Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2025-2026

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Fully clickable document

Foreword

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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

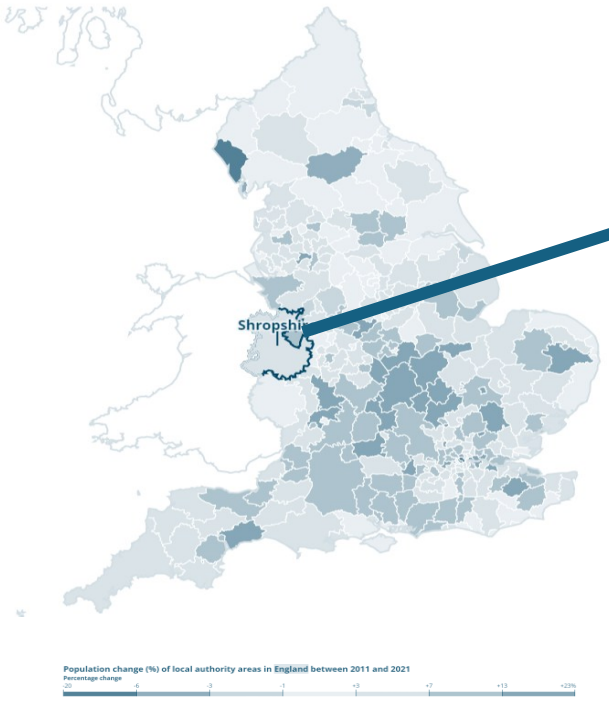
Richard Cooper
Chief Constable
West Mercia Police

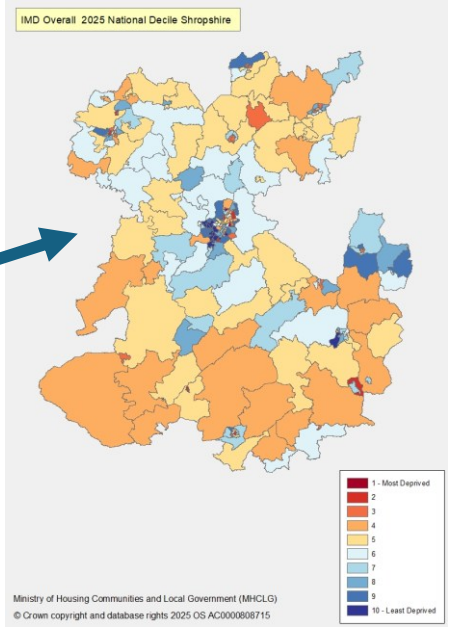
Life in Shropshire

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 Harlescott 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

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

36,988 pupils in state schools (Jan 2026)

Smallest state primary school – 21 pupils

Smallest state secondary school – 507 pupils

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

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

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

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

Challenges of Rurality

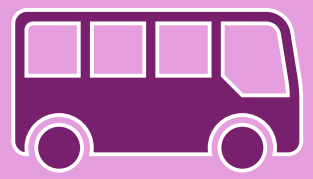
Shropshire is a diverse, large, predominately rural inland county with a wide range of land use, economic activities, employment and social conditions. The population has been increasing at a slightly slower rate than England. Much of the growth has been due to people moving to Shropshire due to its 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 it's 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.

SHROPSHIRE SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESS UNIT
7 POSTS

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Business Manager

1 post

DEVELOPMENT
Development Officers

2 posts

1 x Children
1 x Adults and Community Safety

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT
Co-ordinator

1 post

ADMINISTRATION
Administrative Support

3 posts

2 × 0.6 FTE · 1 × 0.8 FTE

July 2025

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) Group

Children's Executive Level

ST&W Bi-annual meetings

Safeguarding Executive Group

(oversight, cross cutting priorities, assurance)

Bi-annual meetings

Children's Safeguarding Partnership

Delegated Safeguarding Leads

Quarterly Board Meetings

- Children's Case Review Group
- Tackling Exploitation Group
- Quality Assurance and Performance
  - CSA Sub-group
  - Neglect Sub-group

Safeguarding Adults Board

Quarterly Board meetings

- Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) & Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) Case Review Group
- Quality Assurance and Performance

Community Safety Partnership

Quarterly Board Meetings

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Reducing Reoffending
- Prevent Board
- Safer Stronger Partnership
- Road Safety
- Drugs & Alcohol Misuse Group

Information is shared across the partnership groups to support the interconnectivity of the boards.

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

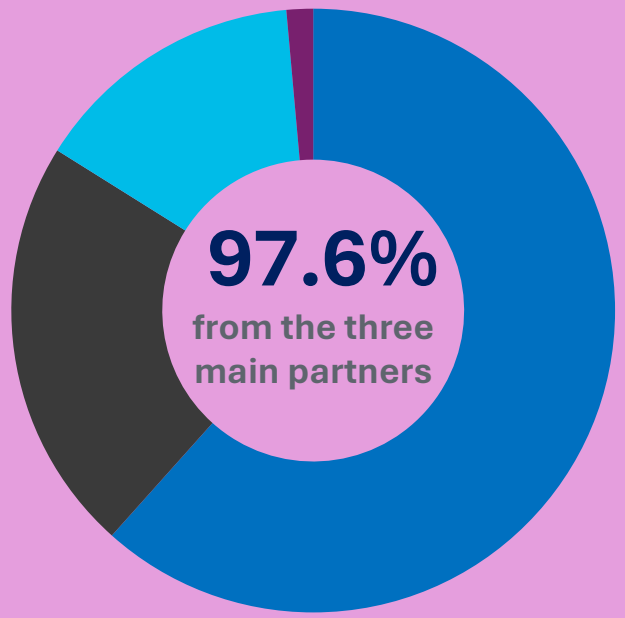
ADDITIONAL INCOME

+ £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

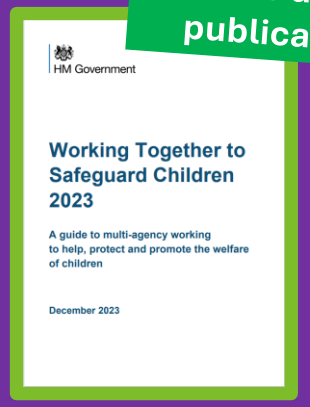
The same budget supports the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership.

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.

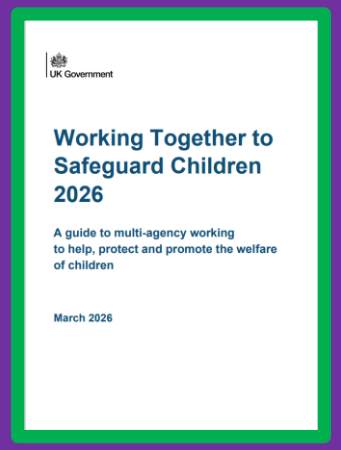
Click to access publication


HM Government

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

December 2023

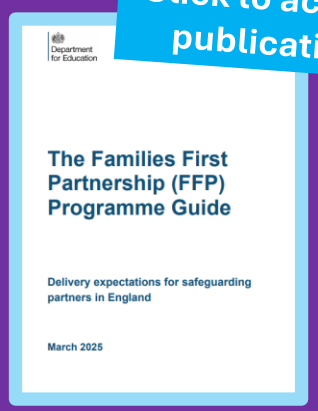

UK Government

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

March 2026

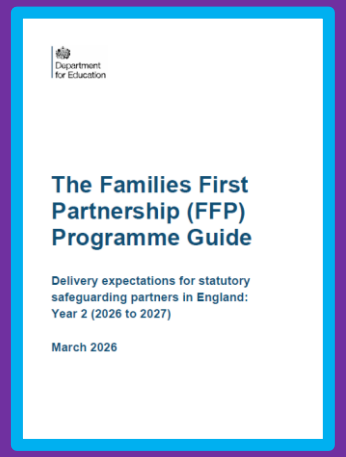
Click to access publication


Department for Education

The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide

Delivery expectations for safeguarding partners in England

March 2025


Department for Education

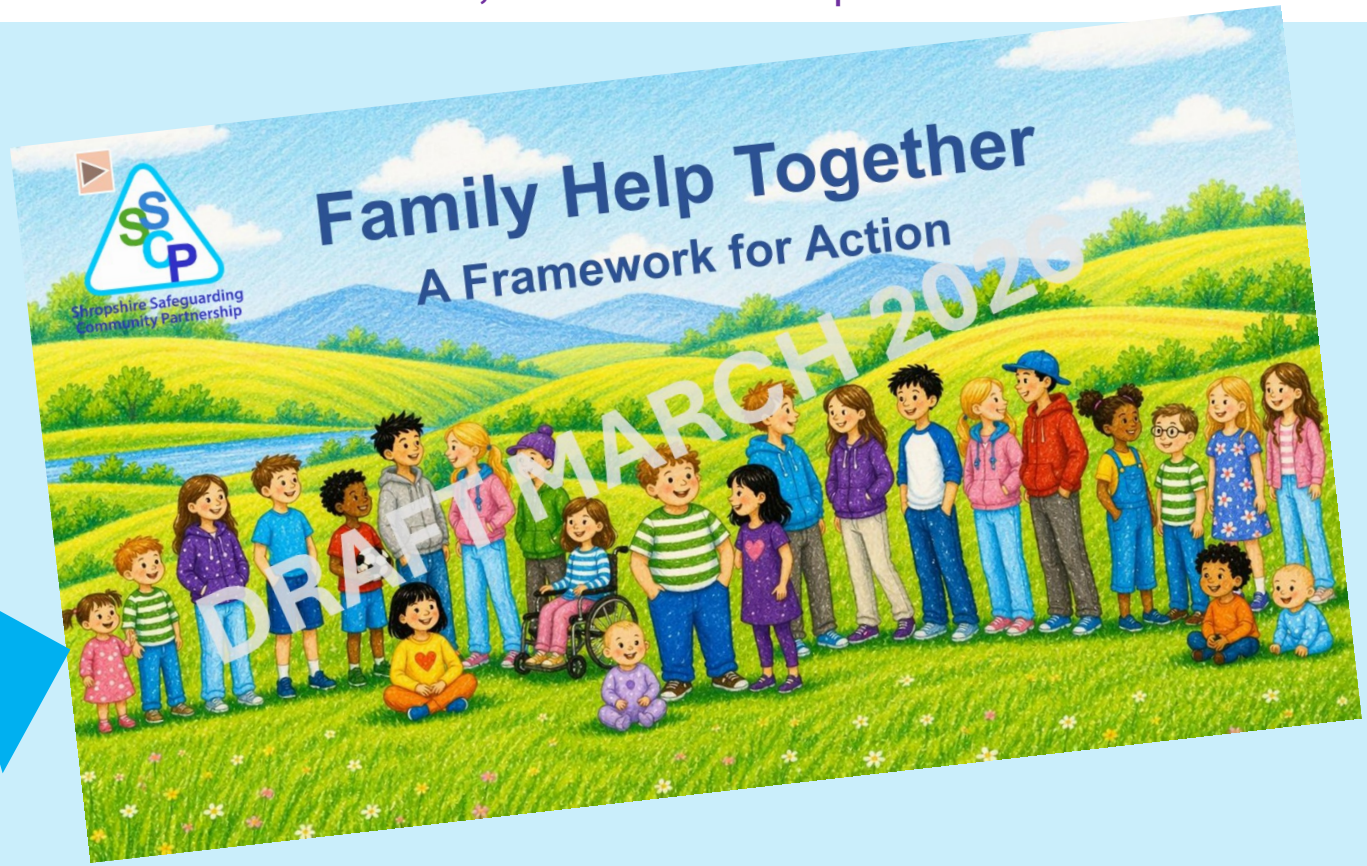
The Families First Partnership (FFP) Programme Guide

Delivery expectations for statutory safeguarding partners in England: Year 2 (2026 to 2027)

March 2026

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

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE

ACTIVITY

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:

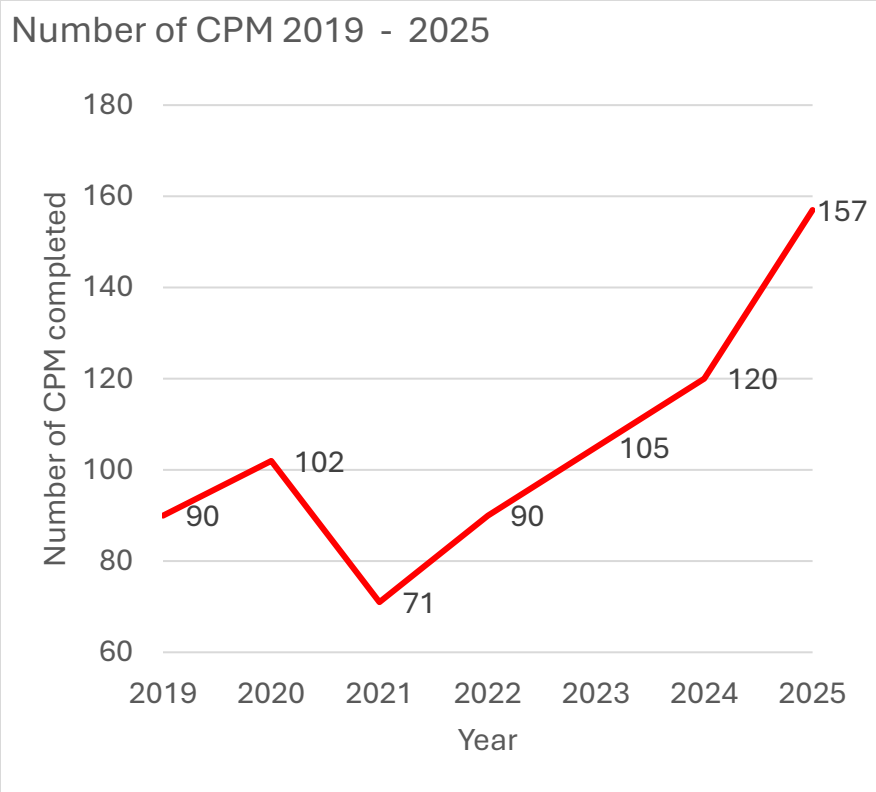
- ✓ Child Protection Medical Audit
- ✓ Daily Sexual Abuse Consultation Audit
- ✓ Children of parents with substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues present.

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
- ✓ RJAH
- ✓ SFR
- ✓ Partners in Care
- ✓ SATH
- ✓ Shrop Com
- ✓ ICB
- ✓ WMYJS

Child Protection Medical Audit



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

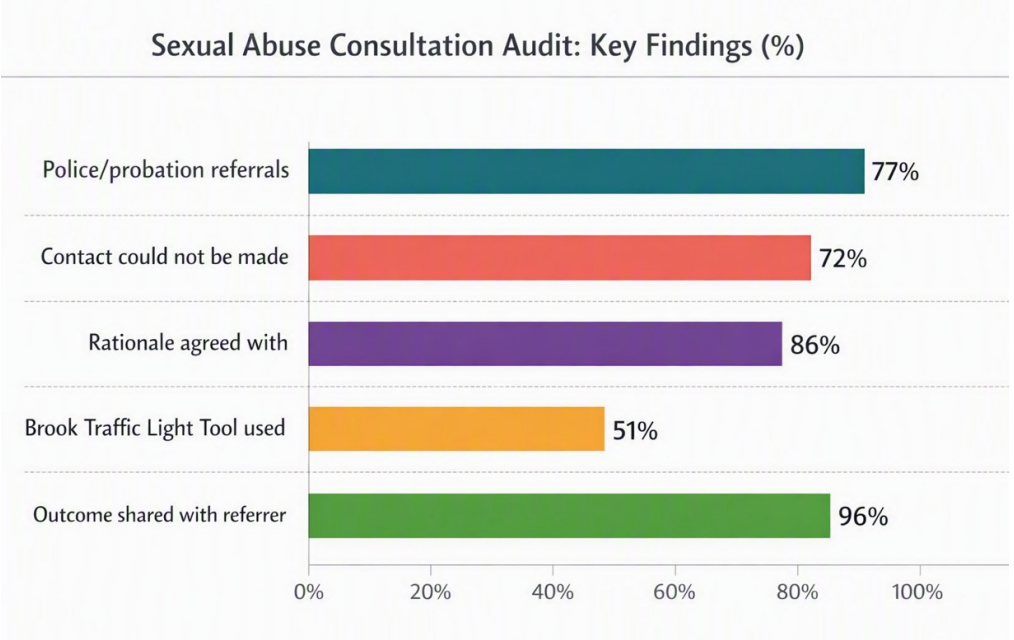
- **Improve chaperone compliance** so progress continues beyond the current 31%.
- **Strengthen police report sharing** where this is required.
- **Improve report completion recording**, especially where dates are missing or deadlines are exceeded.
- **Ensure families receive information leaflets**,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



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 taken action 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

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

SYSTEM ACTION

Bring agencies together, test evidence and record next steps.

Click to access Multiagency Case File Audit Learning

CLICK HERE

Timely escalation.
Clear ownership.
Visible outcomes.

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

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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

10 teams provide local coverage across Shropshire's urban and rural communities.

02 PARTNERS RESPOND

Schools, health, social care and voluntary partners identify needs early—and act together.

03 FAMILY-LED HELP

Support is built around the child and family: parenting, education, health and practical help.

04 SEAMLESS OFFER

Families First will bring targeted Early Help and Child in Need into one Family Help offer.

05 EARLIER IMPACT

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.

Shropshire Together Community and Family Hubs

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

Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

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.

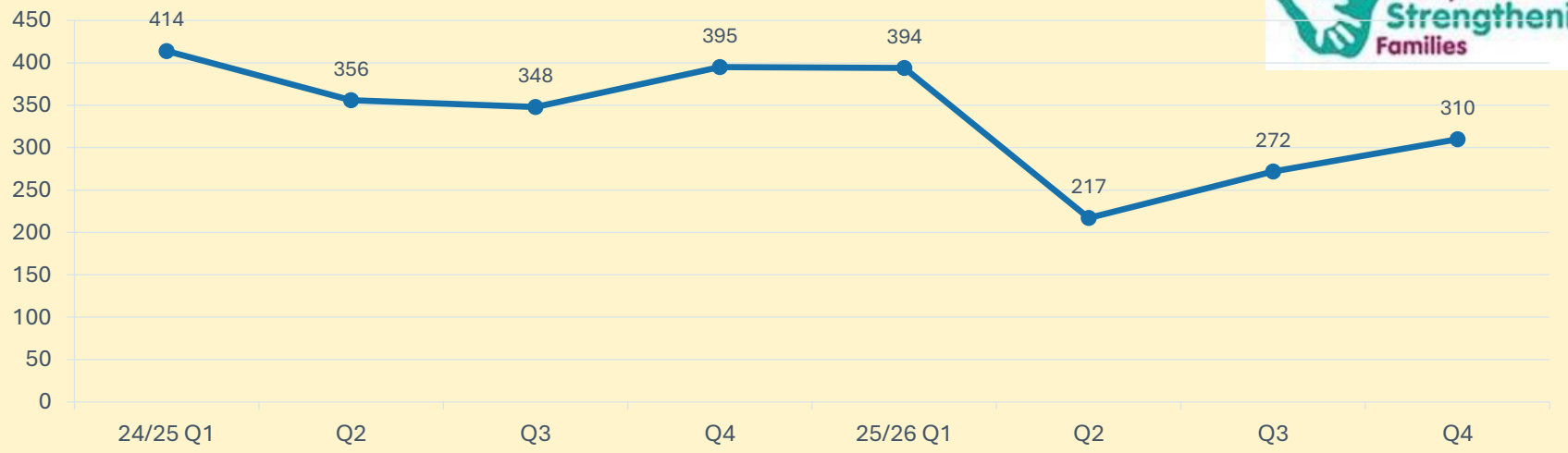
−22%

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.

Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS & SECTION 47 · 2025–26

63% of strategy discussions progressed to Section 47 enquiry.

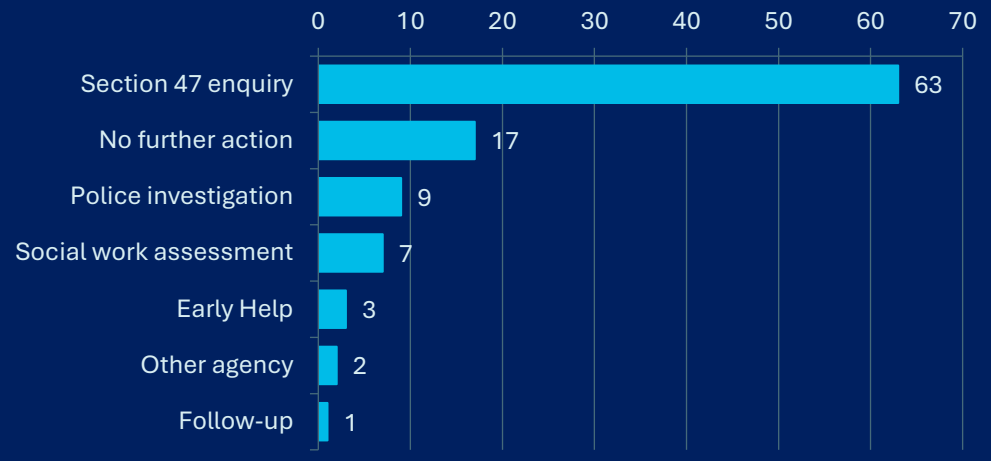
Multi-agency information is translating into proportionate safeguarding action.

63%

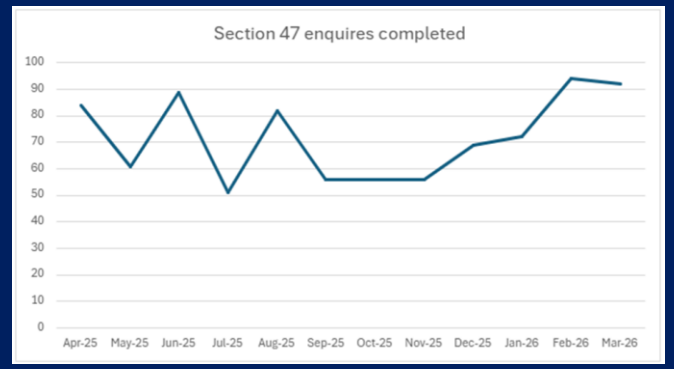
progressed to a child protection Section 47 enquiry

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.**

INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES · 2025–26

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

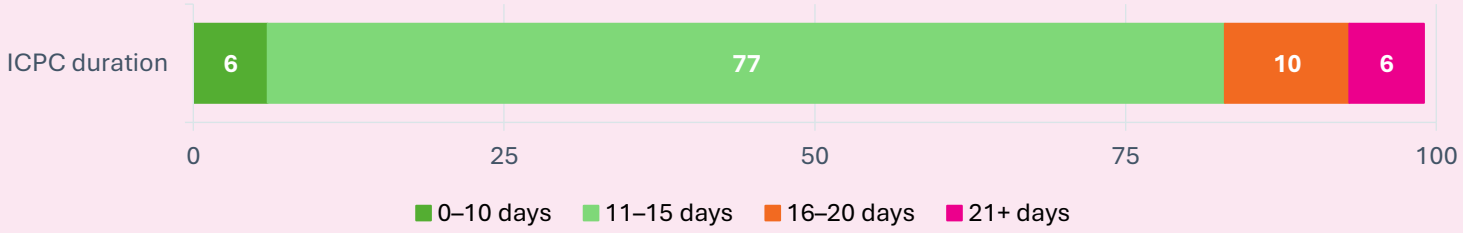
Families and the multi-agency conference group agreed that a plan was required to manage identified risk.

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 fell from 717 to 665.

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

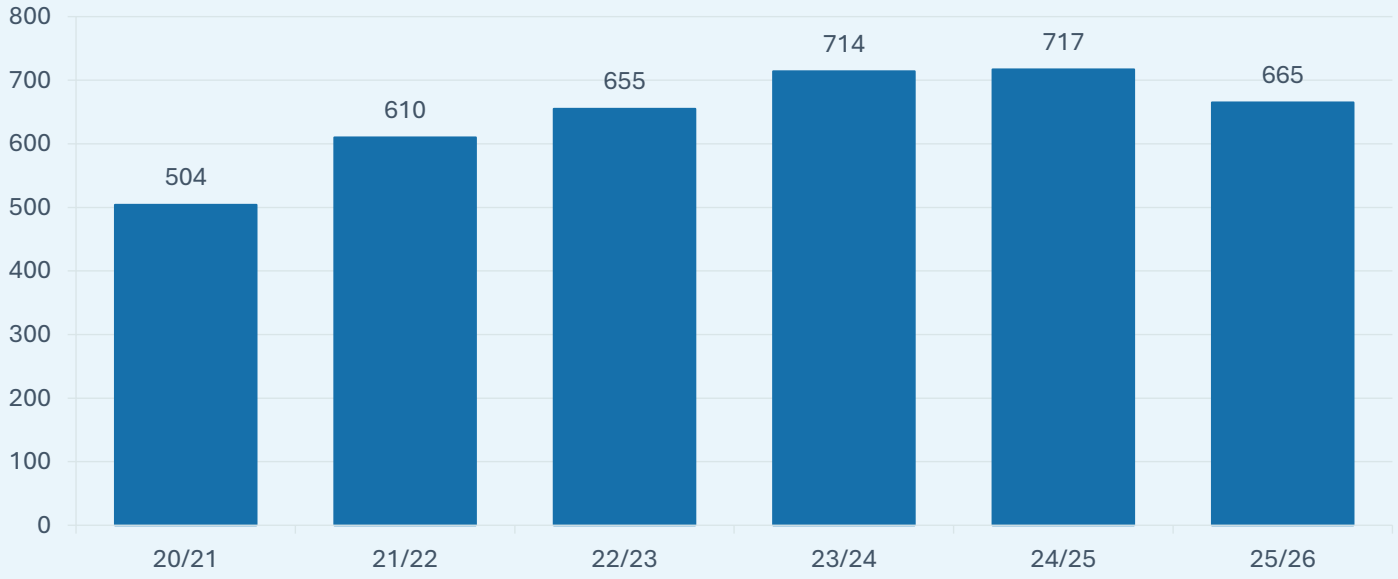
665
children looked after
27 March 2026

−52
from the recent peak
717 to 665

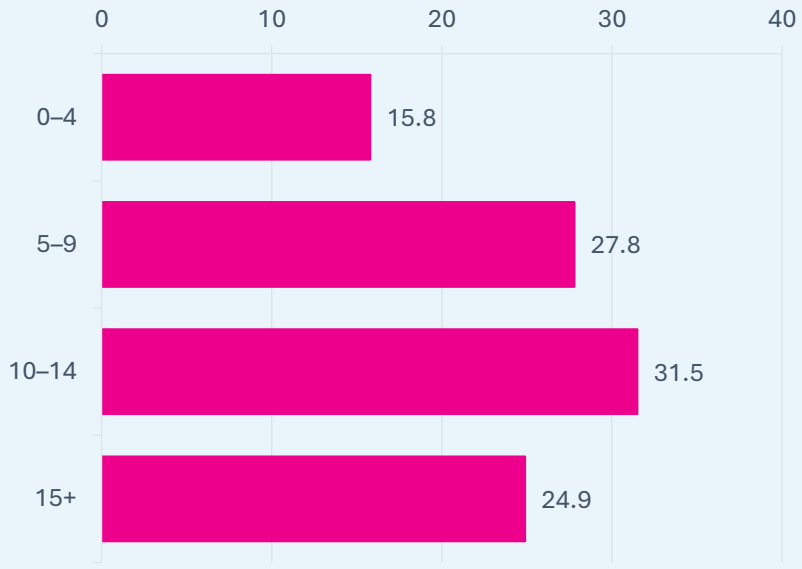
35
UASC
national transfer scheme

630
excluding UASC
daily position

TOTAL CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER · SIX-YEAR TREND



AGE PROFILE · 2 APRIL 2026



Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

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.

Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

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.

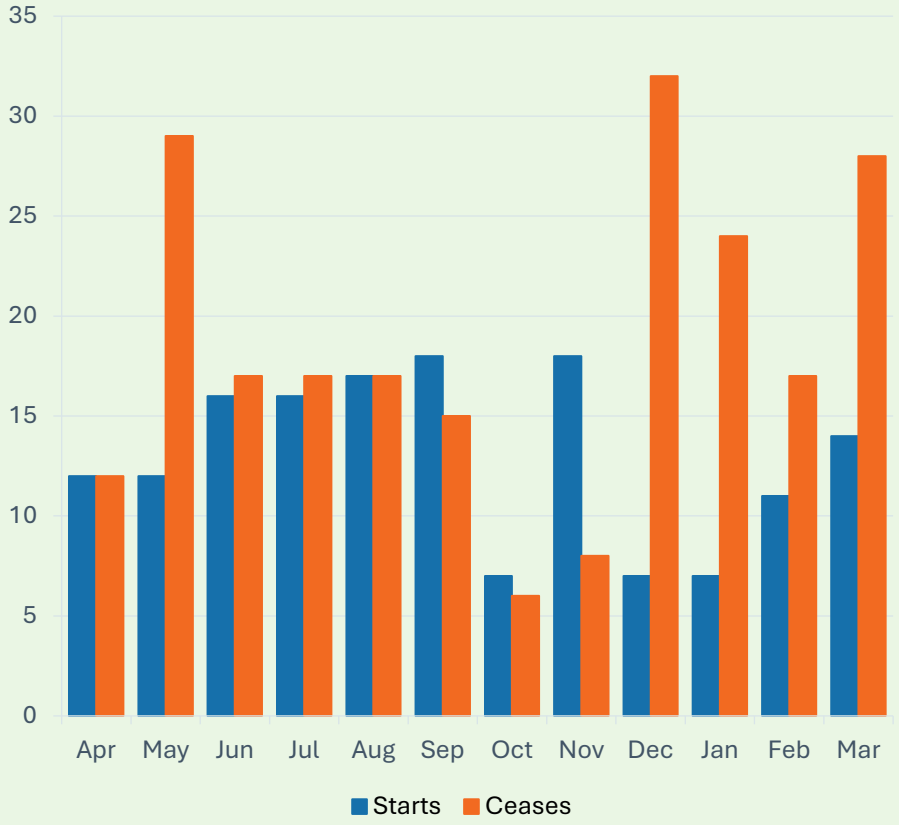
7 / 12

months with more ceases than starts

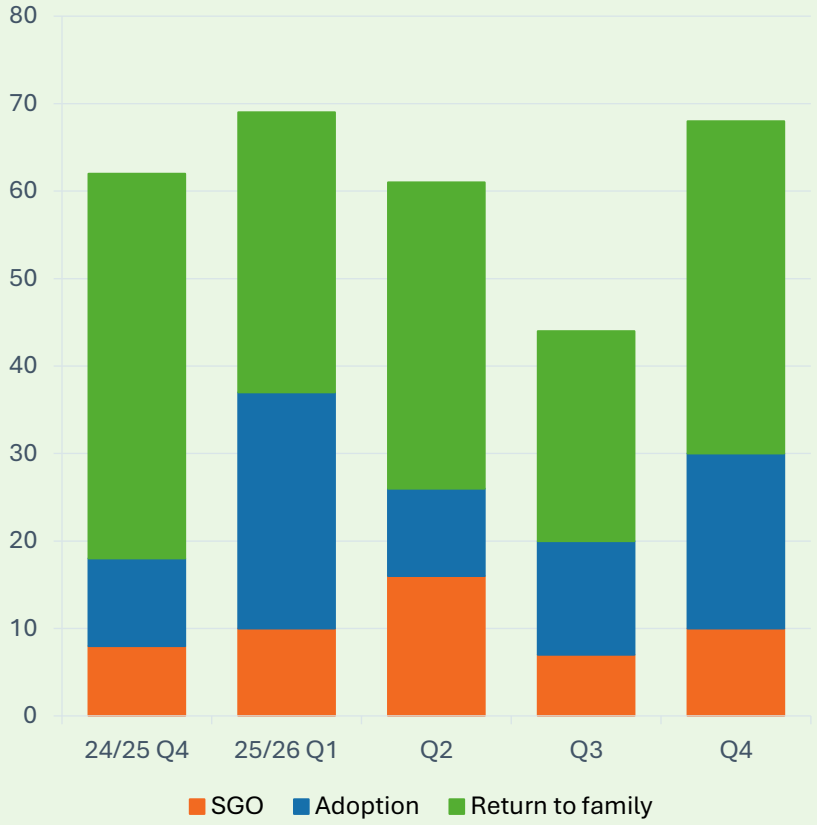
38%

of Q4 end reasons were returns to family

CLA STARTS & CEASES · MONTHLY



POSITIVE END REASONS · % OF QUARTER



Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

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

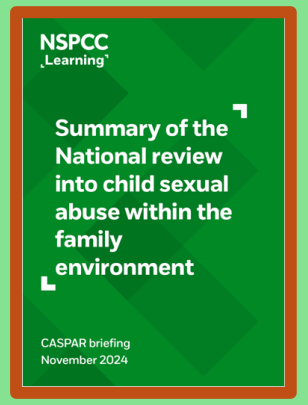
SHARE & LEARN

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.**

Click for Child Exploitation TREES website

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

1 of 27

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

Full Conclusive Grounds autonomy supports faster, locally owned decisions.

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

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.**

Click for Child Exploitation TREES website

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

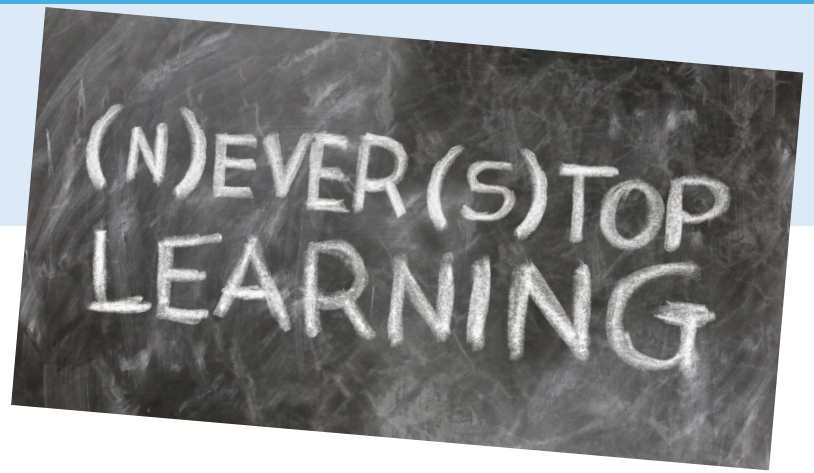
WHAT CHANGED FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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.

NRM IMPACT Formal recognition of children as victims of exploitation is strengthening coordinated support across police, health, education and local authorities—and reducing criminalisation.

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.

Click to access joint family reviews
Family A and Family B

CLICK HERE

Unpaid carers video

CLICK HERE

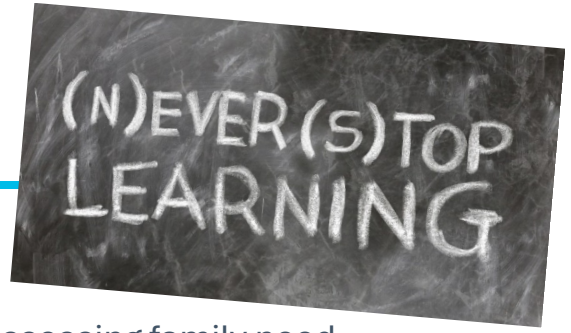
7 Point briefing Young Carers

CLICK HERE

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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.

Source: SSCP case review and webinar activity, 2025/26

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.

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

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)
Childhood Neglect Thematic Review

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR)
Child Sexual Abuse Review

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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.

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

01 **SHARE**
information

02 **SPOT**
themes + trends

03 **LEARN**
workshop feedback

READ THE
CDOP ANNUAL REPORT 2024–25 →

CLICK HERE

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.

104

multiagency attendees

Access the summit resource Padlet →

CLICK HERE

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.

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.

Source: SSCP Neglect Summit Evaluation · 38 responses

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.

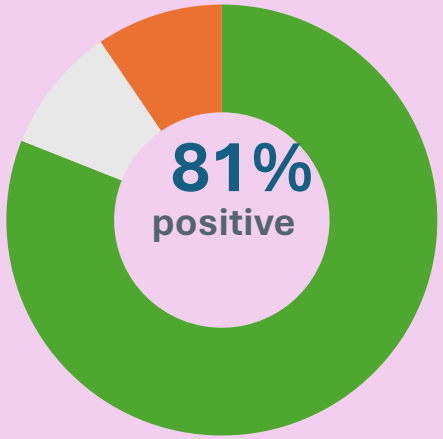
03 Identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve the system response.

04 Agree the next steps for stronger leadership and practice across Shropshire.

Spotlight feedback shows strong impact — and a clear route to improve

EFFECTIVENESS

Workshop experience



21 open-text responses

- Positive 81%
- Neutral 9.5%
- Negative 9.5%

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.

Source: workshop feedback analysis | 21 experience responses; 78 practice-impact responses

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

20 responses strong indication

95% said objectives were met
5% partly · 0% not met

100% rated the workshop Good or Very Good
80% Very Good
20% Good

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.

Source: Spotlight Evaluation · 3 June 2025 · 20 responses

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.

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.

Source: Workshop evaluation · ratings and open-text responses

MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING
LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT
Shared learning. Stronger practice.

LEARNING FROM CASE REVIEWS WEBINARS APRIL 2025–MARCH 2026

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

Reported attendance reached 72.4% of 1,431 bookings.

1,431 BOOKED

1,036 ATTENDED

87 CANCELLED

308 NO-SHOWS / UNACCOUNTED

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

MULTI-AGENCY WEBINAR IMPACT · PRACTITIONER FEEDBACK

MULTI-AGENCY
TRAINING
LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT
Shared learning. Stronger practice.
Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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.

MULTI-AGENCY
TRAINING
LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT
Shared learning. Stronger 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

Partnership Membership 2025–2026

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership

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

Other Services

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service	Temporary Area Manager

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.

2026/27

Publish the revised threshold • embed reforms • strengthen response to CSA • respond to new duties • measure impact

Source: SSCP Annual Report 2025/26

Safeguarding information for Shropshire

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

Safeguarding Definitions and Contacts SSCP

CLICK HERE

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