

# 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  
Education & Skills  
Principal Safeguarding & Enrichment  
Specialist: 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.

# Education Safeguarding Partnership

## Sub-Group Newsletter



### 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

# Education Safeguarding Partnership

## Sub-Group Newsletter



### Family First Partnership Programme Update:

Click here for the: [The Families First Partnership \(FFP\) Programme Guide](#)  
Click here for: [Delivering the Families First Programme in Telford & Wrekin - Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Tina Knight and Scott Thomas-White presented the Family First Partnership update presentation.

Overview of national reform programme under Stable Homes, Built on Love strategy.

Three pillars:

- Family Help: Early intervention, single assessment and plan, lead family help practitioners, co-location with family hubs.
- Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT): Early-stage planning; education role required in MACPT.
- Family Group Decision Making: Launch planned for February; meetings branded as *Circle of Support*; multi-agency training underway.

### Local progress:

Local progress is in a strong position due to existing family hubs and safeguarding model.

Working groups established for threshold guidance review, single assessment, and locality working.

Education engagement: FP Champions have been identified across clusters; training will be offered for lead professionals in development.

### Governance:

Strategic Board is chaired by Joe Britton and Operational Board chaired by Darren Knibbs.

The Family First webpage is now live on the Safeguarding Partnership site.

Strategic Board is reviewing practices and policies. Families First is now on the Safeguarding Partnership website.

# Education Safeguarding Partnership

## Sub-Group Newsletter



### S11 Overview:



Lisa Seymour presented the S11 Overview Presentation.

Lisa shared that safeguarding audits are conducted to ensure organisations and individuals discharge their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Audits began in 2016 and this year marks the tenth cycle.

Lisa reported strong compliance, with 100% of nurseries and preschools and 93% of childminders completing audits in 2024/25. She highlighted common actions, including updating policies, practising evacuations and lockdowns, ensuring DSLs attend training, and strengthening safer recruitment processes.

Lisa confirmed that audits will continue face-to-face, alongside ongoing training and support for providers. She also noted plans to maintain oral health initiatives and safeguarding checks for holiday provision and emphasised the importance of evening threshold training opportunities.

### Next steps:

- Continue face-to-face audits.
- Promote DSL and safer recruitment training.
- Explore evening threshold training via DSL networks.
- Maintain oral health and safeguarding checks for holiday provision.

# Education Safeguarding Partnership

## Sub-Group Newsletter



**Family Connect Dashboard Data:**  
Click here for the [Family Connect Website](#).

Emma Martin presented the Family Connect Dashboard Data Presentation:

Emma shared that the data presented relates to families rather than individual children and excludes cases already allocated to a social worker. She explained that referrals made within 24 hours of another agency's referral may not appear in this dataset.

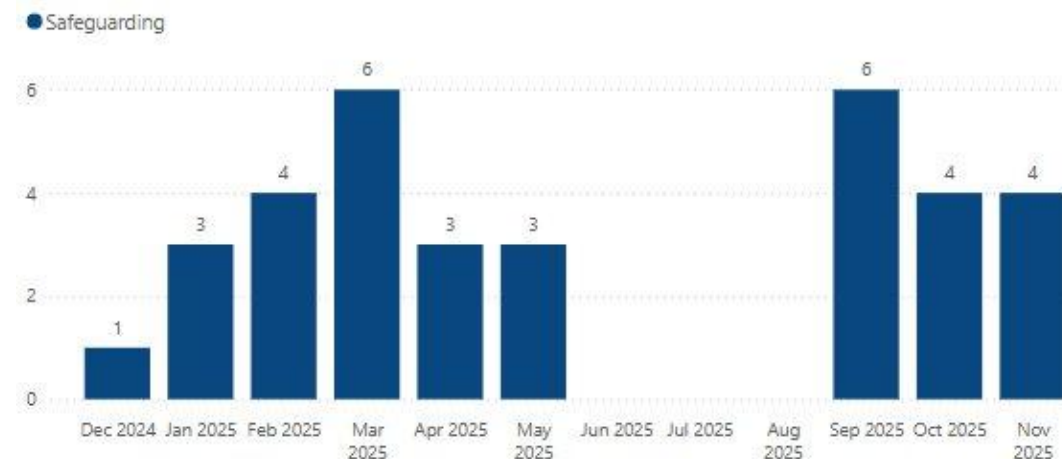
Police are the highest referrer sharing referrals via the front door service.  
Education is the second highest referrer to Family Connect.

Emma highlighted that education is the second-highest referrer after the police, with most education contacts being for information (60%), followed by advice and guidance (15%) and safeguarding matters (25%).

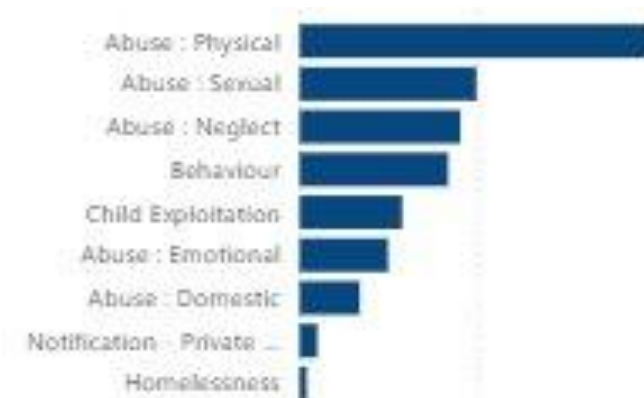
She highlighted that physical harm is the most common type of referral from education, followed by sexual harm (16%), neglect (14%), behaviour (13%), exploitation (9%), and domestic abuse (5%). Emma noted that child sexual exploitation referrals remain low, with only 18 progressing to statutory services, and that domestic abuse referrals have declined, with no referrals recorded in June and July.

Emma reported a significant increase in behaviour-related referrals from education, rising by 50% compared to the previous year, and emphasised that this trend is being closely monitored by the Family Connect subgroup.

### Domestic Abuse:



### Reason for Contact:





# Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Newsletter



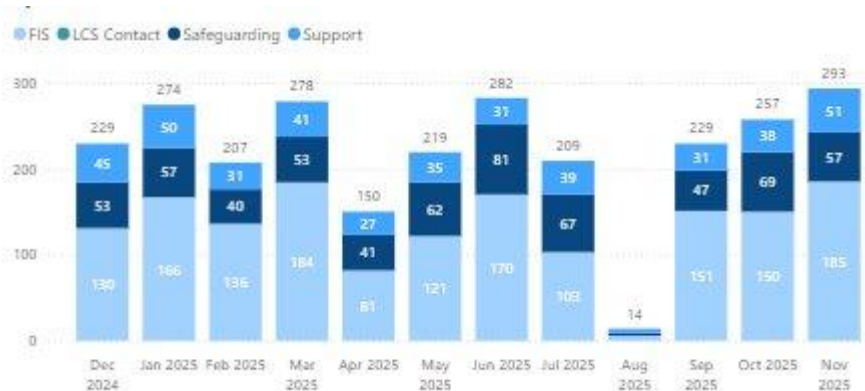
## Key trends:

- Physical harm referrals are the highest.
- Sexual harm, neglect, and behaviour have similar volumes.
- Behaviour referrals increased by 50% (noted as harmful sexual behaviour in QA review).
- Domestic abuse referrals have declined, and a review of this data is currently being planned.
- Child Sexual Exploitation referrals remain low.
- CATE referrals for young people open to services continue to be referred in, however these referrals are directly shared with the open involvement Social Worker teams.
- There is ongoing promotion of the CSE pathway, including cate consultation and explore more tool.

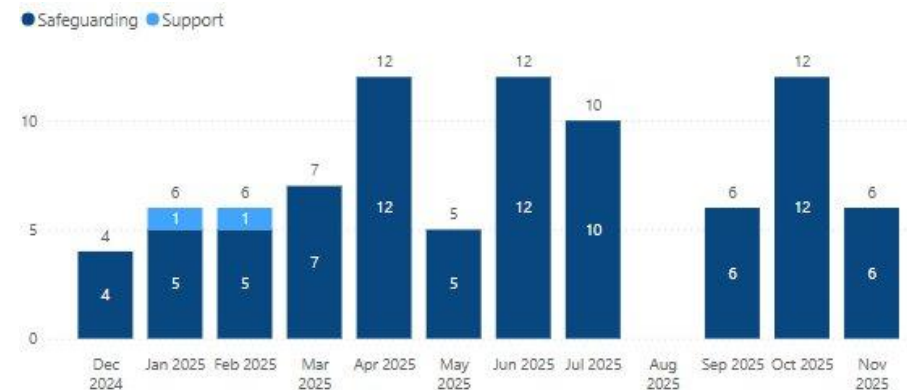
## Family Connect Contacts All:



## Education Contact Overview:



## Behaviour:



# Education Safeguarding Partnership

## Sub-Group Newsletter



### Partnership updates:



Click here for The Family Hubs Website: [HomePage](#)

- The Parenting Together programme received 131 inquiries this term, with 56 invitations issued and strong completion rates for morning and evening sessions.
- Early Help Assessment Coordinators are available to visit schools and provide guidance.
- New activities and sessions have been added to the Family Hub website including knife crime awareness workshops for parents.
- Family Hubs deliver Crush healthy relationship courses, which are now open to non-allocated young people. An assessment is required to ensure suitability and maintain balanced group composition.



Click here for The Telford College website: [Home - Telford College](#)

- Telford College supported Telford's 16 Days of Action campaign for the White Ribbon initiative, delivering a three-pronged approach.
- Women's Aid will deliver the Right Path programme to three student groups in January.
- Channelle highlighted an increase in harmful sexual behaviour concerns among students, with common themes including intimate relationship abuse and consent issues, alongside rising mental health concerns, particularly anxiety.
- Channelle noted that the Telford College is proud of its preventative work and is keen to collaborate with partners to strengthen PSHE and resilience-building initiatives for young people.

# Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Newsletter



## Partnership updates:



Click here for The Family Connect website: [Family Connect](#)

Click here to review upcoming training sessions on the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership website: [Training - Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership](#)

- Safeguarding Partnership Threshold training sessions are scheduled for 5 February, 11 May, 18 September, and 3 December 2026, with spaces available on all dates. Venue will be Meeting Point House and bookings can be made via the Ollie system. Emma outlined that the course content includes the Family Safeguarding approach, Family Hubs, Contextual Harm, Private Fostering, and Prevent.
- Bespoke Private Fostering training sessions are scheduled for 9 January, 18 March, 14 May, 10 July, 16 September, and 6 November 2026, with spaces available for all dates. Emma confirmed that these sessions are designed to help practitioners understand private fostering responsibilities and scenarios.
- Emma shared that four partnership threshold guidance training sessions are scheduled for next year, open to all practitioners working with children



# Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Newsletter



## Any Other Business:

Simon Wellman announced departure from Telford & Wrekin Council - Interim arrangements will follow.

- Scott shared the Education Safeguarding Conference is taking place Thursday 12 February 2026 from 9am to 3pm, registration and refreshments from 8.30am.
- This flagship event will bring together education and safeguarding professionals to strengthen practice and policy across schools and settings and will include a marketplace of over **35 stalls**, showcasing services and resources to support children and families.

## Keynote Speakers:

- Emma Gater, SHMI Ofsted – Safeguarding as a lens through inspection in the new framework
- Karma Nirvana – National charity leading the fight against honour-based abuse and forced marriage ([karmanirvana.org.uk](http://karmanirvana.org.uk))
- Carolyn Eyre – Independent Safeguarding Consultant, an expert in mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse ([www.carolyneyre.com](http://www.carolyneyre.com))

## Delegates have the opportunity to attend two interactive workshops:

- A: Honour-based violence and FGM
- B: Emotional health and well-being
- C: Exploitation
- D: Domestic abuse
- E: Voice of the child

# Education Safeguarding Partnership Sub-Group Newsletter



## Actions:

| Actions                                                                                                                                 | Owner                            | Due Date                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scott & Tina to share Family First Partnership link and delivery plan update.                                                           | Scott Thomas-White & Tina Knight | March 2026               |
| Lisa Seymour to liaise with Emma Martin on threshold training for Early Years                                                           | Emma Martin                      | As soon as possible      |
| Emma to return with updated Family Connect data in six months. (June 2026).                                                             | Emma Martin                      | Wednesday 10th June 2026 |
| Emma and Scott to review and share Request for Service good examples to support quality assurance practices and new DSL staffing.       | Scott Thomas-White & Emma Martin | March 2026               |
| Health (NHS) to review fabricated illness' policies and procedures and ensure that all staff are aware of the protocols and procedures. | Laura Powell                     | As soon as possible      |

## Date of next Education Safeguarding Partnership Group Meeting:

| Date and Time:                              | Venue:                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 18th March 2026 - 1:00pm – 3:00pm | Telford College, Wellington Campus, Telford College, Haybridge Rd, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NP<br><a href="#">Google Maps</a> |