

Mayoral Summit on Violence Reduction

Monday 28th March
15:00



Section 1

Where did we come from?

PROGRESS SINCE 2019

Sarah Parker,
Director of Children's Services
Bristol City Council



SAFER OPTIONS

- Safer Options is more than a team- it's an approach to tackling violence and extra familial harm. You will hear references to extra familial harm during this conference today, so we all understand what we mean, it refers to ' contextual safeguarding' or 'complex safeguarding'; These concepts refer to harm that occurs to children outside their family system, often during the adolescent (or teenage) years because at this age their social networks widen.
- Safer options was established and then launched in 2019 after a significant youth violence event, which occurred in 2018
- Safer options is not just the council – it's a multi-agency approach to intervening, mapping and strategically responding to youth violence and exploitation across the city. Safer options is the glue that brings all partners and communities together across the city, in a coordinated and consistent way so together we are impactful, and greater than the sum of our parts.
- Safer options partners include Police, youth and community services, families in focus, youth offending, Bristol drugs and alcohol project, youth creative network, operation topaz, education, missing from care colleagues, community engagement, community and voluntary sector including community mentors.
- There are three main functions – 1) coordinating operation response and support for CYP involved in SYV, this include the weapons in school pathway, drugs in schools pathway (both of which have reduced exclusions for these reasons) and housing pathways. 2) Strategic prevention through intelligence mapping, Qlik analysis (which is a multi-agency data sharing app) and reviewing effectiveness on intelligence responses 3) Undertaking locality assessment and informing disruption
- All this work is underpinned by the view and support of our employed peer influencers, and the opportunity for us collectively to be flexible, agile and truly creative in the challenging environment that is contextual safeguarding.

NEW LEAF

Kathryn Talboys,
Community Services Manager



YOUTH VIOLENCE

As recognised within the new National Drug Strategy , ' From Harm to Hope', Serious and Organised Crime and with it Youth Violence and Exploitation is inextricably linked to drug dealing and drug use.

BDP were welcomed into conversations from the beginning of what became Bristol's Violence Reduction Unit, Safer Options.

This allowed BDP to recognise the need for the New Leaf Project and it was successful with an application to the CHK Foundation which offered two years funding, 2020/22, for a part time worker.

New Leaf remains working in close partnership with Safer Options through:

- ✓ Attending all area meetings;
- ✓ Highlighting the influence of substance use and its impact (CABS);
- ✓ Taking direct referrals and contributing to the wrap around multiagency support;
- ✓ Providing advice and training for partners;
- ✓ Supporting Community Meetings and
- ✓ Offering additional detached work and in-reach to reach young people.

NEW LEAF

Works assertively with young people with a problematic relationship with cannabis use.

Targeting those most at risk from Child Criminal Exploitation in conjunction with other extra familial harm as Child Sexual Exploitation and Serious Youth violence , including knife crime.

Young people where there is risk of drug debts , where cannabis has reduced choices in making positive decisions, positive peers and activities are left behind, abilities to move away from those posing a risk to young people is reduced , vulnerability for criminality increases and any deemed benefits from belonging to a peer group now feels toxic and young people smoke to just seek oblivion from it all .

The project targets 'at risk' and 'risk taking' young people aged 11-19. Young people are supported by 1:1 and small group work and can avail themselves of the service for up to 24 weeks. New Leaf is nimble and tenacious in how we flexibly engage and sustain relationships with young people to help them make positive changes.

Personalised rewards encourage engagement and mark progress, celebrating achievements.

Anyone can refer into this service including universal services, Safer Options, TYS, Families in Focus, self, parents etc. Information is easy to find on BDP's website.

NEW LEAF 2020/22

Since its launch in March 2020:

- 52 young people have been seen in peer groups and provided workshops .
- 71 young people engaged in 1:1 support for up to 6 months.
- 123 young people in total.

Of those seen :

89% males and 11% females.

The eldest was 19 years of age; the youngest 11, with the median being 14.5.

The cohort reflects Bristol's youth diversity with 34% of referrals of African, North African, African Caribbean, African Caribbean dual heritage with White British, Asian, South Asian ,Eastern European or Gypsy Roma Traveller heritage. In year two there was a marked disproportion to young people from African, African Caribbean or dual heritage (42%).

None identified as having a disability, a faith or being LGBTQI+.

100% identified cannabis use with a third also identifying use (at least once) of other substances as Lean (a drink containing codeine and an antihistamine), Alcohol, MDMA, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine and Nitrous Oxide.

Referrals were made from across the city, with an initial emphasis on East Central Bristol where Safer Options launched 6 months ahead of other areas of Bristol. Over the two years area referrals consisted of: Year one-East Central, 27%; North, 29%; South, 38% and 3 % out of area (Somerset) and Year two – East Central 56%; North 9% and South 35%.

Referrals were from an array of sources; local youth services, Early Help (Families in Focus) and Children's Social Care, city-wide three Safer Options partnerships, GP/ other health professionals, Targeted Youth Support, schools and Alternative Learning Providers.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WAS MADE?

Of those 71 young people seen face to face they reported to us that:

- 7 ceased using cannabis.
- 27 reduced their cannabis use.
- 29 reduced the harms of using cannabis.
- 31 acquired new skills and knowledge around use and behaviours.
- 37 increased their skills in knowing their rights and having choices.
- 18 improved confidence and self esteem.
- 24 made healthier lifestyle choices.
- 20 reduced risky, antisocial or criminal behaviour.
- 19 developed and maintained better relationships.

WHAT DID YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US?

*‘ I’ve changed my opinion on it, I think weed is a bit s**t now’ ‘I feel like I need to find something new and exciting to replace the cannabis in my life’.*

NEW LEAF GOING FORWARD

BDP has invested a third year of funding and extended the role to full time to meet both demand and to further develop the project, allowing us:

- To respond to emerging needs; adultification, gender bias, racial bias, increased recognition to Children Affected By Substances, the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the on line power of negative 'influencers' and how do we compete.
- Keeping drugs and particularly cannabis use to the forefront of partnership conversations, for young people dovetailing support to this root of the problem as well as safeguarding young people from immediate dangers.
- In addition the Vanguard funded, newly launched New Leaf Rapid project providing earlier intervention, through the Safer Options supported Drugs in School guidance to reduce escalating drug use and CCE risks by reducing school exclusions.

New Leaf Contact Details

Telephone: 0117 987 6008

Email: NewLeaf@bdp.org.uk

Web link: <https://www.bdp.org.uk/children-and-young-people/>

Thank you

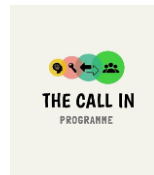


Section 2

Where are we now?

THE CALL IN

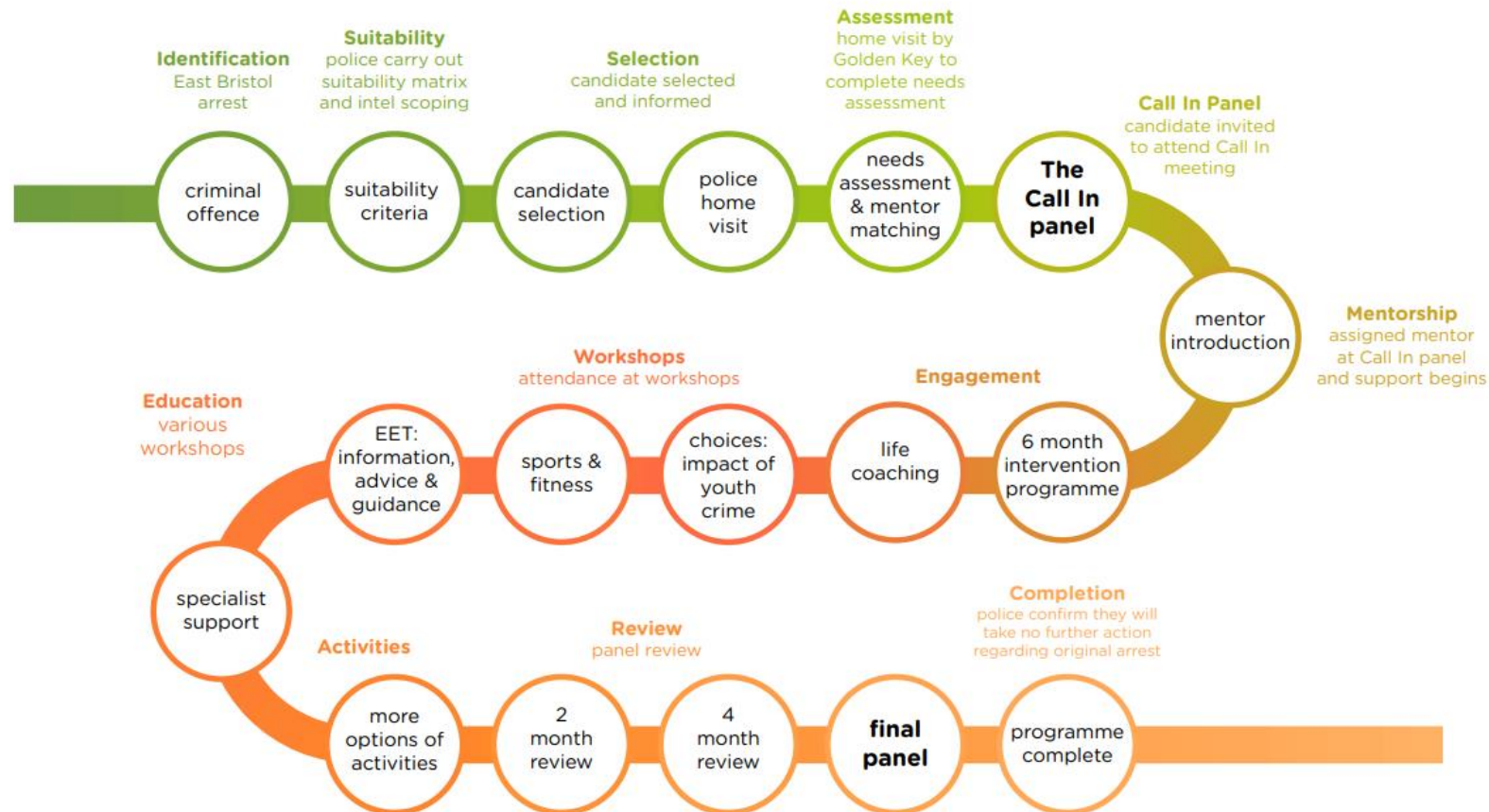
- Partnership between Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Bristol City Council, OPCC and Golden Key, who delivers the programme in East Central Bristol.
- Set up in 2019 to address disproportionality, the challenges of drug related offending in the local area & recognising criminal exploitation
- Diverts young people arrested away from offending; providing the opportunity to take part in an intense six-month programme of mentoring, learning and activities
- Successful Completion= No charges brought & arrest no further actioned
- Working collaboratively with local community organisations, Black led businesses & young people



The Call In: the process



THE CALL IN PROGRAMME



IMPACT

- 31 young people have been enrolled on the Call In
- 84% have been Black, Asian or Dual heritage.
- 71% Call In candidates have successfully completed The Call In so far

On average each young person receives 120 hours of activities & workshops and 60 hrs of Golden Key direct support over the 6 month programme.

For those that have successfully completed the Call In:

- 55% are in employment
- 30% are in education or Training
- 15% Not in Education Employment or Training.
- 85% have not reoffended since successfully completing

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY...

'The call in is trying to do what they can do to ensure that I focus on me and doing something with myself and put me on a better path.'

'I've already been telling people about it puts us on the right track and actually beneficial to help with our future and not just a standard boring course that doesn't actually help.'

'If you're looking for a way out to escape sentencing, then you may as well do your sentence, if you're looking to change your life then that's the Call In... it's all about mindset'

The next slide is a video, please move
your mouse over the slide and click play
and check the volume is turned up

Section 3

Where do we want to be?



Youth and Community First

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.

THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

PC 2544 Kris Withers and Ellen Campbell
Avon and Somerset Police



THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

The **Blunt Truth Workshop** is a collaboration between Avon and Somerset Police and the NHS.

- The **Blunt Truth Workshop** has been delivered largely to Year 8 and 9 students from October 2021 to the present day in Secondary Schools in Bristol. We have delivered so far to over 1200 young people, this has included delivery in a Boxing Club and a College to post-16 students as well.
- The aim of the **Blunt Truth Workshop** is to encourage young people to report to their school, a trusted adult, the Police or through FEARLESS (the youth arm of Crime Stoppers) should someone they know is carrying a knife. The FEARLESS website is shown to the young people and it is emphasised that reporting through FEARLESS is 100% anonymous.
- The ultimate aim of the **Blunt Truth Workshop** is to prevent assaults using knives and weapons from taking place.

THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

The **Blunt Truth Workshop** begins with the Police / Police staff asking the young people a set of carefully thought out questions leading up to the showing of the **Blunt Truth** film.

- What would you do if someone you know is carrying a knife?
- Would you tell someone?
- Would you report it?
- Do you know how to report it?
- How would you feel if the person you know used the knife and stabbed someone and you did nothing?
- What if the person stabbed was someone from your family or a friend?

THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

The idea behind these questions is to get the young people thinking without the presenters looking for answers. We want and encourage the young people's thoughts on the subject of knife crime and the answers are theirs' and NOT the thoughts of the adults.

THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

Following posing the set of questions, the Blunt Truth Film is played. The Blunt Truth Film is acted by Drama students from Ashton Park Secondary School in Bristol and as such is the vision and voice of the young people themselves. The film is very much a 'sliding doors' moment in that it shows the consequences of when the carrying of a knife is not reported and how when a knife is used how many people are impacted by it. The film also shows the possible consequences of when the carrying of a knife is reported and thus preventing such a catastrophic life-changing event.

THE BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP

Dr Rob Walker and Dr Maud McCutcheon who are trauma Team Doctors then lead the workshop and talk about knife crime from a health perspective emphasising 'no safe place to be stabbed'. The workshop concludes with the NHS and GWAAC (Great Western Air Ambulance Charity) volunteers delivering a practical first aid session on how to treat a bleeding victim. Each young person who takes part in the workshop receive a certificate with a reminder of the FEARLESS website and the DRSABCCC mnemonic on treating a bleeding victim.





**You save two lives when
you report a knife before
it is used.**



REDUCING FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS/SUSPENSIONS

Lesley O'Hagan
Attendance Strategy Manager
Bristol City Council



Headlines

- Bristol has the **lowest rate of permanent exclusions** when compared to statistical neighbours and is well below the national average
- Bristol is ranked 133rd out of 151 Local Authorities for total suspension rates (fixed term exclusions) in 2019/20
- **Bristol's suspension rate is significantly higher than the national average.**
- When compared to statistical neighbours Bristol's performance is poor with the second highest rate of suspensions in 2019/20
- Suspension rates are higher for vulnerable groups including pupils with an EHCP, SEN support and those who are eligible for free school meals

Year on year trend data

Source = Department for Education

DEFINITION

A fixed term exclusion now referred to as a suspension is when a pupil is not allowed to attend school for a specific period of time. Pupils can be excluded for a fixed term more than once. The total exclusion time in a single school year cannot be more than 45 school days

When measuring suspensions you need to consider:

- Number of incidents
- Length of suspension
- Number of pupils involved

Other types of exclusion - informal exclusions- not always identified in national and local data

- Persistent absence
- Internal exclusion
- A reduced timetable.
 - A managed move
- School or setting move
- Children Missing Education
- Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Development of the Belonging Strategy
- Publication of Relationships and Belonging – Behaviour Regulation Guidance for Bristol:
Developing an Attachment Aware Approach to Inclusion
 - Scrutiny of Exclusion Data – Excellence in Schools
- Establishment of the Exclusions Task and Finish Group (includes LA and external representatives)
 - Creation of a Professionals Attendance Group
- Research Projects with schools and settings to establish and learn from best practice
 - Work of the Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) Hub
 - Bristol Inclusion Panel (BIP)
 - Working directly with Schools and Settings

KEY PRIORITIES OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- Good practice and case studies
- Exclusions and ethnic minorities
 - Non formal exclusions
 - Secondary exclusions
 - Primary exclusions
- Expectations placed on settings
 - Data

- Exclusions for children with SEND
- Exclusions for children with Pupil Premium
 - Children open to social care
- What support is currently available for schools and settings
 - Transitions

DEVELOPMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE

- Identifying what activities work well to improve fixed term exclusion figures utilising research and case studies
- Developing a consistent and coherent approach amongst all parties towards supporting a reduction in fixed term exclusions
- Using data effectively to establish baseline information, identifying and analysing particular areas of concern and monitor progress
- Developing evidenced based partnership working and inclusion practice at a strategic level
- Utilising joint resources and developing a greater understanding of the need of settings to support a reduction in fixed term exclusions
 - Developing a community of practice to share creative ideas and solutions

Section 4

The Youth Manifesto