

Creative Solutions Board reflecting on success and looking ahead

The Creative Solutions Project has been an innovative programme, delivering support to practitioners and achieving transformative outcomes for individuals and families in South Gloucestershire. However, as the funding from the Prevention Project concludes at the end of March 2025, the formal programme elements; the Creative Solutions Board, the Practitioners Network, and the Journey of a Complex Client sessions will cease operations.

While this marks the end of the project's current phase, it is also an opportunity to reflect on its considerable successes and the valuable lessons learned. These insights are now embedded within the systems and practices of the organisations involved, creating a lasting legacy.

Key Learnings from the Creative Solutions way of working for the system.

Organisational and System-Level Changes

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Fostered improved communication and stronger relationships between organisations.
- **Trauma-Informed Practice:** Encouraged the adoption of trauma-informed approaches across the system, benefiting both clients and practitioners.
- **Risk and Responsibility Sharing:** Fostered more multi agency working and joined up planning. Helped balance and manage risk across organisations, creating a more resilient system.
- **Increased system flexibility:** Enabled organisations to work more flexibility within existing structures, Support from senior decision-makers provided practitioners with the freedom to work outside of standard protocols/ processes and work innovatively and flexibility to achieve good outcomes for individual and families for who the currently systems of support don't work.

Broader System Impact

- **Early Intervention:** Emphasised proactive approaches, preventing costly downstream issues.
- **Catalyst for Change:** Brought together key stakeholders to address complex challenges with creative solutions.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Reduced duplication of efforts and maximised resources.

Next Steps for Organisations and Teams

As we bring this project to a close, we encourage all organisations and teams involved to continue embedding the learnings from the Creative Solutions Project into their systems and practices. The comprehensive evaluation report is available to review for deeper insights into the project's impact alongside an executive summary and accompanying slides.

The Creative Solutions Project has been a resounding success, proving the power of collaboration, innovative approaches, flexibility, and a shared commitment to addressing systemic blocks and barriers. "Creative solutions" is now more than just a project name—it has become an identified and

understood way of working, shaping how we approach challenges across the system. Thank you to all who contributed to its achievements. Together, we have laid a foundation for ongoing positive change in our ways of working.

Helpful Resources:

MEAM

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a national initiative that supports practitioners in improving services for people facing multiple disadvantages. Its approach provides a framework for better coordination across local services, aligning closely with the aims of the Creative Solutions Board by promoting collaborative, person-centred support. By integrating MEAM principles, the Creative Solutions Board has enhanced multi-agency working, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive the tailored, holistic support they need.

 [Home - MEAM](#)

My Team Around Me (MTAM) – Changing Futures Bristol

In its formative phase the CSB partnered with Golden Key and have continued to share learning and best practice with services across other local authorities including Changing Futures Bristol. The Creative Solutions Board has successfully implemented tools developed by Changing Futures to support those facing multiple disadvantage. Their website has a wealth of information and tools available including a 'strengths meeting toolkit' to support effective MDT's. Explore more here:

 [My Team Around Me — Changing Futures Bristol](#)

Collective Safety Planning

For practitioners looking to strengthen risk and safety planning across services, Changing Futures Bristol offers the **Collective Safety Plan**, a valuable tool for **shared risk management** that the Creative Solutions Board has put into action with positive results.

 [Practitioners - What tools do I need? — Changing Futures Bristol](#)


MINT: Mental Health and Wellbeing Integrated Network Team

MINT is a **multi-professional, collaborative approach** to delivering personalised care in communities, for individuals accessing mental health support, the Creative Solutions Board has worked with MINT to support clients living with complexity to advocate and support multiagency approaches.

 [Learn more about MINT](#)

MASH: Access and Response Team (ART)

The **Access and Response Team (ART)** is the single point of contact for professionals, families, and the public concerned about a child's safety in **South Gloucestershire**.

 Contact ART during office hours at **01454 866000**—no referral to MASH is needed, just call with your concerns.

MARAC: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

MARAC provides a coordinated response to high-risk domestic abuse cases through multi-agency collaboration.

 [Find out more about MARAC](#)

AWP: Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

AWP is adopting a new **personalised and system-based approach to care planning**, inspired by the MTAM model:

 [Your Team, Your Conversation, Your Plan](#)

For additional guidance or support, please explore these resources or reach out to the relevant teams.

Addressing multiple disadvantage requires innovative and flexible approaches. Traditional, siloed service models often fail to meet the complex needs of these individuals, leading to fragmented support and poor outcomes.

Creative Solutions emphasise' s coordinated multi-agency support, ensuring that individuals receive comprehensive assistance regardless of the service they initially engage with ensuring collaboration among organisations, breaking down barriers and promoting holistic care. Let's continue working together using the learning from the CSB to improve outcomes for individuals facing multiple disadvantage.