



The next steps:

Early Help:

If Compass believe that the child would benefit from extra help, or that the parent/carer needs support, they will signpost the family on to the right service, ensuring that support is provided quickly.

No Further Action:

If Compass believe that child's needs can be appropriately met by services and support already in place then no further action will be taken and the contact will be closed down.

Social Work Assessment:

If Compass decide the child is a 'child in need' or at risk of harm then the referral will progress to a Social Work Assessment and a social worker from the duty assessment team will be allocated to complete the assessment.

Can a parent access help and support directly?

...Yes!

As a parent you can contact Compass for advice and/or support, if you are not already working with a professional who can help and you do this through **First Point of Contact (FPOC) on 0345 678 9021**

For more information on the definitions of Children in Need and the Local Authority's duties and responsibilities see the Children Act 1989 and/or the Shropshire Safeguarding Board procedures on Referrals and Thresholds at www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/scb



**Shropshire
Strengthening
Families**

through Early Help

COMPASS

Getting the 'right help at the right time'
to strengthen families and safeguard children



What is Compass?

- Compass is the single point of contact for receiving NEW enquiries regarding concerns for the welfare or protection of Children and Young People in Shropshire.
- Compass promotes the offer of early help to children and families in the first instance, where it is safe to do so.
- Compass provides other professionals with support and guidance in completing assessments for early help and delivering early help plans.



The Compass team is made up from a range of agencies, and professionals, working together, which include:

- Social Workers
- Police
- Probation
- Health
- Targeted Youth Workers
- 0-25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service
- Family Information Service
- Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Coordinator
- Information coordinators



What happens in Compass?

Whenever anyone is worried about a child, for example a school teacher, they make contact with Compass to discuss their worries, this is called an 'initial concern'. One of the compass team will talk to the referrer to agree how best to offer early help to a child, young person or family. As part of this process a Compass worker may contact the family direct or this contact may be done through the referring professional.

Where an initial concern identifies that a child may be a 'child in need' by this we mean they may need services to promote their welfare the initial concern, consent will be sought from the parent for information sharing and where appropriate a referral/ social work assessment.

A Child in Need is often referred to as Section 17 child in need, referencing the Children Act 1989. Where a concern identifies that a child might be at risk of significant harm, a social worker will liaise with professionals within and outside of Compass to decide what actions need to be taken to keep a child safe.

A Child at risk of significant harm is often referred to as Section 47 child protection, referencing the Children Act 1989.

Information will be shared without your permission if:

- A child or young person is believed to be at risk of significant harm
- The information could be used to prevent or solve a crime.

