

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

THIS ISSUE:

- **A message from the Chairs**
- **New service to prevent youth homelessness**
- **Emotional Health Directory**
- **Bristol MASH**
- **New website for Safeguarding Boards**
- **Think Partnerships**
- **Voscur Children and Young People's Network**
- **Youth Council**
- **Healthy schools awards**
- **Training for Whole Family Workers & Supervisors**
- **Appeal for foster carers**

ABOUT US:

Bristol Children and Families Partnership brings together organisations from all areas of the city to work towards delivering the best outcomes for children and young people. At its centre is a partnership board which plans, commissions and delivers services.



A message from the Chairs

Welcome to the second edition of the Children and Families Partnership Newsletter. It has been a busy summer and we are pleased to be able to share information on some important and promising developments.

A new academic year is now underway but we would like to extend our congratulations to all the students who recently received their [A level](#) and [GCSE](#) results. The effort and dedication of young people in the city is something that we should all celebrate and we would like to note the commitment of all the colleagues across the Partnership who worked alongside them towards these important milestones.

Coming together to look at resources collectively is an important part of the work of the Children and Families Partnership. It has been a tough time for the public sector locally and nationally but we are committed to ensuring children, young people and families get the right support at the right time.

We look forward to working with colleagues and children and young people in the city to continue to join up services and improve practice, and to share in successes through the coming year.

John Readman and Kirsty Alexander

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Fill in our [online form here](#)

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Bristol Youth MAPS: preventing homelessness

Housing in Bristol is very expensive, even if you have a stable, well-paying job. If it's safe for a young person to live in the family home, this is usually the best option until s/he can afford to move out in a planned way.

A new integrated service led by 1625 Independent People opens on Nelson Street in October. It will include co-located housing advisers and a social worker, and will be a safe and welcoming place for young people aged 16-21. The service will help young people to develop the skills they need to live independently and with others (including within the family home), supporting them to develop positive relationships and help them on their journey into learning and employment.

Bristol Youth MAPS will support young people in these ways:

- **Mediation** – helping young people and their families to talk things through and find solutions
- **Assessment** – working out what young people need to prepare for independence and have a safe place to live
- **Prevention** – intervening early to prevent young people from becoming homeless
- **Support** – helping young people to develop positive relationships and progress on their journey to learning, employment and living independently

You can [sign up to a mailing list](#) to receive updates about Bristol Youth MAPS.

New website for Bristol Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards

The Bristol Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards have launched a new joint website, which will act as a focal point for all safeguarding information relating to adults and children, for both residents and professionals.

The new website can be found at www.bristolsafeguarding.org. Both boards are also on Twitter. You can follow [@BristolSCB](#) and [@BristolSAB](#) on Twitter.

Think Partnerships

In June, Early Help in Bristol hosted an extremely successful Think Partnership marketplace event at City Hall. It was a day dedicated to the essential partnerships that exist to support children, young people and their families in Bristol, and more than 50 stall holders and more than 350 attendees took part.

Think Partnerships is a reflection of Bristol's Think Family approach. The participating organisations offered advice on how they could help families help themselves; help families when they need it; or help families live their lives. Planning is already underway to run a similar event next summer.

New Emotional Health Directory for children and young people

Following stakeholder feedback, the joint NHS Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group & the council's Children & Young People's Emotional Health & Wellbeing Transformation Team have developed an online directory of local and national services and resources for children, young people and their families. The directory aims to be the 'go to' place for searchable information about different services and NHS commissioned providers.

It is on [the CCG website](#), Remedy (the GP referral support tool) and can be printed as an A5 booklet. You are encouraged to link to it from your organisation's website or in your newsletters.

Bristol MASH

Bristol has introduced a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) with key children's safeguarding partners, including local authority children's services, the police and health services.

The MASH will improve the way information about vulnerable children is shared, improve decision making and help ensure children and families receive timely and appropriate support.

There is no change to how people should contact Bristol City Council with safeguarding concerns. First Response will continue to receive all safeguarding concerns. [Find out more about the MASH here.](#)

Children and Young People's Network

[Voscur](#) is a charity providing direct support and specialist advice to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, also ensuring that they are represented in local decision making. It facilitates a Children and Young People's Network that shares opportunities and news about local strategy, policy and services, offering members an opportunity to help shape local services while networking with colleagues. If you would like to join or share information via the Children and Young People's Network, please contact [Asma Ahmad](#).

Youth Council deliver their manifesto

On 27 June Bristol City Youth Council delivered their manifesto to Full Council. The manifesto is the culmination of lots of hard work since the Youth Council members were voted into office in February. The Youth Council's main priorities are:

- **Young and Equal** – creating an equal city for all young people
- **Education for Life** – improving PHSE
- **Youth Voice** – giving all Bristol young people a voice
- **What Next?** – improving work experience for year 10s

[Find out more here.](#)

Multi-agency training for Whole Family Workers and Supervisors

As part of Bristol's Early Intervention Strategy and the Think Family approach, Bristol Children and Families Services are running training courses to build skills and capabilities to secure positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

These training courses are open to those working in services that deal with whole families. Participation includes an opportunity for learners to gain an accredited level 4 nationally recognised qualification and for supervisors to gain an accredited level 5 nationally recognised leadership qualification.

The principles underpinning the training are:

- Whole family / household working;
- Strength based practice;
- Outcome / solution focused practice;
- Development of the individual, the team and the service for the benefit of families and communities;
- Influencing / challenging workforce behaviour in order to influence positive behaviour with families.

Both courses run for 7 days over 3 months. A briefing session on the courses will take place on 28 September, 2pm to 4.30pm, at City Hall. For further information, please contact karenwalker33@aol.com.



Mayor awards healthy schools

In July, schools and pre-school providers from around Bristol were recognised for their dedication to promoting the health and wellbeing of their pupils and staff. An awards ceremony to announce the winners took place at City Hall.

Schools received awards for fulfilling a range of criteria, including the identification of the specific health needs of their pupils in areas such as food, physical activity and emotional wellbeing, and for taking steps towards tackling these issues. The winners of Bristol's Young Chef, Baker and Gardener were also announced at the same ceremony.

10 schools received a Mayor's Award for Excellence as a Health Improving School, six received a Healthy Schools Standard Award, five got the Bristol Ideal award and 12 pre-school providers received the Bristol Standard for Health.

Together the awards hope to encourage schools and early years settings to improve and promote healthy lifestyles and, in turn, to take steps to improve the long term mental and physical health of children in the city.

[Find out more about the awards here.](#)

IN BRIEF:

Think Family conference

This year's Think Family conference will take place on 8 November at City Hall. It will focus on preventing youth homelessness and will see the launch Bristol Youth MAPS, a new youth homelessness prevention service. It will also cover the next phase of the Troubled Families programme. Please [book via Eventbrite](#) if you would like to attend.

Bristol Association for Neighbourhood Daycare (BAND)

BAND is an umbrella organisation that supports and develops childcare provision in and around Bristol. It has over 200 members who provide childcare and play to children aged between 0 and 11. It provides training, guidance and advice to providers over a huge range of issues. [Find out more about BAND on its website.](#)

Freedom of Mind festival

The Freedom of Mind mental health festival will take place 6-14 October. An educational event aiming to encourage positive conversation about mental health, it will include a range of arts-focussed events. Find out more on the [Freedom of Mind website](#) or by emailing info@freedomofmind.org.uk.

Bristol CCG News

NHS Bristol publish a quarterly newsletter about local health services and forthcoming events. The latest edition highlights CQC praise for Sirona's 'Outstanding care', NHS Bristol CCG's annual report and information about the developing operational plan for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCGs. [Find out more here.](#)

Do something **great** in 2017

Foster or Adopt



Urgent appeal from Bristol City Council for more foster carers

Bristol City Council is urging people to consider coming forward as prospective foster carers and, for those who are not in a position to foster, to spread the word far and wide

Bristol has a growing population of children, some of whom will experience difficulties in their early lives. Fostering is a chance to give these children brighter futures.

Bristol City Council is currently responsible for around 700 children as a result of its corporate parenting remit, and it is urgently seeking foster carers to offer stable, safe homes and to help children in care reach their full potential.

Fostering provides many opportunities to enrich a child's life and carers get an enormous sense of satisfaction from their roles. Carers come from all backgrounds and Bristol City Council offers a variety of schemes to suit different skills, experiences, work and home circumstances. There is no upper age limit, but you must be over 21. People who can consider fostering teenagers, sibling groups, and disabled children are in particular demand, as are carers from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

Call 01173534200 or email fostering.adoption@bristol.gov.uk to find out more.

Information is also [available online](#), and you can support the service on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Please help spread the word!

USEFUL LINKS:

- [Findability](#)
- [Rife Magazine](#)
- [Rife Guide](#)
- [Go Places to Play](#)
- [RVoice](#)

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