



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2025-2026





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Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Foreword



As the Lead Safeguarding Partners of the Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, we are pleased to present the Annual Report for the period April 2025 to March 2026. This report is published in line with the statutory responsibilities under the requirements in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 (WT26).

As Lead Safeguarding Partners we are committed to leading the Partnership to continually improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in Shropshire. We have taken this opportunity to reflect on our progress in delivering our priorities, assess our training activities and consider how agencies can best work together to safeguard children in Shropshire.

Tanya Miles

Chief Executive
Shropshire Council

Simon Whitehouse

Chief Executive
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin
Integrated Care Board

Richard Cooper

Chief Constable
West Mercia Police





Life in Shropshire



2nd largest Inland Council in England

1,235 square miles

Overall deprivation is low.

Two LLSOA's fall into the 10% most deprived deciles nationally, one falling within Harlescote Electoral Division and one in Monkmoor both in Shrewsbury.

Population size of

333,162

(Mid-year estimate 2025)

Population Density

Shropshire



1 person

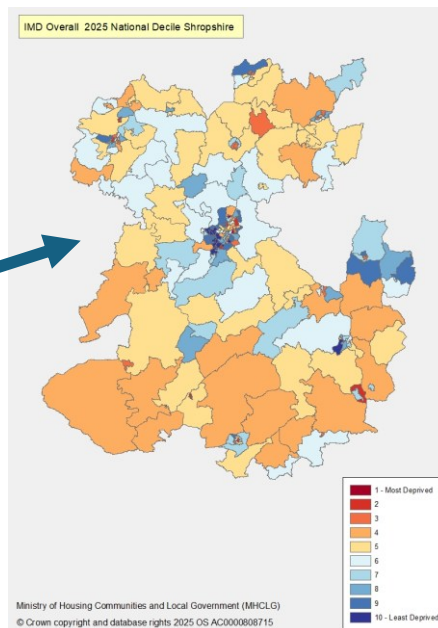
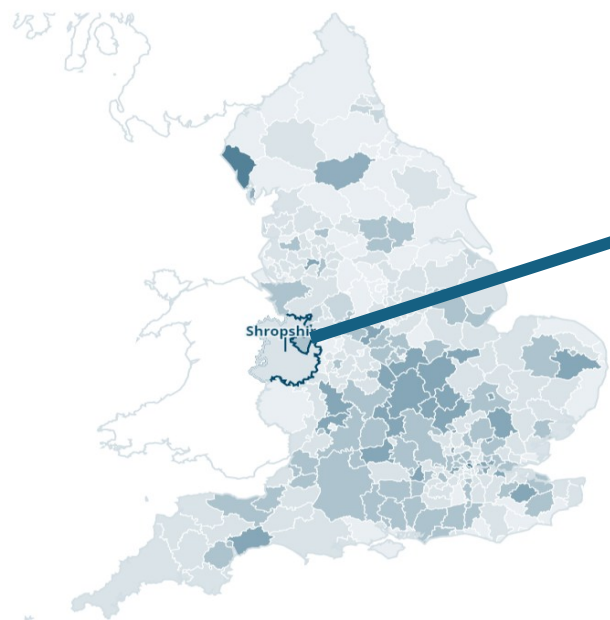
per hectare

England



4.3 people

per hectare



Population change (%) of local authority areas in England between 2011 and 2021
Percentage change



27.1% aged 65+
compared to 19.1% in
England (2025 MYE)



59,126 aged 0-17 or
17.7%, England
20.3% (2025 MYE)



182 schools of
which 14 are
independent and
17 are special
independent



93% from white
background, 93.3%
with English as first
language (Jan 2026)



36,988 pupils in
state schools (Jan
2026)



19.4% of pupils eligible
for free school
meals, 26.5% England
(Jan 2026).



Smallest state
primary school –
21 pupils



Employment rate of
79.3%, West Midlands
73.6% (March 2026)



Smallest state
secondary school –
507 pupils



12.4% self employment
rate in Shropshire, 8.1%
West Midlands (March
2026)



Life in Shropshire

Challenges of Rurality

Shropshire is a diverse, large, predominately rural inland county with a wide range of land use, economic activities, employment and social conditions. The population has been increasing at a slightly slower rate than England. Much of the growth has been due to people moving to Shropshire due to its rurality. Shropshire has a relatively high concentration of people in the older age groups.

Unlike many rural areas the population of Shropshire is distributed across the county making Shropshire one of the most deprived counties for access to services



- 98% of land is rural



- 3,240 miles of road.
- 91% rural roads



- 57.2% live in rural areas



- 6,100 pupils transported to school each day
- Using 140 operators
- At a cost of £18,000,000 per year



About Shropshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Our shared vision

We started 2025-2026 with a shared vision for the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP) under its tri-partite arrangements which include the safeguarding of children, safeguarding adults and community safety.

The SSCP is committed to increasing the safety and resilience of people in Shropshire (including children and adults with care and support needs) and their communities; to reduce harm caused by abuse, neglect and other crime.

What we do

Shropshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership is a range of partners coming together to safeguard children from abuse and neglect in Shropshire

Providing the foundation for the partnership are:

- our children, young people and their families, and;
- staff and volunteers working across social care, health and the criminal justice system.

The Partnership acts to seek assurance, scrutinise, challenge and ensure agencies are enabled to work together to achieve its vision



Priorities

From April to February the Partnership had 1 strategic priority which was **Improving Multi-Agency Practice.**

Working in partnership to embed the National Reforms, to include a focus on embedding good practice around professional curiosity and the lived experience of children and families.



Leadership, management and governance



Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

Who leads the partnership?

Shropshire's Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) are working with Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership to embed the arrangements required by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

LSP meetings bring together local authority, Police and Health leaders working across both partnership areas.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSPs) form the Safeguarding Executive Group. Both groups meet twice a year.

Full membership of the LSP, DSP and Children's Safeguarding Partnership groups are listed at the end of this report.

How the partnership is structured

The Children's Safeguarding Partnership began in July 2024, replacing the former SSCP Strategic Governing Group for tri-partite arrangements.

It continues to work alongside the Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership Board under the SSCP.

The next two slides show the partnership structure.

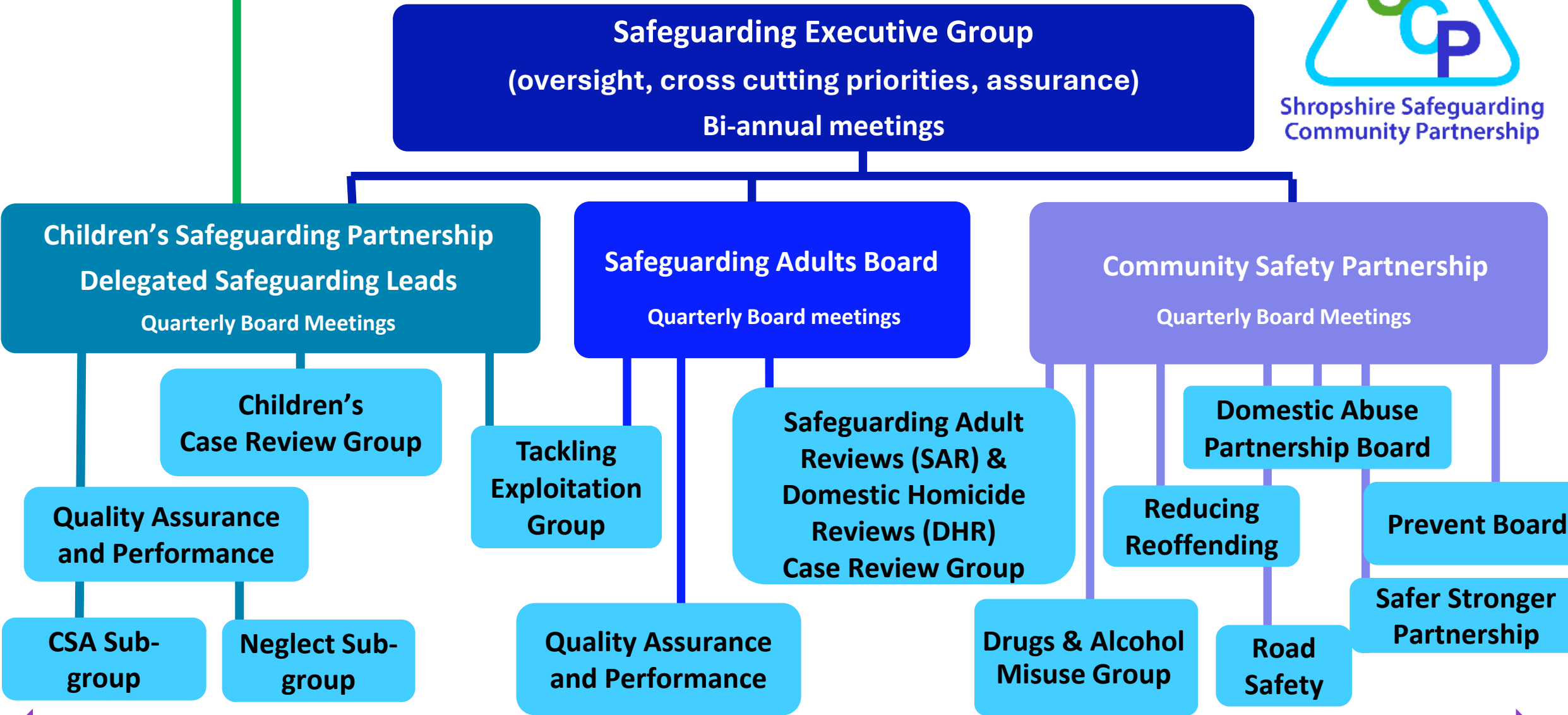


Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

One Business Unit supports four delivery functions.

A focused seven-post team brings together management, development, learning and administration.







FUNDING · 2025/26

Three partners provide 97.6% of the core budget.

A £440.540k core partnership budget is supplemented by £6,445 from colleges and dedicated school grants.

CORE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET

£440.540K

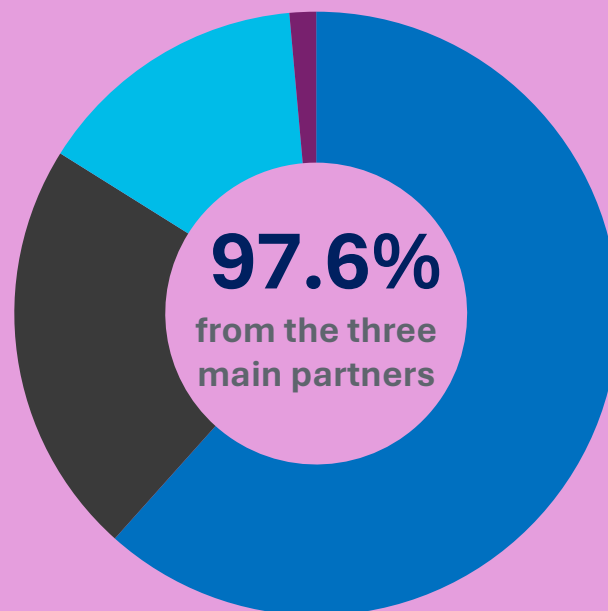
ADDITIONAL INCOME

+ £6,445

Local colleges and dedicated school grants

TOTAL IDENTIFIED RESOURCES

£446,986k



EXPECTED CORE INCOME

61.62%	Shropshire Council
	£272,014
22.28%	Integrated Care Board
	£98,348.00
14.68%	West Mercia Police
	£64,814.00
1.42%	Other partners
	£5365

SHARED BUDGET

The same budget supports the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership.



Implementation of National Reforms

During 2025/26, the Children's Safeguarding Partnership continued to prepare the local safeguarding system for the implementation of the national reforms set out within **Working Together to Safeguard Children** and the emerging **Families First Partnership** programme. The Partnership recognised that these reforms require a fundamental shift towards earlier intervention, stronger multi-agency collaboration, greater focus on whole-family working and improved shared accountability across agencies.

To support this transition, safeguarding partners established a series of multi-agency task and finish groups focusing on key implementation areas including workforce development, data and performance, communications, multi-agency responses and governance arrangements. Strategic leaders from across partner organisations were engaged to ensure that reform activity was embedded throughout the partnership structure and aligned with wider organisational transformation programmes.



Implementation of National Reforms

Work began on reviewing the local threshold document (now Family Help Together – A Framework for Action) to ensure that it reflected the principles of the families first reform, which would be published in June 2026.



Click for Family Help Together –
A Framework for Action

Co-production

Following the Childhood Neglect Summit in April 2025, the Partnership committed to refreshing its Neglect Strategy through co-production with children, parents and carers.

Family involvement was seen as essential to understanding lived experience, the impact of professional language, barriers to support, and what helps build trust with families. This feedback has shaped a strategy that reflects real family life while keeping children's safety and wellbeing at the centre.

The refreshed strategy promotes a whole-family approach, aligned with Families First principles, recognising parental needs alongside the child's daily lived experience.

It emphasises early help, multi-agency working, strengths-based practice and timely escalation where concerns continue, helping practitioners recognise and respond to neglect before harm becomes entrenched.



[CLICK HERE](#)
Summary of
Childhood
Neglect
Summit



The Effectiveness of Our Partnership Arrangements



Independent scrutiny has provided robust challenge, strengthened governance and quality assurance processes, and supported safeguarding partners to translate learning into measurable improvement across the local safeguarding system

Strengthened governance and accountability by challenging partner attendance and representation at safeguarding meetings, resulting in greater oversight of partner engagement and escalation of attendance concerns to senior leaders.

Improved escalation arrangements through independent challenge regarding the effectiveness and accessibility of the Escalation Policy, resulting in a comprehensive review and revision of escalation processes across the partnership

Supported improvement in learning dissemination, challenging low attendance at practitioner events and ensuring greater focus on how learning from reviews reaches frontline practitioners.

Provided challenge regarding quality assurance and performance monitoring, helping to identify gaps in partnership data and supporting the development of improved safeguarding datasets and dashboards



The Effectiveness of Our Partnership Arrangements



Significant progress was also made in strengthening multi-agency oversight and assurance through the establishment of the Quality Assurance and Performance Group.

The group has provided improved coordination of audits, reviews, performance information and thematic learning to support delivery of the reform agenda.

This has enabled safeguarding partners to better understand emerging risks, identify areas for improvement and monitor the impact of change across the system.



The Effectiveness of Our Partnership Arrangements



Q U A L I T Y A S S U R A N C E
A N D P E R F O R M A N C E

A C T I V I T Y

The Partnership has carried out the following activity and will be convening a Quality Assurance & Performance Sub-group, to review and assess multi agency safeguarding practice on the front line and to support the embedding of local and national learning across the Partnership.

The group will be key to further develop and support our continuous improvement journey.

Audit Activity

The audits have been undertaken to assure the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Shropshire this year:

- ✓ Child Protection Medical Audit
- ✓ Daily Sexual Abuse Consultation Audit
- ✓ Children of parents with substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues present.

Audit Activity

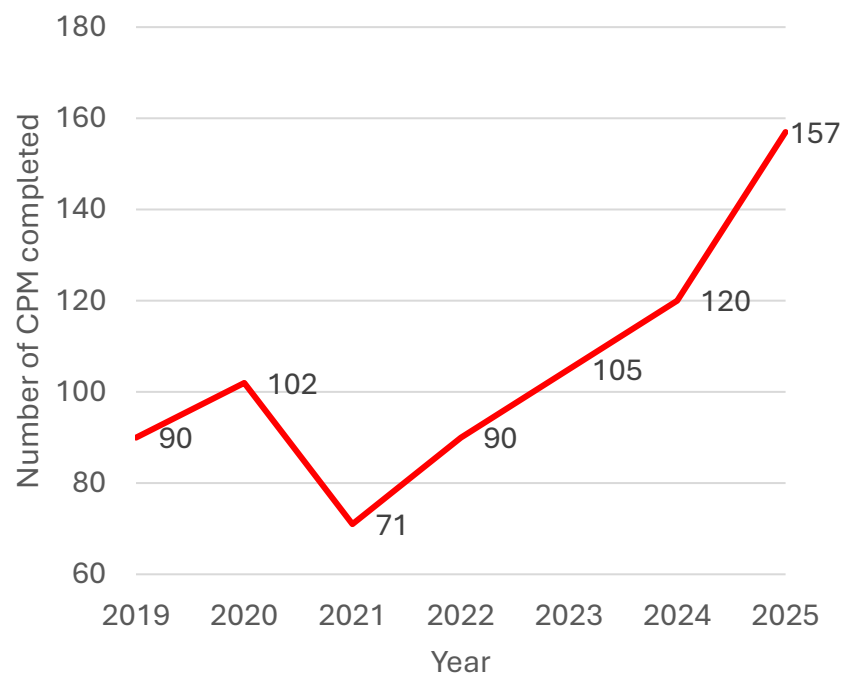
The following agencies completed their Section 11 audit:

- ✓ Healthwatch Shropshire
- ✓ MPFT
- ✓ West Mercia Police
- ✓ Public Health Shropshire
- ✓ Early Help-Shropshire
- ✓ Probation
- ✓ West Midlands Ambulance Service
- ✓ Housing – Shropshire Council
- ✓ Learning and Skills – Shropshire Council
- ✓ RJAHS
- ✓ SFR
- ✓ Partners in Care
- ✓ SATH
- ✓ Shrop Com
- ✓ ICB
- ✓ WMYJS



Child Protection Medical Audit

Number of CPM 2019 - 2025



Theme	Key finding	What this shows
Demand	CP medicals rose year on year, reaching 157 in 2025 .	Increasing demand on the service.
Sibling referrals	Sibling referrals accounted for 57% of assessments in 2025 .	Sibling assessments remain a significant part of activity.
Timeliness	29 audited assessments were completed within 24 hours of referral.	Strong compliance with timely assessment.
Clinical input	21 assessments were undertaken by consultants and 8 by supervised trainees .	Consultant oversight remains central, with supported trainee involvement.



Child Protection Medical Audit

Theme	Key finding	What this shows
Chaperone use	Use improved from 16% in 2023 to 31% in 2025 .	Progress made, but compliance remains low.
Report sharing	All reports were copied to GPs, but only 18% were copied to police.	GP sharing is consistent; police sharing needs improvement.
Report completion	20 reports were completed within 3 days; 5 exceeded this, and 4 did not record completion date.	Recording and completion times need tighter monitoring.
Family information	28 out of 29 families were not provided with information leaflets.	This is the clearest area of non-compliance.

Key areas to strengthen

- **Improve chaperone compliance** so progress continues beyond the current 31%.
- **Strengthen police report sharing** where this is required.
- **Improve report completion recording**, especially where dates are missing or deadlines are exceeded.
- **Ensure families receive information leaflets**, as this was the most significant area of non-compliance.



Daily Sexual Abuse Consultation



Sexual Abuse Consultation Audit Summary

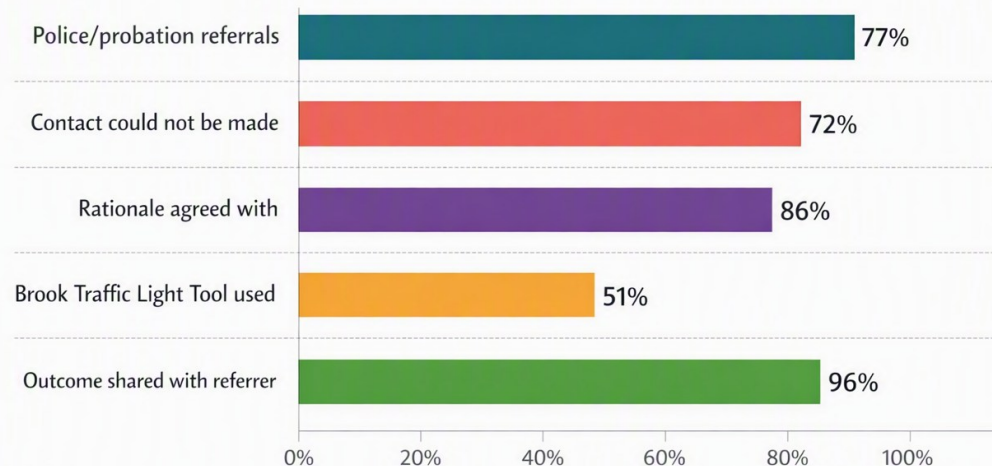
Audit focus	To understand whether daily Sexual Abuse Consultations are helping COMPASS manage concerns appropriately and supporting senior social workers to make the right threshold decisions for families.
Why introduced	Implemented in 2025 following a learning review.
Sample period	January to March 2026.
Sample size	20 families: 10 sexually harmful behaviour and 10 sexual abuse.



Daily Sexual Abuse Consultation



Sexual Abuse Consultation Audit: Key Findings (%)



Key figures at a glance

Theme	Finding	What this shows
Referral source	77% police/probation, 22% schools, 1% family member.	Most referrals came from statutory partners.
Contact with alleged perpetrator's parent	In 72% of families, contact could not be made because police had not yet <u>taken action</u> and the parent was unaware of the allegation.	This limited what COMPASS could do at that point.
Senior social worker rationale	Where a rationale was provided before consultation, it was agreed with in 86% of families.	Decision-making was generally well-aligned when rationale was recorded.
Brook Traffic Light Tool	Used in 51% of families sampled.	Use of the tool was inconsistent.
Outcome shared with referrer	Referrer was provided with the outcome in 96% of families.	Feedback to referrers was strong.

This chart highlights the strongest areas of practice, including outcome sharing with referrers and agreement with recorded rationale, alongside areas to strengthen such as consistent use of the Brook Traffic Light Tool by Compass and the impact of limited contact before police action.

Daily Sexual Abuse Consultation

Overall finding

COMPASS is appropriately and robustly managing allegations of sexually harmful behaviour and sexual abuse through the consultation process.



Areas to strengthen

- **Clarify timing with police** where concerns are shared before police action has taken place, as this can limit COMPASS contact with families.
- **Increase consistent use of the Brook Traffic Light Tool** to support decision-making.
- **Continue sharing outcomes with referrers**, building on the strong 96% compliance.



MULTI-AGENCY CASE FILE AUDIT · APRIL 2025

Good practice is visible—but decisions need stronger evidence and follow-through.

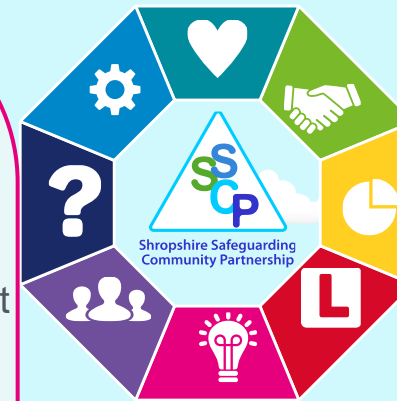
Children of parents where substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse are present

FOUR PRIORITIES FOR SAFER PRACTICE

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 01 | TRIANGULATE THE EVIDENCE | Test parental self-report against partner evidence and use chronologies. |
| 02 | RECORD RATIONALE & OUTCOMES | Record Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and escalation decisions on agency records. |
| 03 | STRENGTHEN PATHWAYS | Improve access to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Clare's Law. |
| 04 | BALANCE RESPONSIBILITY | Support victims of coercive control; hold perpetrators responsible for children's safety. |

GOOD PRACTICE

Announced + unannounced visits • effective agency support • continuity of care • learning identified across the partnership



SYSTEM ACTION

Bring agencies together, test evidence and record next steps.

Timely escalation.
Clear ownership.
Visible outcomes.

Click to access
Multiagency Case
File Audit Learning

CLICK
HERE

Multi-Agency Case File Audit -
Children of Parents where Trigger Trio is Present
April 2025





Early help is designed around one family journey.

From local access to seamless family help, the model brings partners around the child sooner.

01 LOCAL ACCESS	02 PARTNERS RESPOND	03 FAMILY-LED HELP	04 SEAMLESS OFFER	05 EARLIER IMPACT
10 teams provide local coverage across Shropshire's urban and rural communities.	Schools, health, social care and voluntary partners identify needs early—and act together.	Support is built around the child and family: parenting, education, health and practical help.	Families First will bring targeted Early Help and Child in Need into one Family Help offer.	One story, one plan and one lead relationship—help wrapped around the family earlier.

This means... Local, preventative and family-led support—delivered through strong multi-agency partnership.



EARLY HELP · EFFECTIVENESS & IMPACT



Earlier help is reaching more families—and preventing escalation.

Stronger access, shorter interventions and very low step-up into statutory social care.

1,525

contacts into Early Help

33% increase

898

**families supported by
EHAST**

only 27 stepped up

1.2%

**repeat contacts into Social
Care**

5 of 412 contacts

80%

**parents rated the service 9
or 10**

consistent with last year

WHAT CHANGED

- 2,627 contacts stepped down from Compass—up 6%.
- 975 new TEH families or episodes—up 6.5%.
- Average TEH intervention reduced from 134 to 101 days.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Families are supported earlier, closer to home and through co-located services.
- Only 3% of EHAST families moved to Targeted Early Help.
- TEH repeat contacts fell by 5.3 percentage points.



Hub-and-spoke access helps rural and isolated families connect to support without repeating their story.



EHASt turns a single front door into fast, low-escalation support.

Triage identifies need quickly, coordinates partners and resolves most support at the earliest stage.

+297%

increase in contacts

The central access point created one clear front door for families and professionals.

9 days

average EHASt intervention

Rapid response

3.75%

needed further Targeted Early Help

Support held early

1%

repeat contacts into Social Care

Escalation stayed low

ONE FRONT DOOR

EARLY TRIAGE

PARTNER RESPONSE

FAMILY RESILIENCE

Seamless statutory and voluntary-sector coordination builds practical, emotional and parenting support around the family—before needs intensify.



Transformation is shifting demand towards earlier help.

Quarterly referrals are below the previous year-end benchmark, while more need is being held through earlier support.

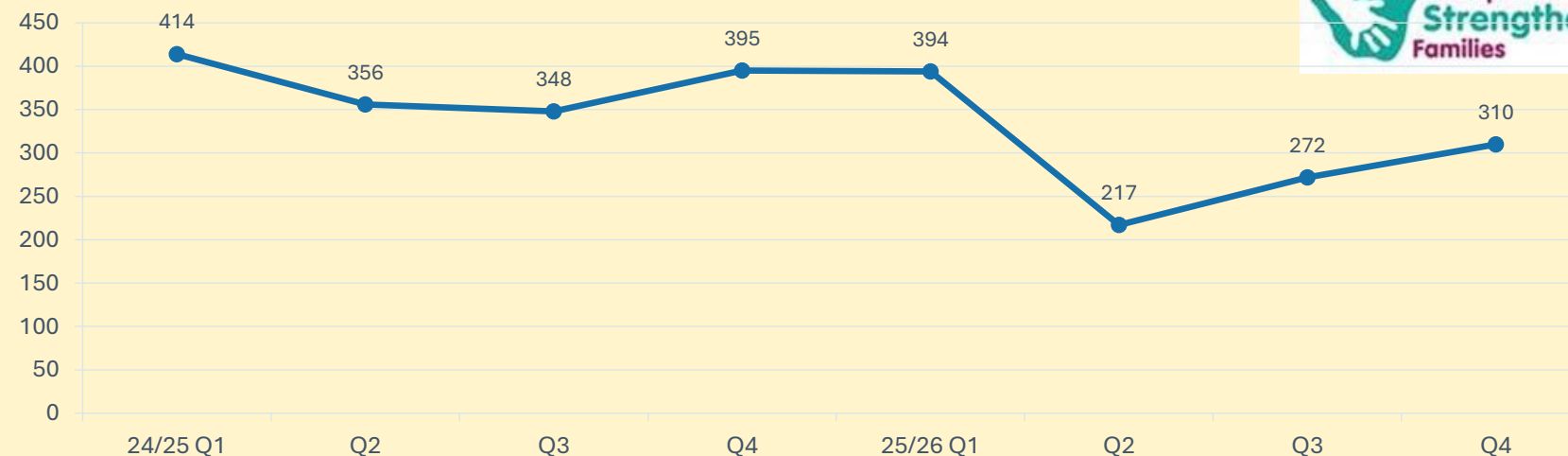
-22%

Q4 referrals

395 → 310

2024/25 Q4 compared with
2025/26 Q4

REFERRALS · EIGHT-QUARTER TREND



EARLIER SUPPORT

Early Help interventions are increasing—more families receive help before needs escalate.

LOWER REFERRALS

The sharp Q2 fall reset demand; referrals remained lower through Q3 and Q4.

FEWER CARE STARTS

The wider data trend also shows fewer children beginning a looked-after episode.



63% of strategy discussions progressed to Section 47 enquiry.

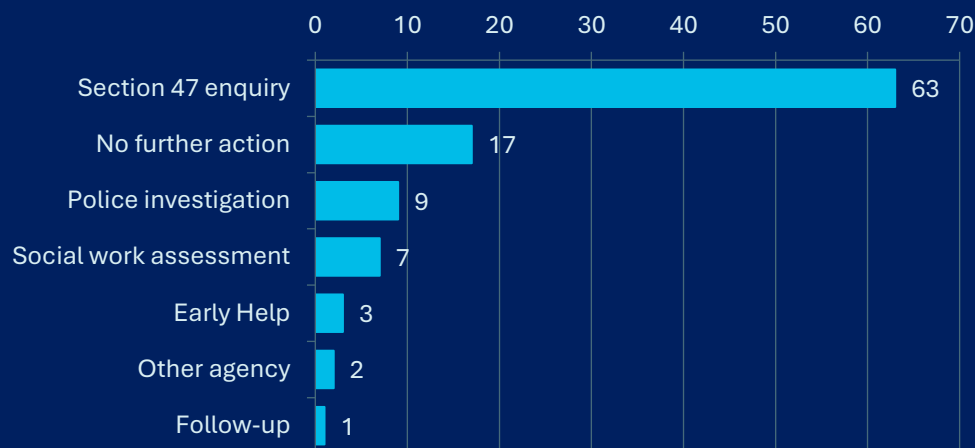
Multi-agency information is translating into proportionate safeguarding action.

63%

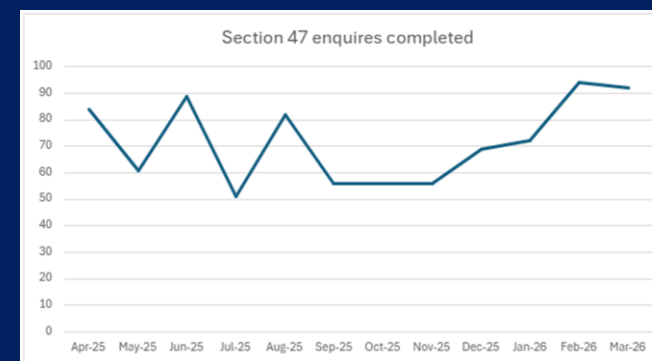
progressed to a child protection Section 47 enquiry

The outcome profile shows most discussions moved to formal enquiry, with alternatives used where risk did not meet that threshold.

STRATEGY DISCUSSION OUTCOMES



MONTHLY SECTION 47 VOLUME



Demand varies through the year, with peaks around school-calendar transitions—reinforcing schools' protective role.

IMPACT Relevant agencies share the whole picture, agree risk and set the next safeguarding action together.



93% of conferences led to a child protection plan.

The strong conversion rate provides assurance that Section 47 decisions and conference referrals were well targeted.

93%

of initial conferences resulted in a child protection plan

Families and the multi-agency conference group agreed that a plan was required to manage identified risk.

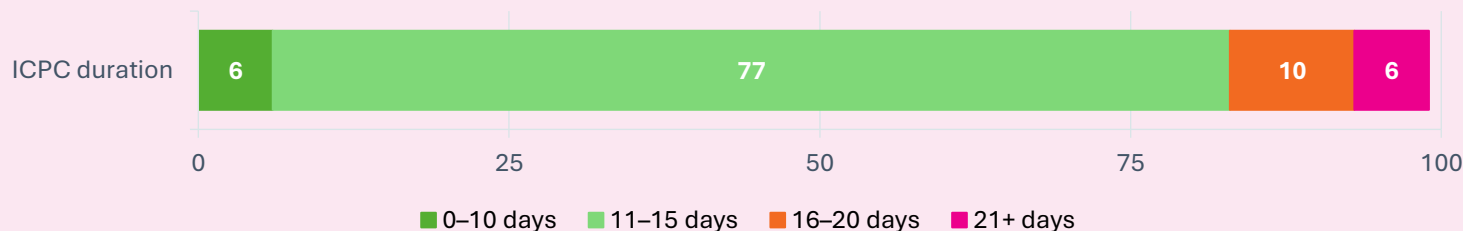
2% resulted in No Further Action

5% resulted in Provision of Services

83%

held within the 15-working-day statutory timescale

CONFERENCE TIMELINESS



Any likely delay is quality-assured with the conference service and social-work teams, with safety and risk plans recorded while the conference is secured.

This means... Robust referrals and timely conferences are turning shared risk assessment into protective action.



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER · YEAR-END POSITION

Children looked after fell from 717 to 665.

The year-end position marks a turning point after five years of rising demand.

665

children looked after

27 March 2026

-52

from the recent peak

717 to 665

35

UASC

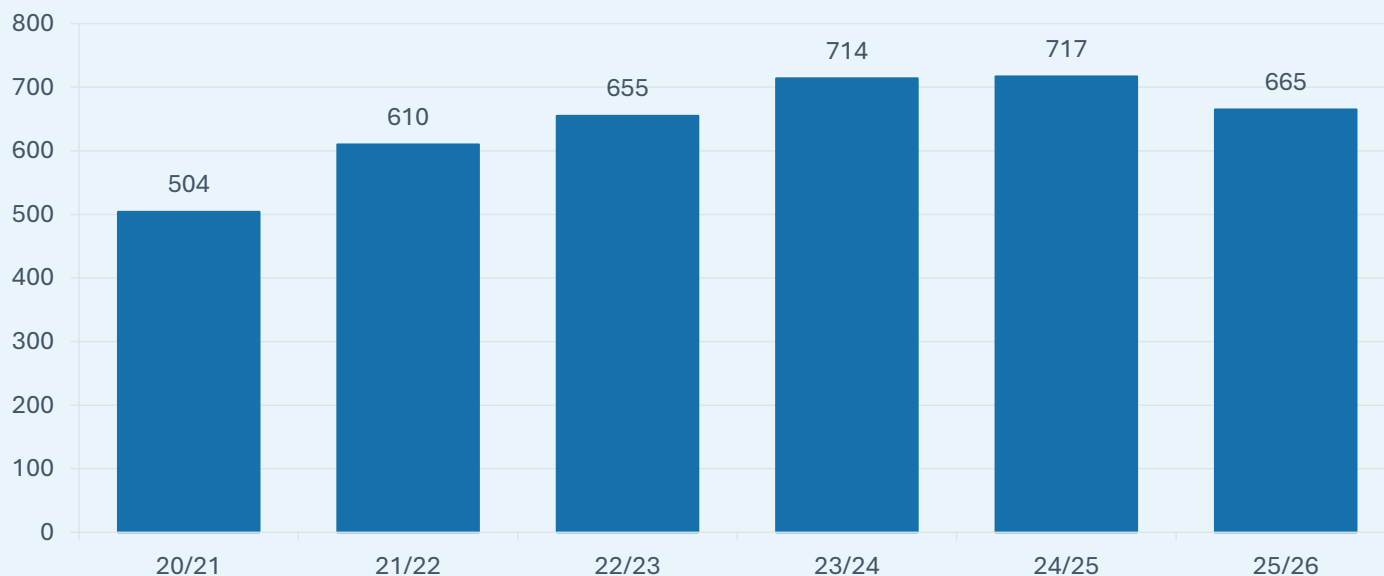
national transfer scheme

630

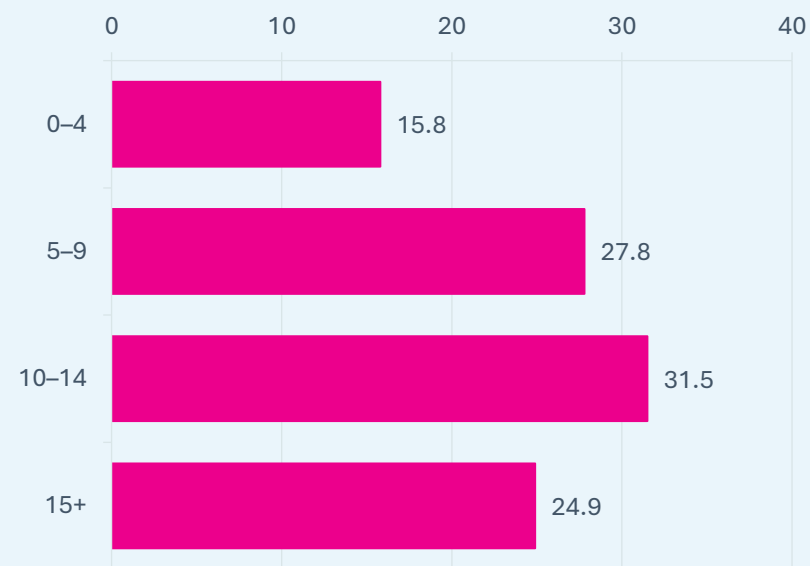
excluding UASC

daily position

TOTAL CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER · SIX-YEAR TREND



AGE PROFILE · 2 APRIL 2026





A family-first ambition shapes every care decision.

Corporate parenting aims to provide the love, stability, opportunity and lifelong links every child deserves.



Children should grow up in a family wherever it is safe and possible.

01 FAMILY LIFE

Maintain or reunify children with birth families where safe; keep siblings and lifelong connections together.

02 SECURE BASE

Build stable attachments, trusted networks and support that lasts through adulthood.

03 EXCELLENT PROGRESS

Create ambitious, child-led plans—with long-term support when children return home or live with connected carers.

Plans follow each child's wishes and feelings—while permanence work actively prevents drift and delay.



Exits outpaced starts in 7 of 12 months.

The latest pattern shows fewer care starts, more exits and a stronger focus on positive family outcomes.

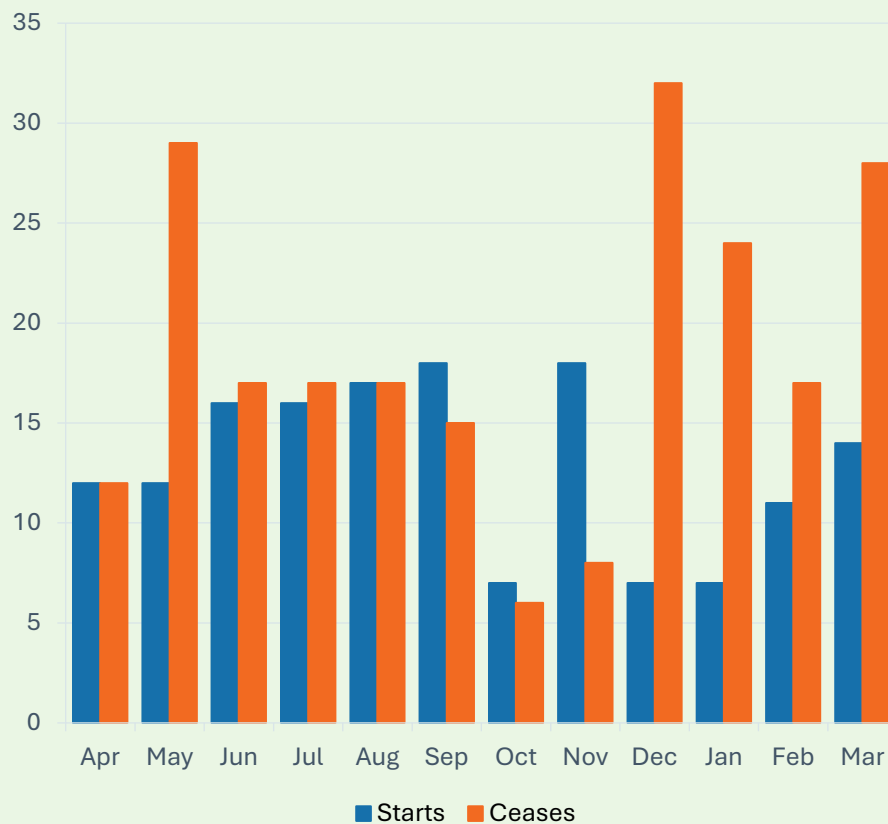
7 / 12

months with more
ceases than starts

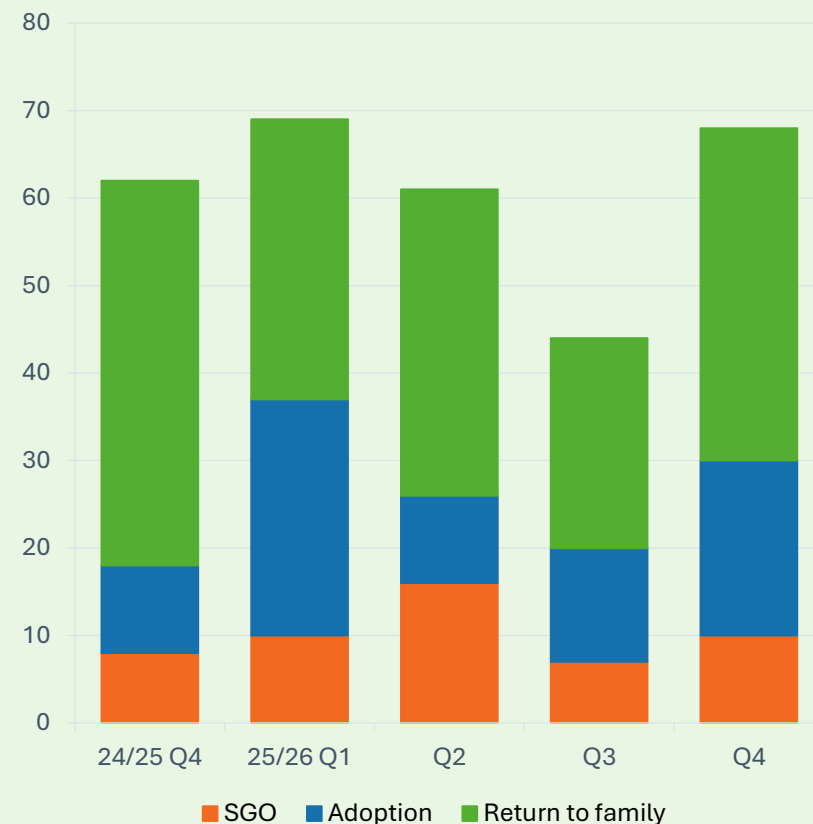
38%

of Q4 end reasons
were returns to
family

CLA STARTS & CEASES · MONTHLY



POSITIVE END REASONS · % OF QUARTER





CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE · MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE

In 2025/26, national review recommendations became coordinated action across the partnership.

01

ANALYSE

Use evidence to sharpen priorities

- Data identified as a strategic improvement area
- National review recommendations translated into local action

02

QUALITY & ASSURANCE

Strengthen consistency across services

- Assurance and cross-border safeguarding
- Partnership working across education, health, police and local authority services

03

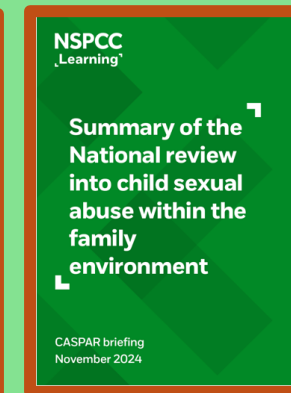
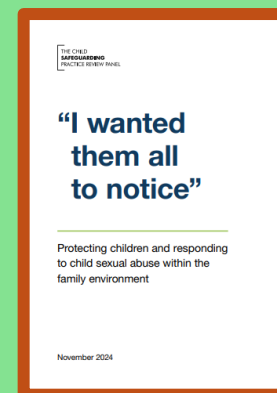
SHARE & LEARN

Move insight into frontline practice

- Practitioner learning
- Sarah's Law awareness
- Keep CSA visible as a partnership safeguarding priority

READ THE EVIDENCE

Select a cover to open



[CLICK ON REVIEWS TO ACCESS](#)

National review and practitioner summary

2026/27 FOCUS More work remains — plans are in place to strengthen the response to CSA.



Faster decisions. Earlier intervention. Stronger disruption.

Shropshire has strengthened the full response—from identifying risk to making decisions and coordinating action.

[Links made with Independent Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation \(IITCSE\)](#)
[Police began to engage local hotels as part of Operation Makesafe](#)

[Click here](#)
Independent Inquiry
Telford Child Sexual
Exploitation

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (NRM) DECISION-MAKING TRANSFORMED

38

NRM referrals
processed

vs 18 in 2024–25

+111%

increase in
referrals

reported year on year

~90 days

average fast-track
decision

vs more than 2 years

1 of 27

local authorities selected
from 300+ for the Home
Office devolved NRM panel

Full Conclusive Grounds
autonomy supports faster,
locally owned decisions.

MULTI-AGENCY OPERATING RHYTHM

TWICE WEEKLY 359 risk assessments reviewed

EVERY TUESDAY 67 consultations · +37%

MONTHLY Missing reviews + CE Panel

TARGETED Disruption + mapping meetings

AWARENESS & PROFESSIONAL REACH

4 / 4 hotel scenarios missed the
signs—triggering training and
national learning.

290 visitors · 449 TREES views

Training expanded across CE, substance
misuse and AI.

Takeaway...

A faster, intelligence-led system is enabling earlier intervention and more coordinated safeguarding.



Most children stayed safely at home, school and in their communities.

Multi-agency support is managing risk around children—rather than relying on removal as the default response.



100+
CHILDREN SUPPORTED

<10%
needed alternative
accommodation

WHAT CHANGED FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

01 SAFER AT HOME

Risk is managed around the child; removal is not treated as the default safeguard.

02 FASTER RELOCATION

Housing partnerships enable families to move quickly with safeguards in place.

03 CONNECTED TO EDUCATION

Intervention has prevented permanent exclusion from school or college.

04 LESS CRISIS CARE

Children avoided local authority or residential care where home could remain safe.

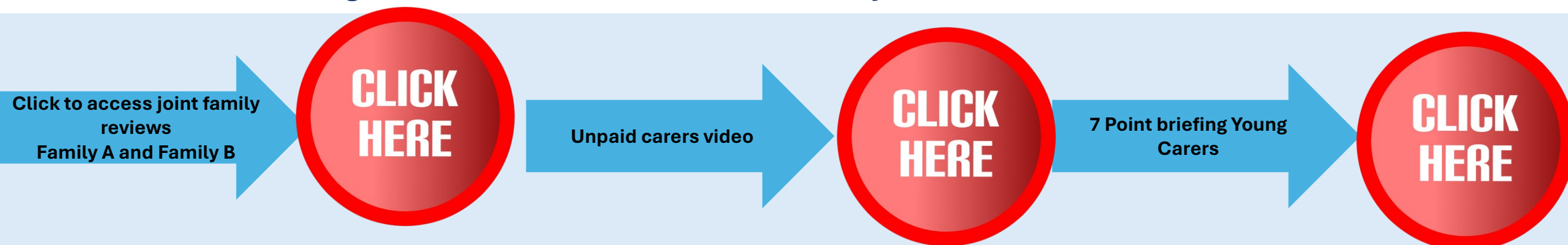
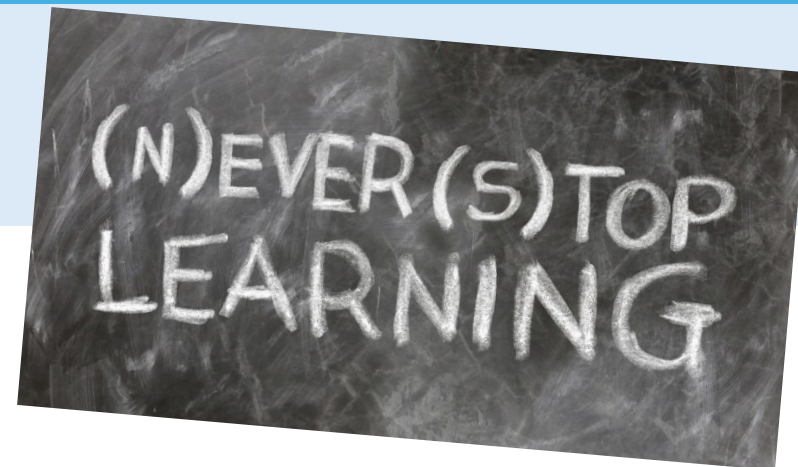


Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

- **SSCP published joint family reviews for Family A and Family B.**
- **A Shropshire school review is ongoing.**
- **The review relating to Ivy, a four-month-old baby, is ongoing.**
- **One new Rapid Review was undertaken (Did not progress to LCSPR)**
- **Local learning review related to Prevent is underway.**





Review learning is driving safer practice.

Published reviews, recurring webinars and practical resources are turning case findings into shared action across the partnership.



ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

2

**JOINT FAMILY
REVIEWS
PUBLISHED**

4

**ACTIVE REVIEW +
RAPID
LEARNING STRANDS**

4

**PRIORITY PRACTICE
THEMES SHARED**

LEARNING THAT IS CHANGING PRACTICE INCLUDES:

01

**CONNECT RISKS
EARLIER**

Link self-neglect and child neglect when assessing family need and harm.

02

**IDENTIFY YOUNG
CARERS**

Recognise caring responsibilities and connect children to practical support.

03

**STRENGTHEN
SUPERVISION**

Act on safeguarding concerns when children are unsupervised in education settings.

04

**PROTECT BABIES
SOONER**

Keep babies' vulnerability visible in timely multi-agency assessment and response.

What next...

Review findings now flow into shared learning and frontline action; measuring practice change is the next step.



Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review summary



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

1

Jasmine

Referral received in March 2022 for a 16-year-old looked-after child at risk of exploitation.

2

Child U

Referral received in August 2022 for a four-week-old baby with a suspected non-accidental head injury; LCSPR agreed after discussion with Child Safeguarding Review Panel.

3

Darren

Bruising was noticed after contact with father; medical examination identified multiple suspected non-accidental injuries.



LCSPR
Cross-Border
Working Thematic

This thematic review includes the 3 children outlined and remains on-going. The learning will be published in next year's report.



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Childhood Neglect Thematic Review



LCSPR
Neglect
Thematic Review

1

Family 1 (previously known as The Powell children)

A large family moved to Shropshire in 2019 with the children on child in need plans. Police arrested father/step-father in 2023 due to allegations of sexual abuse and found the home overcrowded, dirty and cluttered, with concerns about home education and prolonged emotional, physical and sexual harm, and neglect.

2

Family 2

A large family known to Early Help practitioners due to concerns about the children often being unkempt, hungry, with recurrent headlice and frequently unwell. In May 2024 one of the children had a large, infected burn on their foot and no medical attention had been sought.

3

Family 3 (child previously known as Peter)

Police made a Rapid Review referral following reports of shouting and screaming from the family home. During a police visit, Police witnessed Peter's mother letting him out of a wardrobe; he had visible injuries. When asked about the injuries, Peter stated that he had fallen off his bike.

The thematic review includes the three families outlined and remains ongoing. Learning will be published in next year's report.



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)

Child Sexual Abuse Review



1

Family 1 (previously known as The Powell children)

A large family moved to Shropshire in 2019 with the children on child in need plans. Police arrested father/step-father in 2023 due to allegations of sexual abuse and found the home overcrowded, dirty and cluttered, with concerns about home education and prolonged emotional, physical and sexual harm, and neglect.

The review remains ongoing. Learning will be published in next year's report.



CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL / CDOP

Quarterly insight.

Shared learning.

The Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board receives quarterly reports on child deaths to share information, themes and trends, and feedback from mortality workshops.

01 **SHARE**
information

02 **SPOT**
themes + trends

03 **LEARN**
workshop feedback

READ THE
CDOP ANNUAL REPORT
2024–25 →

**CLICK
HERE**

Explore the full learning in the 2024–25 annual report.



Partnership Highlights - Spotlights

[Home](#)[About us](#)[Useful Links](#)[Partnership Priority Areas](#)[Procedures](#)[Contact the Business Unit](#)

Previous Spotlight Sessions Learning Materials

[About us](#)[Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Learning & Development](#)[SSCP Learning Events: Learning from Case Reviews in Shropshire](#)

As a result of an independent safeguarding diagnostic review in 2024, Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership hosted a series of Spotlights sessions which were on key themes from learning in venues across Shropshire in April, May and June 2025 for professionals, managers and stakeholders from partnerships, services and settings across the county.

This was an opportunity for a wide range of 80-120 relevant people, including professionals and senior leaders, to attend as part of their professional development as well as contributing to future policy and practice.

**CLICK
HERE**

Spotlight Padlet safeguarding resources are available by clicking here



Neglect changes childhoods.

Any child can experience neglect; some face greater risk, and the effects can be long-term.

The graphic is a light blue rectangular box with a thin border. At the top left is the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' and 'C' in a triangle. To the right of the logo, the text 'Invitation to Shropshire's Childhood Neglect Summit' is written in a pink, sans-serif font. Below this, the tagline 'Ensuring children thrive, and tackling childhood neglect' is written in an orange, sans-serif font. Further down, there are three lines of text: 'Participants: Open to all frontline practitioners and managers, and strategic managers working with children and families.', 'Venue: Ellesmere College, SY12 9AB. Parking available on site.', and 'Date: Wednesday 9th April 2025 Summit 09:00 – 13:30'. At the bottom of the box, there is a small line of text: 'Book on by using the link in this email. Refreshments provided, feel free to bring your own lunch.' Below the text is a colorful illustration of a diverse group of people, including children and adults, standing on a green field with a blue sky in the background.

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership
Invitation to Shropshire's Childhood Neglect Summit
'Ensuring children thrive, and tackling childhood neglect'

Participants: Open to all frontline practitioners and managers, and strategic managers working with children and families.

Venue: Ellesmere College, SY12 9AB. Parking available on site.

Date: Wednesday 9th April 2025 Summit 09:00 – 13:30

Book on by using the link in this email. Refreshments provided, feel free to bring your own lunch.

104

multiagency attendees

[Access the summit resource Padlet →](#)

The Childhood Neglect Summit moved from shared insight to coordinated action:

- 01** Learn from research and good practice in identifying, preventing and tackling neglect.
- 02** Share Shropshire experience and build a whole-family, multiagency view.
- 03** Identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve the system response.
- 04** Agree the next steps for stronger leadership and practice across Shropshire.

CLICK
HERE



SSCP NEGLECT SUMMIT EVALUATION

Strong experience. Clear intent to change practice.

One-page summary of 38 evaluation responses

38

responses
strong evidence
base

95%

said objectives
were met

5% partly • 0% not met

100%

rated the summit
Good or Very Good
66% Very Good
34% Good

WHAT WORKED

- 01 Multi-agency networking**
Most frequently cited; stronger professional connections.
- 02 Learning and insight**
Relevant, informative and thought-provoking.
- 03 Organisation**
Well planned, engaging and professionally facilitated.
- 04 Practical application**
Good-practice examples and tools ready to use.

IMPACT ON PRACTICE

- **Multi-agency working** Stronger collaboration, integration panels and partnership approaches.
- **Digital neglect** A significant learning point and an “eye-opener”.
- **Early intervention** Earlier recognition and greater use of universal support.
- **Professional curiosity** Challenge assumptions and explore children’s lived experience.
- **Practical tools** Use the Clock model and EHM processes in practice.
- **Knowledge sharing** Cascade learning across teams, schools and networks.

IMPROVE NEXT TIME

- 01** More time for presentations and discussion
- 02** More cross-agency networking
- 03** Consider a longer or full-day format

WHAT NEXT?

Participants wanted more of the content—not a major change. Feedback shows clear potential to strengthen safeguarding practice and outcomes.



Hidden Harm changes childhoods.

Any child can experience hidden harm; some face greater risk, and the effects can be long-term.



76

multiagency attendees

[Access the spotlight resource Padlet →](#)

**CLICK
HERE**

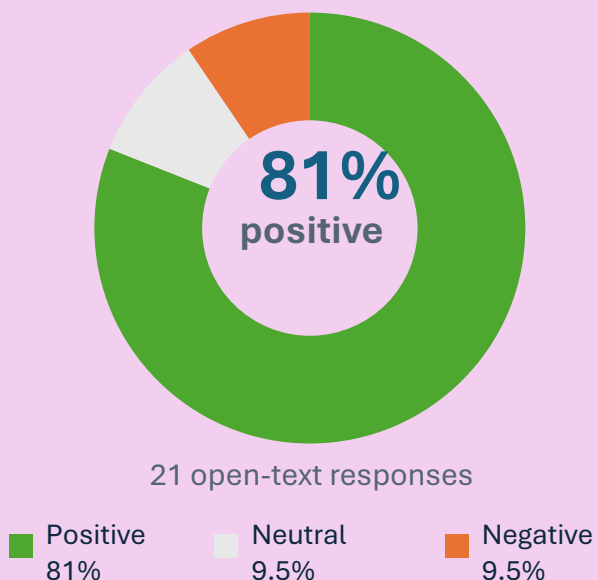
The spotlight moved from shared insight to coordinated action:

- 01** Learn from research and good practice in identifying, preventing and tackling hidden harm.
- 02** Share Shropshire experience and build a whole-family, multiagency view.
- 03** Identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve the system response.
- 04** Agree the next steps for stronger leadership and practice across Shropshire.



EFFECTIVENESS

Workshop experience



IMPACT ON PRACTICE

Top themes reported across 78 open-text responses



NEXT Turn positive feedback into deeper practice change

01 Protect networking

Build in structured cross-agency discussion.

02 Add “what works”

Use practical case studies and prevention examples.

03 Sustain the learning

Share a referral toolkit and allow more reflection time.



Safeguarding children against modern day risks and abuse.

Any child may need safeguarding against modern day risks and abuse; some face greater risk, and the effects can be long-term.



80

multiagency attendees

[Access the spotlight resource Padlet →](#)

CLICK
HERE

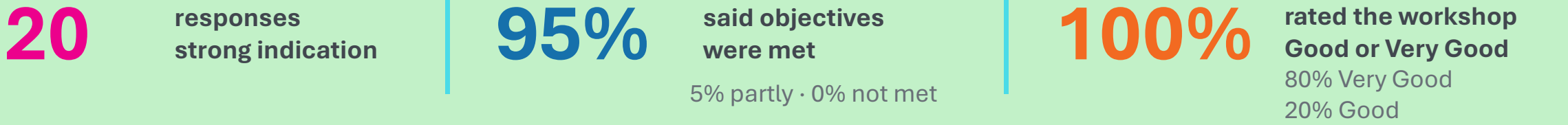
The spotlight moved from shared insight to coordinated action:

- 01 Learn from research and good practice in safeguarding children against modern day risks and abuse.
- 02 Share Shropshire experience and build a whole-family, multiagency view.
- 03 Identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve the system response.
- 04 Agree the next steps for stronger leadership and practice across Shropshire.



Excellent delivery. Digital risks need follow-through.

One-page summary of 20 evaluation responses



PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE

- 42.9%

Positive learning

Informative, thought-provoking and engaging.
- 21.4%

Collaboration

Valued working across services and sectors.
- 21.4%

Improve

More time, manageable pace and more case studies.
- 14.3%

Emotional response

Participants felt seen and heard; content also felt stark.

LEARNING & PRACTICE IMPACT

- 35%

Online risks

Greater awareness of exploitation, social media and emerging harms.
- 20%

AI impact

Concern about rapid change and implications for safeguarding.
- 17.5%

Curriculum

Review digital literacy, RSE and e-safety; start earlier.
- 10%

Collaboration

Share learning and connect schools with other sectors.
- 17.5%

Development

Higher knowledge, confidence and stronger local networks.

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT TIME

- 01

Keep what works

Retain the format, speaker quality and facilitation.
 - 02

Create space to apply

Add discussion time, reflection and more local case studies.
 - 03

Extend reach & follow-through

Broaden representation; sustain networking; provide AI resources and cascade materials.
- This means...

The workshop is working; the next opportunity is to turn digital-risk awareness into sustained practice change.



Supporting children and families through earlier help.

Any child can experience hidden harm; some face greater risk, and the effects can be long-term.



127

multiagency attendees

[Access the spotlight resource Padlet →](#)

CLICK
HERE

The spotlight moved from shared insight to coordinated action:

- 01 Learn from research and good practice in supporting children and families through earlier help.
- 02 Share Shropshire experience and build a whole-family, multiagency view.
- 03 Identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve the system response.
- 04 Agree the next steps for stronger leadership and practice across Shropshire.



WORKSHOP EVALUATION · EFFECTIVENESS & IMPACT

Effective learning is driving more connected practice.

One-page summary of ratings, feedback and intended practice change

95.1% rated Good or Very Good

80.5% said objectives were fully met
19.5% partly met
0% not met

64.5% positive open-text sentiment
31 open-text responses

EFFECTIVENESS

Ratings improve when learning outcomes are achieved.

- **45% · Networking** Strongest theme; exchanged local needs and Early Help offers.
- **30% · Knowledge** Cross-sector input strengthened awareness.
- **15% · Structure** Agenda and pace were praised.
- **10% · Delivery** Speakers and Pathfinder progress added value.

IMPACT ON PRACTICE

- **36.6% · Knowledge** Better awareness of services and family support.
- **22% · Application** More effective family work and service or training redesign.
- **14.6% · Language** More discussion-led assessment and constructive language.
- **14.6% · Collaboration** New networks and resource sharing.
- **12.2% · Opportunities** Gaps identified; future Families First thinking.

PRIORITIES

- 01 Make networking intentional**
Use facilitated sessions, themed tables or agency breakouts.
- 02 Create space to process**
Shorten presentation blocks; add reflection and discussion.
- 03 Embed practical change**
Add cases, tools and GDPR guidance; reinforce shared Early Help language.

What does this mean?

Effective and valued. Protect reflection time and convert insight into consistent multi-agency and community action.



LEARNING FROM CASE REVIEWS WEBINARS

APRIL 2025–MARCH 2026

MULTI-AGENCY

TRAINING

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

Shared learning. Stronger practice.



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

SSCP Learning and Development Co-ordinator facilitated multi-agency webinars reached 1,036 learners.

Reported attendance reached 72.4% of 1,431 bookings.



WEBINAR BREAKDOWN

WEBINAR	SESS.	BOOKED	CANCELLED	NO-SHOWS / UNACCOUNTED	ATTENDED
DA: Intrafamilial	3	262	16	57	189
DA: Homicide and suicide	3	229	19	68	142
DA: Why men don't come forward	3	200	14	62	124
Case reviews: Voice of person	4	311	24	93	194
REPORTED TOTAL	—	1,431	87	308	1,036

Note: No Responding to Self-Neglect webinars took place in 2025/26.

Source: training webinar booking and attendance data



Webinars strengthened safeguarding practice.

Practitioners reported greater awareness, confidence and clearer action across four themes.

WHAT CHANGED IN PRACTICE

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 01 | RECOGNISE HIDDEN HARM | Spot stigma, fear, coercive control and non-physical abuse. |
| 02 | MAKE DISCLOSURE SAFER | Listen without judgement; ask direct questions and create safer disclosure. |
| 03 | APPLY CURIOSITY | Triangulate information, challenge assumptions and escalate concerns. |
| 04 | CENTRE LIVED EXPERIENCE | Centre children, adults and families—including harder-to-reach voices. |
| 05 | COORDINATE THE RESPONSE | Share information promptly; refer, signpost and coordinate support. |

FOUR WEBINAR LENSES

WHY MEN DON'T COME FORWARD

Challenge gender assumptions; improve inclusive signposting.

HOMICIDE & SUICIDE

Connect risk, safe disclosure and coordinated support.

INTRAFAMILIAL ABUSE

Recognise hidden family dynamics, including child-to-parent abuse.

VOICE OF THE PERSON

Keep lived experience—and learning, not blame—central to reviews.

SYSTEM PRESSURES Capacity • thresholds • fragmented systems • housing • waiting lists • service access

THIS MEANS Continue targeted webinars to build knowledge, confidence and consistent practice.



SSCP Learning and Development Co-ordinator facilitated Raising Awareness in Safeguarding and Protecting Children.



Training is building confidence to spot risk -and act sooner.

50 responses from the 3-hour course | April 2025–March 2026

50

PARTICIPANT
RESPONSES

3 hours

RAISING AWARENESS
COURSE

Feedback shows
knowledge moving into
day-to-day practice.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARNT

01

RECOGNISE

Abuse, neglect
& changing risk

02

QUESTION

Use curiosity
& ask well

03

LISTEN

Centre children's
voices

04

ACT

Report, escalate
& signpost

05

CONNECT

Share information
& use local support

HOW LEARNING WILL CHANGE PRACTICE

EARLIER RECOGNITION

More vigilant to emerging
safeguarding risks.

CONFIDENT DECISIONS

Ask, record, report and
escalate appropriately.

SHARED IMPROVEMENT

Strengthen policy, signposting
and colleague learning.

TRAIN THE TRAINER

7 trainers attended the
2-day prerequisite

Feedback points to greater confidence, refreshed knowledge and more
engaging delivery—building safeguarding capacity within organisations.



MULTI-AGENCY

TRAINING

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

Shared learning. Stronger practice.

Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

SSCP RAISING AWARENESS OF SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN

TRAINING POOL DELIVERY · APRIL 2025–MARCH 2026



Training Pool members reached 3,141 people.

Across 182 sessions, safeguarding awareness training was highly valued across the partnership.

SCALE & REACH

3,141

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS REACHED

182

SESSIONS DELIVERED

Member-reported delivery within their own organisations.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS VALUED

- 01

INTERACTIVE
LEARNING

Engaging delivery and opportunities to discuss practice.
- 02

LOCAL CONTEXT

Real-life examples made safeguarding issues relevant.
- 03

PROFESSIONAL
CURIOSITY

Greater confidence to recognise risk and ask difficult questions.
- 04

PRACTICAL
RESPONSE

Clearer understanding of how to respond, report and escalate.
- 05

REFLECTION

Space to connect learning with day-to-day responsibilities.

PARTNERSHIP REACH Education settings • Childcare • NHS & health organisations • Shropshire Council • Social Care • Early Help • VCSA Organisations • Housing

What does this mean? Training Pool members are strengthening knowledge, confidence and safeguarding practice.

Indicative data: not all trainers submitted returns; consistent engagement and reporting remain priorities.

Partnership Focus for 2026/27



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership



- ✓ NSPCC CSA Snapshot
- ✓ Implementation of National Reforms (including the publication of a revised Threshold Document)
- ✓ Supporting partners to respond to changing legislation -Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse (Crime and Policing Act), Information Sharing (Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act).
- ✓ Multi-agency practice improvement



Shropshire Safeguarding
Community Partnership

Partnership Membership 2025–2026



Lead Safeguarding Partners

Agency	Job title
Shropshire Council	Chief Executive
Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board	Chief Executive
West Mercia Police	Chief Constable

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

Agency	Job title
Shropshire Council	Director Children's Services
Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care Board	Chief Nursing Officer
West Mercia Police	Shropshire Local Commander

Shropshire Local Authority Departments

Agency	Job title
Shropshire Council – Public Health	Operational Lead Health Protection
Shropshire Council – Children's Services	Service Manager Early Help
Shropshire Council – Children's Services	Assistant Director Children's Services
Shropshire Council – Education	Head of the Virtual School and Access to Education
Shropshire Council – Education	Head of Education Quality and Safeguarding
Shropshire Council – Education	Assistant Director – Education and Achievement
Shropshire Council – Housing	Head of Service – Housing, Resettlement & Independent Living
Shropshire Council	Performance Analyst

Shropshire NHS Trusts and Services

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital Trust	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children
Midlands Partnership NHS University Foundation Trust	Head of Operational Safeguarding
Shropshire Recovery Partnership	Team Manager
Shropshire Community Health Trust	Head of Safeguarding
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust	Safeguarding Lead for Children
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust	Lead Safeguarding Midwife

West Mercia Police and Youth Justice

Agency	Job title
West Mercia Police	Detective Superintendent
West Mercia Youth Justice Service	Head of Service

Probation Service

National Probation Service	Head of Service
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Other Services

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service	Temporary Area Manager
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Independent Scrutiny

Shropshire Council Cabinet Member	Portfolio Holder
	Independent Scrutineer



Earlier help and shared learning are strengthening safeguarding.

Across governance, assurance, frontline support and workforce development, partners are acting earlier, coordinating better and turning learning into practice.

KEY EVIDENCE

£439.1k	TOTAL IDENTIFIED RESOURCES
1,525	EARLY HELP CONTACTS
665	CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT YEAR END
3,141	TRAINING POOL REACH

THE REPORT IN SIX MOVES

01	PLACE + PARTNERSHIP	Rurality makes access and coordination essential; shared governance links children, adults and community safety.
02	GOVERNANCE + REFORM	Independent scrutiny, revised escalation and quality assurance strengthened accountability and Families First readiness.
03	ASSURANCE + PRACTICE	Audits confirmed good practice while targeting evidence, chaperoning, recording, tools and follow-through.
04	EARLIER HELP + PROTECTION	Contacts rose 33%; 63% of strategy discussions led to Section 47 and 94% of conferences to protection plans.
05	EXPLOITATION + CSA	Devolved NRM decisions, TREES and CSA partnership work enabled faster action and kept more children connected.
06	REVIEWS + LEARNING	Case reviews, spotlights, webinars and training strengthened curiosity, safer disclosure and coordinated practice.



Safeguarding information for Shropshire

**Includes: Important Safeguarding Contacts . Support Services .
Definitions of Abuse . Signs and Indicators . Useful Websites .**

[Safeguarding Definitions and Contacts SSCP](#)

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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Safeguarding Definitions and Contacts

Related Documents

- > [Safeguarding Adults Identification Definitions And Contacts](#)
- > [Safeguarding Children In Shropshire. Contacts Links And Definitions](#)

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership Learning & Development](#)
[Safeguarding Resources for Adults and Children](#) > [Safeguarding Definitions and Contacts](#)

The safeguarding information in these documents is updated regularly and includes: Shropshire contact numbers if you are concerned about abuse or neglect; support services and organisations; definitions, signs and indicators of abuse; and learning and development opportunities.

Email SSCPBusinessUnit@shropshire.gov.uk with any queries or feedback about this document: Children's Annual Report 2025 - 2026



Glossary



CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CIN	Child in Need
CLA	Children Looked After
COMPASS	Shropshire front-door service for children's safeguarding and support
CP	Child Protection
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DSP	Delegated Safeguarding Partner
EHASt	Early Help Access Service Team
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IITCSE	Independent Inquiry into Telford Child Sexual Exploitation
LCSPR	Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review
LSP	Lead Safeguarding Partner

MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MPFT	Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
RJAH	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital
SAR	Safeguarding Adult Review
SaTH	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
SFR	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
SSCP	Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership
ST&W	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin
TEH	Targeted Early Help
TREES	Together Reducing and Ending Exploitation in Shropshire
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child
VCSA	Voluntary, Community and Sector Assembly
WMYJS	West Mercia Youth Justice Service
WT26	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026