

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between



VINNEY GREEN  
SECURE CHILDRENS HOME  
FINAL V1.0 Jan 26



**AMENDMENTS**

DATE	NAME	DETAILS
Mar 2025	Mark Rose, ASP	DRAFT V0.1 created
Mar 2025	Mark Rose, ASP	Removed Risk Assessment DRAFT V0.2 created
Mar 2025	Mark Rose ASP	Test format created DRAFT V0.3 created
Dec 2025	Jo Lush	Legal Team replies attached DRAFT V0.4 created
Dec 2025	Mark Rose	Legal Team replies updated and Appendix C added DRAFT V0.5 created
Jan 2026	Mark Rose	Signature received from Gary Wilding FINAL V1.0 created and published in Pocketbook

**Signing of this Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding does not impose any liability on Avon and Somerset Police, Police & Crime Commissioners Office staff or officers, or the employees at Vinney Green Secure Children’s Home or South Gloucestershire Council arising out of any acts or omissions connected with this document, including failure or timeliness in responding to any activations. This document is not legally binding on the parties.

The below name signatories have agreed, at all times, to meet the requirements and spirit of this MOU on behalf of their respective organisations.

Name	Organisation	Signatory	Date
Ch Insp Karen Corrigan Owner	Avon and Somerset Constabulary		Jan 2026
Gary Willding Owner	Vinney Green Secure Children's Home	<b>GWILLDING</b>	Jan 2026
Mark Rose Author/Custodian	Avon and Somerset Constabulary Contingency Team		Jan 2026

**Contents**

1. Information..... 3

2. Intent ..... 3

3. Method ..... 3

4. Administration..... 4

5. Humanitarian issues ..... 4

Appendix A Partner Agencies Activities ..... 5

Appendix B Avon and Somerset Police PPE/Tactical Options ..... 7

Appendix C Use of Force Police Powers ..... 8

Appendix D Site Photos..... 10

Appendix E Traffic Management and Rendezvous Points..... 11

## 1. Information

- 1.1. Young People (YP) that reside in [Secure Children Homes](#), of which Vinney Green Secure Children's Home (VGSCH) is one of 14 individually managed sites throughout England and Wales, present with complex histories and often display challenging behaviour where many have experienced significant trauma. All Secure Children Homes offer input to the residents from a range of mental health and associated professionals to build self-esteem and equip them with strategies to continue with their onward custodial sentence into adult prison life or their successful reintegration into the community.
- 1.2. VGSCH is a different environment to His Majesty Prisons (HMP) or Young Offender Institutes (YOI) which are Crown properties, they are regulated and operate differently and therefore have different statutory requirements
- 1.3. VGSCH is a private site owned, managed and staffed by South Gloucestershire Council and is approved by the Secretary of State to restrict YPs liberty under The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and The Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991. The site can accommodate up to 24 YP aged between 10 and 18 years with full residential care, educational facilities overseen by Ofsted and all NHS healthcare services regulated by the Care Quality Commission.
- 1.4. All places are commissioned on a contractual basis by the Youth Custody Service (YCS). The YCS may, under certain circumstances, permit the Local Authority Children's Services to spot-purchase a vacant bed for a YP on welfare grounds under section 25 of the Children Act 1989, admission of any YP under 13 years of age requires approval by the Secretary of State.

## 2. Intent

- 2.1. The aim of this document is to provide a joint protocol between VGSCH and ASP when responding to a spontaneous incident within the boundaries of VGSCH, where the level of violence by one or more of the unit's residents has gone beyond the level of containment that the VGSCH staff have been trained to manage.
- 2.2. The overarching objective of this document is to ensure the safety of individuals involved in an incident, but in particular to minimise harm to the YP in residence through initial negotiations, safe handling techniques and recording of aftercare provisions using VGSCH localised plans.
- 2.3. All other on-site issues, such as fire, moving YP to a secondary site etc. are NOT in scope of this document. These issues will be managed through internal Standard Operating Procedures and/or Business Continuity Plans of VGSCH. Only if/when these processes have been exhausted may a call to ASP be raised for operational assessment.

## 3. Method

- 3.1. The College of Policing accepts decision making is often complex during difficult circumstances and are often made based on incomplete or contradictory information, or where others involved deliberately mislead or try to mislead Decision Makers. It is, therefore, not surprising that sometimes the decision does not achieve the best outcome.

- 3.2. To help everyone make decisions and to provide a framework in which decisions can be examined and challenged, both at the time and afterwards, the College of Policing has adopted the [National Decision Model](#) (NDM).
- 3.3. The model has at its centre the Code of Ethics, Guidance for ethical and professional behaviour as the touchstone for all decision making. Using the model encourages users to act in accordance with the Code and use their discretion where appropriate. It also reduces risk aversion and weighs the balance of resourcing against demand, threat and risk.
- 3.4. The NDM has five other elements that both VGSCCH and ASP can put into practicable use:
  1. Gather information and intelligence.
  2. Assess threat and risk and develop a working strategy.
  3. Consider powers and policy.
  4. Identify options and contingencies.
  5. Take action and review what happened.

#### **4. Administration**

- 4.1. Appendix A sets out the collaborative expectations of each partner agency, side by side, in the most likely chronological order but could be prioritised in any other arrangement.

#### **5. Humanitarian issues**

- 5.1. Vinney Green Children's Home staff will use:

[The Children \(Secure Accommodation\) Regulations 1991](#) Reg 3 Approval by Security of State of secure accommodation

[The Children's Homes \(England\) Regulations 2015](#) Reg 19 Behaviour management and discipline

[The Children's Home England Regulations 2015](#) Sec 40. Para 4(b) Notification of a serious event

- 5.2. Avon and Somerset Police Officers will use powers as set out in Appendix C

**Appendix A Partner Agencies Activities**

<b><i>Vinney Green will:</i></b>	<b><i>Avon and Somerset Police will:</i></b>
<b>Activation Trigger</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have exhausted all internal processes through Standard Operating Procedures, Business Continuity Plans etc. before contacting ASP</li> <li>• only use 999 to contact ASP, as any other number may prolong decision making or deployment of appropriate ASP Officers</li> <li>• record management decision making processes that led to seeking a response from the Police</li> <li>• acknowledge and record that the Police will be the lead agency until the incident has been contained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the National Call Handling Grading System incorporating a THRIVE assessment based on the content of the call from VGSCCH</li> <li>• not guarantee the type or number of resources that will be deployed, as ASP don't have predetermined attendance levels</li> <li>• deploy the appropriate number of resources dependant on current operational demands and assessment of the situation at the site</li> <li>• record the rationale for request of assistance on Storm.</li> </ul>
<b>Rendezvous Points (RVPs), Forward Command Points (FCPs)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supply a resource to the agreed RVPs, see Appendix D, to direct ASP assets to an agreed FCP or to the appropriate vehicular access point.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine if they need to convene at the RVP, see Appendix D, or deploy to an agreed FCP or to the appropriate vehicular access point.</li> </ul>
<b>Ingress Process</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow for an expeditious entrance into the site</li> <li>• arrange a briefing at the FCP to include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ safety and security measures</li> <li>○ synopsis of the situation</li> <li>○ risk assessment:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ site situational awareness</li> <li>▪ YP physical and mental health conditions and vulnerabilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ welfare issues – VGSCCH staff &amp; ASP Officers have no injuries, refreshments, toilets etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• switch on Body Worn Video on arrival to record the FCP briefing</li> <li>• use Body Worn Video throughout the management of the incident until conclusion</li> <li>• be aware VGSCCH is a controlled area and will be professional to ensure only Police operational items are taken onto site</li> <li>• Ask for a risk assessment of YP physical and mental conditions to assess most appropriate tactical option from Appendix B.</li> </ul>
<b>Command and Control</b>	
<b>Strategic (Gold)</b>	
Sets VGSCCH strategies On Call Senior Leadership Team Ministry of Justice Dept.	Sets ASP strategic direction On Call Duty Supt
<b>Tactical (Silver)</b>	
Assist implementing tactical options On Call Site/Remote Management Team	Interprets the strategic direction, Creates a tactical plan Force Duty Officer/Force Incident Manager HQ Control Room
<b>Operational (Bronze)</b>	
Assist implementing operational tasks On Call Site Management Team	Implements the tactical plan Critical Incident Manager Local Inspector
<b>Communication Plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• endeavour to provide resilience radio assets to ASP Officers as the primary communication methodology</li> <li>• use Business Continuity handsets as an alternative option.</li> <li>• record the asset tag numbers from the handset and the ASP Officer collar number the handset has been issued to</li> <li>• provide mobile phone numbers to ASP Officers if needed, as a contingency measure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore the possibility of providing an Airwave Gateway terminal from the Duty National Interagency Liaison Officer (NILO)</li> <li>• request a "leaky feeder" from the South West Ambulance Service if operationally available.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Vinney Green will:</i></b>	<b><i>Avon and Somerset Police will:</i></b>
<b>Security and Escort Provision</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide staff to escort ASP Officers into and around the site, keys/door swipe cards will not be provided.</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Safe Handling Techniques</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use Restricted, Preventative Intervention (RPI) trained techniques, lowest level holds for the shortest duration, in the first instance to control the YP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set the “style and tone” Dress Levels from Appendix B, to arrive in or change into at the site</li> <li>use ASP Officers trained to Common Minimum Standards (CMS), the recognised statutory level of training to Public Order Officers, when confronting violence</li> <li>allow ASP Officers on the ground to decide on the most appropriate level of tactical options dependant on the circumstances</li> <li>record ASP decision/authorisation for the most appropriate tactical option from Appendix B</li> <li>warn the YP that the tactical option will be deployed if they are non-compliant to initial verbal instructions</li> <li>give PAVA aftercare advice using current ASP Procedural Guidance.</li> </ul>
<b>Medical</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide NHS commissioned healthcare provision between Monday – Friday 0900hrs – 1700hrs</li> <li>inform ASP, at the point of requesting ASP service, that their healthcare provider is not available, and that additional clinical care or mental health services may be required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>check with VGSCH staff whether their healthcare provider is available or inform the South West Ambulance Service their support is required</li> <li>coordinate with Police Mental Health Liaison Officers embedded in the South West Ambulance Service Control Room for support and advice.</li> </ul>
<b>Negotiators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform ASP, at the point of requesting ASP service, that their negotiation process is not available and that an external negotiator may be required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement Police negotiators where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Egress Procedure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop a range of exit strategies where the YP has been arrested to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevent the need to transport the YP off site in the first instance</li> <li>arrange Appropriate Adults for escorting</li> <li>assist in rehabilitation back onto the site from Police Custody</li> <li>arrange onward transport to a secondary location where it has been agreed VGSCH will not allow the YP back onto the site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be aware VGSCH is a controlled area and will be professional on what items are removed, in line with what was taken onto the site</li> <li>be accountable for Police operational items and to immediately report any loss to VGSCH staff.</li> </ul>

## Appendix B Avon and Somerset Police PPE/Tactical Options

<b>Dress levels</b>	
Code 3	Officers in standard regulation dress and PPE e.g. stab vest, equipment in holsters not drawn, Body Worn Video switched on
Code 2	CMS Trained Officers in full Public Order PPE not wearing helmets, with equipment on standby awaiting deployment, Body Worn Video switched on
Code 1	CMS Trained Officers in full Public Order PPE wearing helmets equipment drawn and deployed, Body Worn Video switched on

The options listed in the table below is not in hierarchal ordering, the appropriate chosen tactic will be based on the proportionality of the risk, threat, harm at the time to all involved

<b>Tactical options</b>	<b>Associated Risk</b>
Face to Face	De-escalation skills requires close proximity to reduce the YP anxiety levels, but through face-to-face discussions the risk should be minimised
Negotiator	As above
Hands on	This requires close proximity which could cause physical injury and/or mental anxiety/stress to the YP and/or ASP Officer
ASP Baton	This requires close proximity which could cause physical injury and/or mental anxiety/stress to the YP and/or ASP Officer
PAVA	Deployment of PAVA sits low on the police threshold for managing a situation, whereas it may sit higher on the VGSCCH level of expectations
Handcuff	This requires close proximity which could cause physical injury and/or mental anxiety/stress to the YP and/or ASP Officer
Shields	Used for close proximity restraint to control the situation which could cause mental anxiety/stress to the YP and/or ASP Officer, this may require Public Order Silver Command authorisation
Public Order Baton	This requires close proximity which could cause physical injury and/or mental anxiety/stress to the YP and/or ASP Officer, this may require Public Order Silver Command authorisation
Taser	Under the Firearms Act 1968 Sec.5 Tasers are classified as firearms, meaning Taser can only be deployed by trained ASP Officers and may require Police pre authorisation

## Appendix C Use of Force Police Powers

Whilst some common law powers refer to powers which can be used by a person, Appendix B is not intended to advise VGSCCH staff on use of force powers. This Appendix is intended to provide the parties with an understanding of use of force powers available to police officers, if necessary and proportionate, when responding to incidents.

### Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 ('PACE')

- **Section 24 PACE** – this provision is the power for constables to arrest individuals for an offence.
- **Section 117 PACE** – where any provision of PACE confers a power upon a constable and does not provide that the power may only be exercised with the consent of a person other than a police officer, the officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of the power.

### Code G (2012) of the Codes of Practice to PACE

Where an offence is alleged to have been committed, in the process of being committed, or about to be committed; and a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect an individual has committed an offence, or about to commit an offence, it does not automatically follow that police officers may arrest that person – it remains subject to the 'necessity test'.

Grounds of necessity include:

- a. To ascertain the person's name & address
- b. To prevent the person:
  - i. causing physical injury to himself or any other person
  - ii. suffering physical injury
  - iii. causing loss of or damage to property
  - iv. committing an offence against public decency
  - v. causing an unlawful obstruction of the highway
- c. To protect a child or other vulnerable person from the person in question
- d. To allow the prompt and effective investigation of the offence or of the conduct of the person in question
- e. To prevent any prosecution for the offence being hindered by the disappearance of the person in question.

### Detention in police custody

Many of those grounds of necessity would apply to situations under consideration in this guidance and it is relevant to consider what happens after arrest: constables must remove any arrest person to police custody and bring them before the custody officer (usually known as the custody sergeant). The custody officer must then assess, under s37 PACE, whether there is sufficient evidence to charge the person with the offence for which they have been arrested.

Where such evidence exists, they must charge the person; where it does not, they may only detain them in custody where this is necessary to secure and preserve evidence or obtain evidence by questioning. They must also, at all times, have regard to the health of the person under arrest and ensure their wellbeing – anyone whose health is at risk in custody must be examined and potentially transferred to hospital.

Once the grounds for detention in police custody cease to apply, s34 of PACE directs the custody officer to bring that person's detention to an end. This is an assessment based upon

the evidence for a criminal prosecution and is not based on any other consideration, including difficulties in securing transfers of MHA patients to more 19 restrictive settings. In addressing the question of whether any patient has allegedly offended, these considerations around arrest and detention should be borne in mind.

### **Common Law**

The common law is based on the precedents which have been established by the courts and is not set against the background of Acts of Parliament. There are therefore no 'sections' to which to refer, as mentioned above for PACE.

**Doctrine of necessity** – Baroness Hale said in the Court of Appeal in 2003 that “the common law doctrine of necessity ... has two aspects. There is a general power to take such steps as are reasonably necessary and proportionate to protect others from the immediate risk of significant harm. This applies whether or not the patient lacks capacity to make decisions for himself ...” (Munjaz v Mersey Care NHS Trust and S v Airedale NHS Trust [2003] EWCA Civ 1036, at para. 46).

**Breach of the Peace** – this fourteenth century common law provision has now been affected by modern human rights legislation and has limitations that need to be understood. A Breach of the Peace is any situation in which harm is caused to a person or to their property in their presence. In 2014, the Court of Appeal ruled that arresting someone to prevent a Breach of the Peace was only lawful where officers intended to take that person before a Magistrate.

### **Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967**

A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large.

This is part of the law of self-defence and the defence of others and may be relied upon by anyone.

### **Mental Capacity Act 2005**

Where a person thought to be suffering from an impairment or disturbance of the mind or brain lacks capacity concerning a particular decision, another person may do the least restrictive thing in their best interests.

### **Section 5**

Section 5 provides that where a person is providing care or treatment for someone who lacks capacity, then the person can provide the care without incurring legal liability, if that person has taken steps in accordance with the MCA to assess capacity, and has acted in accordance with the general principles of the MCA.

### **Section 6**

Where an action may extend to the restraint of a person who lacks capacity, either by the threatened or actual use of force, this may only be justified under section 6 MCA where the intended restraint is proportionate both to the risk of harm and to the likelihood of that harm. If restraint extends to such a degree that it amounts to an urgent deprivation of liberty, it may only occur subject to the criteria in section 4B MCA which requires that action is considered a life-sustaining intervention or a vital act to prevent a serious deterioration in that person's condition.

Address: Vinney Green Secure Childrens Home, Emersons Lane, Emersons Green.BS16 7AA Location W3W [moss.fleet.owner](https://www.moss.fleet.owner)



Overview layout of Vinney Green



Approach to Vinney Green

Access to Vinney Green Main Gate

**VINNEY GREEN**



**Traffic Management Plan – Road Closures**

1. Entrance Road to Vinney Green with Emmersons Green



Primary RVP St James Church Hall Richmond Rd, Bristol, BS16 9EZ  
W3W [shadow.slam.salad](https://www.google.com/maps/@51.4611111,-2.5833333,15z)



Secondary RVP Cleve Rugby Football Club, Cossham St, Bristol, BS16 9EN  
W3W [slips.homes.sorry](https://www.google.com/maps/@51.4611111,-2.5833333,15z)  
Or Mangotsfield Football Club, Cossham St, Bristol, BS26 9EN  
W3W [circle.hello.weeks](https://www.google.com/maps/@51.4611111,-2.5833333,15z)