

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:
Rebecca Carey**



**Telford & Wrekin Council
Education & Skills – Interim Head of Service
Achievement & Enrichment
Specialist: Scott Thomas-White**



**Short Wood Primary School
Head Teacher:
Gail Butele**

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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Family First:

The Family First Programme continues to make good progress across several key areas.

Work is underway to align Family Help services with locality social work teams, while the new Single Assessment and Plan has been successfully piloted in education settings and is being refined through feedback from partners and families ahead of a planned launch in March 2027.

Supporting resources, including Parent Engagement and Systemic Principles practice guidance, are being developed, alongside the finalisation of the Pathway to Support and a wider Training and Development Plan.

Strong partnership working remains at the heart of the programme, with ongoing co-production involving education settings, young people, parents and kinship carers. Progress is also being made on developments in kinship care, cared for children, Circles of Support and the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team, all supported by robust governance arrangements and continued stakeholder engagement.

Other key developments include:

- The **Family First Strategy** has been revised to become a partnership-wide document.
- A **Pathway to Home Conference** for cared for children was held on 3 July 2026, focusing on best practice to support children returning home at the right time.
- **Kinship Care** developments continue following a Department for Education visit, with reviews of the local offer planned on an ongoing basis.
- The **Circle of Support** pilot is helping embed family-led meetings across services, with training and practitioner support available through the FGDM team.
- Progress is continuing the **Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)**, including new leadership appointments, recruitment to key roles and ongoing consultation with partners.

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Launch of Education Safeguarding Data Dashboard and Work Plan

The new Education Safeguarding Data Dashboard has been launched, providing a stronger evidence base to support planning and decision-making across the partnership. Early analysis has highlighted Elective Home Education (EHE) as a key area of focus, with numbers continuing to rise both locally and nationally. Telford and Wrekin currently have one of the highest EHE rates in the Midlands.

Key factors contributing to EHE include mental health needs, school attendance difficulties, additional needs, parental preference for specialist provision, and safeguarding concerns. The Board agreed that further analysis is needed to better understand trends and identify opportunities for earlier support and intervention.

Partnership discussions highlighted the importance of using the Family First and SEND locality models to support families and improve oversight of children educated at home. Additional work is also underway to explore links between EHE, school attendance, safeguarding, and future outcomes such as young people becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Positively, school attendance in Telford and Wrekin remains above the national average across all phases of education. The Board also reviewed safeguarding contact data, noting that the most common reasons for referrals were physical abuse, neglect and sexual harm. A draft work plan will now be circulated for feedback, with continued focus on strengthening data analysis, safeguarding oversight and support for children and families.

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GLD Best Start in Life

[Click here for the Best Start in Life Delivery Plan](#)

The **Best Start in Life (BSIL) Delivery Plan** has now been published, supporting Telford & Wrekin's ambition to improve children's school readiness and achieve the Department for Education's **78% Good Level of Development (GLD)** target.

Key activity includes expanded support through **Family Hubs**, community drop-in sessions, parenting programmes and DfE-funded Early Years professional development, which has engaged staff from 19 schools. A strong focus remains on improving literacy, communication and the home learning environment.

Significant progress has also been made through the **Talk Boost programme**, with 120 practitioners trained and 320 intervention groups delivered. In addition, **3,000 Home Learning Bags**, including 100 SEND-specific packs, have been distributed to families, with positive feedback highlighting benefits for children's learning and communication.

The programme has now entered its implementation phase, with performance measures being monitored to track impact and improve outcomes for children and families. Family Hubs are also developing prevention workshops to support families involved in **Elective Home Education (EHE)**.

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Partnership updates:

T&W Public Health Commissioning:

Claire Williams advised that a new Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in June. It was suggested that this may be brought back to the Board for further discussion at a future meeting.

It was noted that School Nursing services are reviewing their drop-in offer within secondary schools to strengthen engagement and provide advice on how this can be developed further.

Samantha Griffiths will take this forward for review with Secondary Headteachers.



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

Emma Martin advised that a Family Information Service (FIS) Officer will be dedicated full-time to Family Connect, with availability increasing to five days a week from June.

An additional Social Worker post has been established within the advisory bank.

It was noted that access to the Reducing Parental Conflict fund must be routed via Family Connect. Where families make contact due to family breakdown or separation, a direct referral will be made to Citizens Advice for appropriate support.

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Any Other Business:

- Sally Sixsmith shared she is moving onto another role but will work within and support the group. Sally will represent Maddie Griffin as an (LCT) Learning Community Trust.
- Sally has made valuable contributions to the Board, and members thanked her for her commitment, expertise and ongoing support, wishing her every success in her new role.
- Gail Butele will be supporting the Education Safeguarding Partnership Subgroup in replacement on Sally Sixsmith. Sally will work as Gail's deputy within the subgroup and support where required.

Education Safeguarding SLA

- The Education Safeguarding Service Level Agreement (SLA) was circulated to members of the group. It was confirmed that the SLA will continue into the current financial year, incorporating the amendments made last year, with no further changes at this time.

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Actions:

Actions	Owner	Due Date
The subgroup will need to identify a new member to represent Community Academies Trust.	Gail Butele & Scott Thomas-White	Wednesday 9th September
The subgroup will need to identify represent from the south cluster.	Gail Butele & Scott Thomas-White	Wednesday 9th September
Emma Martin to take fabricated illness to Family Connect Subgroup for health response and bring feedback to next meeting.	Emma Martin	Wednesday 9th September
Emma Martin to raise with safeguarding board schools' concerns for capacity in completing EHA's due to low staffing.	Emma Martin	Next safeguarding board meeting
Draft workplan to be circulated for comments and bring back into next meeting	Scott Thomas-White	Wednesday 9th September

Date of next Education Safeguarding Partnership Group Meeting:

Date and Time:	Venue:
Wednesday 9 September 2026 - 1:00pm – 3:00pm	Learning Community Trust, Grosvenor House, Hollinswood Rd, Telford, TF2 9TW Google Maps