglect was also explored and the Subgroup can explore new ways of how this can be developed, for children subject to Child Protection Plans. The group are looking at how these medicals should be prioritised at an earlier stage to enable early interventions by services to help to prevent the issues escalating further thereby protecting children from increased levels of harm.

The subgroup has also forged links with the chairs of the other subgroups to identify areas of co-work and to ensure that neglect remains a key part of the work of all the subgroups.

► Learning and Improvement Subgroup

What we have done

The Partnership Training offer has considerably improved over the last year. This offer concentrates on multi-agency level 3 training. We welcomed a new Training Coordinator who has been active in helping set up the following training and we have been pleased to see, both previous trainers return, and new trainers join us. She has also assisted in the creation of a Safeguarding Strategy for the District both for safeguarding training for children and adults as well as training that covers both.

Core training is back up and running with courses on **Safeguarding and Disability, Child Sexual Abuse, Safeguarding Children Assessment and Analysis Framework** running and neglect almost ready.

Multi-agency professional practice sessions have been held on **Fabricated or Induced Illness in Children and Cumulative Harm**. We are planning more on themes from case reviews including injuries in immobile babies which is a key priority area for the Partnership.

A collaborative conference was held with Bradford University around barriers in the identification of **Neglect, Adverse Childhood Experiences** and the links of both to **Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation**.

During Safeguarding Week in June 2022, a series of sessions were run covering all aspects of child safeguarding.

Areas of more progress

A joint training group with the Adult Board (BSAB) has started up and there is planning around some joint professional practice sessions and joint training that covers issues that apply both the safeguarding children and adults.

The subgroup works closely with the other subgroups in particular the Safeguarding and Professional Practice and Case Review groups to ensure that we incorporate learning and new procedures as quickly as possible, either as themes through all training or with particular sessions, e.g., further specific training is being planned around a recent review. The group also continues to work on how best to disseminate the learning across agencies and receive assurance that this has been done.

A new area for the partnership training is around an emphasis on barriers to sustained improvement, why are we still having the same issues being raised, how can we make training more effective and influence changes in practice? A slide pack reflecting a talk in this year's safeguarding week is now available. Further work in this area is planned.

► Safeguarding and Professional Practice Subgroup

This subgroup has responsibility for creating, reviewing and amending multi-agency policies and procedures as well as practice guidance for the professionals working in Bradford.

The group led work looking at a number of policies, protocols and practice guidance that support effective multi-agency working during this year. Among these was work on the **Neglect Toolkit** (that is now the responsibility of the Neglect group), the **Professional Disagreement and Escalation Policy**, and updates on the **Continuum of Need** document that provides guidance to professionals about how concerns they have regarding children and families should be progressed.

The group, like the other subgroups, were tasked with reviewing policies, protocols and practice guidance that support effective multi-agency working in light of the recommendations from the Star Hobson case. Among the documents they looked at, was guidance about **Engagement with fathers and significant others**. It was recognised by the group that other pieces of guidance specifically referenced fathers and in light of the circumstances of the Star case it was agreed that a bespoke piece of guidance should be drafted that covered other family setups such as was evident with Star. This document was agreed to be a West Yorkshire wide document and is currently being reviewed across the other four West Yorkshire districts for inclusion in the West Yorkshire procedures that provide continuity across the county.

Another area that is being progressed and reviewed is the district **Pre-birth Assessment** policy that again is being reviewed in light of Star's case.

► Case Review Subgroup

The Case Review subgroup has overall responsibility for overseeing both Practice Reviews commissioned by the Partnership to look at specific cases where there is learning for the Partnership as well as undertaking the Rapid Review process. This is the precursor to these reviews looking at whether a set of circumstances warrant a full review or whether learning can be captured in alternative ways. There were fourteen Rapid Reviews during this period and actions and learning have been collated by the group to take forward across the Partnership. The number of Rapid Reviews undertaken by BDSCP over the last five years is outlined below.

Year	Rapid Reviews
2019	5
2020	6
2021	12
2022	16
2023 (January-March)	4



The group, along with the Oversight and Delivery Group, have responsibility for monitoring the progression of the actions identified by the Star Hobson National Review and seek assurance for agencies about progress against this plan.

In addition, there have been a number of further Practice Reviews that are taking place to capture learning from incidents that have occurred in the Bradford District. Case Review oversees the commission of these reviews identifying authors with the appropriate knowledge to effectively support the identification of learning outcomes that the District can effectively address to improve practice.

During the year Case Review has undertaken work looking at alternative responses to review work to try to identify innovative methods of sharing learning with frontline practitioners. They have done this in conjunction with colleagues in the Learning and Improvement group looking at alternative ways to get learning messages out to frontline practitioners to influence practice in key areas identified by the reviews. An example is a piece of work under construction looking at methodologies for supervision of safeguarding cases.

A piece of work has been started by the group to collate the themes from Practice Reviews and Rapid Reviews and capture these in a District combined action plan to streamline the processes of reacting and responding to recommendations highlighted by the various review processes. When completed this will enable agencies to focus more easily on what is required of them in taking actions to address the key areas that require action across the district.

► All Age Exploitation Subgroup

This subgroup encompasses work for both children and adults in the areas of exploitation. It looks at both the individual issues specific to children or adults but also looks at issues that cross the boundaries between the two or how agencies respond to children at risk of exploitation who are transitioning to adulthood.

During this period the main driver of the group was to work on a District Exploitation Profile that identifies all the key areas of concern relating to exploitation that the District needs to respond to. This has led to work to complete an **Exploitation Strategy and Delivery Plan** that will inform the work of the subgroup over coming months and years.

On 19th May 2022 at the Victoria Hotel, Bradford there was a launch event for the **District Exploitation Hub** which is now operational and responding to exploitation reports across the district.

The group also organised a conference focusing on Adult Exploitation at Bradford University on 24th November 2022. This was extremely well attended and is reported on in the BSAB 2022/23 annual report.

► Oversight and Delivery Group Subgroup

This group works to coordinate the work of all the subgroups and assists with focusing key Partnership priorities. The group seeks to identify issues from across the subgroups that need highlighting to the Partnership senior leaders as emerging issues that they need to consider in their strategic planning.

The group also has led on the coordinated response to the recommendations from the Star review ensuring that the recommendations remain a core focus of the different groups of the BDSCP. The Action Plan for the review is the responsibility of the group and they provide challenge to the other subgroups as well as the agencies across the District about responses to the actions identified.

In addition, the group has linked together pieces of work across the partnership looking at multi-agency practices for example the organisation and running of Strategy Meetings.

► Additional Work

In addition to the work of the subgroups the Partnership has also undertaken joint work with Bradford Children's Services Improvement Board.

A significant focus during the year has been a commitment by partners to work together to support the implementation of key recommendations from the National Review and to support the successful implementation of changes indicated through the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

To support this process, joint work was undertaken between the Improvement Board and the BDSCP to drive forward the implementation of the David Thorpe "conversations based" model at the Integrated Front Door. The aim of the model is to enable better exchange of information and decision making at the point where referring agencies share concerns with children's social care, thus ensuring that resources are appropriately focused and that those families whose difficulties do not meet the threshold for assessment by a social worker are provided with the help they need in a timely way.

A group, chaired by Janice Hawkes, the BDSCP Independent Chair, pulled together key partners to maintain oversight of the implementation, to identify potential barriers to effective working under the new model, to find practical solutions and to ensure information regarding the new systems and processes was shared effectively across partners agencies in the District.

Workshops providing key information and a forum for questions and answers were delivered across partner agencies throughout the autumn. A "soft launch" took place in November 2022, while the model was fully implemented in February 2023. Work is continuing in the current year to embed the model and support effective working across all referring agencies.

7 LEARNING FROM LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

In May 2022 the National Panel published their review looking at the deaths of **Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes**. This review set out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk of serious harm.

It examined the circumstances leading up to the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson and considered whether their murders reflect wider national issues in child protection.

In Bradford the partners worked hard to identify how we would respond to the issues raised in the report which made challenging reading for everyone across the District. A multi-agency group was formed to pull together an action plan to address the issues raised and to try to ensure that future practice did everything it could to try to prevent further tragedies like that of Star's death occurring. The partners agreed a number of actions to take forward to address the points made in the report. A great deal of work has already been completed in relation to the actions identified but the partners recognise that significant work remains to be completed. This action plan and the response is monitored by the Oversight and Delivery Group who challenge partners about progress against the agreed actions.

In addition, BDSCP published a review "**Concerning Harry**" which looked to identify learning from a case where a child with significant disabilities was found to be seriously ill. The review made a number of recommendations for the partnership. These included training for professionals dealing with disabled children and capturing the voice of disabled children. BDSCP multiagency training has been reviewed in response to this to ensure that the recommendations made are met by the training we deliver.

8 VOICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

All agencies across the district are working to look at ways to ensure they capture the voice and opinions of children and young people about how services impact on them.

An example of this is from **Bradford Youth Justice Service (YJS)** who have provided details of work they have undertaken to capture the Voice of the Child, including awards they have received for their successful initiatives.

Bradford YJS partnership is working with several organisations, both locally and nationally, to improve Voice of the Child and influence change. It is mostly in its infancy, with shared visions and plans in progress. We work collaboratively with children to ensure their views and voices are heard. We use this information to shape and adapt our service to encourage engagement with us and our partner agencies. Our participation strategy includes how we will work with children to ask for their input as well as how we will seek the feedback from parents, staff, and partners.

Our audits have been independently moderated this year, with Voice of the Child as a prominent feature in the recommendations. The audit process is under review and work will continue to look at the best ways of obtaining and measuring the Voice of the Child. Questions regarding the 'Child's Voice' are now part of supervision discussions, however, we still need to develop a method to analyse the impact.

We regularly ask the children we work with for their views and feedback on a 1:1 basis during their intervention, via child friendly questionnaires and group activities (residential trips and summer camps). We will also continue to work with other participation groups and forums across Bradford, in addition to the work undertaken in Bradford YJS. Currently there is no plan to form a children's participation group. Two participation group opportunities were offered across the service in April 2023, however the uptake for this was extremely low. Information from children was that this is not their preferred means of providing feedback.

Our recruitment process does not currently involve children. This stopped during Covid restrictions and has not been re-established. However, research highlights the need for this to change. Bradford YJS will look to include the voice of children, parents/carers, and victims within future recruitment processes. This may include having a guest interviewer, attending interview panels for a specific period, or as part of an additional interview panel, such as a children's panel. This is standard good practice across many services.

Children have told us they like working with their Case Manager and enjoy doing activities. We recognised that lots of children have family days out around Christmas but a lot of the children we work with do not have the same opportunities. We were able to access funding to provide children working with Bradford YJS the opportunity to choose an activity at Christmas which also included a meal. Some children chose to go bowling, to the cinema or have a beauty treatment and all those who took part gave positive feedback.

Summer camps remain ongoing and have been extended to include a third week at the request of the children. The third week often includes children who have attended one of the first two weeks and have requested to attend for a third week because they have enjoyed it so much.

Summer camps are becoming increasingly popular, and destinations and itineraries are co-created with children based on their requests for activities they have enjoyed doing in the past or have never had an opportunity to do. Children have already started to give ideas for this summer, and we are looking at a range of new opportunities and experiences that have not previously been offered in summer camp. Bradford YJS staff will continue to have a pivotal role in the summer camps as they have provided an excellent opportunity to engage children who have been difficult to reach. For example, having specialist staff attend summer camp has resulted in an uptake of children agreeing to referrals where consent has not previously been given. We won the John Hawkins award 2022 for innovation and creativity in Youth Justice, the second time Bradford has received this. In 2022 this was received for the Spark initiative, especially important as this is voted for by children, making the award extra special.



We are using children's feedback to adapt interventions and encourage engagement. For example, the 'Fast, Furious and Fatal' intervention was created to address the concerns around children driving or being carried in vehicles driven by others. However, the feedback provided from the children who attended the first session was not positive. They did not find the course engaging and thought it was too classroom based. We used their feedback to work with our Speech and Language Team (SALT) and the Fire Service to develop a more interactive session, suited to all learning needs.

We have completed feedback calls with parents whose children have received an out-of-court disposals and we have received constructive and positive feedback, for example:

**"Glad he has got the support without a criminal record.
After 2 years he is now going back to school".**

**"She has been waiting for a speech and language assessment
for a long time and got one within these 4 weeks".**

We are setting up a 'red box' and 'green box' provision, which will offer all YJS children access to free sanitary (red box) and hygiene (green box) products. This initiative has been set up based on discussions with children about access to sanitary and hygiene products, alongside research around the increasing number of children not having access to basic provisions. The boxes will include child friendly health information on a range of subjects, provided by the NHS and contact details for the Bradford YJS health staff. They will be available in the reception area and meeting rooms, where children will also be able to access food and drinks during their visit to the office. Children who do not visit the Bradford YJS offices will also be made aware of these provisions and will be able to ask their Case Manager to bring them a red or green box package. Funding for this will be gained through a bespoke reparation project which will involve contacting local organisations and businesses for donations of products.

We have found our working practices have changed since Covid and we are now seeing more children in their homes, local communities or at our allotment. However, we have full access to the facilities within the YJS offices, in both Bradford and Keighley, for those children who need to be seen in the office. A collaborative decision is made between the child and their case manager as to where they would prefer their appointments to take place, with some children stating the office is a safer location for them.

We now have six reparation projects available for children. We used feedback from children and families in Keighley and have set up a bike project in their locality which is due open in June 2023. We also created tailored reparation projects and placements based on the needs, interests, and aspirations of the children we work with. Reparation projects will continue to be looked at and new opportunities sourced.

We will continue to co-create bespoke placements for children to suit their needs, interests, and aspirations.



We routinely review the way we communicate with children and their parent/ carers. Our Speech and Language Team (SALT) support us to adapt the language used to ensure we are child friendly. Following feedback, Referral Order leaflets have been reviewed and updated. Leaflets for other orders will be reviewed over the coming year.

In June 2023 every child, parent/carer, member of staff and partner have received a feedback postcard, asking them “if you had the power to change youth justice, what would you do?”. We will use these to inform future decisions and plans. We are also aiming to co-create next year’s plans with children but acknowledge this work needs to start this year to ensure we can successfully engage them with the process.

Staff continue to use Bradford YJS Oscars to nominate children to celebrate their successes. We will be reviewing this process to ascertain if there are other ways we can champion children’s achievements and successes.

Bradford YJS staff have been recognised for their achievements at the Bradford Council’s Service Excellence Awards in October 2022 when they were awarded prize for Collaboration & Partnership. This was in recognition of their work on the Behind the Blade Project. We also won the Kathy Biggar Award for the same initiative.



The following are examples from health agencies of their work to gain the child’s perspective.

The **Sexual Assault Referral Centre** has a method of seeking feedback from young people who referred to them for medical investigations. One of the examples of this was from a fourteen-year-old Bradford resident who stated;

“The process was efficient and worthwhile. They made me feel content and protected. After visiting I feel less hopeless and more ready and prepared for any situation which may proceed to shake me”.

In addition, **Bradford Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust** undertook an AUDIT OF SERVICE USER'S EXPERIENCE OF CHILD PROTECTION MEDICALS. The results showed as below.

RESULTS

A total of only 9 surveys were collected. Although some answers were incomplete, the majority of questions were answered. 6 surveys were from accompanying social workers, completed online via Survey Monkey. 3 surveys were from young people (all paper completions). No surveys were received from parents/carers. All the medicals took place in the Children's Clinic at St Luke's Hospital.

The comments received were as below;

- DR X is super professional absolutely patient and empathetic to both professionals and families.
- The child was non-verbal and with additional needs Dr was sensitive and empathically patient.
- The child and mum were seen individually, and it allowed the young person to be open to the Dr. The Dr did not ask leading questions and listened to the child.
- Social Worker had to call multiple numbers to get through to the on-call paediatrician and secretary. SW need a direct number to book medicals.
- Times were flexible for the medical.
- Dr Y was very welcoming and informative. I had time to discuss the concerns and the organisation of the medical was brilliant.
- Dr Y listened and treated the family with respect and empathy.
- The mother was happy with Dr Y's engagement.
- The nurses and staff entertained the child and played well with him. He felt comfortable and was able to focus during the medical.
- Dr Y took time out to speak with the SW about her professional opinion and advice given.



9 SAFEGUARDING EVENTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit was joined this year by a Training Coordinator who has worked on revising and developing a comprehensive multi agency safeguarding training offer. This includes in person, online and e-learning courses. The Training Coordinator has developed a new network of trainers, from across the BDSCP agencies and now has identified a number of individuals who can co-deliver multi agency safeguarding training.

During the time period of this report BDSCP ran a number of training events and also provided online training opportunities for frontline staff. In relation to training courses this period saw face to face training restarted after being paused during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Over **six hundred** frontline staff attended Child Safeguarding Training on subjects including **Exploring Families, Voice of the Child and Multi-Agency Working, Understanding Sexual Abuse and Working in the Margins - Safeguarding Disabled Children**. BDSCP also provide access to online training courses and over **two thousand three hundred** courses were signed up for and undertaken via the online portal. Some of the most accessed courses include **Child Criminal Exploitation, Gangs and County Lines, Level 2 Safeguarding Children, Understanding the Impacts of the Trio of Vulnerabilities and Level 1 Safeguarding Everyone**.

On 30th November 2022 BDSCP ran an event in conjunction with Bradford University on the topics of childhood neglect and child criminal exploitation which was attended by over a hundred people. Attendees were provided opportunity to reflect on issues around neglect, identification of situations that would amount to neglect. The conference also discussed what barriers there were to putting best guidance and advice into everyday practice.

In June 2022 the annual **Safeguarding Week** took place with a wide variety of events and training presentations. BDSCP ran a joint event with BSAB looking at **child neglect and adult self-neglect** that was well attended by professionals across the district. In addition, there were a number of further events run by individual agencies.

10 LOOKING AHEAD

BDSCP recognise that there are a number of challenges that agencies working in Bradford will face in coming months and years. The move to Bradford Children and Families Trust is in its very early stages and the work to improve the provision of children's services in the district is ongoing. One of the major threads is looking at retaining staff and a number of pieces of work have already been started to improve this area.

Looking wider the challenges set us by the National Panel review of the circumstances surrounding the very sad death of Star Hobson continue to be addressed across the Partnership. No one underestimates the challenge that this presents to the Partnership and coordinated work continues to respond to this.

BDSCP has reviewed and renewed its key priorities, as outlined above, and the work of the subgroups will be directed towards these key priorities, as well as other areas identified through the review and audit work that the subgroups identify.

11 HOW TO REPORT A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

- Talk to us about a child or young person – practitioners:

We have a dedicated Practitioners Advice and Guidance telephone number to share information about any concerns you have about a child or young person within the Bradford District or to make a referral.

- Before making a referral, all practitioners need to:

- ▶ Speak with their Safeguarding Lead within their own organisation.
- ▶ Ask themselves “Have you done everything you can to help and support the family?”
- ▶ Refer to the Continuum of Need document (PDF) on the Bradford Safeguarding Partnership Website ([link](#)).
- ▶ Contact the allocated Social Worker directly if Children’s Services are already working with the child or young person.

- Practitioners, how to contact us during office hours.

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Practitioners need to call us on 01274 433999

- Out of office hours concerns.

Practitioners can share information or make a referral using our online forms ([link](#)).

If you are worried about a child and would like to make a referral out of hours or if you need some further information or advice, use our Children’s Services portal.

- Member of the public how to contact us during office hours.

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Call us on our freephone number 0800 953 0966

Use our online forms through the Bradford Children and Families Portal ([link](#)).

The Children’s Portal is our online system that allows members of the public to share any concerns they have about a child by completing a secure form. You do not need to leave your details.

If you are looking for information and advice, please visit our Bradford Families and Young Persons (FYI) Directory ([link](#)).

- Emergency Duty Team - Call our Emergency Duty Team 01274 431010.

The Emergency Duty Team (for emergencies outside of office hours) will make an assessment, on the telephone, of any immediate need or risk and take appropriate action to ensure that child or young person is safe until the next working day.

- Police - If you have reason to believe that a child is at immediate risk of harm, contact the Police on 101 or 999 for emergencies.