

Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Newsletter



Click here for the Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group TOR: [Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-group TOR.docx](#)
Click here for the TWESP Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Report: [TESP MASA report January 2025.docx](#)



**Telford & Wrekin Council
Education & Skills Director:
Simon Wellman**



**Telford & Wrekin Council
Safeguarding Coordinator:
Scott Thomas-White**



**St Georges Primary School
Head Teacher:
Sally Sixsmith**

The Education Safeguarding Partnership Group is responsible for working on behalf of the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board to promote good safeguarding practice and keeping children safe across the education sector.

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The vision for our Education Safeguarding Partnership Group

Primary objectives of the Education Safeguarding Sub-Group:

1. Ensure education settings are directly represented and engaged in all areas of safeguarding children board, executive board, sub-groups, thematic groups and other relevant groups that require education representation.
2. Understand the key themes of the safeguarding children board and to act as a link for the board with schools, colleges and early years settings.
3. Share as appropriate their work with other schools and settings through relevant cluster meetings, and DSL networks.
4. Develop practice in relation to safeguarding in education and early years and to disseminate that practice to other DSLs.
5. Act as a point of consultation for the local safeguarding partnership, including considering the key findings from child safeguarding practice reviews. The group will review relevant safeguarding issues both locally and nationally.
6. Review the Section 175/157 and Section 11 audit findings for schools and settings and consider ways to address thematic issues. These audits are conducted by Telford and Wrekin Council Education Safeguarding and Early Years & Childcare Teams through an agreement with the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership.
7. Co-ordinate what is done across the education sector for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children; and ensure the effectiveness of what is done, through quality assurance of local safeguarding arrangements in education settings.
8. To promote education engagement within the safeguarding partnership

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JTAI Outcome: telfordcorporate.sharepoint.com/sites/EducationSafeguardingPartnershipBoard/Shared



Next steps:

We have determined that Telford and Wrekin Council is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to.

The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by 12 December 2025. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

Headline findings:

Leaders across the local safeguarding partnership are committed and ambitious for children in Telford and Wrekin. A strong vision is shared, with a track record of continuous improvement.

For the majority of children, the identification and initial response to children in need and those who need to be protected is strong. Despite this, there are aspects of the initial response where information-sharing is not sufficiently effective.

This impacts on the coordination and understanding of a small number of children and their needs across the partnership.

Leaders have made considerable investment in multi-agency early help and continue to prioritise financial investment in this area. A strong early help offer, and plans to further enhance it, are impressive. This enables many children to have their needs understood and met at the earliest opportunity. Several family hubs have been established, which are valued by local communities.

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PCSO Youth Engagement Letter: telfordcorporate.sharepoint.com/sites/EducationSafeguardingPartnershipBoard/Shared



West Mercia Police currently has 20 dedicated Youth Engagement PCSO's who provide a service to education. The cost associated with these YE PCSOs is £690,000. The Neighbourhood Policing Grant funding afforded to forces cannot be used for officers or PCSOs in educational establishments.

The Neighbourhood Policing Grant is strictly for additional headcount and takes no account of our previous investment in this critical area of policing. Therefore, it is proposed that the YE PCSO function will be removed. We are exploring how we can work with educational establishments in the most effective way without these dedicated posts.

Under the proposals, engagements with schools would be managed through your local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The proposals are currently going through a legal management of change process. We anticipate this to be concluded this month, when the final decision as to whether the proposals are accepted will be made.

Whilst the dedicated service would change, we retain the ability to deploy Police Officers to suitable incidents or local issues. We are also keen to work with partners as, on some occasions, we aren't always the right organisation to provide the relevant intervention.

Sally Sixsmith highlighted the importance of early intervention and prevention in safeguarding children, supporting their transition into secondary school, and providing effective drug and alcohol education and support.

Sally shared how it would be beneficial to seek feedback from the partnership to assess the impact of these approaches.

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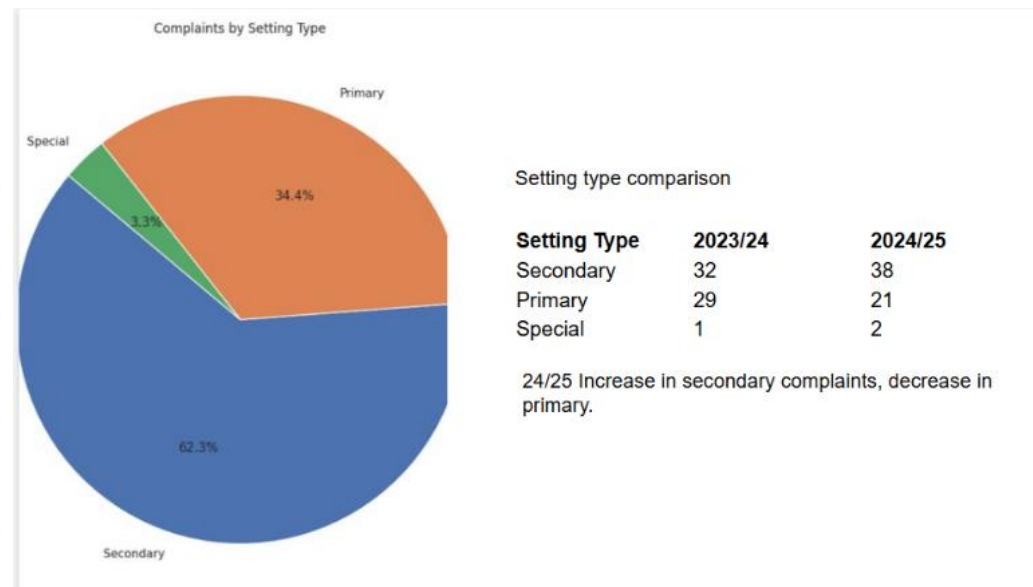
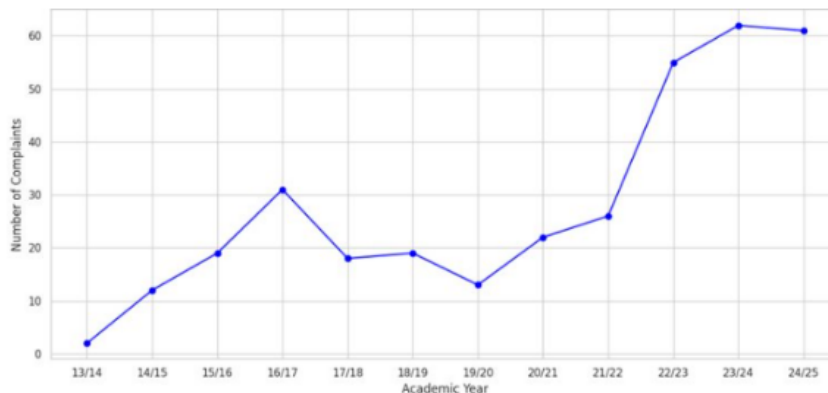
Ofsted Complaint 2024 – 2025: [Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Board - 17.09.2025.pptx](#)

Scott Thomas-White displayed and presented Ofsted complaint data that have been screened and risk assessed by Ofsted and assigned under 3 categories.

- **Category 1:** Processed by Family Connect Safeguarding
- **Category 2:** Processed by LADO and Education Triage
- **Category 3:** Processed by Education Triage

Years on year comparison
of Ofsted safeguarding
complaints about schools

Key Insights:
2022/23 saw the largest
spike (+29), possibly due
to guidance on complaint
report during COVID
mechanisms.
2024/25 shows a slight dip
(-1), suggesting a
possible plateau or early
signs of stabilisation.
Overall, the trend since
2019/20 has been
upward, with a significant
rise in complaints.



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Section 175/157 – 2024 – 2025 Audit findings and Audit Proposals 2025 – 2026: Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Board - 17.09.2025.pptx

Joanne Hanslip displayed and presented Section S157/175 Audit Findings:

Joanne shared feedback from schools, highlighting both the challenges in providing evidence and the positive aspects captured through the audit tool. For example, governance, alternative provision, work with the partnership.

100% of audit returns have been processed.

Recommendations were also provided to settings on how to build and strengthen the culture of safeguarding in place; key themes for recommendations included:

- Promotion of the setting's Early Help Offer
- Evaluating the impact of the early help offer
- Strengthening monitoring the quality of record keeping
- Formalising safeguarding supervision and recording this
- Evaluating the impact of the safeguarding curriculum and adaptations for pupils with SEND
- Reviewing the management of I-pads and similar devices that do not require individual user logins to meet filtering and monitoring standards

Audit Visits:

- In 2024/2025 we undertook 35 safeguarding audit visits to a range of education settings in Telford and Wrekin. (27 were S175/157 Audit visits and 8 were SLA audit visits). Areas of non-compliance where recommendations were provided to leaders:
- 40% Administration of Safer recruitment
- 29% Updating key policies and websites
- 29% Improving the quality of safeguarding record keeping
- 11% Management of risks and implementing risk assessments
- 11% EYFS policy and procedures daily risk assessments
- 11% Online safety

2025-2026 Safeguarding Audit visits:

- Proposed focus:
- Partnership priorities
- EYFS- safeguarding and welfare
- Governance and monitoring
- General safeguarding compliance
- Website and policy review- lens of safeguarding
- Curriculum impact and pupil voice

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Partnership updates:



Two new Family Hubs have recently opened in Donnington. Early Help Coordinators have been assigned to each locality to support families through signposting, assistance with completing Early Help Assessments, and delivery of Early Help training.

A new workshop titled “Picture This” has been launched for parents and carers, focusing on image sharing among young people. The session addresses key issues such as sexting, the sharing of nude images, associated risks and consequences, and effective ways to engage parents in these conversations.



Channelle shared Telford College have an opening evening on October the 6th for student's intake. An intake of students has increased this year.

Any students that are looking to go to Telford College are encouraged to attend open evenings.



Public Health Commissioners:

Public Health are leading on re-procurement of a new domestic abuse (DA) service, and the new contract will in place for 1st June 2026. The current service will remain in place until then

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Partnership updates:



Lisa Seymour shared there is 100 percent attendance from Early Years settings.

Lisa shared Early Years visits settings and childminders.

DYFS training is now required to be undertaken every 2 years instead of 3 years.

FamilyConnect

Emma Martin shared the Partnership Threshold Training has been updated and now includes other agenda items for example, Prevent and Private Fostering.

Further sessions will be enrolled in 2026, and a bespoke health conference will be offered.

A review of the Early Help Assessment is planned. However, it must be informed by balanced and comprehensive feedback from across the partnership.

Guidance from both the Family First initiative and national frameworks recommends that such reviews are undertaken to ensure relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with current practice.

The partnership raised the possibility of enabling Early Help Assessment (EHA) referrals to be submitted online. Introducing an online referral system could enhance accessibility and streamline the process, while also supporting improved tracking and recording of impact.

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Actions:

Actions	Owner	Due Date
Draft a letter from Education SG Partnership Board to Ofsted regarding Ofsted complaints.	Sally Sixsmith	November 28/11/2025
Review Annual Site Security Guidance	Joanne Hanslip	November 28/11/2025
Schools are to ensure public facing policies and procedures are up to date including structure charts and contact details.	Schools	Ongoing
Partnerships are to share any resources or articles to Education Notice Board.	Partnership	Ongoing

Upcoming Education Safeguarding Partnership Dates:

Date and Time: Wednesday 10 th December 1:00pm – 3:00pm	Venue: Microsoft Teams (Virtual).
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