

# Response to a Critical Incident

Learning identified at multi agency debrief events  
November 2025



## What happened?

One child was stabbed and another assaulted at a South Glos location, a number of other children from South Glos and Bristol were involved as suspects and witnesses. There were a large number of children spoken to by the police as part of their investigation.

## Theme: ROTH processes

### What is working Well?

- Schools had raised concerns about the children involved in advance of the incident and mapping had taken place
- Proportionate police response centred around two schools
- Referrals into PIMM (*in place at the time*) appropriately
- Lots of interventions for the children whose names came up prior to the incident. Use of lived experience mentors, Empire Fighting Chance

### What are we worried about?

- Police bail conditions were difficult for schools to manage, needs some greater co-ordination and conversation with schools
- Limited referrals to RTG (ROTH tactical group) meetings since implementation

### What needs to happen?

- Ensure publicity to schools about RTG is robust and they know about the changes in process
- SharePoint site with resources for families will be reviewed and resources added to children's partnership website so they are accessible
- Police to communicate with schools when bail conditions have been set so they can be proactive

## Theme: Education

### What is working well?

- Schools reported that they felt more confident and where to share information
- Good school-to-school communication
- Quick response from Children's Social Care to schools
- All schools contacted and responded despite incident taking place in half term
- Relationship with child is ongoing despite sharing information based on what they said. Mutual respect and relationship based work is key

### What are we worried about?

- Some schools for children on managed moves were missed
- Exploitation Team did not have a list of 'out of term time' contacts
- Some schools were emailed rather than phoned and these emails were not picked up until school reopened
- Three referrals for one child before it was accepted, triage may not have wider picture for a child

### What needs to happen?

- Mosaic needs to be checked by Social Care Team Managers to ensure correct school is on the front screen for all children
- Peer mapping work relating to work experience placements, extend the current thinking from school into other placements to ensure this will be a good fit and everyone is aware of which other children are at the setting to minimise risk

## Theme: Critical Incident Response

### What is Working Well?

- Good collaboration between organisations at pace after the incident occurred
- Contact with schools despite being a bank holiday and out of term time
- Cross border communication happened well
- Practitioners reported that the information sharing and support was much more helpful than for previous incidents
- Youth Services: Communication was good, previously youth providers have been missed

### What are we worried about?

- Actions to share information happened because of the professionals involved and their relationships across the partnership rather than because they were following a protocol

### What needs to happen?

- Local protocol to be updated, published and shared

## Theme: Cross Border Working

### What is Working Well?

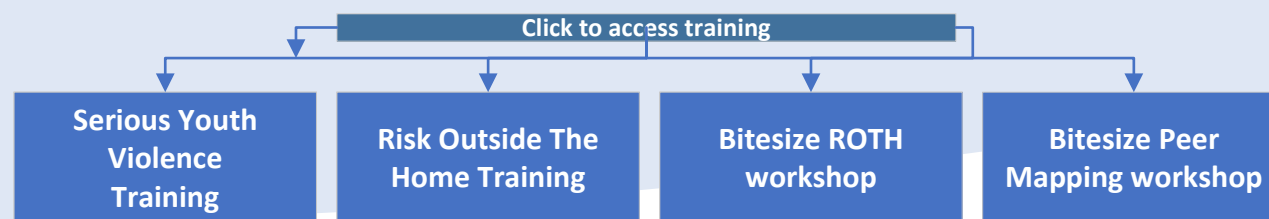
- South Glos and Bristol schools were included in the briefings
- Better relationships were evident than for previous incidents
- Concerns about pre-arranged fights and possible weapons had been raised before the incident which allowed for mapping to take place

### What are we worried about?

- Difference in thresholds and lack of consistent response for children at same school because of their home address

### What needs to happen?

- Continue to build relationships with adjoining local authorities to build on the good practice identified



Resources to support working with Risk Outside the Home including the ROTH tool, ROTH Tactical Group (RTG) meetings, referral forms and links to support practice are all available by clicking this box